



A
FRAMEWORK FOR
SUSTAINABILITY

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY

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A rain garden helps to manage runoff from Haupt Plaza and Haupt Humanities.



Executive Summary

Shortly after assuming the role of president, R. Owen Williams approved the creation of the President's Council on Sustainability, made up of student, faculty, and staff representatives. This council is the driving force behind sustainability on Transylvania University's campus, making recommendations to the president and ensuring that adopted recommendations are carried out. As directed by President Williams, fostering active, socially responsible students is central to the council's efforts.

The first major task of the President's Council on Sustainability was to develop and recommend a sustainability master plan. With input from the campus community, the council created a sustainability framework during the 2010-11 academic year. This framework consists of eight visions for sustainability on Transylvania's campus, each supported by a set of three to five strategies. The strategies are presented in prioritized order, as determined by a vote of the full council and other work group participants on April 26, 2011.

The complete master plan will consist of this framework plus detailed action plans that identify step by step what needs to be done to implement the strategies. Each vision has a work group that will be responsible for writing and implementing the action plans. As action plans are written, links to them will be added to this document.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is often associated with environmentalism. While environmental considerations are an important component of sustainability, economic and social considerations must also be taken into account. These factors are known as the three pillars of sustainability.

Visually, sustainability is often represented as a Venn diagram, with sustainability being the area where the three pillars overlap, or as a set of nesting circles with economy within society, and both within the environment.



Though the role of the three pillars is widely acknowledged, there are many answers to the question, "What is sustainability?" Therefore, Transylvania has adopted a specific definition of the term:

At Transylvania University, sustainability refers to the capacity of society to meet its needs without degrading the interrelated environmental, social, and economic systems on which future generations of all species will rely.

Mission Statement

Transylvania University affirms sustainability as a core value and integrates it into the intellectual and social life of students, faculty, and staff by encouraging study, discussion, and participation in sustainable practices on campus and in the community.

Student volunteers wore rain drops containing answers to the rain drop scavenger hunt, part of the Town Branch Tuesdays campaign in May 2011.



Important Terms

Sustainability Master Plan—The complete sustainability master plan will include visions about sustainability at Transylvania, strategies for achieving each of these visions, and an action plan for carrying out each strategy.

Sustainability Master Plan Framework or Framework—The framework consists of the visions and their supporting strategies.

Vision—A vision is a broad, ambitious—but realistic—goal. When the council engaged in the visioning process, they were encouraged to think big, imagining how a sustainable Transylvania would look and what a sustainable Transylvania would do.

Strategy—Strategies are initiatives Transylvania must implement to reach its vision. They are time framed (two to five years) toward a specific vision, and action plans will be developed around them. Strategies will not necessarily be completed in two to five years, but the council will revisit all of them at least every five years to make sure they are still appropriate.

Task—Tasks are the specific activities or actions that will help Transylvania carry out a strategy. The tasks included in the master plan will be revisited every year or two.

Action Plan—Each strategy in the master plan will have an associated action plan that outlines in detail the tasks that need to be completed in order to successfully carry out that strategy. For each task, the action plan includes:

- A timeline for completion
- Identification of resources needed
- A person responsible for ensuring that the step is successfully carried out according to the timeline

The action plans will also include suggested metrics for evaluating the success of the tasks (when appropriate) and strategies. Work groups will be responsible for writing and implementing these action plans. As they are written, links will be added to this document.

President’s Council on Sustainability or Sustainability Council or Council—The council serves as the driving force behind sustainability on Transylvania University’s campus, making recommendations to the president and ensuring that adopted recommendations are carried out successfully.

Work Group—Each vision has an associated work group that is responsible for writing and implementing the action plans, as well as conducting assessment associated with their vision. Work groups are made up of council members and non-members. People are allowed to serve on only one work group.



The Glenn Building is heated and cooled by an efficient geothermal system.

Developing the Sustainability Master Plan Framework: A Detailed Timeline

- **August 24, 2010:** A staff workshop focuses on sustainability, with 112 participants identifying ways they would like to see Transylvania become a more sustainable institution.
- **September 6, 2010:** As part of orientation, 316 incoming students brainstorm about sustainability initiatives they would like to see in place before they graduate.
- **September 11, 2010:** President Williams approves the creation of the President's Council on Sustainability.
- **October 6, 2010:** At a student sustainability workshop, 35 students identified ways they would like to see Transylvania become a more sustainable institution.
- **October 11-19, 2010:** In a faculty survey on sustainability, 12 faculty members identify ways they would like to see Transylvania become a more sustainable institution.
- **October 19, 2010:** The President's Council on Sustainability convenes for the first time with 18 of the 19 members present. The meeting focuses on establishing the role of the council, discussing why sustainability is important to Transylvania, and defining sustainability.
- **November 11, 2010:** A Sustainability Council meeting focuses on identifying broad institutional goals, resulting in 11 visions.
- **November 29, 2010:** Representatives of the council meet with President Williams to discuss the sustainability visions as they had been conceived thus far. Some visions are rephrased and consolidated, resulting in an eight-vision plan.
- **January 7, 2011:** Council meeting focused on brainstorming ways to achieve the visions.
- **January and February 2011:** Visions, along with suggested methods for achieving them, are shared with the Transylvania community through Moodle and a series of open meetings. These documents include all ideas generated by the council as well as those resulting from the staff workshop, orientation sessions, student workshop, and faculty survey.
- **March 2011:** Visions are restructured and a work group is created for each vision. Work groups are tasked with suggesting a concise list of strategies for achieving their vision. All council members plus 10 other students, faculty, and staff serve on the work groups.
- **April 26, 2011:** The council meets to review and prioritize strategies suggested by the work groups. An outside consultant facilitates this process and helps the group write action plans for each strategy. All work group participants are invited to the meeting.
- **September 2011:** The Sustainability Master Plan Framework is officially rolled out.
- **December 2011:** Action plans for all strategies are due.



Students invited the campus community to sample pies they made with local ingredients.

CURRICULUM

Vision 1: Integrate sustainability across the curriculum.

It is essential that all students leave Transylvania University with a deep understanding of sustainability and the complexities of sustainability issues. To accomplish this, students need to encounter sustainability from the perspective of multiple disciplines and in an interdisciplinary way throughout their educational experience at Transylvania.

Strategy 1.1: Integrate sustainability into existing classes.

Strategy 1.2: Develop a sustainability major with a track for each pillar (environmental, social, and economic).

Strategy 1.3: Increase opportunities for experiential education around issues of sustainability.

Highlights:

- Twenty-four faculty members have participated in Transylvania's Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop. This represents 25 percent of Transylvania's faculty with participants from nearly all of the university's departments.
- Transylvania offers an interdisciplinary environmental studies minor, and several students have created their own environmental studies major.

Participants in the Sustainability Across the Curriculum workshop visit Transylvania's Community Garden.



CULTURE

Vision 2: Instill a culture of sustainability throughout campus.

Sustainability is largely about individual choices; therefore, Transylvania University cannot be a sustainable institution without fostering a culture of sustainability among students, faculty, and staff. The hope is that this culture will extend beyond our campus.

Strategy 2.1: Encourage reduced energy consumption.

Strategy 2.2: Encourage waste reduction.

Strategy 2.3: Encourage no/low carbon forms of transportation.

Strategy 2.4: Encourage water stewardship.

Highlights:

- Transy Unplugged is held annually in October to encourage reduced energy consumption. The campaign highlights ways to reduce energy use on campus and provides practical ways these lessons can be applied to life off campus. It includes energy conservation pledges, self-audits, and events ranging from candlelight dinners to an energy expo to a film screening. "Last Out? Lights Off." switchplate stickers were put up throughout campus as part of this campaign in 2010-11 and are available on a continual basis.

- In the fall of 2010, a work-study position of waste and recycling coordinator was created through the sustainability office. This position is responsible for improving the Rosie (blue bin) recycling program and other waste diversion projects.
- Recycling bins are available in every residential room on campus, and each building has an active recycling program.
- Two outdoor recycling bins were added to campus in the 2010-11 school year.
- Battery, ink cartridge, small electronic, and TerraCycling recycling programs were made available to the campus community through the sustainability office in 2010-11.
- Transylvania has a free bike loan program open to students, faculty, and staff. These bikes are available for checkout from the Campus Center front desk.
- Two no/low carbon transportation work-study positions were created for the 2011-12 academic year. In the Campus Center, the bike program manager promotes the bike loan program and maintains the campus-owned bikes. In the sustainability office, the sustainable transportation liaison promotes walking and biking on and around campus as well as use of the LexTran system and carpooling.
- A bike repair shop will open on campus during the 2011-12 academic year. This is where bikes in the campus loan program will be maintained. Students, faculty, and staff can also use the space to repair their own bikes.
- Several guided LexTran trips are planned for 2011-12 to help people become familiar with the system.
- In response to increased demand for bike parking, an indoor bike rack and two outdoor bike shelters are being added to campus for the 2011-12 academic year.
- A Guide to Getting Around Green that provides an overview of LexTran bus stops and routes catered to the campus community, as well as information on biking and walking in the area around campus, is being developed.
- As part of a service learning project for a 2011 May term class, stickers encouraging students to fully turn off faucets and showers were placed in several of the residential halls. Due to the popularity of this campaign, the sustainability office plans to order more stickers for placement throughout campus in 2011-12.
- During May term 2011, the sustainability office held a month-long campaign on water stewardship, focusing on the Town Branch watershed. Each Tuesday an experiential learning event was held for faculty, staff, and students. The campaign included weekly Town Branch Tuesday facts, a raindrop scavenger hunt, storm drain painting, a progressive lunch garden party, and a water festival.
- Through the sustainability office, programs encouraging students to engage in the community in a sustainable manner were presented during New Student Orientation. These included a walk to the Lexington Farmers Market and a LexTran bus trip.

Bike parking is being expanded on campus.



BUILDINGS

Vision 3: Manage, renovate, and construct buildings sustainably.

Transylvania currently has 824,108 square feet of indoor space. It is important that we manage these spaces sustainably and in a way that encourages those who live, work, and/or learn in them to make sustainable decisions. Many of the buildings and building systems are older, so investments will be made to make them more sustainable. Generally, these renovations will pay for themselves over time. New buildings will be constructed with the principles of sustainability in mind.

Strategy 3.1: Renovate existing buildings to be more sustainable.

Strategy 3.2: Manage buildings sustainably.

Strategy 3.3: Educate the Transylvania community about building sustainability.

Strategy 3.4: Construct new buildings sustainably.

Highlights:

- An in-depth energy audit conducted in 2010 led to a series of recommendations that are projected to result in a 19.7 percent reduction in annual energy consumption: 1,413,300 kilowatt hours of electricity and 22,634 therms of natural gas each year. These projects will also save millions of gallons of water each year.
- As a result of the energy audit, \$500,000 worth of renovations are in store for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Those completed include:

- Installation of a new water source chiller for the Campus Center general air unit.
- Replacement of a hot water boiler in Poole Residence Hall with two new high-efficiency hot water heating boilers.
- Conversion of all showerheads to low flow heads

Renovations underway include:

- Lighting retrofit in 10 academic, administrative, and residential facilities, which began on September 12, 2011. Phase 2 of the retrofit is expected to be implemented in the 2012-13 fiscal year.
- Building envelope improvements.
- The other energy conservation recommendations resulting from the audit are included on the capital projects list and will be completed over the next several years.
- An energy policy was implemented in October 2010.
- The new energy policy includes a commitment to build to a LEED Silver Standard at minimum.
- Transylvania's newest residence hall, Thomson Hall, was the first residence hall in Kentucky to be Energy Star certified. It hosts a geothermal heat pump system, energy-efficient lighting, motion sensors, remote monitoring technology, remote control of building HVAC systems, an energy recovery unit, and an energy meter for instantaneous information on electric utility consumption.
- There are two geothermal systems on campus, in Thomson Hall and the Glenn Building.
- Energy recovery systems are located in Thomson Hall, the Cowgill Center, and Brown Science Center.
- Sustainability tours of campus are offered at least once a year in an effort to educate the Transylvania community about what is being done in our built environments.

Thomson Hall was the first residence hall in Kentucky to earn the EPA's ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy efficiency and environmental protection.



LAND

Vision 4: Develop and manage land sustainably.

Transylvania owns 45 acres of land, mostly in downtown Lexington. It is vital that we manage these properties in a way that supports and models responsible land use through sustainable development practices and sustainable management of our grounds.

Strategy 4.1: Adopt and implement environmentally friendly landscaping policies.

Strategy 4.2: Increase involvement with/awareness of Transylvania's outdoor environment and its management.

Strategy 4.3: Adopt and implement sustainable development policies.

Highlights:

- Interpretation is being developed for the rain garden in Haupt. Transylvania received a grant to fund this signage.
- Several rain barrels are installed on the shed in the community garden.
- Four storm drains on campus have been painted in an effort to bring more attention to these important features: two at the intersection of Upper and Third streets, one at Third and Broadway, and one at Fourth and Broadway.
- The university's butterfly garden at the corner of Fourth and Broadway is composed entirely of native plant species. This project is the result of a student-led effort to renovate a space on campus and was funded in part by a grant from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

Students work in the native plant butterfly garden on campus.



FOOD

Vision 5: Serve healthy, sustainably produced food, grown locally when possible.

Transylvania will strive to increase local and healthy food through food services, vending, and catering. Sustainably grown food supports environmental health, worker welfare and wages, and farm viability, as well as taste and nutrition.

Strategy 5.1: Increase the use of local food on campus, both in dining areas and at catered events.

Strategy 5.2: Educate the campus community about sustainable and healthy food options.

Strategy 5.3: Provide healthier food options in dining halls and vending machines.

Highlights:

- Starting in 2011-12, local food products served in the dining hall will be clearly labeled.
- The start of term cookout for the 2011-12 year was primarily local produce and meat.
- The beginning of the year faculty/staff reception for 2011-12 featured several local foods.

Locally sourced food was served during the Sustainability Across the Curriculum workshop for faculty.



DINING WASTE

Vision 6: Achieve a zero landfill waste dining service.

Transylvania will strive to reduce its landfill-bound waste, with a special emphasis on waste associated with dining services. Through composting, recycling, thoughtful consumption, and a shift to durable or compostable service ware and utensils, Transylvania will significantly reduce the amount of waste going to local landfills.

Strategy 6.1: Eliminate the use of bottled water.

Strategy 6.2: Phase out landfill-bound service ware.

Strategy 6.3: Eliminate landfill-bound food waste.

Strategy 6.4: Educate the campus community about dining waste reduction.



Pre-consumer kitchen waste is being composted.

Highlights:

- A filtered adaptor for water fountains is being piloted on campus as a step toward the elimination of bottled water.
- Transylvania is actively pursuing financial support for the purchase of reusable water bottles for all first-year students as part of the campaign to discourage reliance on bottled water.
- Seedleaf, a local non-profit, is collecting pre-consumer waste from the Forrer Dining Hall kitchen.
- Trays have been removed from the service area in Forrer Dining Hall as part of the effort to cut down on food waste. This also reduces water and energy consumption.

ADMINISTRATION

Vision 7: Incorporate sustainability in all administrative and strategic decisions.

Sustainability decisions must be considered early in the strategic planning process. Specifically, renovations, new building projects, and major purchases will have polices that help guide the choices that need to be made. Since much of the work in this area is in policy development, clear communication will be needed so that the entire campus can properly implement sustainable options.

Strategy 7.1: Adopt and implement sustainable transportation policies.

Strategy 7.2: Adopt and implement sustainability-related purchasing policies.

Strategy 7.3: Ensure sustainability is addressed in all long-term/strategic planning initiatives.

Strategy 7.4: Integrate sustainability into human resource policies.

Strategy 7.5: Adopt and implement policies that minimize landfill-bound waste.

Highlights:

- The campus events coordinator is working with the sustainability office to develop a protocol and resource guide that will help people plan more sustainable meetings, receptions, and events.
- Fair trade products are sold in some of the dining areas.
- Research has been conducted on the current vehicle purchase policies for the departments that use various types of vehicles. Sustainable options are being reviewed, and policies will be developed.
- The university has established an Energy Star purchase policy. Research is being done to determine how this policy has been implemented on campus.

President Williams joined a group of students, faculty, and staff who participated in Ride to Work Day.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Vision 8: Help advance sustainability in Lexington and beyond.

Transylvanians must realize that we are all members of a larger community. As such, we should support an ethos of sustainability in Lexington and beyond through community service, partnerships, role modeling, and other positive forms of community engagement.

Strategy 8.1: Deliberately engage all constituencies of the Transylvania community in sustainability-related service.

Strategy 8.2: Leverage Transylvania's people and facilities to support community sustainability efforts.

Highlights:

- The Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement, in partnership with several student organizations, organizes a neighborhood clean-up or similar sustainability-related service projects at least once per term.
- During finals week May term 2011, student groups held year-end drives to collect items that normally would be thrown away and distributed the items to groups that could use them. Food was collected for the First-Year Urban Program, school supplies were collected for an Ethiopian orphanage, and CDs, DVDs, and video games were collected and resold with the proceeds donated to the Catholic Action Center.
- Alternative Spring Break provides students with a chance to engage in community service off campus. The 2012 program will attend to environmental and historic preservation projects at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.
- Several 2011 pre-orientation groups engaged in sustainability-related community service. Community Learning and Sustainable Students (CLASS) painted a storm drain near campus, conducted water testing in Town Branch followed by a cleanup of the testing area, and tended to neighborhood gardens and the campus butterfly garden. First-Year Urban Program (FUP) supported Lexington agencies that address the three pillars of sustainability, including God's Pantry and the International Book Project.
- Service projects covering the three pillars of sustainability are promoted in Columns and in the service e-newsletter sent out by the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement.
- Transylvania is in discussion with Seedleaf about allowing them to use vacant lots for community gardens that will benefit lower income residents of downtown neighborhoods.
- Transylvania's sustainability coordinator serves on the Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission.



This storm drain art project was painted near campus as part of the Town Branch campaign to help raise awareness of water quality issues.

2011-12 President's Council on Sustainability

Students

Austyn Gaffney '12, *council secretary*
Maria Starck '14, *Student Government Association representative*
Adrian Hosler '12
Emily Martin '15
Emily Novak '14
Bobby Puckett '13
Emily Salemi '15
Danny Woolums '12

Staff

Michael Cronk, *career development, council chair*
Ashley Hinton-Moncer, *fitness, council vice-chair*
Angela Dossett, *sustainability coordinator*
Diane Fout, *student activities*
Norman Mudd, *physical plant*
Anna Nevius, *accounting*
Jeff Summers, *information technology*

Faculty

Alan Bartley, *economics*
Eva Csuhai, *chemistry*
Scott Whiddon, *writing, rhetoric, and communication*

Other

Amanda Langlitz, *Sodexo*



Work Group Members

Work groups are composed of council members and other volunteers from across campus and beyond.

Curriculum

Michael Cronk, *champion*
George Kaufman
Iva Katzarska-Miller
Emily Novak
Bobby Puckett
Scott Whiddon

Culture

Maria Starck, *champion*
Michael Covert
Farrah Dicken
Amy Jo Gabel

Buildings

Norman Mudd, *champion*
Robert Brown
Eva Csuhai
Isaac Fedyniak

Land

Alan Bartley, *champion*
Jack Ebel

Food

Ashley Hinton-Moncer, *champion*
Sharon Brown
Eryn Hornburger
Ria Keegan
Amanda Langlitz
Kelly Lavy
Erica Noe
Browning Smith
Krissy Thomas

Dining Waste

Diane Fout, *co-champion*
Danny Woolums, *co-champion*

Administration

Michael Vetter, *champion*
Austyn Gaffney
Marc Mathews
Anna Nevius

Community Engagement

Karen Anderson, *champion*
Adrian Hosler
Emily Martin
Jeff Summers

Transylvania students, faculty, and staff celebrated America Recycling Day at the LFUCG recycling center.

