Faculty Senate Meeting - October 2022
VCU sustainability & related initiatives

- Campus and buildings
  - 22 LEED certified buildings
  - GHG emissions, water & waste
- Reporting & recognition
  - 2021 STARS Gold (AASHE)
- Education, awareness & advocacy
  - Urban gardens & forestry
  - Free Store & Ram Pantry
  - Alternative transportation
  - Planetary Health Report Card (MS4SF)
Guiding principles

● **Bold, collaborative, measurable and creative solutions.** Demonstrate thought leadership in establishing goals across a wide spectrum of opportunities to improve sustainability at both the university and health system.

● **Influence change.** Leverage our role as educators and health professional to raise awareness and foster a culture that inspires changes in everyday behavior and improves operations, teaching, healing and research.

● **Meaningful and achievable goals.** Prioritize goals and commitments based on impact and feasibility.

● **Local and global impact.** Consider how the plan will impact student success, patient care, the community and the world.

onevcu SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
Draft focus areas

Environmental issues
- Energy and emissions
- Water use and conservation
- Waste management and reduction
- Greening the OR
- Greening the laboratory

Health and well-being
- Indoor air quality
- Food
- Fitness
- Health, safety and well-being

Biodiversity and ecology
- Biodiversity
- Landscape management

Research, teaching and innovation
- Courses
- Publications in accredited journals
- Green technology patents and practice

Environmental equity, partnerships and engagement
- Climate resilience
- Food
- Procurement practices
- Community impact
- Climate/equity
Timeline

**Phase 1**
- May - Aug 2022
  - Revise project plan
  - Develop communications and engagement plan
  - Complete benchmarking
  - Draft guiding principles and focus areas
  - Begin to seat working groups, select chairs, prep agendas, gather research and support materials for working groups

**Phase 2**
- Sept 2022 - Nov 2023
  - Continue to seat working groups, select chairs, prep agendas, gather research and support materials for working groups
  - Working groups meet to develop goals, targets and strategies
  - Engagement activities to build interest and buy-in

**Phase 3**
- Nov 2023 – April 2024
  - Working groups submit recommendations in Nov
  - Begin cost assessment based on goals, targets and strategies
  - Draft plan: Nov - Jan
  - Engagement activities to gather feedback on the plan Feb-Apr
  - Build sustainability plan dashboard

**Phase 4**
- May 2024 - Aug 2024
  - Write and design final plan
  - Present final plan to BOV and BOD in June
  - Plan dashboard and website go live
  - Communications and engagement activities to market the final plan
The team

- Executive Sponsors
- Development Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Working groups
- Project team
- Partners
Working groups

- Working group for each focus area
- Membership
  - Balance of VCU and VCUHS staff and faculty
  - 2 co-chairs and ~6 members
- Set targets, identify gaps, determine KPIs, identify and prioritize solution sets, and provide costs and budgets
- Review, revise and recommend data sets; holistic approach to data sets; integrate 5 focus areas
Current faculty participation

- **Development Committee**
  - Andrew Barnes, School of Medicine Health Behavior Policy
  - L. Harold Barnwell, College of Health Professions
  - Jesse Goldstein, College of Humanities and Sciences

- **Advisory Committee**
  - Daniel Albrecht-Mallinger, Center for Environmental Studies
  - Michael S. Donnenberg, School of Medicine
  - Corin Hewitt, School of the Arts
  - Jonathan Jones, Center for Environmental Studies
  - William R. Muth, emeritus professor, School of Education
  - Mark D. Wood, School of World Studies
  - Wilhelm Zuelzer, MD, School of Medicine

- **Project Team**
  - David Berdish, School of Business
Engagement opportunities

- Faculty Senate and/or Dean’s Council updates at key milestones
- Present at departmental staff meetings on request
- Town halls and open houses to be scheduled at key project milestones
- ONE VCU marketing channels to relay project information
- ONE VCU Sustainability Plan survey
- Contributions in writing may be sent to sustainplan@vcu.edu
Questions, suggestions and more info

Visit: sustainabilityplan.vcu.edu

Email: sustainplan@vcu.edu