



# SUSTAINABILITY

*at the 'Ville*



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SPOTLIGHT: ZERO HUNGER

Each newsletter a different Sustainable Development Goal or SDG will be featured as part of Millersville University's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and showcase the work being done to realize the full achievement of all 17 Goals. This newsletter installment will highlight the SDG goal of Zero Hunger.



According to the United Nations SDG website:

- In 2019, close to 750 million – or nearly one in ten people in the world were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.
- Current estimates are that nearly 690 million people are hungry, or 8.9 percent of the world population – up by 10 million people in one year and by nearly 60 million in five years.
- An estimated 2 billion people in the world did not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in 2019.

Millersville University consistently works towards Zero Hunger. Over the past several years MU has engaged in a number of different initiatives including:

- Support the Education and Poverty Conference through the Positive Energy Fund.
- Clubs and Organizations whose mission seeks to reduce or eliminate hunger, or provide service programs to help the local community
- Faculty engaged in research to better understand factors and barriers related to hunger.
- University affiliate, Campus HUB provides free meals to students through their Campus Cupboard.

Sources: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/> (Accessed on 11/17/2020)

# TAKEAWAYS FROM THE AASHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education or AASHE held its annual Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education on October 20-22, 2020. The conference theme of "Mobilizing for a Just Transition," provided attendees the chance to learn more about how social justice and sustainability can be integrated. According to the Climate Justice Alliance a *Just Transition* is defined as "a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy." It is within this framework that sustainability work can be centered around regeneration, caring & sacredness, ecological & social well-being, and deep democracy.

Many higher education institutions, including Millersville University, will seek to advance these principles through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. In 2015, world leaders developed 17 goals to achieve by 2030. Dubbed the Sustainable Development Goals, the aim is to end poverty, fight inequality, and stop climate change. One way Millersville University is working towards these goals has been through the establishment of the Positive Energy Fund.

To learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals, the Positive Energy Fund, and how Millersville University is working towards a more just community, go to [www.millersville.edu/sustainability/global\\_goals](http://www.millersville.edu/sustainability/global_goals)

Sources: <https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/> (Accessed on 11/03/2020)



# Q & A WITH THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



Each newsletter, the Office of Sustainability interviews sustainability champions on campus and highlight various departments that go above and beyond. This newsletter edition features Mr. Thomas Waltz, Assistant Vice-President for Facilities Management.

## **What role does Facilities have regarding sustainability efforts at Millersville University?**

Facilities Management Department has a multi-faceted role in sustainability. From the day-to-day operations, we manage the occupied and unoccupied modes throughout campus buildings. For instance, at the end of the day, the indoor temperatures are lowered to 62 degrees for heating and raised to 84 degrees for cooling. Equipment is also inspected and serviced to ensure proper operations which ensures systems are working as designed. Projects are designed to incorporate energy saving systems and more efficient equipment. Lombardo Welcome Center was designed and constructed as a zero-energy project. Its performance has been recognized as one of the most energy efficient building in the country. Facilities also tracks the daily consumption of energy in our major academic and administrative buildings. Based on this information, we can identify the buildings with the highest energy use intensity (EUI) and which buildings costs the most to operate. These indicators are used to develop projects to increase efficient and/or reduce consumption. The above information is only a sample of how the Facilities Management Department contributes to campus sustainability. If you look at the broader sense of sustainability from the 17 United Nations Sustainability Goals, this list could be much longer.

## **Are there any statistics related to sustainability that you find particularly interesting?**

The electrical consumption data gathered is used to calculate EUI for each building. For instance, Caputo and Roddy Halls total approximately \$320,000 annually for utilities costs. That is 12% of the entire university's utilities costs. The second most expensive building is the SMC at 7% or \$185,000. Institutional Research compiles information annually to prepare a sustainability report. This report contains interesting information.

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## **CONTINUED - Q & A WITH FACILITIES**

**Constructing the Lombardo Welcome Center was no easy task, what lessons did you learn from the Lombardo project as it pertains to sustainability?**

The energy modeling information was conservative. The building has performed even better than we expected. The building has many features that contribute to its splendor and aesthetics. As more projects are designed and constructed the additional costs on having energy efficient attributes needs to be more precisely identified the premium associated with our commitment to sustainability. We need to advertise that being energy efficient or sustainable does not significantly increase project costs. It comes with a premium but when weighed with our commitment and return on investment, the additional costs are warranted.

**What sustainable projects or initiatives are you looking to do next?**

The largest conceptual design project that is underway is the Brooks Hall Renovation to serve as the new home of the Lombardo College of Business. Although having this building certified as a zero-energy building, we are investigating the feasibility to make this a goal. This project is directly aligned with the University's new strategic plan - Tradition and Transformation. We will be renovating the traditional gymnasium and transforming it to a trendsetting, smart academic building. Renovating an existing facility instead of building new footprint is aligned with the UN's sustainability goals.

**What advice would you give to members of the university community who are looking to get more serious in their day-to-day sustainability habits?**

Community members interested in sustainability efforts should review the 17 United Nations Sustainability Goals and determine which areas interest them the most. They could then reach out the Sustainability Director to identify areas where their efforts could be used. From purely a Facilities perspective, community members should treat their work environment as if they were paying the utility bills. Do not use space heaters especially when they are located under thermostats which turns on the air condition. This happens a lot. Close your windows when departing the office. I have personally found windows opened with outdoor temperatures in the low thirties. Similarly, keep the windows closed on hot and humid days. The building systems are design to condition the indoor spaces - not the outdoor areas. Recycle the big four (clean corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, metal food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars).

# WINTER PREP TIPS FOR HOME AND OFFICE



The U.S. Department of Energy recommends these energy-saving habits to help save money, energy, and resources during the winter.

- Conduct an Energy Audit.
- Utilize the heat from the sun during the day and close blinds/curtains at night.
- Identify drafty windows and seal using a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet.
- Like drafty windows, find air leaks around doors, chimneys and unfinished spaces. Use the correct caulking or weather-stripping to seal.
- Identify the lowest comfortable temperature when you are at home and awake.
- Turn thermostat back when the house is empty or you are asleep.
- Have your HVAC system serviced. If you have other heating sources like wood or natural gas, be sure to clean the vents regularly.
- Consider turning the temperature down on your water heater.

In your office, there are a number of ways to prepare for the colder months that will save energy.

- Keep a sweater handy. Office temperatures will fluctuate throughout the day and keeping a sweater handy to wear as needed will allow you to easily adjust.
- Take a look around your office and make sure air vents and thermostats are easily accessible and not being blocked.
- If the temperature is outside the normal range, please contact MU Facilities at X7875 or [MUfacilities@millersville.edu](mailto:MUfacilities@millersville.edu)

Source: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips> (Accessed on 11/3/2020)



# CHANGES IN THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Over the summer and into the fall semester saw different personnel changes within the Office of Sustainability. Chris Steuer, the former Sustainability Director changed roles at the University and is now Chief of Staff.

Steven Knepp, who worked in Housing and Residential Programs for the past four years is now the Sustainability Coordinator. In this temporary role, Steven will continue to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, students, and community members to advance the sustainability goals of the university and local community. In his work, Steven is passionate about student engagement, assessment, and process improvement.

Prior to starting at Millersville University, Steven worked at Binghamton University (SUNY), and Greystar Collegiate Housing in Clarion, PA. He holds a bachelors of science in education from Bloomsburg University (PA), and a master's of arts degree from Bowling Green State University (OH). Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, and cooking. Steven is also an active member of the Centennial E-Kiwanis Club and serves as the Kiwanis club liaison to the Circle K club at Millersville University.

