

Positive Energy Fund Guidelines

Millersville University is converting building energy savings into human energy by using dollars from utility rebates to fund faculty-, staff- and student-led projects that will [contribute positively to local and global communities](#) using the structure of the [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#).

Projects funded through the Positive Energy Fund raise awareness of the interconnected economic, social and environmental challenges confronting the world to accelerate local solutions to those challenges in Lancaster County by Millersville University faculty, staff and students.

The Positive Energy Fund was established using utility rebates from energy efficiency projects completed by Millersville University's Facilities Management Department, Office of Sustainability and Information Technology Department. Notable projects include upgrading the campus data center and constructing the new "positive energy" [Lombardo Welcome Center](#).

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

The Global Goals (Figure 1) are seventeen broad yet interdependent goals that reflect a collective ambition to work together as a global community to solve the grand challenges of our time. The goals are at the core of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which was adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015 and provides a shared blueprint for governments, non-profits, businesses and higher education to work for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

Figure 1 – The Global Goals for Sustainable Development



Resources to Support You

[*Sustainable Development Solutions Network*](#)

Sustainable Development Solutions Networks (SDSN) are creating online courses, educating students and the general public, working with governments, engaging and empowering young people and offering innovative solutions for the Global Goals (a.k.a., Sustainable Development Goals). In December 2018, academic centers at Columbia University, Yale University, and the University of California San Diego announced the launch of a US chapter of the SDSN.

[*SDSN Youth*](#)

SDSN Youth educates young people about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides opportunities for them to pioneer innovative solutions to address the world's biggest challenges. The [*Youth Solutions Hub*](#) provides a platform for young people to connect, collaborate and integrate their ideas and perspectives into national and regional pathways for the implementation of the Global Goals. The annual [*Youth Solutions Report*](#) provides a summary of international projects completed by youth to advance the Global Goals. Eligibility criteria for submitting projects to the report include 1) relevance of the challenge addressed, 2) innovative character of the solution, 3) financial viability, 4) scalability, 5) current or potential impact, and 6) integrated approach to the SDGs.

[*The U.S. Cities Sustainable Development Goals Index*](#)

The SDSN ranks the 100 most populous metropolitan areas in the U.S. on the Global Goals in their U.S. Cities SDG Index. In the 2018 report, "Leaving No U.S. City Behind: The 2018 U.S. Cities SDGs Index," the Lancaster metropolitan statistical area (Lancaster County) ranks 29th among U.S. cities. The report evaluates performance for each of the 17 global goals using metrics that are typically derived from national datasets. In some cases these metrics may be useful for Positive Energy Fund applicants to use to evaluate their own projects. In other cases, the index metrics may be too coarse to be appropriate, but they point to the types of metrics that can be viable for assessing performance.

[*The SDG Indicators*](#)

The list of 231 targets and indicators designed to measure performance toward achieving the SDGs.

[*Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*](#)

The primary knowledge-sharing platform for entities engaged in pursuing the SDGs. Includes description of targets and partnerships, publications and other resources, and progress to date organized by goal.

[*Be the Change*](#)

A compilation of simple steps and resources for individuals to support the SDGs.

[*170 Actions to Transform the World*](#)

A compilation of 170 actions individuals and groups of individuals can take to raise awareness of, and help to achieve, the Global Goals.

[*SDG Accord*](#)

The SDG Accord is the university and college sector's collective response to the Global Goals. It was launched in September 2017 and is administered by the Environmental Association for Universities and

Colleges. The SDG Accord inspires, celebrates and advances the critical role that education has in delivering the SDGs and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society. It encourages institutions to commit to doing more to deliver the goals, to annually report on their progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally.

[The Sustainability Exchange](#)

A knowledge-sharing platform for best practices, summary reports and research related to higher education's efforts to achieve the SDGs.

[Take One Step](#)

Run by the Monash Sustainable Development Institute, at Monash University, Take One Step is a pledge initiative to inspire action and leadership for a better world.

[The World's Largest Lesson](#)

Guidance for teaching the SDGs to children and young people.

¹ The [U.S. Cities Sustainable Development Goals Index](#) evaluates performance of the Lancaster metropolitan statistical area. An MSA is a geographical region with a relatively high population density at its core and close economic ties throughout the area. The Lancaster MSA is comprised of Lancaster County.

² Projects that do not occur within Lancaster County should include a mechanism (e.g., class presentation, community discussion) that share the outcomes of the work with the local community.

³ The [U.S. Cities Sustainable Development Goals Index](#) provides 44 indicators that can be used as guideposts for characterizing (or directly measuring) impact. Additionally, the Global Goals include [231 indicators](#) for assessing progress.