Millersville University
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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

Applying for a Positive Energy Fund

To apply for grants through the Positive Energy Fund, faculty, staff and/or students must complete an application, which includes submitting a project narrative that describes your project.

Selection Criteria

Preferred consideration will be given to applications that:

- **Localize the Global Goals** by implementing projects that beneficially impact Lancaster County[1] while raising awareness of the Global Goals.[2]
- **Demonstrate Goal Interdependence** by creating positive feedbacks between or otherwise supporting progress in multiple goal areas.
- **Create and Support Partnerships** between Millersville University's faculty, staff and students and Lancaster County businesses, organizations, municipalities and/or community groups.
- **Beneficially, Substantially and Demonstrably Impact Communities** using an evaluation plan with formative or summative assessments and either qualitative or quantitative metrics.[3]
- **Demonstrate Growing Impact** by incorporating a vision for how the work can have long-term beneficial consequences for the community
- **Promote Effectively** through social media, conferences, and/or any of the Global Goal supported engagement platforms (see Resources to Support You section).
- **Encourage Student Leadership and Innovation** by prioritizing projects that are conceptualized by a student or students.
- **Encourage Mentorship** by prioritizing projects that have clear faculty or staff mentors.
- **Demonstrate Scalability** by providing a vision for how the project could be easily transferred to achieve the global goals in other parts of the world.

Eligibility

- Grants from the Positive Energy Fund will be used to support on- or off-campus scholarly or creative projects with beneficial environmental or social impacts. Funds can be used for research or creative projects, or for projects that broaden the awareness of, or engagement in, the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Examples of fundable projects include research into opportunities to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions in Lancaster County, the creation of art featuring the face of poverty in the City of Lancaster, and service-learning opportunities focused on reducing local food insecurity.
- Project Parameters
    - Funding will be given to new projects. Completed and "in progress" projects will not be considered.
    - Projects may be new work that contributes to an existing venture, such as adding a community outreach component to an existing conference.
- Grant
    - Funding is subject to availability and will not exceed $2,500 per grant.

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[1] The U.S. Cities Sustainable Development Goals Index evaluates performance of the Lancaster metropolitan statistical area (MSA). 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.

    - Funding will be available for one year from date of award.
- Expenditure Procedures
    - Grants will be placed in an account to which charges can be made directly using conventional budget practices.
    - Faculty and staff supervisors should consult with their departmental secretary for questions pertaining to correct budget management procedures.
    - For travel, all necessary paperwork (including travel request and reimbursement forms) must be completed according to University travel policies.
    - All purchases must be made in accordance with University purchasing policies, including providing receipts for all purchases.
- Costs Not Reimbursed
    - Millersville University tuition and/or fees
    - Wages (Student Wages are a permissible expense, funds can be used to cover but cannot be more than 50% of total funds requested)
    - Preparation or binding of theses
    - Equipment available through the sponsoring department or University
    - Membership in professional associations
    - Conference excursions or events that are not part of the regular conference fee.
    - Ordinary living expenses and travel to and from campus.

Application Requirements

- Applicants are required to submit an application using the online application form.
- Applicants must submit applications by the following deadline.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 24, 2023 by 4 p.m.

GrantRequirements

- Grant recipients are required to submit a brief summary report or video to the Positive Energy Committee within one year of the date of award. The summary report or video should describe the project purpose, anticipated outcomes, and actual outcomes. Creativity is encouraged.
- Undergraduate student award recipients are required to present at Made in Millersville in the Spring Semester following the year of award. Please contact Dr. Rene Munoz for additional information regarding Made in Millersville.
- Graduate students are highly encouraged to present their work at a major national or international conference.
- All supplies and equipment purchased through the award will become the property of the faculty or staff department after the project is completed.

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 course 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.