

# Educating and Acting for Sustainability at West Chester University

## WCU Organizations and Resources

- The [Sustainability Council](#) (SC) gives faculty, students, and staff the chance to collaborate for the advancement of WCU's sustainability goals. The first monthly meeting in the Fall 2021 semester is on September 10. Contact [Jessica Schedlbauer](#) for more details.

SC committees focus on sustainability in **Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum; Scholarly and Creative Activities; Transportation; Campus Trees; Zero Waste; Buildings and Energy; and Sustainable Food Systems and Green Spaces**. New faculty are encouraged to join the SC and one or more of its committees – reach out to one of the SC Exec Comm members for more info: [Jessica Schedlbauer](#), [Steve Sassaman](#), and [Hal Bosbyshell](#).

- The [Office of Sustainability](#) serves as a resource to faculty, students, staff, and community members on campus environmental, social, and economic sustainability initiatives. Major initiatives include implementation of WCU's *Carbon Neutrality by 2025 commitment* in its [Climate Action Plan](#), reporting to the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System](#), planning film and lecture series, and more. Sign up for the [weekly email newsletter](#) to stay up to date on learning, teaching, and research opportunities.

Contacts: [Bradley Flamm](#), Director (610-436-2053) and [Amy Maxcy](#), Administrator (610-436-2736). Office located at 114 West Rosedale Avenue.

- [Office of Sustainability Social Media](#):

 [@sustainableWCU](#)

 [WCU Sustainability](#)

 [@wcu\\_sustainability](#)

- The [Gordon Natural Area](#) and [WCU Campus Gardens](#) are used for learning, research, and recreation. Faculty from departments all over campus – English and Biology, Geography & Planning and Earth & Space Sciences, and many more – have included time in the GNA and campus gardens as part of their classes.

Contacts: [Nur Ritter](#), GNA Stewardship Manager (610-436-2722) and the [Campus Gardens Team](#).

- The ***Brandywine Project for Sustainability Education*** works with faculty from every college on campus to deepen our understanding of the many elements of sustainability and to incorporate these concepts into their teaching, research, and service. For information about the initiative contact [Cheryl Wanko](#) and [Michelle Kensey](#).
- Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Sustainability and Practice Research Seminar***: Every Wednesday starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 12:50 pm. WCU and invited Faculty and Staff from the disciplines of Biology, English, Economics and Finance, Facilities, and other departments and offices speak about ongoing sustainability-related research and campus initiatives.

WCU's campus is located on Lenapehoking land that was and remains sacred to the Lenape People. In 2021 a committee of faculty, students, and staff is working to develop a statement to acknowledge this debt, encourage reflection and learning by all members of our community, and create the conditions whereby the West Chester University community can enter into a mutually supportive relationship with the Lenape community.

## National and State Organizations / Resources

- **AASHE: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education** ([www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org))
  - Resources related to curriculum, research, and much more
  - Note: WCU is a member institution and you have *free access* to AASHE resources by registering with your WCU e-mail address.
- **DANS (Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability)**
  - Sustainability Resources at <http://dans.aashe.org/> – Organized by academic discipline
- **HEASC (Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium)**
  - Sustainability Resources at <http://www.aashe.org/partners/heasc/> – Organized by Higher Ed Associations
- **Second Nature** (formerly known as ACUPCC, the **American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment**) [www.secondnature.org](http://www.secondnature.org)
  - Note: WCU is a signatory to the Carbon Commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and mitigate campus contributions to climate change
- **PLAN (Post-Landfill Action Network)** ([www.postlandfill.org](http://www.postlandfill.org))
  - Note: WCU is a member of PLAN and you have *free access* to the PLAN member hub resources by registering with your WCU e-mail address.

## • **Sustainability, Racial Equity, and Social Justice**

- Advocates, including at West Chester University, have long defined the concept of sustainability in terms of environmental, social equity, and economic components (sometimes referred to as “the three Es”). But many argue that the *social equity* component has been underrepresented in campus initiatives. At WCU we want to acknowledge this and initiate campus conversations to address it. We invite new and long-time faculty to be part of the dialogue.
- Some materials to know of:
  - AASHE’s [Racial Equity and Social Justice](#) resources
  - Yale Environment 360’s [Environmental Justice](#) resources
  - The Edge Effects series on the [Plantationocene](#)
  - The Sierra Club’s [People and Justice](#) pages
  - The [Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#)
- If you have other resources to recommend, please reach out to the Office of Sustainability or the Sustainability Council’s Executive Committee (contact info on first page).

## • **Sustainability and COVID-19**

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted lives in countless ways, including the work that sustainability advocates and professionals do. AASHE has documented some of the discussions on this topic on their [COVID-19 website pages](#).