



**Point Park University
Sustainability Policy
March 21, 2011**

Point Park University (Point Park) is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability for the entire campus community is initiated by Point Park, but that transcends to the larger local and global community. Point Park recognizes that:

“Because the university is a microcosm of the larger community, the manner in which it carries out its daily activities is an important demonstration of ways to achieve environmentally responsible living and to reinforce desired values and behaviors in the whole community.”

Dr. Anthony Cortese, President, Second Nature

Sustainability is an integral part of Point Park’s strategic plan and ties to numerous strategic initiatives that are at the heart of the institution’s success. To this end, Point Park is demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and higher education by the development of a sustainability mission statement and policy that will guide all campus efforts.

Mission Statement

The Point Park University Community will embrace a sustainable culture of environmental, economic and social responsibility through leadership, education, and personal accountability.

Guiding Sustainability Principles

In order to provide direction to its sustainability efforts, Point Park will follow these guiding principles:

- Foster a culture of sustainability by continually identifying opportunities to weave sustainability into the fabric of our community and consistently measuring our success.
- Use all opportunities to teach, educate and integrate sustainability into strategic, academic, operational and administrative efforts.
- Incorporate the sustainability triple bottom line of environmental, economic and social responsibility into its long-term planning and operational efforts.
- Demonstrate that individual efforts make a difference and the entire campus community is accountable for creating change, developing sustainable citizenship, and achieving Point Park’s sustainability goals.

- Build the foundation for a sustainable lifestyle that is developed and/or fostered at Point Park, but is carried forward in life and the larger global environment.
- Utilize Point Park's Academic Village concept to build momentum for sustainability through enhanced engagement with the campus and local community.

Sustainability Goals and Objectives

Point Park University has identified broad sustainability goals that are linked to our guiding principles and are designed to advance these principles now and in the future:

- Develop and implement a multi-faceted sustainability communication plan that will allow the University to share successes and lessons learned;
- Develop and implement a broad-based sustainability infrastructure that dedicates resources to the sustainability initiative with both internal groups and external community partners;
- Incorporate sustainability into the many areas that comprise the total student experience, including student life, academics and community service opportunities.
- Develop and implement measurable sustainability strategies and initiatives for all key operating functional areas, including buildings, dining services, energy procurement, purchasing, transportation and waste programs.
- Alter production and consumption behaviors to reduce resources used, minimize waste and promote conservation both locally and globally.
- Evaluate investment and business opportunities against environmental, economic, diversity and social responsibility criteria to extent practicable.

Sustainability Assessment

Various assessment tools will be used to measure the extent to which sustainability goals and objectives are being achieved. The primary framework will be the STARS rating system along with the benchmarking initiative. STARS is designed specifically for colleges and universities to assess their progress toward achieving campus sustainability. Benchmarking will be used to understand and evaluate peer and related institutions best practices through which many are experiencing sustainability-related benefits that can be adapted or replicated for Point Park University.