



Women in Energy and Environment Webinar Series

US Climate Policy and Environmental Justice in the Biden Administration

June 17, 2021



Welcome & Introduction



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US Climate Policy Developments to Date



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Key Members of the President's Climate Team

Cabinet Appointments

- John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
- Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy
- Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior
- Michael Regan, US EPA Administrator

White House

- Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor, Office of Domestic Climate Policy
- Brian Deese, Director, White House National Economic Council
- Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, White House Counsel on Environmental Quality

- Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (January 27, 202)
- US Foreign Policy and National Security
- Government-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis
- Use of the Federal Government's Buying Power and Real Property and Asset Management
- Rebuilding Infrastructure for a Sustainable Economy
- Advancing Conservation, Agriculture and Reforestation
- Revitalizing Energy Communities
- Securing Environmental Justice

The American Jobs Plan

- Investment in electric vehicle market, including grant and incentive programs for state and local governments and the private sector to build a national network of charging stations
- Investment in a more resilient electric transmission system, as well as renewable electricity infrastructure, including generation and transmission.

National Climate Task Force

- Chaired by Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
- Comprised of Cabinet-level leaders and senior White House officials
- Intended to implement the Biden Administration's "whole of government" approach to tackling climate change and achieving environmental justice
- Has launched the Climate Innovation Working Group to spur the creation of the technology need to address climate change (including zero net carbon buildings, energy storage options, sustainable fuels for aircraft, etc.)

Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization

- Co-Chaired by Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor and Brian Deese, Director, White House National Economic Council
- Comprised of Cabinet-level leaders and senior White House officials
- Intended to coordinate the identification and delivery of federal resources to revitalize the economies of coal, oil and gas and power plant communities, develop strategies for economic and social recovery and assess opportunities to ensure benefits and protections for coal and power plant workers

Executive Order on Climate-Related Financial Risk (May 20, 2021)

- Articulates the policy of the Administration as “to advance consistent, clear, intelligible, comparable and accurate disclosure of climate-related financial risk”
 - Continued next slide.

- Requires development of a comprehensive, government-wide strategy of the climate-related financial risks to government programs, assets and liabilities and identify the public and private financing needed to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by not later than 2050.
- Encourages the Secretary of the Treasury to work with the Financial Stability Oversight Council to assess climate-related financial risk and consider issuing a report on actions the Council recommends to improve climate-related disclosures to protect the security of the US financial system.
- Directs the Secretary of Labor to determine actions that can be taken to protect the life savings and pensions of US workers and families from the threats of climate-related financial risks
- Directs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the National Economic Council, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to develop recommendations on approached to the integration of climate-related financial risk into federal financial management programs and financial reporting, especially as that risk relates to federal lending programs.

Paris Climate Agreement (January 20, 2021)

- Notice provided on January 20, 2021 that the US would accept the Paris Climate Agreement
- An agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to which 189 of the 193 UNFCCC members have become parties, the long term temperature goal of which it to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above pre-industrial levels
- US helped to negotiate the agreement, but former President Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2019

Leaders Summit on Climate (April 22 -23, 2021)

- Convened a virtual gathering of world leaders, including the Major Economies Forum (the world's 17 largest economies and greenhouse gas emitters responsible for 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions) and others.
- Submitted a new “nationally determined contribution” under the Paris Agreement setting an economy-wide emissions targeted to a 50% to 52% reduction in greenhouse gases below 2005 levels by 2030.
- Announced the intent to seek funding to double, by 2021, the annual US funding for climate finance to developing countries.

US International Climate Finance Plan (April 22, 2021)

- In anticipation of the Carbis Bay G7 Summit, outlines a plan for provision or mobilization of financial resources to developing countries to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Recommendations scaling up international climate finance, mobilizing private finance internationally, ending financing for carbon-intensive fossil fuel energy, supporting the flow of capital toward low emissions, climate resilient pathways and measuring, monitoring and reporting.

Executive Order on the Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office (May 7, 2021)

- Creates the Climate Change Support Office within the State Department.
- Intended to support bilateral and multilateral engagement to advance the US initiative to address the global climate crisis, led by the Department of State in coordination with other executive departments and agencies.

Carbis Bay G7 Summit (June 11-13, 2021)

- G7 members reaffirmed the commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement and collectively committed to ambitious and accelerated efforts to achieve net zero GHG emissions as soon as possible and 2050 at the latest.
- G7 members also committed to increased 2030 targets and, where not done already, commit to submit aligned “nationally determined contributions” as soon as possible ahead of COP26 Glasgow.
- G7 members agreed to certain industry specific commitments as well. With respect to coal power generation, G7 members committed to the rapid scale up of technologies and policies to transition away from coal, but did not commit to a date certain to do so.
- G7 members reaffirmed the commitment to jointly mobilize from developed countries \$100B per year from public and private sources to finance the transition to net zero economies. The members committed to improve financial contributions in advance of COP26 in Glasgow.

US-EU Summit (June 15, 2021)

- Commitments similar to those of the G7 members at the Carbis Bay Summit
- Committed to work toward a Transatlantic Green Technology Alliance

Environmental Justice under the Biden Administration



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- **Executive Order 13985:** “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government” (Jan. 20, 2021)
- **Executive Order 13990:** “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis” (Jan. 20, 2021)
- **Memorandum “Modernizing Regulatory Review”** (Jan. 20, 2021)
- **Executive Order 14008:** “Tackling the Climate Crisis At Home and Abroad” (Jan. 27, 2021)
 - Securing Environmental Justice and Spurring Economic Activity

- **White House EJ Interagency Council** first meeting and the whole of government approach to environmental justice (Apr. 6, 2021)
- **EPA order to all regions and staff** to integrate environmental justice into their plans and actions (Apr. 7, 2021)
- **EPA's Fiscal 2022 Budget Request** before Senate Appropriations Committee seeking significant funding for environmental justice priorities (Apr. 9, 2021)
 - \$936M toward accelerating environmental and economic justice initiatives
- Reintroduction of **The Environmental Justice Pollution Cleanup Act** (Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Congressman A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) (June 11, 2021)
 - Seeks to invest over \$200 billion to address legacy pollution in environmental justice communities

Environmental Justice at the State Level

- New Jersey
- Oregon
- Illinois
- Massachusetts
- New York
- Virginia
- Connecticut
- Michigan
- Rhode Island
- Washington

Leadership in Sustainability at The Ohio State University

Kate Bartter, Executive Director, Sustainability Institute

Women in Energy and Environment Webinar Series
Squire Patton Boggs

June 17, 2021



Universitywide Commitment to Sustainability *Vision – established in 2015*

Ohio State is recognized as a leader in developing **durable** solutions to the pressing challenges of sustainability and in evolving a **culture** of sustainability through collaborative teaching, pioneering research, comprehensive outreach and innovative operations, practices and policies.





Seven University Sustainability Goals



Teaching & Learning

Foster next generation of sustainability research and creative expression through student outcomes



Research & Innovation

Develop and support leading national sustainability scholars



Outreach & Engagement

Leverage partnerships and stakeholder engagement for larger sustainability solutions



Resource Stewardship

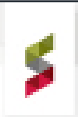
Implement world-leading, university-wide operational goals to reduce consumption, neutralize carbon emissions, and minimize waste



Sustainability Institute (SI)

Integrate sustainability and resilience scholarship and activities across the breadth of the university mission by pursuing the following goals:

1. Establish Ohio State as a leading public institution of sustainability research and applications
2. Educate and empower Ohio State students
3. Accelerate campus sustainability progress and living lab opportunities
4. Grow the resources available to support sustainability and resilience scholarship & activities
5. Catalyze a culture of sustainability



SI Leadership

- ▶ **Elena Irwin, SI Faculty Director**
and Distinguished Professor of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences in Economics and Sustainability

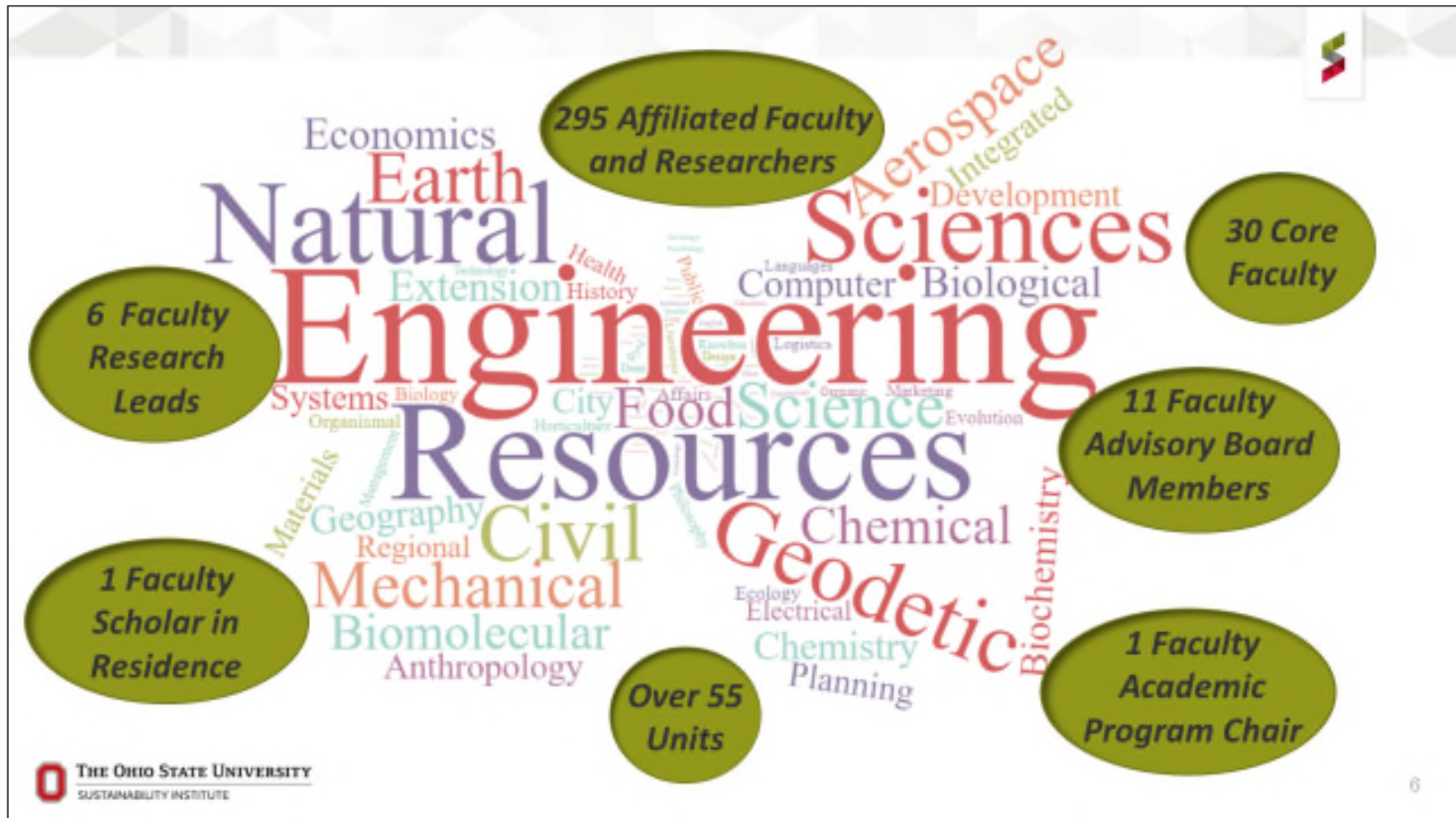


- ▶ Provides leadership to interdisciplinary sustainability research and teaching across the university; co-directs the overall activities of the Institute; mentors over two dozen SI core faculty; collaborates with others to develop external funding opportunities and build faculty networks; conducts research on human-natural systems and sustainability assessment

- ▶ **Kate Bartter, SI Executive Director**



- ▶ Provides leadership to implement the SI mission of integrating sustainability across the enterprise of Ohio State; co-directs the overall activities of the Institute and manages day-to-day operations of SI; manages key sustainability partnerships; chairs the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability





SI Research Program Areas

**Sustainable
Energy**

**Healthy Air,
Land, and Water**

**Smart & Resilient
Communities**

**Sustainable
Resources**

**Circular
Economy**

**Climate Science, Adaption and Mitigation:
a growing topic in all areas**

Award-Winning Sustainability Faculty

Ohio State faculty have been researching sustainability opportunities for decades. Some of our internationally recognized faculty include:



LS Fan
Taking carbon out
of fossil fuels



Rattan Lal
Sustainable soil
management



Steven Ringel
Renewable
energy, efficient
electricity and
photonics



Giorgio Rizzoni
Propulsion systems
and energy storage



Ellen Mosley Thompson
Lonnie Thompson
Ice core paleoclimatology

Women Innovators





Energy Advancement and Innovation Center

- \$50+ million building planned for west campus innovation district
- Goal: bring sustainable energy innovations to commercial marketplace in 3-5 years





Sustainability Education and Learning *in the classroom*

- Committee of **faculty from 7 different colleges**
- **In-depth analysis** of undergraduate sustainability education
 - 151 majors, minors, or certificates in sustainability available
- **Funding new programs/courses in sustainability**
 - major in water science
 - minor in sustainability engineering
 - certificate program in climate science
- **Creating a website** to highlight sustainability-related educational opportunities for prospective students & current students



Sustainability Education and Learning *out of the classroom*

- Living learning residential community of students passionate about sustainability
- Student Grant Program
 - Projects and research
 - Secondhand clothing collective
 - Communication science for zero waste
- Support student led events
 - Time for Change Week



Engaging our Community

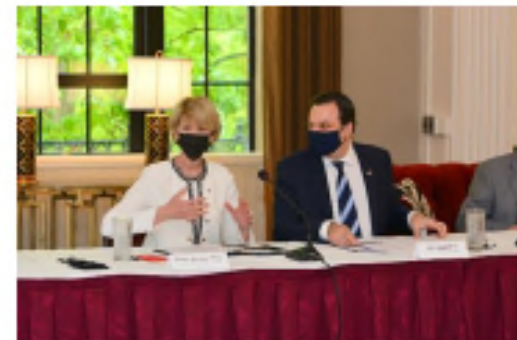
International thought leaders who have visited our campus include:



Prince Albert of Monaco
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation



Gro Harlem Brundtland
Prime Minister of Norway
UN Comm. on Environment and
Development



UK Consul General Climate Roundtable



Cardinal Peter Turkson
Vatican Envoy for the Environment

External Networks

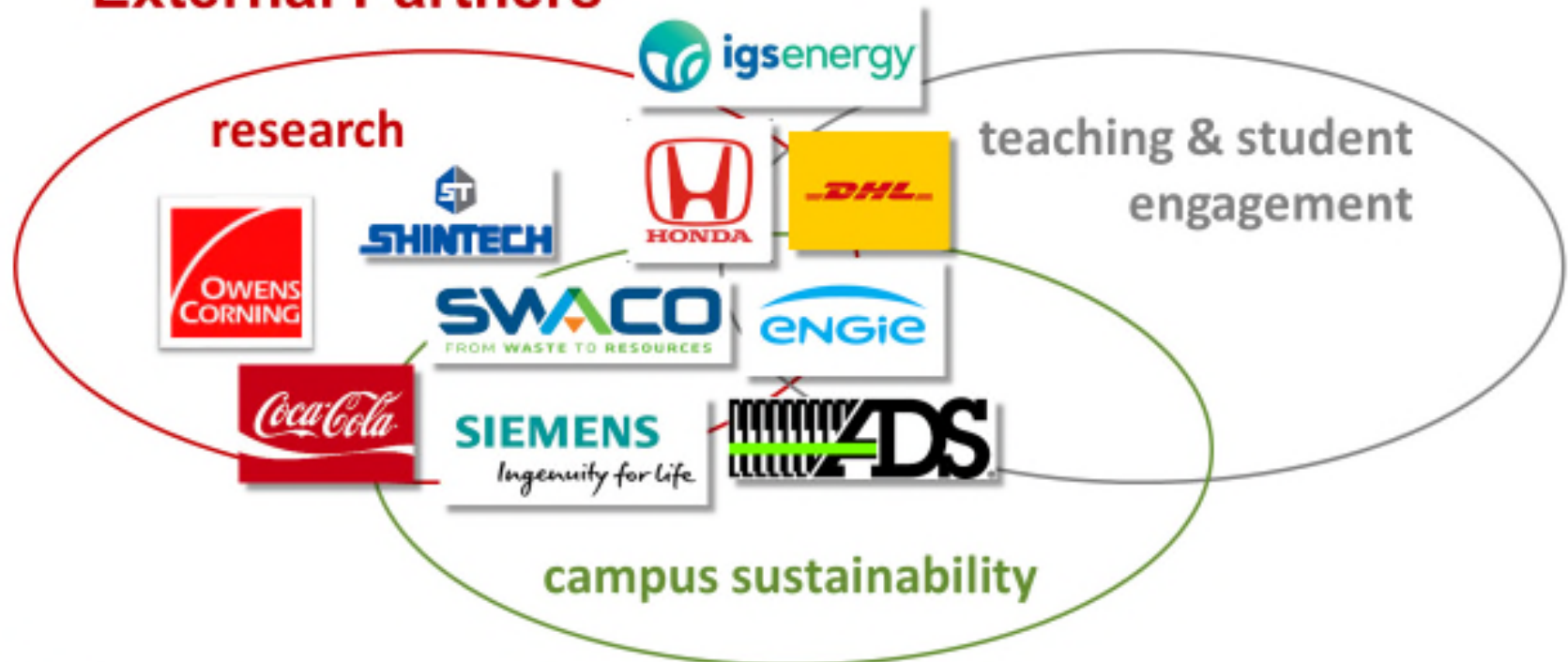
local



global



External Partners



SUSTAINABILITY

Resource Stewardship Goals

University Fleet's Carbon Footprint

Reduce 25% by 2025.

Carbon Neutrality

Eliminate carbon emissions by 2050.

Locally Sourced Food

Increase 40% by 2025.
(production and purchase)

Ecosystem Services

Increase campus ecosystem services by 60%, by 2025



Potable Water Consumption

Reduce 5% per capita every five years.



Zero Waste

Divert 90% of waste away from landfills by 2025.



Building Energy Consumption

Reduce 25% by 2025.



Preferred Products

Develop and implement standards by 2025.




Goal: Carbon Neutrality by 2050

Path to Carbon Neutrality: Ohio State Climate Action Plan



April 2020

 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Apr 15, 2020

Ohio State accelerates climate action

University releases plan to reduce 55% of carbon emissions by 2030



The Ohio State
University

The Ohio State University today released a plan to cut its carbon emissions in half within this decade. This accelerates the university's ability to achieve full carbon neutrality by 2050.



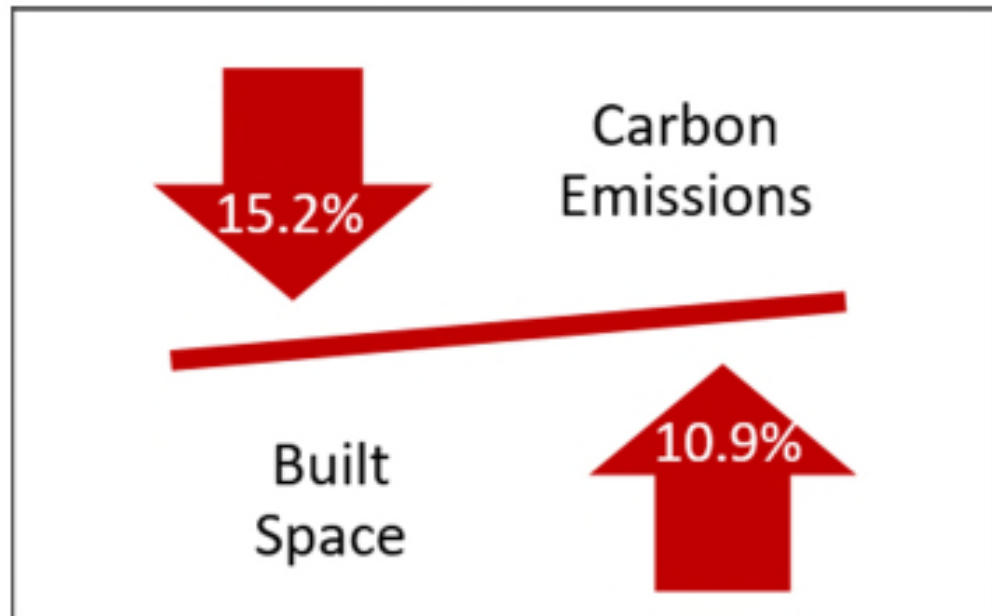
Activity Since Initial Climate Action Plan

Overall emissions have gone down since 2011

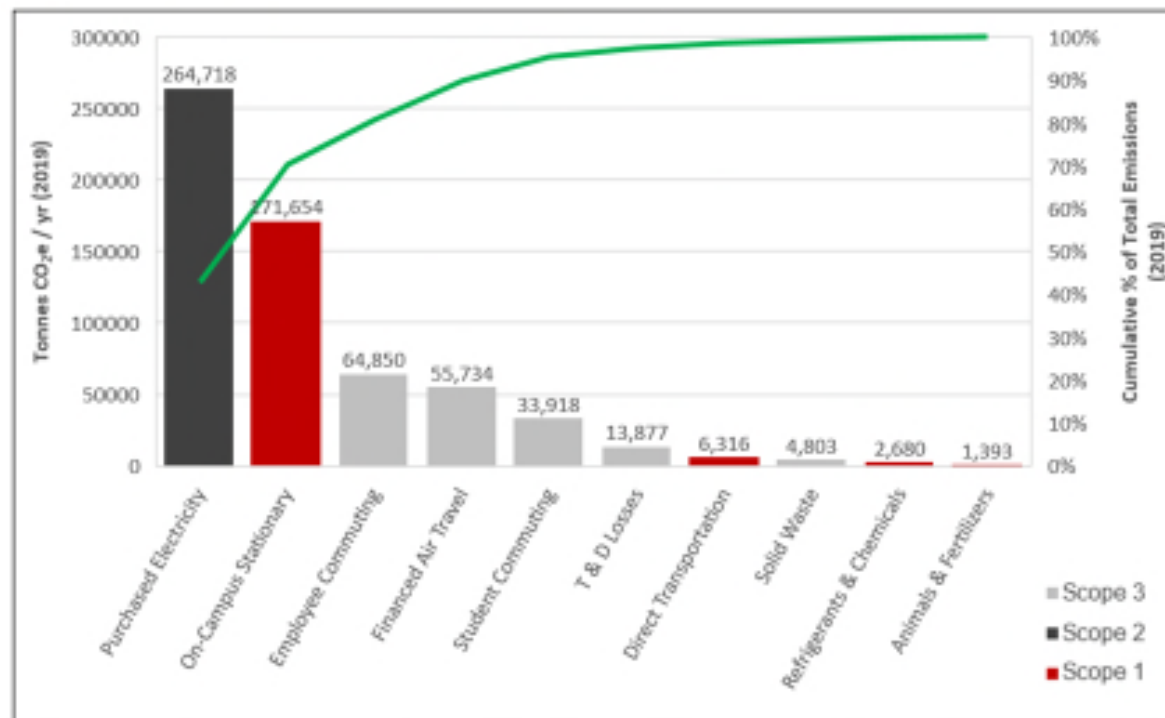
Overall built space has increased since 2011

- *2.4 million sq. ft.*

More energy efficient buildings, more diverse energy fuel mix

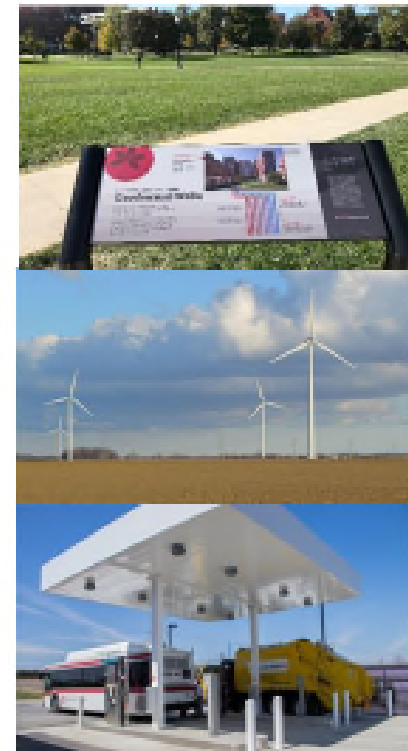


Current Emissions By Source



Carbon reduction activity to date

- Regional chiller plants
- Geothermal heating and cooling expansion
- Blue Creek wind power purchase agreement
 - *14% of university purchased electricity*
- Carbon neutral electricity purchases
- Low-carbon transportation expansion
 - *CNG fueling station*
- **Comprehensive Energy Management Partnership**
 - *Rapidly expand building energy efficiency*
 - *Initial capital investment for energy savings*
 - *Combined heat and power plant approval*





Carbon reduction acceleration plan

60% reduction by 2030 and Neutrality by 2050

- Construct and Operate Combined Heat and Power Plant
- More Energy Conservation Measures
- Campus Based Solar Energy
- Air Travel Offset Program
- Campus Based Carbon Sinks
- Behavior and Culture
- **Hydrogen!!**
- Offsets



“Some people say to save the planet;
I actually say to save civilization.”

Ohio State President Kristina Johnson

June 2, 2021



Questions?



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Women in Energy and Environment Series

Packaging Changes, Extended Producer Responsibility, Recycling and Single-use Plastics in the UK and the EU – How Is Your Business Affected?

Tuesday, June 22

11 a.m. EDT / 4 p.m. BST

Speakers

- Anita Lloyd, Director
- Caroline Almond, Senior Associate
- Martin Hyde, Policy Leader, Comply Direct