Goal 5:
Sustainability
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Enhance and extend the University’s environmental stewardship through education, research, outreach, conservation and innovation

DSU is aptly focused on improving its sustainability and reducing its environmental impact. As articulated very succinctly by President Harry L. Williams, “higher education should play a meaningful role in modeling best practices … and shall be an environmental leader in reducing its carbon footprint.”

DSU’s commitment to be an institutional leader in environmental stewardship has moved to a new level as it has become the first state entity in President Barack Obama’s Better Building Challenge, which calls for commercial and industrial building energy upgrades to make America’s buildings 20 percent more efficient over the next decade and outlines plans to reduce energy costs across the country by nearly $40 billion. DSU was invited to be a part of this initiative as the result of receiving the 2011 Climate Leadership Award from the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. The award recognized DSU for its campus “Go Green” initiative. Of the 10 participating universities, DSU is the only HBCU selected. DSU is developing a comprehensive, integrated and interdisciplinary approach to institutionalize sustainability and make the University a well-known green and sustainable campus.

- **OBJECTIVE 5.1: Develop transformational learning opportunities that prepare faculty, staff and students to live, contribute and work in a sustainable society**

  **Key Action Strategies:**
  - Implement sustainability-focused memoranda of understanding with agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
  - Develop and implement courses, course modules and sustainability across the curriculum.
  - Promote participation in on- and off-campus sustainability conferences, forums and activities.
  - Coordinate campus-wide stewardship and sustainability practices in the University’s educational programs, management and operational functions.
  - Prepare students by providing interdisciplinary, inquiry-based, project-based and problem solving opportunities to apply knowledge to develop real-world solutions in their communities both on and off campus.

- **OBJECTIVE 5.2: Expand interdisciplinary research and scholarship in advancing knowledge and innovations for sustainable energy, materials and technology**

  **Key Action Strategies**
  - Build a world class research facility dedicated to the field of optics.
  - Encourage and promote faculty to conduct sustainability research through funded grants.
  - Develop research and outreach partnerships with federal and state agencies.
  - Increase sustainability publications and presentations by faculty and students.
  - Create opportunities for faculty, staff and students to commercialize innovation through technology transfer.
  - Encourage the adoption of sustainability best management practices.
• **OBJECTIVE 5.3:** Implement campus-wide sustainable environmental practices and policies that include carbon neutral conservation measures

**Key Action Strategies:**
- Create a DSU Sustainability Council.
- Develop campus energy saving, recycling and sustainability initiatives such as installing recycling bins and water bottle refilling stations in campus buildings.
- Enhance support of the Green Ambassador student organization.
- Maintain a comprehensive sustainability website and social media outreach to share and promote the adoption of sustainable practices.
- Develop an award system for faculty, staff and student innovation in campus sustainability practices.
- Engage students in sustainable practices such as community gardens and wetlands conservation.

• **OBJECTIVE 5.4:** Engage the external community through partnerships to promote environmental sustainability practices

**Key Action Strategies**
- Develop and implement Cooperative Extension and outreach programs that disseminate research results and capture the economic and societal benefits of the research.
- Create mutually beneficial partnerships and strategic alliances with agencies included in Delaware’s Science and Technology Plan.
- Develop memoranda of understanding with the major employers statewide to collaborate on a joint climate action plan.
- Implement a new campus master facilities plan that is in concert with the strategic plan and the local community.
- Develop sustainability initiatives for the campus in coordination with local, state and regional entities, reinvesting a portion of the resulting savings into new or existing initiatives.