

## Carbon Plan Assessment Tool -COLLEGES

Welcome to the Assessment Tool used for STEP 2 in the Carbon Planning Toolkit!

Notes about the Assessment Tool:

- Some questions may require research and communication with others within your unit.
- When introducing the Assessment to others, and early in the data collection process, it may be helpful to use this PDF of the survey.
- This survey is not intended to be completed in one sitting. We recommend collecting data one section at a time.

Once you submit your survey, the Sustainability Office will create a customized plan builder tool that will help in STEP 5.

Many of the survey questions are adapted from the [STARS Reporting Tool](#), and Penn State's Opportunity Finder Tool.

Choose your college:

- College of Agricultural Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Pharmacy
- College of Forestry
- College of Public Health and Human Sciences
- College of Science
- College of Veterinary Medicine

The responses in this survey represent:

Please provide the name of the sub-unit your responses will represent, if not the entire unit selected above.

- The entire unit selected above
- A smaller subunit \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a key contact for this assessment.

Name

E-mail

## GENERAL

G 1 How do the work, mission and/or outcomes in your college relate to climate change and sustainability? (~100-300 words)

G 2 Does your college have a published strategic plan or equivalent guiding document that includes climate change issues?

If yes, please briefly describe and provide a link to plan document(s). Please list page numbers where relevant narrative appears. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## ACADEMICS

A 1 What are your best examples of climate change and sustainability content within in the curriculum? (150-300 words)

A 2 Does the college culture support integrating climate change and sustainability into the curriculum? (150-300 words)

A 3 Does your college offer courses with a specific focus on climate change and sustainability? For definition of a sustainability course visit [here](#).

If yes, please provide a list of the courses, a link to the programs, and/or contact information for a person who can provide more information.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

A 4 Does your college offer academic courses that include climate change and/or sustainability content as a more minor element? For more information regarding this question, visit [here](#).

If yes, please provide a list of the courses, a link to the programs, and/or contact information for a person who can provide more information.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

A 5 How do you feel about the amount of sustainability courses you offer? Is there room for improvement?

- We are happy with the amount of sustainability courses offered.
- We have courses with sustainability content, or sustainability courses, but there is room for improvement on how many offered.
- We have very few courses with sustainability content, or sustainability courses, and seek this as somewhere we can improve on.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

A 6 Does your college offer at least one sustainability-focused major, degree program, or the equivalent for undergraduate/graduate students?

If yes, please provide a list of program names, a link to the programs, and/or contact information for a person who can provide more information.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

A 7 Does any unit in your college assess students for climate change literacy? If interested in pursuing a literacy assessment, more guidance can be provided.

If yes, what method or tools do you use? Please briefly describe and provide link to or report of literacy assessment. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Not currently, but would be interested in pursuing
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

A 8 Please identify other curriculum-based carbon or climate actions in which your college is involved. (200-300 words)

## **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

OE 1 Does your college have one or more active student and/or employee groups focused on sustainability or climate change?

If yes, please list and provide links to or descriptions of the organizations.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 2 In what ways does your college leadership provide support to these student and/or faculty groups? (100-200 words)

OE 3 What types of outreach does your division do? How can the unit incorporate climate change into that outreach? (100-300 words) (100-300 words)

OE 4 What type of audiences do you typically reach with your college's outreach?  
Feel free to select more than one.

- Undergraduate students
- Resident students
- Non-resident students
- Graduate students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Alumni
- Local community
- Other

OE 5 Does your college have student-run enterprises that include sustainability as part of their mission statements or stated purposes (e.g. cafés through which students gain sustainable business skills)?

If yes, please briefly describe and provide link if available. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 6 Does your college have gardens, farms, community supported agriculture (CSA) or fishery programs, and/or urban agriculture projects where students are able to gain experience in organic agriculture and sustainable food systems?

If yes, briefly describe and provide link to details if available. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 7 Does your college offer short courses, certificate programs, workshops, or conferences that cover climate change issues?

If yes, please briefly describe and provide link if available. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 8 Does your college have formal partnerships with the local community, including school districts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, or other entities, to work together to advance sustainability within the community?

If yes, please describe your partnerships with the local community. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 9 Does your college have conferences, speaker series, symposia or similar events related to climate change and sustainability?

If yes, please list a sample of the most applicable events.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 10 Does your college collaborate with or utilize social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, interactive blogs) that focus specifically on climate change or carbon emissions reduction?

If yes, please briefly describe and provide link if available. Do you have a sense of which are most effective? (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 11 Does your college have building signage that highlights green building features?

If yes, does the signage include carbon emission related information like energy savings, CO2 reduction estimates, etc.?

Please provide links to photos or narrative description. (200 word maximum)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 12 Does your college advertise the OSU Sustainability Office's Self-Guided Sustainability Tour brochure?

[Find electronic version here.](#)

If yes, where is it advertised?

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

OE 13 How many Sustainability Advocates are in your college? For more information regarding advocates, [click here.](#)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustainability Advocates

OE 14 How many employees are reached or represented by the Sustainability Advocates in your college?

## RESEARCH

R 1 What are the best examples of climate change related research in your college? (100-300 words)

R 2 Estimate the percentage of college faculty doing research.

R 3 Estimate the percentage of college faculty doing climate or sustainability related research.

R 4 Does your college have a program to encourage students in multiple disciplines or academic programs to conduct climate change research?

If yes, please describe the program(s) and provide links, if applicable. (100-300 words)

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

R 5 Please identify other carbon or climate related research in which your college is involved. (100-300 words).

## OPERATIONS

Many actions related to operations are included in a new [Green Office Certification program](#) offered by the Sustainability Office. Since the Green Office Certification is new, it is likely many responses in this section will be "zero", or "no" in this assessment phase. The questions below provide an opportunity to introduce the Certification and how it links to our carbon planning efforts.

O 1 As far as you are aware, what are the best examples of actions already taken to reduce carbon emissions by faculty, staff and students in your college? (150-300 words)

O 2 Does your college (or schools/sub-units within your college) participate in the Green Office Certification?

- Yes
- No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

O 3 How many colleges/units within your college have been certified, at any level?

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount of units

O 4 How many units are using the Green Office Certification (or a portion of it) as a planning tool, but not seeking certification?

\_\_\_\_\_ Units

O 5 How many units have expressed interest in using the Green Office Certification but may not have started? If applicable, please describe possible barriers to getting started.

\_\_\_\_\_ Units

**BEFORE CLICKING TO THE NEXT PAGE, READ ME! ARE YOU DONE?** By clicking the "Next" button, your survey will be submitted, and you will not be able to go back and change any answers. **ARE YOU STILL ADDING INFORMATION?** If you are NOT done at the time, you are welcome to use the back button and continue editing the sections. Remember, the link to this survey that was sent via e-mail will continue to bring you back to where you left off. Save the link and return when needed.