

Yale School of Nursing Sustainability Action Plan

In its commitment to “better health for all people,” the Yale School of Nursing (YSN) sets a proactive tone for its teaching, research, and service. Health care and sustainability are intimately linked in many ways, including but not limited to: healthy food, clean air, clean water, and physical fitness. There are myriad examples of environmental influences on human health – from high asthma rates due to air pollution to increased ranges for disease vectors due to climate change. In parallel with this, instances of human health-related activities that reduce negative ecosystem impacts include gardening for fresh, healthy food and biking or walking instead of driving. In this context, the Yale School of Nursing has remarkable capacity to embrace and enhance sustainability at Yale, in the greater New Haven Area, and in the world.

The ultimate Mission of the Yale School of Nursing is *better health for all people*. We accomplish this by educating each generation of nurse leaders, scholars and practitioners; transforming healthcare practice; and advancing science.

While the institutional-scale *Yale Sustainability Plan 2025* provides a robust platform for a coordinated and unified approach to enhancing Yale’s sustainability leadership, our campus is truly a diverse set of communities and disciplines. The *Yale School of Nursing Sustainability Action Plan* is one of a larger set of similar documents that create tailored language for Yale’s professional schools. Each professional school will support Yale’s Sustainability vision and ambitions, but these action plans allow for creativity, innovation, and mindful exploration in the context of academic disciplines and physical contexts.

Sustainability at Yale University

In 2016 Yale University announced the launch of the Yale Sustainability Plan 2025, which charts a nine-year course toward Yale’s sustainability vision of “a Yale where sustainability is seamlessly integrated into the scholarship and operations of the university, contributing to its social, environmental, and financial excellence and positioning Yale as a local and global leader.” The Plan is organized into nine ambitions, which are undergirded by 20 objectives and 38 goals. The ambitions and objectives are intentionally worded to invite academic inquiry as well as operational commitments. The goals, which are measurable and time-bound, are a combination of scholarly and administrative commitments. This document offers YSN goals to support the university’s sustainability ambitions. Each section starts with the definition of the ambition and objectives as stated in the plan, and then offers measurable and time-bound goals for the school.

Leadership: *Demonstrate local and global leadership in sustainability teaching, research, service, and operations*

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Enrich and enhance teaching, research, learning, and service that explore and contribute to sustainability solutions.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Act as a convening voice and leader for dialogues about local, national, and global sustainability challenges.

YSN GOALS

- By September 2018 provide sustainability-related curricular content examples that faculty might consider using as part of YSN's curricular threads (social justice, equity, global health, etc.). By January 2019 issue a survey to determine the percent of courses that have accommodated this request.
- Through Yale resources and international platforms such as the *Consortium of Universities for Global Health*, continue to advance teaching, research, and service that connects sustainability principles/planetary health to human health.
- Collaborate with the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences faculty to develop content, seminars, and MOOCs to address sustainability principles and content.

Empowerment: *Foster a diverse and inclusive sustainability movement*

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Engage and empower members of the Yale community around themes of sustainability.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Support diversity and inclusion in local efforts through education and collaboration.

YSN GOALS

- Starting in September 2017, include sustainability in student life and orientation programs.
- Starting January 2018, include sustainability in all new YSN new employee orientation programming
- By January 2018 highlight opportunities to enrich the sustainability-diversity dialogue through student work with community organizations, using our

roles as providers and clinicians to educate patients about health impacts of sustainability.

- By January 2018 launch a program using central Yale & YSN materials to inform and empower members of the YSN community about personal connections to health and sustainability, such as nutrition and air quality.
- By April 2018 apply for Green Workplace Certification for all administrative spaces.
- Starting in September 2018, apply for Green Event Certification for all large events.
- Encourage use of shuttle, carpooling, and shared ride services.
- Add recycling bins for batteries and electronics.
- By September 2018 create a draft set of guidelines, working from existing recommendations by WHO and others, for sustainable choices by practitioners and clinicians in clinical spaces. Starting in January 2019, partner with other professional schools and select clinical spaces to disseminate the guidelines.

Health and well-being: *Enhance health, well-being, and ecosystem vitality*

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Encourage decision making and behaviors that lead to a healthy, vibrant campus and surrounding community.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Promote resilient food systems through on-campus healthy food service and community-wide efforts.

YSN GOALS

- By January 2018 create a student-run program to identify opportunities to enhance the health and well-being of all community members. Include in this day-to-day informational outreach, such as tips on avoiding personal exposure to toxins, eg. use of plastic containers, certain health and beauty products, cellphones, etc..
- Enhance mental health services at YSN: initiate YHP-delivered mental health services on site.
- Continue YSN wellness programming, including student classes, and designated spaces in building, eg. exercise room, meditation, breastfeeding room, narrative nursing space, etc..
- By October 2017, launch the YSN Peer Advocates Program: a peer to peer support program to help fellow students navigate the YSN student experience.

- Introduce a West Campus-wide health challenge.
- Add faculty and staff /food system/pedagogy.

Climate Action: *Take urgent action to mitigate climate change and proactively adapt to its impacts*

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Achieve carbon neutrality for Yale University by or before 2050.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: Develop, test, and share climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in support of overall regional resilience.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: Incorporate the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and possible governmental responses to climate change in the evaluation of investment opportunities.

YSN GOALS

- By January 2019 conduct an energy survey to identify priorities for energy efficiency.
- By December 2018 suggest that members of the YSN community offsets travel and large events through the Yale Community Carbon Fund, which offers the option to support healthy homes in CT.
- Develop content for students, faculty and community for community resilience (preparedness for disaster response and recovery); YSN led planning for strategy sessions, development of content and education for community resilience in CT.

Stewardship: *Plan and preserve resilient and sustainable infrastructure and landscapes*

OBJECTIVE 5.1: Develop transformative approaches to urban growth and campus planning that address financial, environmental, and social imperatives.

OBJECTIVE 5.2: Develop innovative approaches to land and water management that enhance human health, biodiversity, and environmental vitality.

YSN GOALS

- Partner with the Yale Landscape Lab to offer curriculum that connects nursing students with food, food systems, and education about the role of good nutrition in healing.

- In fall 2017, coordinate with the West Campus administration to enhance the YSN community experience by augmenting outdoor gathering seating and shade.

Built Environment: *Design, build, and maintain resilient and sustainable buildings*

OBJECTIVE 6.1: Develop transformative approaches to project design, construction, and maintenance that address financial, environmental, and social imperatives.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: Develop effective approaches to maintenance, operation, and occupancy of buildings that both ensure optimal performance and are responsive to environmental, social, and financial imperatives.

YSN GOALS

- By January 2019, set a reduction target for the carbon charge.
- In planning for the expansion of the YSN space on West Campus, consider design choices that will support efficient use of water and energy.

Mobility: *Promote and support human and ecosystem health through sustainable transportation*

OBJECTIVE 7.1: Enhance and support systems for alternative and active transportation.

OBJECTIVE 7.2: Advance transportation choices that improve human health and environmental vitality.

YSN GOALS

- By April 2018 issue a survey to all members of the community and set goals to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles coming to West Campus.
- By April 2019 establish a program to support on-site recreational biking, possibly with a bike-share.

Materials: *Ensure sustainable consumption and disposal patterns*

OBJECTIVE 8.1: Advance sustainability purchasing standards that promote sustainability and resilience.

OBJECTIVE 8.2: Promote material flow systems that employ use and disposal patterns to inform purchasing decisions.

OBJECTIVE 8.3: Cultivate sustainable purchasing and disposal decisions.

YSN GOALS

- In collaboration with the Yale West Campus administration, by September 2018 set targets and install systems to increase composting and reduce waste.
- By January 2018, purchase and use sustainable paper products at all YSN events/functions.
- By September 2018 transition away from the use of disposable water bottles for any on-campus events, and encourage all members of the YSN community to use reusable bottles for daily hydration.
- By January 2019 establish a program through the library to allow community members to check out non-literary items such as charger cables and umbrellas.

Technology: *Explore innovative technological platforms to address sustainability challenges*

OBJECTIVE 9.1: Develop and implement multidisciplinary technological solutions that foster sustainability and connectivity through local, regional, and global networks.

OBJECTIVE 9.2: Lead the technology industry by creating replicable sustainability standards related to energy, materials, human well-being, and transportation.

YSN GOALS

- By fall of 2018 have the capacity to do more remote video and audio communications, for teaching, team science, committee meetings, etc.

Implementation of this Plan

The plan was announced by YSN in October, 2017.

Annual programming

- Community-building
- Bike appreciation breakfast
- Park-ing day event
- Competitions for paper reduction, etc...
- Educational signage and outreach around particular themes

- Monthly outreach within the community
- Annual efforts to communicate outside of the school

Accountability and Reporting

Every year the Office of Sustainability will solicit updates from the School of Nursing and host a series of opportunities for the School of Nursing Sustainability team to connect with similar groups in other professional schools. The ongoing implementation of this plan should also be considered an opportunity to conceptualize fresh goals and new ideas for academic integration.

Appendix 1: Ambitions and Objectives of the Yale Sustainability Plan

1. *Leadership: Demonstrate local and global leadership in sustainability teaching, research, service, and operations.*

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Enrich and enhance teaching, research, learning, and service that explore and contribute to sustainability solutions.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Act as a convening voice and leader for dialogues about local, national, and global sustainability challenges.

2. *Empowerment: Foster a diverse and inclusive sustainability movement.*

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Engage and empower members of the Yale community around themes of sustainability.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Support diversity and inclusion in local efforts through education and collaboration.

3. *Health and Well-Being: Enhance health, well-being, and ecosystem vitality.*

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Encourage decision-making and behaviors that lead to a healthy, vibrant campus and surrounding community.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Promote resilient food systems through on-campus food service and community-wide efforts.

4. *Climate Action: Take urgent action to mitigate climate change and proactively adapt to its impacts.*

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Achieve carbon neutrality for Yale University by or before 2050.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: Develop, test, and share climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in support of overall regional resilience.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: Incorporate the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and possible governmental responses to climate change in the evaluation of investment opportunities.

5. *Stewardship: Plan and preserve resilient and sustainable infrastructure and landscapes.*

OBJECTIVE 5.1: Develop transformative approaches to urban growth and campus planning that address financial, environmental, and social imperatives.

OBJECTIVE 5.2: Develop innovative approaches to land and water management that enhance human health, biodiversity, and environmental vitality.

6. *Built Environment: Design, build, and maintain resilient and sustainable buildings.*

OBJECTIVE 6.1: Develop transformative approaches to project design, construction, and maintenance that address financial, environmental, and social imperatives.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: Develop effective approaches to maintenance, operation, and occupancy of buildings that both ensure optimal performance and are responsive to environmental, social, and financial imperatives.

7. *Mobility: Promote and support human and ecosystem health through sustainable transportation.*

OBJECTIVE 7.1: Enhance and support systems for alternative and active transportation.

OBJECTIVE 7.2: Advance transportation choices that improve human health and environmental vitality.

8. *Materials: Ensure sustainable consumption and disposal patterns.*

OBJECTIVE 8.1: Advance sustainability purchasing standards that promote sustainability and resilience.

OBJECTIVE 8.2: Promote material flow systems that employ use and disposal patterns to inform purchasing decisions.

OBJECTIVE 8.3: Cultivate sustainable purchasing and disposal decisions.

9. *Technology: Explore innovative technological platforms to address sustainability challenges.*

OBJECTIVE 9.1: Develop and implement multidisciplinary technological solutions that foster sustainability and connectivity through local, regional, and global networks.

OBJECTIVE 9.2: Lead the technology industry by creating replicable sustainability standards related to energy, materials, human well-being, and transportation.

