



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2020–2030



Prepared by the Villanova
Sustainability Leadership Council

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Dear Members of the Villanova Community,

As the past few months have shown, all of human life is connected. And together, we can effect positive change toward a common goal. Whether it is saving lives by staying home, or drawing attention to civil injustices, we can make a difference . . . together.

This connectedness extends to various aspects of our lives, including the responsibility to care for all of creation. As Catholics, as Villanovans and as human beings, we must come together to take substantive, transformative action to foster the health and prosperity of God’s creation. The responsibility lies with each and every one of us. To that end, the Villanova Sustainability Leadership Council (VSLC) was established to develop an actionable and measurable plan to guide the University’s sustainability efforts through 2030.

In conjunction with efforts around our strategic plan, *Rooted. Restless.*, the VSLC drafted the Villanova University Sustainability Plan 2020–2030, which I approved. The plan provides a comprehensive road map for Villanova’s sustainability efforts over the next decade. It adopts an inclusive definition for sustainability—one encompassing efforts to support the planet and its people and to ensure prosperity for all. It is rooted in both our Augustinian Catholic tradition and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals laid out by the United Nations in 2015.

Some aspects of the plan are already in motion, including the exploration of a new campus-wide Villanova Institute for Climate, Justice and Sustainability, and we will continue its rollout this fall to coincide with the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato si’: On Care for Our Common Home*. In it, His Holiness reminds us that “an awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.” May each of us, in reading Villanova’s sustainability plan, be ready to embrace new habits and commit to an ethos of sustainable living in all aspects of our lives.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of the VSLC who are identified in the following pages for formulating this plan to guide Villanova’s sustainability efforts. They put countless hours of research and collaboration into the plan’s formulation, and I am extremely grateful for their efforts.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA
President



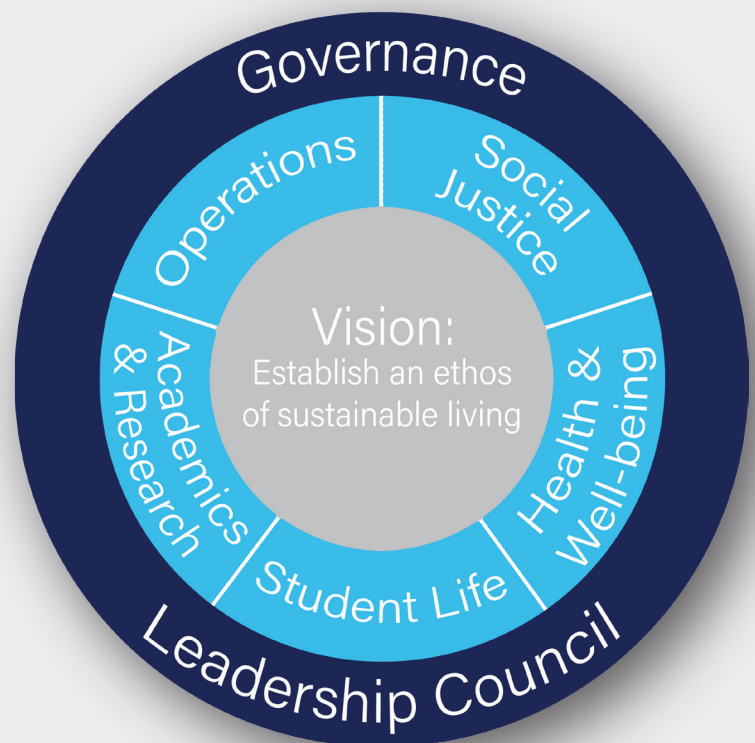
The pursuit of sustainability is the pursuit of a world in which resources and opportunities are assured for all future generations. **Put simply: enough, for all, forever.**

The United Nations recognized the importance of sustainability when it created its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 to “provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.” These goals recognize global challenges that must be solved collaboratively to create a prosperous, just and sustainable world.

As an Augustinian Catholic institution and a member of the global community, Villanova University felt called to facilitate this critical process by adapting and implementing the UN SDGs.

The Villanova Sustainability Leadership Council (VSLC) is the primary governing body for sustainability at Villanova.

- The VLSC was charged with developing and customizing a plan that aligns with the University’s mission to promote knowledge of, love for and commitment to a sustainable world in which all creation will flourish.
- The VLSC is supported by five committees, each led by a council member and focused on a central University function.
- These committees identify projects designed to achieve key results to improve Villanova’s sustainability score.*
- Once the VSLC approves projects, the committees oversee their implementation and growth on campus.



*Villanova’s baseline sustainability score (33%) was determined through an initial evaluation by the VLSC of the University’s ability to meet performance metrics in each of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addition to a Villanova-specific Goal 0: Sustainability in Academics. Through the efforts and outcomes of the various projects within the Sustainability Plan, we aim to elevate performance in these areas, thereby increasing Villanova’s overall sustainability score by 2030.

The Sustainability Plan is built on the following decision-making methodology:



The Sustainability Plan, along with Villanova's Strategic Plan, will guide the University through the next decade to improve personal, communal and institutional sustainability, positively impacting daily routines, systemic structures, equitability and quality of life.

At the core of all sustainability activities will be Villanova's foundational principles of **truth, unity and love**, combined with environmental stewardship, inclusiveness and economic needs. **The vision of this plan is to establish an ethos of sustainable living within the Villanova community.**



Renewable Energy

Villanova University recently entered a power purchase agreement, supplying 50 percent of campus with regional hydroelectric power, supporting the goal to supply 100 percent of University electricity from renewable sources by 2030.



Biodiversity Plan

The biodiversity on Villanova's core campus was evaluated, and a detailed plan has been created to increase native plants and foster synergies with the biosphere.



Hiring for Villanova's Future

Training is being provided to all hiring personnel, giving them information and tools to ensure that the hiring process is reaching diverse audiences and creating opportunities to increase the diversity of faculty and staff.



Academic Institute

An interdisciplinary University institute will be the academic home for research, curricula and community outreach with a focus on sustainability. The institute will empower new leaders and develop innovative strategies to address the highly complex problems of climate, environmental justice and health.



Meal Donation Program

Students will be given the option to donate their extra meals to students in need. When selecting their meal plans, students will be able to sign up to automatically donate extra meals at the end of each week.



Parish Workshops

In local parishes, starting with St. Thomas of Villanova, a series of workshops has been offered, in which participants reflect upon their environmental footprints through a "See, Discern, Act" framework. This project integrates outreach, advocacy, education and research with our shared Augustinian values.



Faculty Workshops

Sustainability workshops are offered for faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community. These workshops create an opportunity for people to interact, share and learn about sustainability.

Council Co-Chairs



William Lorenz

Director, Sustainable Engineering Program

Professor of Practice

Co-chair, Villanova Sustainability Leadership Council



The Rev. Arthur Purcaro, OSA

Assistant Vice President, Mission and Ministry

Co-chair, Villanova Sustainability Leadership Council

As a University community, Villanovans are committed to working together to create a more sustainable world. The Villanova Sustainability Plan 2020–2030 specifically outlines the changes we aim to realize on campus by 2030. These outcomes include:



Energy

100 percent of electricity will be purchased from renewable sources.



Waste

There will be zero single-use plastic sales on campus and all pre- and post-consumer food waste will be eliminated from landfill or incineration.



Carbon

Villanova will cut overall greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 50 percent, in line with UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendations.



Food

Food insecurity will be eliminated for students, faculty and staff.



Health

Villanova will be a tobacco-free campus.



Wages

All students and Villanova employees will earn a living wage.



Hiring

Increase the number of women in managerial or leadership positions.



Academics

A University Institute for Climate, Justice and Sustainability will be established.

Academics and Research Committee



Joseph Lennon, PhD

Associate Dean, International and Interdisciplinary Initiatives
Emily C. Riley Director, Center for Irish Studies
Co-chair, Academics and Research Committee



Alfonso Ortega, PhD

James R. Birle Professor of Energy Technology
Co-chair, Academics and Research Committee

Projects

- Villanova Institute for Climate, Justice, and Sustainability
 - Inventory of Courses on Climate, Sustainability and Environmental Justice
 - Integration of Sustainability into Courses
 - Sustainability Undergraduate Research Fellows
 - Climate Adaptation of Community-Based Organization that Serve Older Adults in Philadelphia
 - Case Definition of Climate-Related Mortality and Measurement of Climate Mortality 2009-2019 in Pennsylvania
 - Augustinian Local and Global Outreach
 - Community Partnerships Initiative
 - Sustainable Living Campus Laboratories
 - Sustainability Research Fund
- Villanova Food Sustainability Initiative
- Sustainability Colloquium
- Earth Day and Climate Awareness Program
- Biodiversity Assessment and Action Plan

Student Life Committee



Liesel Schwarz
Sustainability Manager
Chair, Student Life Committee

Projects

- Encouraging Sustainable Behavior Changes
- Villanova's Sustainable Diet
- Plastic Reduction Project
- Student Input on Construction Projects

Social Justice Committee



Kathryn Getek Soltis, STL, PhD
Director, Center for Peace and Justice Education
Chair, Social Justice Committee

Projects

- Hiring for Villanova's Future
- Living Wage
- Just Employment Policy
- Dependent Care Support Project
- Project to Procure from Living Wage and Fair-Trade Companies
- Transformative Justice and Equitable Institutions: Donations
- Transformative Justice and Equitable Institutions: Information Access

Operations Committee



Bob Morro, PE
Vice President, Facilities Management
Chair, Operations Committee

Projects

- Renewable Power Purchase Agreement
- Green Office and Lab Program
- Commuting Emissions Reductions
- Campus-Wide Energy Efficiency
- Campus-Wide Smart Metering Program
- Rewards for Taking Public Transport to Villanova Events
- University Vehicle Emission Tracking
- Promotion of Reusable Water Bottles
- Waste Disposal Uniformity
- Dining Services Sustainability
- Waste Audit and Action Plan

Health and Well-Being Committee



Stacy Andes
Director, Health Promotion
Chair, Health and Well-Being Committee

Projects

- Health: Climate Adaptation
- Health: Climate Mortality
- Extra Meal Donations Project
- Graduate Student Health Care
- Sexual Justice Project
- Binge Drinking and Drug Reduction Project
- Women's Health
- Nova-Nook Expansion
- Expand NovaFit to Students