

# Sustainability Strategic Planning Faculty Open Forum Feedback

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 Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

# Feedback on PSU Sustainability Vision

## Five and Ten Year Vision

What do we want to be known for 10 years from now with respect to sustainability programs?  
What does success look like? What outcomes do we aspire to achieve in the next 10 years?

### Overarching Vision / Five and Ten Year Aspirations

- PSU is the leader in social sustainability and the sustainability think tank for the region and the world
- PSU is the forum for all sustainability discussions / research
- PSU is setting standards in new and established areas in sustainability
- Students, faculty and staff understand and can articulate the sustainability paradigm
- PSU has a reputation as national leader in sustainability
- PSU has developed a infrastructure that promotes multidisciplinary collaboration
- PSU is the university of choice for all students
- PSU has developed sustainability efforts / infrastructure in mass transit, transit, energy, buildings, high density living, waste, food, water, IT / sensors and government
- PSU has infused a non-traditional, broad perspective into their sustainability program
- PSU's sustainability program enables it to secure a solid source of ongoing funding and a strengthened endowment
- PSU is a leader in internal sustainability / green programs
- PSU is focused on research projects that will become mainstream issues in 5 to 10 years

## Feedback on Decision Criteria

What decision criteria should we use to guide our investment this year?

### Decision Criteria – “Punch Lines”

- Support multidisciplinary efforts
- Reward scholarship and excellence
- Take a portfolio approach – invest in some opportunities that are “proven”, some that are innovative/risky
- Leverage match opportunities
- Be forward thinking – what will the issues be 5-10 years out?
- Invest in high visibility projects
- Engaged in partnership
- Seek relevance and impact – scalable and transferable results at local, national, global levels
- Contribute to the longer term vision – don’t be piecemeal
- Seek some near-term results
- Support opportunities that yield good visibility and communicate PSU’s aspirations
- Establish a foundation – infrastructure, capacity, teams

## **The integration of human societies and the natural environment.**

How do we as humans build societies that are integrated with the natural systems that support life? The answer to this question is increasingly critical as the world's population increases and urban centers expand. PSU research provides a roadmap for sustainable development that brings about the harmonious integration of human and natural systems

# **Creating sustainable urban communities.**

PSU is already known for its expertise and intellectual leadership in urban studies and urban planning. With our sustainability research, we are building on this strength through an interdisciplinary academic focus on the successful integration of the “triple bottom line” (economic, ecological and social needs) in urban centers. The City of Portland offers us the ideal research to study the changing ecological and socioeconomic conditions of a city already adopting many sustainable policies and principles.

# **Implementing sustainability and mechanisms of change.**

How and why do people, organizations and societies adopt more sustainable policies and behavior? And what motivates change? PSU faculty and students are researching how and why sustainability is (or isn't) adopted.

## **Measuring sustainability.**

Many people and organizations choose to adopt sustainable practices without knowing whether or not a particular practice actually works. We provide the measurement tools and data that will enable the most effective practices possible, thereby fostering increasing sustainable behavior.