

## **Sustainability Action Plan 2017-2025**

Public health and sustainability are inextricably linked. The tenets of sustainability at Yale encompass ecosystem health, human health, and economic viability. Human health is directly impacted by our natural and built environments. Air pollution may cause respiratory diseases, access to nutritious food and physical activity may alleviate the burden of some chronic diseases, and climate change will affect human ecosystems, such as causing vector-borne diseases to be more widespread. Yale School of Public Health (YSPH) faculty, staff and students also conduct innovative research on health care policy and cost effectiveness. The current economic landscape of healthcare in the United States and around the globe will likely face greater challenges stemming from environmental impacts of human activity if actions to mitigate or adapt do not take place. As global environmental crises worsen and demand on resources increase, public health research and education must remain at the forefront.

With this sustainability action plan, the Yale School of Public Health aims to support a culture of sustainability through its academic and research priorities and through the way we conduct our work every day. This plan was created as part of Yale's initiative to establish and implement directed sustainability action plans for each of the professional schools. These documents are designed to support university-wide goals while reflecting the physical constructs and constraints of each School as well as the intersection of each discipline with sustainability. In addition, this plan directly reflects the School's mission and its emphasis on interdisciplinary scholarship, innovative research, policy analysis, and education with the aim of serving local, national and international communities with knowledge and expertise.

### **Sustainability Action Plan Items for the Yale School of Public Health**

The [Yale Sustainability Plan 2025](#) (Plan), 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 YSPH sustainability goals offered here are organized by the Ambitions of the Yale Sustainability Plan.

## **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.

- Curriculum: In 2018 and onwards, we will highlight sustainability in the SPH curriculum and offer students more hands-on, interdisciplinary opportunities.
  - **2018-19** Leverage CEPH curriculum reform for multidisciplinary, case-based, and practice learning opportunities on sustainability related topics (Timeline: January 2019, curriculum-rebuild committee).
  - **2021-2022** Increase the number of practicum-based opportunities for course-credit related to a sustainability initiatives. (Timeline: 2021 and onwards, Responsible: Education/ Curriculum Rebuild committee)
- Collaboration: In 2018 and onwards, we will establish a program to foster communication across the university on sustainability in research and teaching.
  - **2020** Participate in a campus-wide inventory of current sustainability-related courses that YSPH students can take. Ensure that a course list is available online. (Timeline: Summer 2020, Office of Sustainability, Responsible: CCHI, F&ES)
  - **2019-2020** Explore related course development and cross-listing with F&ES, Architecture, Law, and the Divinity Schools (Timeline: 2018-2019 to begin discussions, Responsible: Education Committee, Dean of Students)
- Leadership on Campus: In 2019 and onwards, we hope to identify health co-benefits of sustainability practices and integrate into operations, curriculum, and research through a combination of student proposals and sustainability initiatives
  - (Summer 2019, Responsible: YSPH Sustainability Committee)

## **Empowerment**

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.

- Engagement: In 2017 and onwards, we will enhance the visibility of sustainability teaching, research, service, and opportunities at the School of Public Health.
  - **2018** Develop a YSPH sustainability 'Vision Statement' leveraging the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the YSPH tagline, *Innovation Through Collaboration* (Timeline: 2018, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)

- **2017 Continuous** Continue hosting Community Days of Service at various environmental sites. (Timeline: Spring\*, Responsible: Alumni Affairs office, Dean's Office)
- **2020** Engage the entire YSPH community in sustainability development through Town Hall, social events, and departmental or Diversity & Inclusion seminar series (Timeline: 2020, Responsible: Sustainability Committee + Dean's office, SAYPH)
- **2017 Continuous** Update and expand educational and marketing info through signage, website, messaging (Timeline: 2017 and onwards, Responsible: student project and Sustainability Committee)
- **2019** Promote Green Lab Certification to all SPH labs (Timeline: Ongoing and 2018, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
- Awareness: In 2017 and onwards, we will launch a set of initiatives to inform and inspire individuals in the School of Public Health community.
  - **2017 Continuous** Partner with YSPH student organizations in sustainability decision-making (Timeline: Spring 2018, Responsible: Sustainability Committee and SAYPH)
  - **2019-2020** Recommend including one sustainability practice goal on staff Performance Evaluations (Timeline: 2018 spring/ summer, Responsible: Office of Finance and Administration)
- Community: In 2020 and onwards, we will begin partnerships with New Haven sustainability projects in context of [New Haven Vision 2025](#)
  - **2020** Conduct education on climate change awareness around New Haven/CT (Timeline: Spring 2020 and onwards, Responsible: Sustainability Committee and *Science in the News* series)

## Health and Well-Being

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.

- Wellness in SPH: In 2018 and onwards, we will launch initiatives to support well-being in the YSPH community.
  - **2018-2019** Partner with Student Wellness and Being Well at Yale on wellness activities and benefits to integrate healthy behaviors. Provide outlets for stress relief incorporating the natural environment (Timeline: Spring 2018 and onwards, Responsible: Initiate talks with Student Wellness affiliate in Spring 2018 and YSPH)

- **2018-2019** Conduct a mental health assessment addressing concerns of students, staff, faculty and administration (Timeline: TBA, Responsible: student project)
- **2019-2020** Conduct a lead test of the water in LEPH and 47 College Place (Timeline: 2019-2020, Office of Finance and Administration, Responsible: YSM Facilities)
- **2017** Encourage implementation of a tobacco-free YSPH policy (Timeline: November 2017, Responsible: Dean's Office and Sustainability Committee)
- **2022** Provide additional outdoor patio furniture to improve YSPH community mental health and make better use of existing unused outdoor spaces. Ideas include more tables with umbrellas, use of balcony spaces, and adding more flower pots (Timeline: Spring 2022, Responsible: YSPH Administration, YSM Facilities)
- Nutrition: In 2017 and onwards, we will emphasize and create new tools to empower and inform members of the YSPH community and surrounding area to make healthy choices about food.
  - **2017 Continuous** Emphasize the Healthy Meeting Toolkit and endeavor to provide affordable, healthy food for all school-related events (Timeline: continuous and ongoing, Responsible: Sustainability Committee, YSPH Departments)
  - **2018 Continuous** Provide students with a list of healthy food vendors available within a 10-minute walk at Orientation (Timeline: setting criteria for what's healthy by Summer 2018, have a list ready for Fall 2018, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
  - **2019- 2021** Develop a partnership with Procurement services and/or implement a student project to create a *Green Food Cart Certification Program* (Timeline: 2019-2021, Responsible: Procurement services and student-led initiative)

## Climate Action

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.

- Carbon Impact Initiatives: In 2018 and onwards, we will develop incentives for reducing the school's fossil fuel emissions.

- **2020** Consider carbon offset initiatives (Timeline: 2020, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
- Resiliency: In 2017 and onwards, we will advance academically rigorous approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation.
  - **2021-2022** Create a new emergency-preparedness class developed by EHS (Timeline: Initiate talks in 2021 pending a curriculum review, implement in 2022, Responsible: EHS Chair and Administration)
  - **Continuous** Build the Yale Climate Change and Health Initiative (CCHI) into a leading world center addressing climate change and health (Timeline: ongoing, Responsible: CCHI leaders)

## Stewardship

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.

- Health Co-Benefits: In 2019 and onwards, we will advance the health co-benefits of green spaces in a set of research and activities connected to the school and the community.
  - **2022** Work with Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies to integrate positive health outcomes into the Land Use Plan (Timeline: 2022 initiate, Responsible: TBN)
  - **2019 Continuous** Monitor air quality at corner of Frontage Rd. and College Street, as well as indoor air quality in 60 College Street and 47 College Place, LEPH Exposure Assessment course (Timeline: Spring 2019, Responsible: Faculty/course leader)

## Built Environment

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.

- Greening SPH spaces: In 2017 and onwards, we will develop a set of initiatives to enhance the SPH buildings.

- **2018** Invest in ‘living walls,’ and other indoor native plant installments in YSPH underground spaces (Timeline: 2018, Responsible: Sustainability Committee, Dean’s Office, YSPH Office of Finance and Administration [OFA])
- **2020** Install and maintain motion-detectors and LED lights in YSPH buildings to become more energy-efficient as part of a partnership with YSM Facilities. (Timeline: 2020, Responsible: YSPH OFA, YSM Facilities)
- **2019** Install water sensors on all YSPH bathroom faucets (Timeline: 2019, Responsible: YSPH OFA, YSM Facilities)
- **2018** Focus on providing students with more above-ground study spaces (Timeline: Spring 2018, Responsible: Student Affairs, YSPH OFA)
- **2018** Install and maintain water-bottle refill (hydration) stations (Timeline: Winter 2018, Responsible: joint Student project & Sustainability Committee)
- **2023** Provide occupancy training for the YSPH community and incoming members. Consider use of Office of Sustainability guides regarding sustainability guidelines (Timeline: 2023, Responsible: YSPH OFA)

## Mobility

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.

- Improve commuter incentives: In 2017 and onwards, we will seek to improve YSPH commuting incentives.
  - **2018 Continuous** Promote sustainable commuting by offering educational materials (health co-benefits, air quality) and a ‘Sustainable Commuter of the Month’ award/spotlight (Timeline: Begin discussions in 2018 through Sustainability Committee meetings, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
  - **2017 Continuous** Promote and increase participation in the *Commuter Benefits Program*, and use of Yale-sponsored mobility initiatives including ZipCar, Bikeshare and Yale Shuttle services (Timeline: ongoing promotion, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)

## Materials

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.

# Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Improve recycling and material management initiatives: In 2017 and onwards, we will work to reduce material waste at SPH buildings.
  - **2017 Continuous** Encourage WB Mason delivery bins as an alternative to paper packaging (Timeline: present and ongoing, Responsible: Sustainability Committee, YSPH Departments)
  - **2017 Continuous** Continue the promotion of the Eli Surplus Exchange; much of our furniture and equipment comes from or goes to ESE (Timeline: present and ongoing, Responsible: Sustainability Committee, YSPH OFA, Departments)
- Improving Disposal Initiatives: In 2017 and onwards, we will improve recycling and disposal programs at SPH buildings.
  - **2017 Continuous** Update and expand recycling educational and marketing info through signage, website, messaging (Timeline: present and ongoing, Responsible: Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Committee, Student project)
  - **2017-2021** Expand composting opportunities school-wide in Yale-managed buildings (Timeline: 2017-2021, Responsible: Student project, Sustainability Committee, YSM Facilities)
- Creating a Culture of Sustainability: In 2017 and onwards, we will endeavor to establish a culture of sustainable consumption at YSPH.
  - **2017-2018** Provide, and stress the importance of, reusable beverage and food container and utensils use; eliminate bottled water and single-use plastic cups at YSPH events/ buildings and daily practice (Timeline: June 2017, Responsible: Student project, Sustainability Committee)
  - **2017 Continuous** Continue the “Supply Swaps” program, which then donates remaining used goods to local schools and charities. Enhance this program with permanent pick up/ drop off bins in LEPH (Timeline: ongoing, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
  - **2018** Identify and promote viable alternatives for top three toxic laboratory chemicals (Timeline: 2018 and onwards, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
  - **2018** Promote Yale Green Lab Certifications and highlight three YSPH successes to date (Timeline: 2018 and onwards, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)
  - **2019** Enhance recycling of laboratory waste (Timeline: 2019 and onwards, Responsible: Sustainability Committee)

## Technology

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.

- Technology impact: In 2017 and onwards, we will work to reduce energy waste from technology in SPH buildings
  - **2017 Continuous** Eliminate personal printers from offices, encouraging the use of shared printers in YSPH (Timeline: ongoing; Sustainability Committee, YSPH OFA)
  - **2017 Continuous** Encourage powering down lab equipment and computers when not in use (Timeline: ongoing; Sustainability Committee)
- Leveraging technology: In 2018 and onwards, we will work to make use of technological advancements to reduce GHG emissions.
  - **2020** Establish policies that promote tele- and video-conferencing instead of air travel (Timeline: 2020, Responsible: Dean's Office/Leadership Team)
  - **2018 Continuous** Create Distance Learning opportunities for a variety of academic programs (Timeline: 2018 start then ongoing, Responsible: Dean's Office, Academic Affairs)
  - **2025** Post sustainability opportunities and notices on relevant social media sites including CareerBoard (Timeline: 2025, VP of Social Life SAYPH)

## Implementation of this Plan

The School of Public Health will announce this plan Earth Day 2018. The Sustainability Committee and the school community will continue communications and programming to educate and integrate all members of the School of Public Health to themes of sustainability. With guidance from the Office of Sustainability, the Sustainability Committee will set its annual goals based on the timelines and activities included here, and will continually assess for feasibility, new opportunities, and progress.

## Accountability and Reporting

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