

Yale Divinity School Sustainability Action Plan

Sustainability at Yale

Yale University is dedicated to an integrated, comprehensive approach to policy and operations that balances ecosystem health with human health and economic viability in order to demonstrate that sustainability is both feasible and affordable. To accomplish this goal the University integrates sustainable practices into the fabric of institutional decision-making at all levels.

Each unit on campus has a unique cultural context. Successful implementation of sustainability tactics will rely on efforts to refine tools and tactics to suit this diversity of disciplines and perspectives.

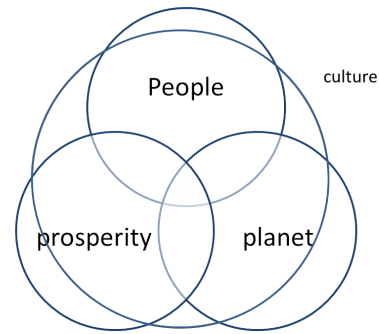


Figure 1: Sustainability Values

Yale 2013-2016 Sustainability Strategic Plan

The Yale 2013-2016 Sustainability Strategic Plan contains 26 ambitious yet achievable goals divided into five categories: energy and greenhouse gas emissions, natural and built environment, materials management, food and well-being, and sustainability leadership and capacity building. Several of these have sub-categories, as demonstrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2 : Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan Categories

Energy and Greenhouse gas Emissions	Natural and Built Environment	Materials Management	Food and Well-being	Sustainability Leadership and Capacity Building
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape • Water Use • Stormwater • Transportation • Buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing • Disposal 		

Access to Sustainability Resources

The Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan and other resources are available online at the Yale Office of Sustainability web site (sustainability.yale.edu) and through the YDS Sustainability web site (ydssustainability.yale.edu).

Purpose of Yale Divinity School Sustainability Action Plan

The Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan commits to establish and implement sustainability action plans for each of the professional schools. These plans support the Yale-wide goals while reflecting the intellectual and operational contexts of each school.

This document offers overarching language about sustainability at Yale, then provides an excerpt of goals from the Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan that are particularly relevant to Yale Divinity School. Finally, this document suggests a set of initiatives that align with the University goals and relate to the operations and mission of Yale Divinity School.

The YDS Sustainability Team—a committee of students, faculty, and staff—created this plan in Fall 2013, and the YDS faculty and student council endorsed the plan in Spring 2014.

The Office of Sustainability will communicate with key staff members at the Divinity School on a quarterly basis to determine progress on the Action Items in this document.

YDS Sustainability Mission Statement

- YDS Sustainability fosters a sacred commitment to the love and knowledge of God through ecological health, human wellness, and economic viability. The Sustainability Team of students, faculty, and staff cultivates innovative approaches to sustainable living, ministry, worship, and knowledge. We seek an enduring communion as stewards of creation.

Yale Divinity School: Mission Statement

Yale Divinity School has an enduring commitment to foster the knowledge and love of God through scholarly engagement with Christian traditions in a global, multi-faith context. Participating in the vibrant life of Yale University, the Divinity School is uniquely positioned to train leaders for church and society given its ecumenical and international character, engagement with music and the arts, and commitment to social justice. Rigorous scholarly inquiry, corporate worship and spiritual formation, and practical engagement in a variety of ministries enable students to develop their knowledge and skills in a community that welcomes and affirms human diversity. The Divinity School pursues its mission of training students for service in church and world through three principal activities: (1) it prepares people for lay and ordained Christian ministries; (2) it shares with the Graduate School in educating scholars and teachers for theological schools and departments of religious studies; (3) it equips people preparing for public service or other careers to understand more fully the theological dimensions of their vocations.

Sustainability Action at Yale Divinity School

Yale Divinity School continues its sustainability efforts from a position of strength. Student initiatives and administrative leadership have enabled progress to occur since the time of the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle Strategic Plan (2010). In order to develop greater institutional success, the Divinity School must work to educate and integrate more community members into sustainable habits and decision-making. The following features of Yale Divinity School call us to sustainable action. On the subsequent pages, we align university goals, successes-to-date, and opportunities around the five sustainability categories.

Sustainability and Divinity

There are several ways to explore the intersections of sustainability with theology, religion, and ministry. Some overarching concepts include:

Our Tradition—Leadership for Church and World

The Church and world need theological institutions to respond to our ecological, economic, and social challenges by articulating a vision that speaks to Christian values, other world religions, and modern science. By drawing on partnerships with the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, The Forum on Religion and Ecology, the Institute of Sacred Music, Berkeley Divinity School, Yale’s Office of Sustainability and other Yale and New Haven neighbors, YDS aims to be at the forefront of theological institutions enacting sustainable practices that promote social and ecological flourishing now and in the future.

Our Opportunity—Feeding and Nourishing Our Communities

New Haven and Yale Divinity School offer possibilities for building and sustaining community through intellectual opportunities, worship, and justice ministries. Building these relationships will prepare YDS students to engage in their communities once they graduate.

The Divinity School’s history with the Divinity Farm, community dinners, and the Nourish New Haven food justice and sustainability conference makes food an established thread of life at YDS. Food not only connects to sustainability but also offers a common touchstone for Christian and other religious/non-religious communities to find common ground. Food intimately entwines diverse calls for social and ecological justice.

Our Vision—Transformation and Sustainability

Yale Divinity School seeks to transform people through the love and knowledge of God. Along with that transformation, we aspire to live sustainable, practical lives that connect our passions to the world’s needs. Living intentionally in a community that values sustainability will prepare students for healthy, balanced, and grounded lives for growing and contributing in the wider world.

Dean Sterling has set a long-term vision for a Green Village to replace the Canner Street Apartments. This vision aligns with the Divinity School’s sustainability goals for campus planning.

Sustainability Leadership and Capacity Building

- Goal 1: Establish a portfolio of sustainability action plans for schools and departments by December 2013.
- Goal 2: Promote sustainability as a core business value at Yale by June 2016.
- Goal 3: Expand Green Certification Programs by June 2016.

Successes-to-date

- Director of Finance and Administration mobilized Sustainability Team of faculty, students, and staff to advance the institutional and communal value of sustainability and to create a new three-year Sustainability Action Plan. (Fall 2013)
- YDS Sustainability web site established: ydssustainability.yale.edu (Spring 2013)
- YDS Sustainability supports paid Student Sustainability Coordinators (2011 to present)

Opportunities

I. The Sustainability Team

Toward a more robust, enduring, and integrated institutional sustainability culture, the Sustainability Team of students, staff, and faculty will oversee sustainability initiatives and will advise the YDS Administration on sustainability-related decision-making. The Team will meet twice a semester to ensure collaboration, accountability, review, and continuity of sustainability projects. Co-led by students and staff, working groups will implement the Action Plan and ongoing work to achieve sustainability goals. The YDS Sustainability web site will promote transparency and input streams for the larger community. The Team will report to the Director of Finance and Administration.

In addition to the YDS Sustainability Student Coordinators, one other member of FERNS (Faith, Ecology, Religion, Nature, and Spirituality), the Divinity Farm, and the Student Council will serve for a full year and will rotate in the spring or fall semester.

<i>Working Group A</i>	<i>Sustainable Leadership and Capacity Building</i> Sustainability Team Leadership Curriculum and Special Programs
<i>Working Group B</i>	<i>Environment and Materials Management</i> Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Natural and Built Environment Materials Management
<i>Working Group C</i>	<i>Community and Culture</i> Residential Ambassadors Food and Well-Being

II. Curriculum and Special Programs

The need for integrating and promoting literacy in sustainability-related issues and practices has never been more necessary than now. The Sustainability Team will work with the Academic Dean's Office and others to promote sustainability in the curriculum and through special programs. While ecology-related classes strengthen and correspond with the Divinity School operational practices, a greater need exists to educate the YDS community about how sustainability reaches into additional areas of study and vocation.

- Work with YDS Dean and Curriculum Committee to integrate sustainability in the curriculum
- Ensure discussion of sustainability issues at Faculty level, e.g. at Faculty Retreat
- Work with ethics professors in promoting synergies between environmental ethics courses and work of Sustainability Team
- Host the Forum on Religion and Ecology venture on *Journey of the Universe*
- Present Sustainability Action Plan at All-School Conference, February 24, 2014
- Host second Nourish New Haven food justice and sustainability conference in Fall 2014

III. Community Commitment and Culture

- Create a voluntary community pledge or rule of life statement to support sustainability at YDS on a personal and communal level.
- Create and monitor a system of tracking or surveying student participation in and learning of sustainability language, values, and methods over course of time at YDS.
- Facilitate clear communication between managers of student dishwashers, coffee hour coordinators, and refectory personnel.
- Coordinate with Marquand/BDS Chaplains to incorporate environmental worship themes and sustainable operational procedures.
- Support BTFO coordinators for sustainable orientation practices.
- Ensure consistent communication between YDS, BDS, and ISM as institutions occupying the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle.
- Work with YDS business office to ensure that materials management reflects the standards and meets the long-term goals of the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Carry out mug drive initiative to provide refectory with reusable mugs for common room activities and events.
- Imagine and create a Canner Street Apartment Ambassador initiative that seeks to grow an intentional, sustainable community on the YDS campus.
- Establish clear communication between the Sustainability Team and FERNS, the Divinity Farm, and other interested student groups.

IV. Additional

- Implement and advocate for the Yale Office of Sustainability monthly campaign.
- Set up a meeting with Yale Sustainable Food Project for ongoing collaboration
- Produce visual materials and media that promote sustainability on campus through posters, the computer screen outside the bookstore, and other media.
- Create a YDS Sustainability Mission Statement
- Discuss with YDS Dean/ Academic Dean incorporating sustainability into YDS vision statement and core values
- Host town meeting and education slide shows on sustainability

Food & Well-being

- Goal 1: Ensure that 37% of the food purchased and served by Yale meets one or more of the following sustainability criteria: local, eco-sensitive, humane, or fair.
- Goal 2: Increase the purchase and consumption of plant-based foods by 15% over 2013 levels by June 2016.
- Goal 3: Reduce cleaning chemical usage on campus 30% from 2012 levels by June 2016.

Successes-to-date

- YDS Sustainability organized “Nourish New Haven,” a local food justice and sustainability conference February 22-23, 2013. Over 350 people registered as participants and presenters in the free conference sponsored by YDS, FES, and The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale. Partnerships opened with the New Haven Food Policy Council, Common Ground High School, Yale Sustainable Food Project, the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale, The Bioregional Group, and Greenhorns. (February 2013)
- Student dishwashing program set up to reduce disposable dishware usage. (Winter 2012-13 to present)
- BTFO Afternoon of Engagement activities included working at the Divinity Farm and also a New Haven food justice and sustainability tour. (August 2013)

Opportunities

- Work with Yale Dining to ensure their sustainability values and food choices are offered in the refectory
- Encourage ISM collaboration to employ the arts towards wellness and sustainability
- Set up monthly Nourish New Haven events that connect Divinity Farm, YDS Sustainability, FERNS, and other Yale/New Haven groups
- Investigate Divinity Farm as a supervised ministry site or a summer internship with the Yale Sustainable Food Project
- Propose and plan the 2015 All-School Conference around Nourish New Haven
- Ensure Marquand Chapel services incorporate sustainability themes

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Goal 1: Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions 5% below 2013 levels by June 2016. This will result in more than a 20% total reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels.
- Goal 2: Continue to make progress toward the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Successes-to-date

- Installed two modlets per resident in Sterling Divinity Apartments to monitor electricity usage, display usage on a computer, and enable conservation by automating on/off settings. Each of the three resident buildings will have incentives for reducing consumption over the coming years (September 2013)
- Placed light switch shut-off signs in all classrooms at YDS (Fall 2012)
- Replaced the chiller and climate control system for the Marquand organ to be more efficient and only run when needed (2011)
- Began an educational awareness campaign about HVAC and the effect of open windows (2009-2011)
- Lighting modifications include automating many classroom lights, installing reminders to cut off the lights, and adjusting outdoor lighting so that sensors do not trigger on cloudy days (~2007)
- Installed solar panels over the Canner Street Apartments (2006-2007)

Opportunities

- Produce semi-annual reports of energy use on the Quad
- Create engaging graphics and videos to report reductions and progress on the Quad
- Continue developing Student Sustainability Ambassadors in the YDS apartments to promote, support, and educate residents for behavioral shifts toward energy reduction in the apartments
- Annually offer student apartment weatherization services through organizations such as New England Conservation Services
- Build communication and understanding around the heating/cooling system between Facilities and the school community
- Build an additional bike rack at the front of Sterling Divinity Quadrangle to promote more bicycle use

Natural and Built Environment

- Goal 1: Develop and implement sustainable land development and maintenance practices on the Yale campus by June 2016.
- Goal 2: Reduce potable water use on campus by 8% below 2012 levels by June 2016.

Successes-to-date

- Personal printers were removed from YDS and replaced with departmental printers. (Spring 2013)
- Natural grasses planted on the back hill facing St. Ronan Street with placards explaining sustainability benefit. (2012-2013)
- Divinity Farm started as a communally shared garden for fresh produce for the entire YDS community through student initiative and the support of Dean Attridge and Dean Britton. Divinity Farm produce is often incorporated into weekly Berkeley dinners. (2009)
- Partnering with New Haven program, student-led group planted native trees on the Quad. (2008)

Opportunities

- Encourage conversations between administration and Sustainability Team for refectory upgrades and Green Village vision
- Build additional bike racks and a covered area for bikes behind the north cottage
- Report percentages for alternative sustainable landscape (long grasses, wildflowers, etc.)
- Spa water usage to reduce purchase of plastic bottles in refectory
- Install more compost bins around campus

Materials Management

- Goal 1: Achieve a 10% reduction in paper purchases and a 10% reduction in office supply purchases from 2013 levels by June 2016.
- Goal 2: Establish sustainable procurement standards by June 2014.
- Goal 3: Achieve a 50% waste diversion rate by June 2016 via reuse, recycling, and/or composting strategies.

Successes-to-date

- Along with the rest of the University, YDS uses the PaperCut printing and copying system, which will monitor paper use and help with reduction goals. (Aug. 2013)
- Sustainability Coordinators initiated a Student Dishwasher Program that used the kitchen's dishwasher and industrial dishwasher as an incentive for all refectory diners. Previously, a limited number of plates (20 +/-) were offered outside of the refectory for individuals to use and wash in the student kitchen. (Reusable dishware usage doubled in the Spring 2013 and has tripled in the first weeks of Fall 2013.)
- BTFO supplied reusable dishware and silverware for all 250 orientation participants during the week, and set a standard for the year. (Aug. 2013)
- YDS and BTFO gave each new student a reusable travel coffee mug. (Aug. 2013)
- Recycle, Reuse, and Compost Campaign features a flash mob in the Common Room declaring "It's the End of the World as We Know It." The event introduced the expanded reusable dishware, mugs, and the dishwashing system to save students time and reduce waste of compostable and recyclable dishware. (Nov. 2012)
- Donna Hall helped acquire a large set of chinaware to be used in the refectory, and reusable coffee mugs became a part of coffee hour. (Fall 2012)
- Compost receptacles for Divinity Farm and Yale composting facility set up outside the refectory. (Fall 2012)
- YDS earned Y.A.L.E. certification, the highest achievement in the Green Workplace Certification Program at Yale. (Spring 2012)
- Students begin program to wash and reuse dishware in the refectory. (2008)

Opportunities

- Organize mug drive to cut out paper cups at Coffee Hour
- Require refectory catering to use spa water dispensers
- Encourage student workers to enroll in direct deposit to reduce printed checks
- Prepare lunch catering kits with reusable plates and silverware
- Meet with departments to share information about sustainable catering options
- Purchase solar composters for the farm and Quad
- Attain more industrial compost stations throughout campus
- Sell compost bins in the bookstore.
- Promote book purchasing from the Bookstore to cut down on individual shipments
- Upgrade built design to offer better composting, recycling, and reusing practices

Implementation and Accountability

The Sustainability Team will oversee the implementation of the YDS Sustainability Action Plan and will report to the Director of Finance and Administration. The Sustainability Team will meet at least twice a semester, with working groups and student coordinators meeting more often.

Through FERNS collaboration and the Sustainability Team, we hope to build more visibility around sustainability at YDS and to draw more community members together to work on these issues. In addition, the Ambassadors program, the Sustainability Team working groups, and possible student council positions for sustainability may offer more formalized opportunities for student volunteers. Each working group will be responsible for a written update each semester, and the Student Coordinators will continue to manage the website.

Community input, reflection, and feedback are also essential to this process, so the web site and other community polls should be managed and kept up-to-date.

YDS Sustainability Coordinators will be accountable for establishing and executing project plans in a professional manner, and each coordinator will have a mid-semester review with their peers and supervisor for professional and organizational development.

This document will be incorporated into the YDS Sustainability web site, and feature stories will be shared with the Divinity School Communications Office and the Office of Sustainability.

Appendix: YDS Sustainability Action Plan – Process and Involvement

In 2013, the YDS Business Office assembled a group of faculty, students, and staff for the two-fold purpose of strengthening the institutional and communal commitment to sustainability, in accordance with Yale University's goals for professional schools:

- 1) to initiate a group of staff, faculty, and students for promoting sustainability goals
- 2) to create the *YDS Sustainability Action Plan 2013-2016*.

The Sustainability Team convened in August 2013 and collaborated towards a plan draft, which the group approved in October 2013. Dean Sterling reviewed the plan and requested that the draft be presented to faculty, staff, and student groups before final approval. The YDS faculty and the student council endorsed the plan in Spring 2014.

The following community members contributed to the creation of the *YDS Sustainability Action Plan 2013-2016*:

- Sandra Lynch, Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Finance and Administration

- Thomas Troeger, J. Edward and Ruth Cox Lantz Professor of Christian Communication
- Chloe Starr, Assistant Professor of Asian Christianity and Theology
- Frederick Simmons, Assistant Professor of Ethics
- Tisa Wenger, Assistant Professor of American Religious History
- Mary Evelyn Tucker, Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar in Religion and Ecology
- John Grim, Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Scholar in Religion and Ecology

- Ann-Marie Piscitelli, Associate Director of Finance & Administration
- Tim Garrison, Computer Support Specialist
- Jennifer DellaCamera, Dean of Students Office
- Micah Luce, Student Book Supply
- Sean McAvoy, Admissions
- Greta Getlein, Berkeley Divinity School, Director of Anglican Studies

- Stephanie Johnson, MDiv '10, STM '12, Episcopal Church, Energy Steward Minister
- Jamie Maury '14
- Kathleen Lichti '14
- Meredith Day '15
- Jaqueline Spycher '16
- Angel Aquino '16
- Charles Graves '15, YDS Sustainability Student Coordinator
- Jordan Conerty '16, YDS Sustainability Student Coordinator
- James Jenkins '15, YDS Sustainability Student Coordinator