

Sustainability Planning Service Corporations & Non-Profit Organizations

Johns Hopkins University has a long history of involvement with environmental issues and service to the community. To manage Earth's environment effectively, we must understand the processes that shape our planet's surface, control the chemistry of our air and water, and produce the resources on which we depend. At the same time, in order to implement scientific and practical solutions to environmental problems, we must establish and execute policies that are politically, socially, and economically feasible.

Designed to address this challenge, the School of Arts and Sciences part-time graduate programs in Environmental Sciences and Policy, and Energy Policy and Climate occupy a broad position centered at the juncture between science and policy. Graduates of the programs emerge with a combination of expertise in science and policy that enables them to assume key positions in public and private entities responsible for safeguarding our environmental future.

Sustainability Plans and Practices:

This service is based on a successful program implemented by Bentley University in 2008 as well as by Clark University and Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Sustainability Planning Service leverages the environmental science knowledge and enables students to apply this information to real-world operational challenges; i.e., for small businesses or non-profit organizations.

Sustainability Plan are developed by student teams for a selected organization which commits to work with the students for a period of 14 weeks and implement the plan provided at the end of the semester. Deliverables of the project will consist of a written plan plus a delivery of the document in a working session with the organizations' stakeholders; i.e., board members, leadership team, staff, partners, etc.

The student team in collaboration with the client organization will identify sustainability opportunities both short term and longer term. Typical areas of focus are:

- Energy Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Green IT
- Procurement / Local Resources
- Recycling / Waste Management
- Transportation
- Water Usage

The Sustainability Plan will be tailored to the organization's requirements and may include:

- Modification of the organization's mission statement to include commitment to environmental sustainability
- Identification of opportunity areas regarding sustainability; e.g., operational, cultural, cost-reduction, revenue generation
- Analysis of specific initiatives including possible barriers to and enablers for successful implementation
- Change management recommendations to fully engage employees in the execution of the plan
- Marketing strategies to promote and communicate internally and externally
- Performance measurements; i.e., qualitative and quantitative to track implementation and provide feedback to the leadership team
- Cost - benefit analysis of initiatives, as appropriate
- Reporting systems - internal and external, as appropriate
- Business justification of recommended investments; typically longer-term
- Risks of not implementing the Sustainability Plan

Appendix A provides an outline of a typical Sustainability Plan.

Additional Information

Examples of Sustainability Plans developed by student teams may be viewed at www.greenprof.org

If you have any questions re: this program for your organization, please contact:

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Appendix A - Sustainability Plan Outline

Background & Client Requirements

Recommended Initiatives:

- Energy Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Green IT
- Procurement / Local Resources
- Recycling / Waste Management
- Transportation
- Water Usage

Fostering Sustainable Behavior (how to modify behavior of faculty, staff and the community in support of the Sustainability initiatives)

- Vision of Sustainability - incorporate into client's mission statement
- Leadership's role and recommended actions to engage the staff
- Organizational structure in support of Sustainability
- Identify specific barriers to change/provide appropriate strategies (5 step process)
- Communication/Marketing - increase awareness, website, and newsletters
- Educational Programs - integrate into curriculum, workshops, etc.

Alternative Recommended Initiatives - Facilities Management specific:

- Facility Management roles and responsibilities
- Standards and regulations for sustainable operations
- Sustainable site management practices
- Sustainable design of facilities & systems
- Commissioning and Re-commissioning
- Operations & maintenance practices
- Energy management
- Waste management
- Water management
- Indoor air quality
- LEED evaluation & certification

Performance Metrics & Reporting (to measure and report results of initiatives)

Recommendations: Future initiatives including business justification, as appropriate

Cost - Benefit Analysis for longer-term investments