

# Protecting the Global Nest

## Going Green at Westfield State University

Daniel Currier '25

A presentation for the  
WSU Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 12, 2022



# Background



## Fall 2021

Senior Jack Duncan research paper: **A Comparative Study of the Ways MA State Universities are Combatting Climate Change & Promoting Sustainability**

- Honors class project in Dr. Tarin Weiss' Environmental Geology course (GEOL 0205)
- Presented to Board of Trustees on 2/17/2022

## Spring 2022

GEOL 0205 Honors section research paper:

### **Protecting the Global Nest**

Ten (10) 1<sup>st</sup> year/ sophomore co-authors & Dr. Weiss

- Modeled after UEAAC Report; D. Carrier editor
- Thirteen (13) Total Recommendations submitted to President & Board (May, 2022)

# Areas of Emphasis for Today's Presentation:

## Key recommendations & moving forward



### Recommendation #1

Office of Sustainability & Environmental Protection



### Recommendation #2

Sustainability Committee



### Recommendation #4

Sustainability-Aligned Academic Innovation



### Recommendation #6

Public-Facing Metrics Dashboard & Sustainability Webpage



### Recommendation #7

Solar Panel Installation



# Updates Since Publication of 5/22 Report

- **Sustainability Committee**
  - Charged by the All-University Committee (AUC)
  - In process of being filled with constituent representatives
- **Dining Services Compostable Products**
  - Compostable plates, cups, and silverware used when washable products aren't available
- **City of Westfield Awarded Bike Sharing Grant**
  - New stations at WSU and Downtown



# Sustainability Committee

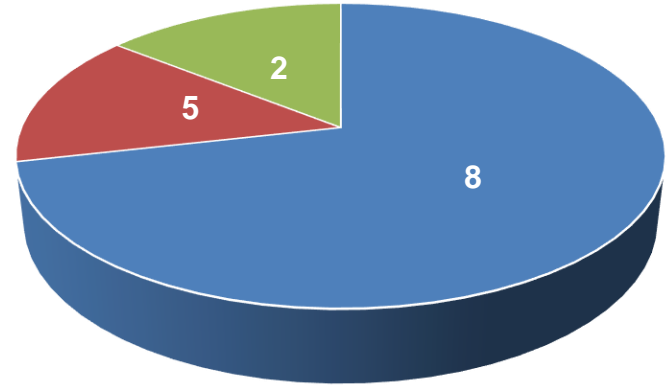
- **Charge** (Approved by AUC, 5/22; name amended 9/22)

The Special Committee on sustainability, will be responsible for developing an initial strategic plan for how Westfield State University can become more sustainable. Sustainability recommendations will be in line with our sister institutions, federal, state, and local directives, and campus community needs. The plan shall be submitted to the President, Board of Trustees, Cabinet, All-University Committee Chair, and Student Government Association President by May 2023. Committee action on key recommendations, if approved by AUC with an evergreen period, will proceed through May 2024. [The committee] is established as a Special Committee under the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- **Objectives**

- Develop *Sustainability Strategic Plan*
- Work with Coordinator on achieving goals in the strategic plan

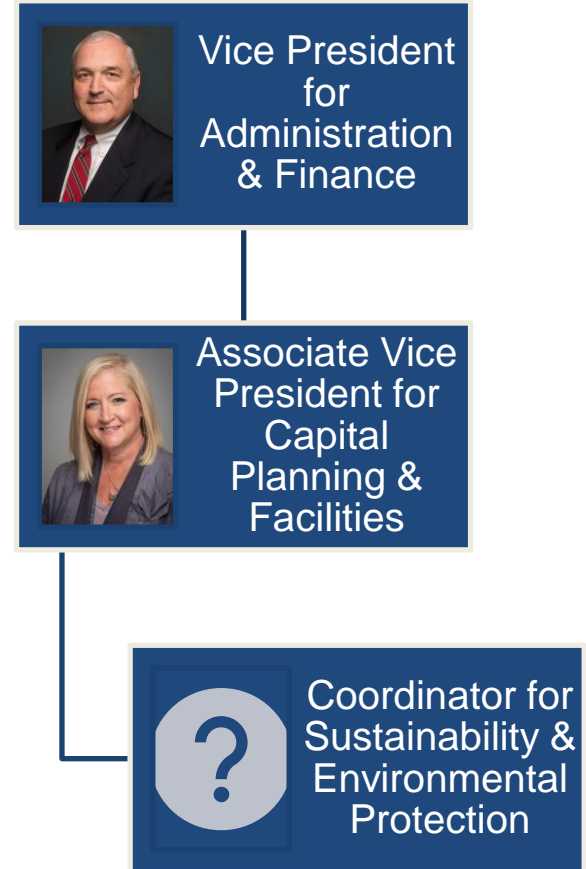
## Sustainability Committee at Westfield State University



■ MSCA ■ Presidential Appointments ■ Students

# Office of Sustainability & Environmental Protection

- **Goal**
  - Centralize sustainability projects and efforts
- **Coordinator's Role**
  - Oversee short-term and long-term sustainability-focused capital projects
  - Submit grant applications to cover potential costs
  - Develop programming for student body to get involved and learn more



# Public-Facing Metrics Dashboard & Webpage

- **Goal**
  - Effectively publicize sustainability information to WSU community and prospective students
  - Demonstrate institutional commitment & accountability
- **Potential Sections**
  - Academic Partnerships
  - Facilities Improvements
  - Reports & Accreditation
  - Student Opportunities

**PROTECT the Nest**

## Sustainability at WSU

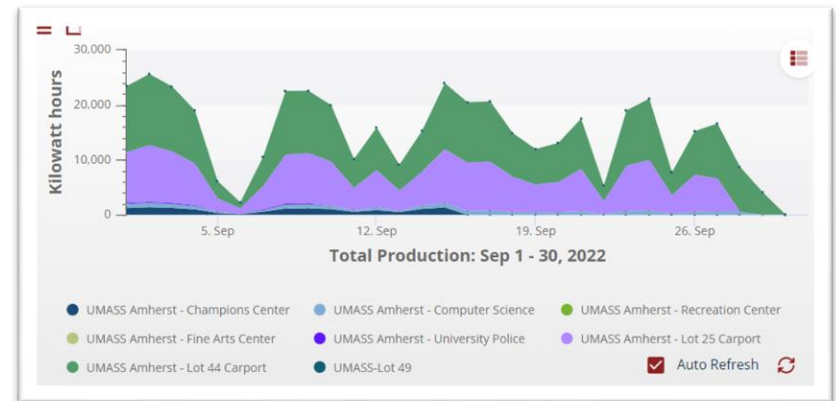
Welcome to our Sustainability Site. Here you'll find information about our campus sustainability initiatives – from events and how to get involved, to what we're accomplishing, to academic programming.

### NEWS & INFORMATION

- Sustainability Mission & Goals
- News & Events: Join Us!
- Get Involved! Student Opportunities
- Sustainability Reports: Emissions & Infrastructure

Home    Offices and Services

- Office of Sustainability & Environmental Protection
- Meet the Team
- Advisory Committee in Conceptualizing Environmental and Sustainability Success (ACCESS)
- Mission, Goals, & Action Plan
- Academic Partnerships
- Student Opportunities
- Events
- Sustainability in Action at WSU
- Facilities
- Solar Panel Meter
- Reports and Accreditation



# Solar Panel Installation

- **Current Conditions**
  - Solar Panel Arrays at Bates & Wilson Halls
    - Installed in 2011
- **Potential Expansion**
  - South Lot
    - Open space with perfect sun conditions
  - Residence Halls / Academic Buildings
    - Must determine potential roof replacement dates





Potential Solar Panel Array (South Lot)

Existing Solar Panel Arrays (Wilson & Bates Halls)



# Sustainability-Aligned Academic Innovation

- **Potential New Majors**
  - Atmospheric Science, B.S.
  - Meteorology & Weather Broadcasting, B.S.
- **Potential New Minors**
  - Atmospheric Science
  - Sustainable Construction Management
  - Sustainable Energy Development



# Sustainability-Aligned Academic Innovation (continued)

- **Anticipated Expenses**
  - At least one (1) full-time, tenured faculty member in meteorology
    - Assume \$109,000 w/ 40% Fringe Rate
  - Development of a meteorology laboratory
    - Funding from grants, annual budget, etc.
- **Anticipated Revenues**
  - Assume 5-10 New Students (Atmospheric Science and/or Weather Broadcasting) Per Year (\$11,460 Per Student)
    - \$57,300-\$114,600 Revenues Per Class (1 Year)
    - \$229,200-\$458,400 Revenues Per Year (4 Class Cohorts)



# Proposed Timeline



## FY23

- Development of *Sustainability Strategic Plan*
- Conduct Revenue & Expense Analyses
- Research Potential Grant Opportunities & Funding Resources

## FY24

- Hire & Onboard Coordinator for Sustainability & Environmental Protection
- Pilot Atmospheric Science / Weather Broadcasting Courses

## FY25

- Installation of Large Solar Panel Projects (i.e., South Lot)
- New Sustainability-Aligned Majors/Minors Offered

Thank You!

Daniel Currier, on behalf of;

*Jordan Aquiar, Katherine Canty, Nathan Crane, Zachary Dickinson, Cierra Guinen, Lexus Mastromatteo, Caitlyn Murphy, Daniel Survell, Maxwell Thompson, Jack Duncan ('22), and Dr. Tarin Weiss*

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