

Sustainability Hub: Purpose & List of Activities

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Sustainability Hub Definition:

A Campus Sustainability Hub is an organization or collective, operating under an academic or research institution, that fosters collaboration, bolsters engagement, and provides additional active support for all sustainability-related education, initiatives, programming, research, and activism taking place within its community of faculty, students, researchers, and/or staff members.

Sustainability Hub Purpose/Mission Statement:

To foster collaboration by making strong connections with faculty and students to help cultivate sustainability research and activism, and to bolster engagement across the campus community by both creating and sponsoring multiple sustainability programming opportunities through the Science Library.

Scope of the Sustainability Hub:

The Binghamton University Sustainability Hub consists of both a physical space and a digital space. The Hub hosts events, provides information, showcases campus work related to sustainability, and in general works towards creating and enhancing a culture of sustainability on the campus.

The physical space is located in the atrium of the Science Library. This space contains:

- The Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) Climate Resilience Hub, containing information on how to prepare for and respond to extreme weather events.
- The Seed Library
- The Sustainability Book Collection
- Sustainability-focused student club information & resources
- Library lending program for kilowatt meters, air quality monitors, & citizen science kits
- Terracycling Station for recycling difficult to recycle materials and used for education about recycling
- Posters and artwork depicting sustainability related research and work of Binghamton faculty and students
- Space for hosting in-person events, poster sessions, and student organization club meetings...

The digital space is primarily in the form of a [Library Guide](#). Recordings and other completed works are also archived in a designated section of the Institutional Repository, the [ORB](#). There is also a separate research guide focused on [equity and sustainability](#). The Library Guide space provides information on:

- What the University and the Libraries are doing in regards to sustainability
- Events, and recordings of online events, hosted by the Sustainability Hub
- Sustainability resources including books, articles, videos, and resources from CREW
- Tips and resources on living sustainably for individuals
- Information highlighting the sustainability related campus student groups

Current Activities:

- Expanding the Seed Library for use in research related activities
- Maintain the recently created Equitable Sustainability Resource Guide
- Hosting sustainability related events, programs, and activities to engage the community in discussions and highlight campus sustainability activities
- Expanding the Sustainability Book Collection
- Growing the Sustainability Hub Student Interest Group
- Creating a 'plant study buddy' program
- Collaborating with other SUNY institutions on promoting sustainability work
 - Past presentations include: AASHE, NYCSHE, ESLN, and SUNYLA.
 - Upcoming presentations include: ALA and ACRL

Accomplishments to Date:

- Received ALA Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change Grant
- Received ALA Carnegie-Whitney Grant
- Received Small Seed Grant from Sustainable Communities TAE
- Established first seed library at Binghamton University
- Engaged faculty and students from multiple disciplines across campus
- Participated in the creation of a pollinator garden on campus and Binghamton University becoming a Bee Campus USA campus
- Created a new meeting room policy in the Science Library & partnered with the first student organization that wanted to use the space for their club meetings
- Hung up first student research posters on sustainability throughout the Science Library
- Created Sustainability Libguide to disseminate information about the library's sustainability programming and events, as well as prompt our sustainability resources and offerings

- Established a Sustainability Collection on the ORB for students, faculty, and staff on campus to submit and preserve their sustainability-related work in our institutional repository

Future Goals:

1. Enhance both the physical space and digital presence to improve aesthetics and usability
2. Continue to identify, build, and strengthen collaborations and partnerships with both on-campus and local organizations to help bolster all aspects of the Sustainability Hub's impact
3. Continue to build upon past programming, events, and partnerships to grow and support a strong sustainability culture on campus
4. Foster more events, programming, partnerships, etc. that focus on highlighting the intersections between the environment, climate justice, and social justice
5. Start an environmental/climate-related book club that is organized by the Sustainability Hub
6. Add sustainability related exhibits