ACADEMICS

Radford University will integrate sustainability into curriculum, research, scholarship, and academic engagement to create a generation of sustainability leaders. With this new focus, students will be able to engage in environmental, economic, and equity challenges and forge new solutions to create sustainable ways of life for our campus, community, and the planet.

GOAL 1
Radford University will develop new curriculum opportunities focused on sustainability and the environment.

Strategies
A. Develop interdisciplinary major, minor, and graduate programs in sustainability and environmental studies.
   1. Establish a faculty-led group to develop sustainability focused and related academic programs spanning multiple departments and colleges.
   2. Adopt an institutional sustainability learning outcome and encourage program-level sustainability learning outcomes.
   3. Hire new faculty to develop and grow programs.

B. Establish a position to formally lead the effort to expand sustainability in academic programs and develop the framework to coordinate multiple levels of research and curricular integration.
   1. Coordinate efforts to expand sustainability across curriculum through academic integration and course support.
   2. Work with colleges and departments to incorporate sustainability learning objectives in programs and courses.
   3. Ensure that every RU undergraduate student engages in coursework with learning outcomes focused on sustainability.
   4. Launch a new version of the Environmental Center to focus on expanding and supporting sustainability in curriculum and research.

C. Increase sustainability literacy among Radford University students through academic initiatives that enhance student learning and success.
   1. Conduct an annual assessment of the sustainability literacy of students.
   2. Conduct a new course inventory for "sustainability-focused" and "sustainability-related" courses.

D. Grow enrollment in existing and new sustainability-related programs.
   1. Collaborate with University Relations to develop a public relations campaign that highlights campus sustainability, academic programs, and regional opportunities.
   2. Collaborate with the Virginia Community College System to build a transfer pipeline from associate programs.
3. Capitalize on the cultural and recreational opportunities associated with the New River Valley and Appalachian region to attract new students.

4. Label sustainability literacy courses in the course registration system to increase visibility (e.g. Green Leaf).

5. Establish a sustainability diploma designation that recognizes students that complete courses in sustainability literacy.

**GOAL 2**

*Radford University will develop sustainability-focused personal and professional development and engagement opportunities across campus.*

**Strategies**

A. Facilitate opportunities to participate in sustainability-focused, project-based, academic experiences.

1. Formally establish sustainability-focused faculty and staff development opportunities.

2. Support and grow the ECO Living and Learning Community with project-based and experiential learning opportunities.

3. Establish sustainability scholarship and Green Citizen Leader programs to engage students in sustainability projects.

4. Develop volunteer service-learning opportunities for student organizations that align with the curriculum.

5. Support student organizations with sustainability themes.

6. Develop an academic freshman sustainability experience with education of campus sustainability and immersive experiences to build a culture of sustainability.

7. Host short courses or training seminars for community members about sustainable development, environmental stewardship, environmental justice, and other sustainability and environmental topics.

B. Develop a network of internship and volunteer opportunities focused on sustainability and the environment within the University and with local/regional businesses, organizations, and municipalities.

1. Coordinate internships with University facilities and operations offices.

2. Identify non-profit, government, and private organizations to build a repository of internship and volunteer opportunities focused on sustainability and the environment.

3. Develop agreements with local and regional organizations to provide student personal and professional development and engagement opportunities.
GOAL 3
Radford University will build a research and scholarship program focused on sustainability studies and environmental science.

Strategies
A. Foster student-faculty research on sustainability, climate change, energy, environmental change, and environmental justice issues in Appalachia and beyond.
   1. Coordinate with the Office of Academic Programs and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship to develop scholarship opportunities focused on sustainability.
   2. Offer more immersive, sustainability-focused research and outreach programs that are a week or more in length.
   3. Establish annual funding specifically to support student and faculty sustainability and environmental research.
   4. Establish a Sustainability Faculty Fellows program to build research and mentorship opportunities.
B. Establish a framework for “campus as a living laboratory” for project-based learning in courses and with student organizations.
   1. Identify campus locations including Selu Conservancy for long-term living laboratory sites and support development with funding.
   2. Identify programs, courses, and student organizations to engage with living laboratories.
   3. Develop and support outdoor classrooms and gardens for learning and research.
   4. Establish a Sustainability Scholars programs to engage students in sustainability projects including community-based projects in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.
   5. Develop interdisciplinary summer programs at Selu Conservancy to create immersive research and scholarship experiences.
   6. Continue to support the Radford Amazonian Research Expedition, Alternative Spring Break to Mountaintop Removal Sites, the Arctic Expedition, and additional similar opportunities for students.
   7. Develop new programs in southwestern Virginia and Appalachia to provide regional opportunities to engage in research, scholarship, and outreach.
C. Build connections with federal and state agencies and organizations to create a pipeline of sustainability-focused research and job opportunities.
   1. Establish cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations for internships, volunteer opportunities, and contract work.
D. Make scholarly work open and accessible to the campus community to support universal access to new knowledge and encourage widespread comprehension of sustainability concepts.
1. Offer repository hosting that makes versions of journal articles, book chapters, and other peer-reviewed scholarly works by its employees freely available on the public internet.

2. Promote collections of sustainability resources through collaboration with the McConnell Library.

3. Create a policy or program that helps faculty publish scholarly works via open access or archive final post-peer reviewed versions of scholarly works in an open access repository.