

# Sustainable Leadership

How to Implement Sustainable Values and Practices into Your Organizations and Communities



Student Affairs  
**Student Engagement**

# Leadership Philosophy

Leaders are individuals who work with others to create positive change. Leadership can be practiced by anyone interested in making a contribution, regardless of formal authority or position.

Leadership development begins with self-knowledge – understanding one's passions, motivations, strengths, limits, and personal values. Leaders are committed to continual self-discovery, reflection and learning.

Learning to work with others is essential, since leadership never happens alone. Leadership is exercised as members of teams, business, civic and community organizations, and as global citizens.

Leaders recognize and value the multitude of voices, opinions, experiences, and identities in our workplaces and communities, and as leaders, we work to promote greater inclusivity and respect.

At the University of Illinois, students learn and practice leadership in their academic coursework and out of classroom activities.



# Objectives

1. **DEFINE:** the concept of sustainability.
2. **CONNECT:** what does sustainability mean to you?
3. **DISCOVER:** what sustainability looks like in practice.
4. **CONSIDER:** how are sustainability and leadership connected?
5. **TAKE ACTION:** how can you practice sustainable leadership in your own life?



# What is Sustainability?

- Introduce yourself
  - Name
  - Major (if applicable)
  - Job title (if applicable)
  - Why are you attending this workshop?
- Share one word that comes to mind when you think of 'sustainability'





# Sustainability 101

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

*-United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development*

Source: <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/teaching-sustainability/#what>

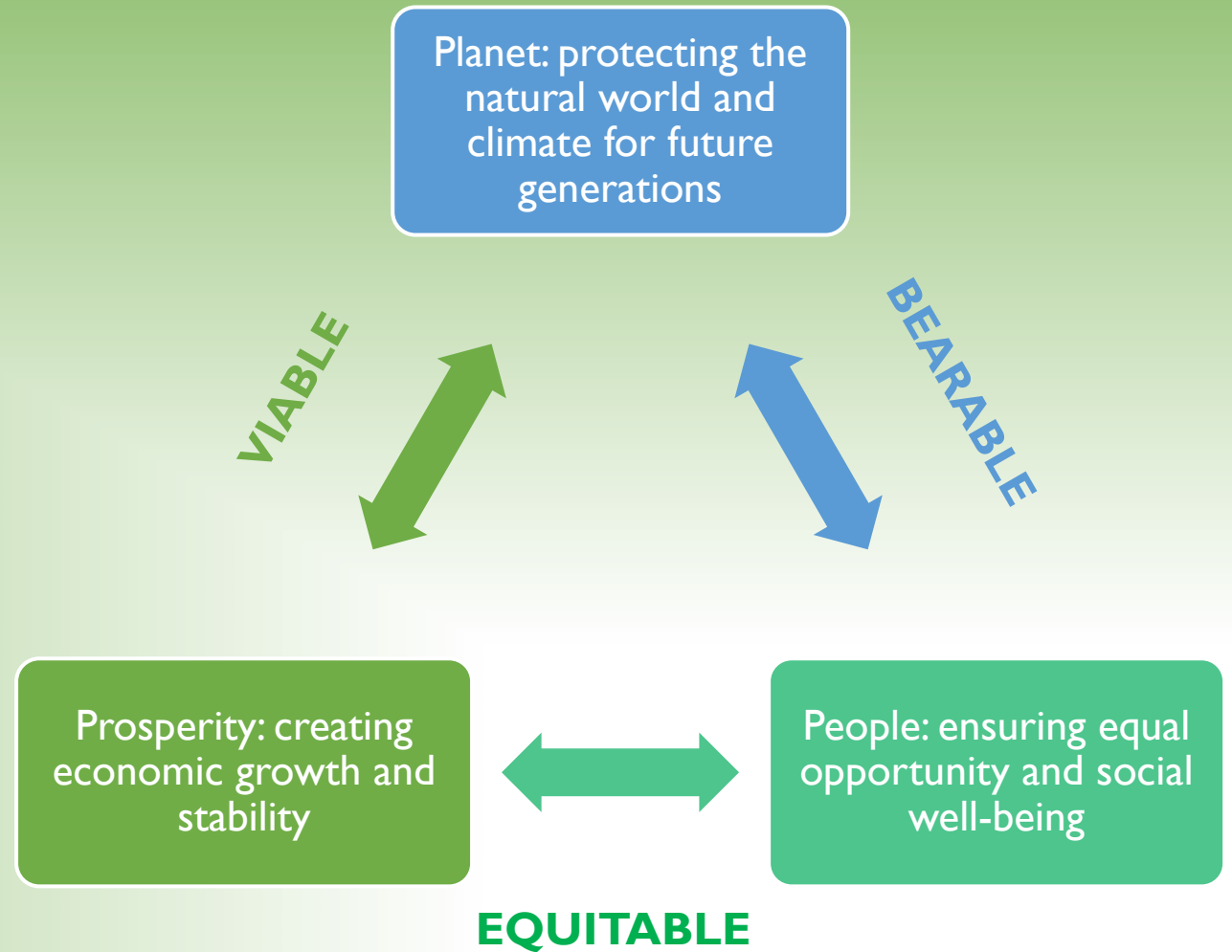
“Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.”

*- US Environmental Protection Agency*

Source: <https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/8-sustainability-activities-and-ideas-for-the-classroom/>

# Sustainability 101

- We only have finite natural resources
- Sustainability is not limited to the environment: sustainability has economic, social, and environmental aspects
- The 3 P's of sustainability, the "triple bottom line"



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

“The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.”

- Ross Perot

“We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”

- Howard Zinn

“Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good action; try to use ordinary situations.”

- Jean-Paul Richter

“Anything else you’re interested in is not going to happen if you can’t breathe the air and drink the water. Don’t sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.”

- Carl Sagan

# Calculating Our Global Footprint

ACTIVITY



Take out your computers or phones and go to [www.footprintcalculator.org](http://www.footprintcalculator.org). Take the "first step," then answer questions about your consumer behavior.

## What is your Earth Overshoot Day?

(when you have used as much nature as the Earth can renew in one year)

## How many Earths would we need if everyone lived like you?



# How do we decrease our footprint?

## Transportation

- Walk or bike instead of driving
- Organize errands into one trip
- Take public transportation
- Carpool
- Buy efficient or electric vehicles

## Waste

- Use reusable bags
- Eat leftovers
- Plan meals to minimize excessive buying
- Recycle
- Only print when necessary
- Minimize buying new goods
- Reuse and repair

## Energy

- Use natural light during the day
- Limit use of heating and cooling
- Buy energy-efficient appliances
- Use LED lights
- Turn off lights not in use

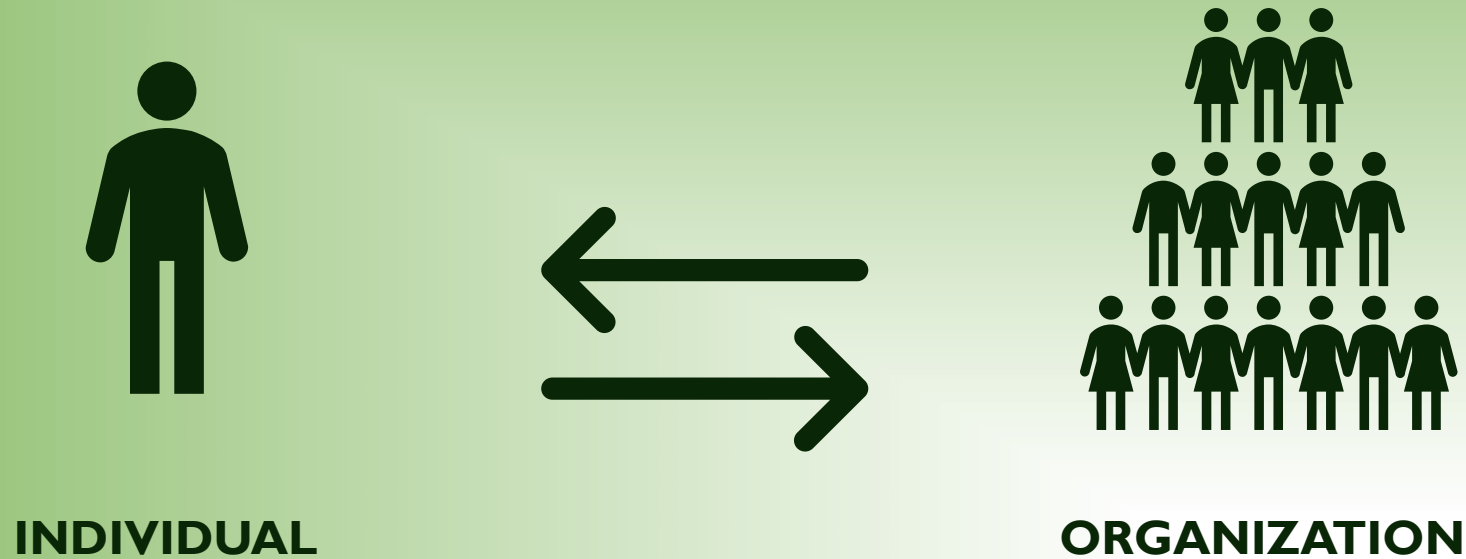
## Education & Engagement

- Follow environmental news
- Be an informed consumer (buy sustainably-made products)
- Vote in local, state, and federal elections

# Sustainable Leadership

"Sustainable leadership, as described by Hargreaves and Fink (2006), is a shared responsibility, which does not unduly deplete human or financial resources, and cares for and avoids exerting negative damage on the surrounding educational and community environment."

# How do we go from sustainability in our everyday lives to sustainable leadership?



'Sustainable leaders' practice green behavior in both their personal and professional lives and promote sustainable values within the organizations and communities to which they belong.

# Sustainable Leadership

*Leaders in sustainability ensure that organizations work to benefit the public.*

- Consider the human and environmental impact of actions (externalities)
- Consider whether a project or behavior might negatively impact a local community or vulnerable group
- Communicate with local community leaders and involve them in decision making
- Work to reduce an organization's environmental footprint
- Donate to environmental organizations
- Do not invest in environmentally harmful companies
- Be transparent about practices

# Sustainable Leadership in RSOs



- You were just elected president of "Mixed Media," a new visual arts-based RSO on campus. You realize your organization currently has no green or sustainable initiatives.
- Create three action items to increase the sustainability of this RSO.



# Sustainable Leadership in Action



- Each group will be given a scenario.
- For each scenario, think of at least three actions that can be taken to make the situation more sustainable.
- Consider both:
  - Individual actions
  - Community-wide actions

# Campus Sustainability Resources



# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

## Student Sustainability Committee (SSC)

- A student-led organization charged with the distribution of two student fees – the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee and the Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee. The SSC reviews, recommends, and funds projects that increase environmental stewardship, inspire change, and impact students. An entity of Student Engagement.

## Student Sustainability Leadership Council (SSLC)

- Council of student representatives from campus student-led organizations focused on sustainability, energy, and environment. Facilitates collaboration and maintains direct communication between the student groups they represent and campus administration and iSEE. Raises awareness of sustainability issues on campus.

## Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)

- Serves as the 'front porch' for campus sustainability. Three-pronged mission: (1) interdisciplinary and actionable research, (2) evaluate campus progress on reaching sustainability goals outlined in the iCAP, and (3) education and outreach (iSEE Fellows Program, Certificate in Environmental Writing, Environmental Leadership Program, etc.)

## Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP)

- Outlines a path for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2050. The first iCAP was written in 2010, and it is rewritten every five years. Themes: Energy, Transportation, Zero Waste, Resilience, Reporting Progress, Engagement, Education, Research Opportunities, and Funding.

# RSOs

## Food & Waste

Project 4 Less,  
recover and donate  
food from dining  
halls

Illini Urban Farmers,  
promote sustainable  
urban agriculture

Vermiculture,  
promote  
vermicomposting to  
reduce organic  
waste

## Land, Water, Air

The Wildlife Society,  
provide wildlife field  
biology experiences

Red Bison, promote  
restoration of  
natural areas around  
campus

Beekeeping Club,  
educate students  
about beekeeping

## Energy

Illinois Solar  
Decathlon, design  
and build net-zero  
solar homes

Illini Solar Car,  
design and build a  
solar-powered car

Illini Formula  
Electric, design,  
build, and market an  
electric formula car

## General

Students with  
Environmental  
Concerns, promote  
environmental  
activism at all levels

Environmental  
Coalition, unite  
environmental RSOs

Energy and  
Environmental Law  
Society,  
environmental law  
education



# RECURRING EVENTS

Illini Lights  
Out



TED Talk:  
Eco-Edition



ISEE  
Sustainability  
Grammys



Green Quad  
Day



Sustainability  
Month Events  
(October)



Earth Month  
Events (April)



ISEE  
Congress



Dump and  
Run



Eco-  
Olympics



MillerComm  
Lecture  
Series



Keeling  
Lecture  
Series



ISTC  
Sustainable  
Seminar  
Series





# EDUCATION

The **Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Fellows Program (SEE FP)** is a new campuswide undergraduate minor that helps students develop a systems-level perspective of the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability to help you navigate them. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone pursuing careers in the corporate sector, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and environmental advocacy groups.

The **Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Writing (CEW)** is a joint venture of the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE), the School for Earth, Society, and Environment (SESE), and the English Department, and features learning about the latest scientific research on the environment — and how to communicate that research effectively to the public.

The **Environmental Leadership Program (ELP)** is a cutting-edge program launched by the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The program is designed to prepare Illinois undergraduates for leadership roles in the sustainability field.

# SUSTAINABILITY AT ILLINOIS



The Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) is our strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner.

In 2019, Illinois joined 200+ universities globally to declare a state of climate emergency, mobilizing to allocate more resources to sustainability efforts. Our Climate Leadership Commitments include collaboration with campus units and the community to become as sustainable as possible.

## YOUR PERSONAL ECO-TOUR

1. Tour the [Waste Transfer Station](#)
2. Learn about the [Student Sustainability Committee](#) (SSC)
3. Reach out to [Sustainability Working Advisory Teams](#) (SWATeams)
4. Discover sustainability at [Facilities & Services](#) (F&S)
5. Read [Q Magazine](#), our student-written environmental journal
6. Explore [iSEE sustainability programs](#)
7. Follow us on social media



## Welcome Aboard!

A GUIDE TO SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS  
**THE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY,  
ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT (iSEE)**

National Soybean Research Center  
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217.333.4178  
[sustainability@illinois.edu](mailto:sustainability@illinois.edu)

## iSEE IS ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

We will achieve net carbon neutrality through our mission to:

- (1) promote interdisciplinary **research** targeting issues within sustainability, energy, and environment
- (2) facilitate sustainability directives customized to **community** needs
- (3) inspire global change through **education & outreach** opportunities.

## QUICK TIPS

Need recycling bins? Email F&S at [recycling@illinois.edu](mailto:recycling@illinois.edu).

Participate! Make an impact through our green certification programs, whether it's for your **office**, **lab**, or **Greek life organization**. Don't forget to host a **Green Event!**

Explore. Take a look at the [iCAP portal](#) to see our current projects, **conversations**, and more. [Sign up for our newsletter](#) to learn about iSEE!

## STAY UPDATED

Illinois Leadership® Center  
[@illinoisleadershipcenter](#)

Student Sustainability Committee  
[@ssc\\_uiuc](#)

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment  
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Student Sustainability Leadership Council  
[@uiuc\\_sslc](#)