

# Yale Law School

## Sustainability Action Plan

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### Sustainability at Yale

Yale University is dedicated to an integrated, comprehensive approach to policy and operations that balances ecosystem health with human health and economic viability in order to demonstrate that sustainability is both feasible and affordable. To accomplish this goal the University integrates sustainable practices into the fabric of institutional decision-making at all levels.

Each unit on campus has a unique cultural context. Successful implementation of sustainability tactics will rely on efforts to refine tools and tactics to suit this diversity of disciplines and perspectives.

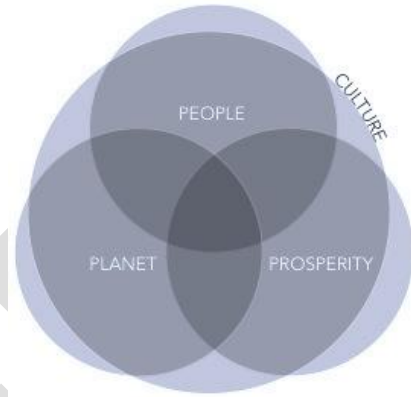


Figure 1: Sustainability values

### Yale 2013-2016 Sustainability Strategic Plan

The *Yale 2013-2016 Sustainability Strategic Plan* contains 26 ambitious-yet achievable goals divided into five categories: energy and greenhouse gas emissions, natural and built environment, materials management, food and well-being, and sustainability leadership and capacity building (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan Categories

#### *Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions*



Yale is committed to comprehensive reduction of energy consumption. This includes both designing and updating buildings to be efficient and educating members of the community to use less energy. It also incorporates a robust renewable energy portfolio and efforts to increase fuel efficiency.

#### *Natural and Built Environment*



Yale values its natural and built environment, and is managing the campus in ways that improve the quality of natural resources and help ensure a healthy and vibrant community.

#### *Materials Management*



Purchasing of supplies and their eventual disposal are directly connected. Considering the

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two in parallel provides a systemic approach that focuses on better-quality products while minimizing waste.

### *Food and Well-Being*



Whether it is through the food choices offered, the cleaning products used, or the community support offered, the health and well-being of the people who study and work at Yale are directly connected to the campus and benefit from sustainability efforts.

### *Sustainability Leadership & Capacity Building*



Yale has established itself as a global sustainability leader. This is enhanced by efforts to incorporate principles of sustainability into everyday behavior, operational practices, and research and teaching.

The Plan is available online in full at [sustainability.yale.edu](http://sustainability.yale.edu).

## **This Document**

As a component of leadership and capacity building, the Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan commits to establish and implement sustainability action plans for each of the professional schools. These plans are intended to support the Yale-wide goals while reflecting the physical constructs and constraints of each School as well as the intersection of each discipline with sustainability.

This document offers overarching context for sustainability and law, and then suggests a brief set of initiatives related to the operations and mission of the Law School. (NB: the action items that relate to programming or mission are not intended to reflect or influence curriculum.)

The Office of Sustainability will communicate with key members of the Law School community on a quarterly basis to determine progress on the Action Items below. The Office will also convene meeting of Professional School representatives at least once per year to encourage knowledge transfer and collegiality.

## **About the Yale Law School**

Yale Law School offers an unmatched environment of excellence and educational intimacy in the form of world renowned faculty, small classes, limitless opportunities for clinical training, and strong encouragement of public service.

Yale Law School is unique among law schools in that it produces leaders in all walks of life: distinguished deans and faculty members at law schools across the country and the world; industry CEOs and corporate counsels; founders of nongovernmental organizations and

other nonprofit entities; entrepreneurs; government servants in federal, state, and local offices and the judiciary.

## Law and Sustainability

Throughout its history, Yale Law School has served as an important center for groundbreaking environmental thinking. Its graduates have provided significant leadership in environmental law and policy in the full range of roles in the public, private, and NGO sectors. Its curriculum offerings include an Environmental Protection Clinic, offered jointly with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The Environmental Protection Clinic undertakes long-term projects for clients (environmental groups, government agencies, community organizations, and private sector enterprises) and is staffed by interdisciplinary teams of law and environmental studies students. Projects include legislative drafting, litigation, multiparty negotiation, and policy development, and focus on topics including environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, and global warming.

## Sustainability Successes To-Date

The Law School has already made real progress toward sustainability. The following table presents key accomplishments. Each of the Action Items listed here is labeled with the meta-categories listed in the *Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan*.

### Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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### Natural and Built Environment

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- Departmental ZipCar membership (Legal Services Organization)
- Shared Bike available for loaned use via Law Library
- Installation of water bottle refilling/filtration station

### Materials Management

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- Centralized office supply purchasing and inventory
- Toner recycling
- Boomerang boxes
- Paper reduction
  - Default duplex printing on multifunction devices
  - Electronic distribution and storage of monthly financial reports
  - Appointments committee replaced paper distribution with iPads
  - Installation of PaperCut software for student printing

- Single stream recycling throughout building
- Composting in the dining hall
- Trayless dining
- Pen pails



### **Food and Well Being**

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- Healthy “grab and go” options available in the dining hall
- Peet’s Organic Coffee in the Cafeteria
- There has been a pilot of Meatless Mondays in the Cafeteria
- Green cleaning supplies



### **Sustainability Leadership & Capacity Building**

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- YLS Green Workplace Certification (2011)
- YELA: The student-led Yale Environmental Law Association draws attention to all aspects of environmental law and related fields through YLS community events, speakers and reading groups, and opportunities to connect and collaborate with other campus groups, as well as by working to promote sustainability in the use of law school facilities. YELA places special emphasis on the interdisciplinary, multifaceted character of environmental law and its relevance to a wide range of legal and policy issues.
- YCELP: The Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy is a joint undertaking between the Yale Law School and The Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, seeking to incorporate fresh thinking, ethical awareness, and analytically rigorous decision-making tools into environmental law and policy. The Center supports a wide-ranging program of teaching, research, and outreach on local, regional, national, and global pollution control and natural resource management issues. These efforts involve faculty, staff, and student collaboration and are aimed at shaping academic thinking and policymaking in the public, private, and NGS sectors.

## **Sustainability Action at the Law School**

At the time of this writing, the integration of sustainability into the cultural fabric of the Yale Law School is a nascent concept. This does not preclude visionary leadership in this arena, but it does require careful first steps, and in some cases some preliminary explorations. The following action items are accordingly tempered.



### **Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

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*University Goal:*

- Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions 5% below 2013 levels by June 2016.

*Proposed Law School Activities:*

- Partner with Facilities and the Office of Sustainability to conduct a building energy audit.
- Partner with Facilities and the Office of Sustainability to identify operational updates that will save energy without compromising the design or use of the Law School buildings.



## Natural and Built Environment

*University Goals:*

- Reduce potable water use on campus 5% below 2013 levels by June 2016.
- Reduce single-occupancy vehicle use by 2% below 2013 levels by June 2016.

*Proposed Law School Activities:*

- Explore additional locations for water filtration stations.
- Explore additional projects to enhance the sustainable features of the Law School buildings.



## Materials Management

*University Goals:*

- Reduce paper purchasing by 10% by June 2016.
- Reduce the purchase of office supplies by 10% by June 2016
- Achieve a 50% waste diversion rate by June 2016 via reuse, recycling, and/or composting strategies.

*Proposed Law School Activities:*

- Expand effective communication about recycling and composting.
- Explore additional opportunities for electronic filing.
- Consider transition to 50% recycled content paper.
- Use PaperCut analysis and communications to reduce paper purchasing.



## Food and Well Being

*University Goals:*

- Ensure that 37% of the food purchased and served by Yale meets one or more of the following sustainability criteria: local, eco-sensitive, humane, or fair.
- Increase the purchase and preparation of plant-based foods in Yale Dining by 15% over 2013 levels by June 2016.
- Reduce cleaning chemical usage on campus 30% from 2013 levels by June 2016.

*Proposed Law School Activities:*

- Explore opportunities for increased purchases of sustainably-produced food.

- Explore opportunities for reduction in use of cleaning chemicals.



## **Sustainability Leadership & Capacity Building**

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### *University Goals:*

- Establish a portfolio of sustainability action plans for schools and departments by December 2013.
- Expand Green Certification Programs by June 2016.

### *Proposed Law School Activities:*

- Collaborate with YELA to advance sustainability commitments and act as liaisons with other professional schools.
- Add a sustainability unit to new student orientation.
- Add sustainability to training for new staff members.
- Apply for updated Green Workplace Certification.

## **Implementation of the Action Plan**

The Law School will form a Sustainability Advisory Committee to support the implementation of the sustainability action items listed here. This group will liaise regularly with the Office of Sustainability and periodically with Facilities and teams at other Professional Schools.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will include a representative cross-section of the Yale Law School community, to include students and staff from various organizations and departments (e.g., YELA, Dining, Custodial, IT, etc.). It will draw on faculty expertise as needed.

## **Timeline**

This timeline (see next page) organizes action items so low-hanging fruit are initially implemented, and more time is given to implement larger goals that require more planning. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will collaborate in prioritizing the action items listed above and filling in the timeline accordingly.

#### FALL 2013

- Identify key sustainability leaders for YLS
- Draft YLS Sustainability Action Plan

#### SPRING 2014

- Convene Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Establish baselines for measurable goals
- Meet with Facilities to discuss opportunities for enhanced energy and waste management
- Establish Communications protocols
  - *Administrative*
  - *Signage*
  - *Outreach*
- Announcement from the Dean about this Plan and the Advisory Committee
- Apply for updated Green Workplace Certification

#### SUMMER 2014

- Issue report on progress to-date
- Integrate sustainability into training for new staff
- Integrate sustainability into training for new students

#### FALL 2014

- To be determined by Sustainability Advisory Committee

#### SPRING 2015

- To be determined by Sustainability Advisory Committee

#### SUMMER 2015

- Issue Progress Report

#### FALL 2015

- To be determined by Sustainability Advisory Committee

#### SPRING 2016

- Reduce paper and office supply purchasing by 10%

#### SUMMER 2016

- Final Progress Report

## **Key Contacts**

### **Yale Law School Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Cyndi Breault, chair

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(other members TBD)

Associate Director of Finance &  
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