

# Yale School of Music 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.

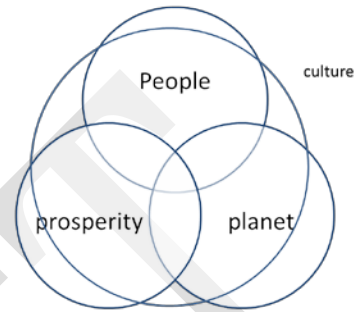


Figure 1: sustainability values

## 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. Several of these have sub-categories, as demonstrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2 : Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan Categories



The Plan is available in-full online 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 language about sustainability and music, and then suggests a brief set of initiatives related to the operations and mission of the School of Music. (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 School of Music 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.

## Yale School of Music: Mission Statement

The Yale School of Music educates and inspires students with exceptional artistic and academic talent for service to the profession and to society. The School fosters a vibrant musical environment where graduate-level performers and composers realize their highest artistic potential with an internationally distinguished faculty. To prepare students for roles as cultural leaders, the School engages fully with the University's extraordinary intellectual and technological resources while collaborating with artistic centers throughout the world.

## Music and Sustainability

There are several ways to explore the intersection of sustainability and music. Some overarching concepts include:

### Performance

- Music can create awareness and emotional connection to sustainability imperatives. *Example:* Initiatives such as the Crossroads project use the media of classical music to engage and inform audiences about global climate change.

### The greening of music

- Innovations in how instruments are made and how music is composed and published can reduce environmental impacts while enhancing accessibility.

### Empowerment

- Music can be a powerful tool to offer advantages to those in need, such as youth in poverty. *Example: landfillharmonic*

### Musician health and well-being

- studies show that the act of practicing music is healthy for the mind and body.
- broadly speaking, choices that are healthy for the human body (fewer processed foods, less travel by car...) also tend to be healthier for the environment

## Sustainability Action at the School of Music

At the time of this writing, the integration of sustainability into the cultural fabric of the Yale School of Music 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. Each of the Action Items listed here is labeled with the meta-categories listed in the *Yale Sustainability Strategic Plan*.

### Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Partner with facilities and the Office of Sustainability to identify best practices for musical / performance spaces that save energy but do not compromise the integrity of the instruments
- Consult with facilities and the Yale University Art Gallery to consider standards for updating set points for the Collection of Musical Instruments

### Natural and Built Environment

- Work with facilities and project architects to develop a list of viable sustainability features for Hendrie Hall

### Materials Management

- reduce paper purchasing by 15% by June 2016
- reduce the purchase of office supplies by 10% by June 2016
- ensure that performance venues offer recycling receptacles for programs. Include a recycling statement in each printed program. Include a recycling announcement at the start of each program. This will begin in September, 2015
- single stream recycling has been implemented in the School of Music
- Pen pails, battery recycling and cartridge recycling have been implemented in FY14

### Food and Well-being

- Pursue Green Event Certification for non-performance events
- Encourage faculty, staff, and students to drink tap water, bring food in reusable containers, bring utensils instead of using plastic, and bring cup or water bottle.

### Sustainability Leadership and Capacity Building.

- Add a sustainability unit to new student orientation
- Add sustainability to training for new staff members
- Convene a group of students with interest in sustainability to discuss on-going student-oriented effort
- Consider integrating sustainability programming into summer and school year programming for area youth
- Apply for Green Workplace Certification for administrative spaces