

COMMITMENT

# Sustainability literacy for every student

**A STUDENT LITERATE IN SUSTAINABILITY** demonstrates knowledge, skills, and engagement furthering the integrated pursuit of social equity, ecological integrity, and economic security to address complex local and global challenges.

STRATEGIES

- 1 Curriculum
- 2 Academic programs & certificates
- 3 Faculty support
- 4 Program Support



◀ Assistant Professor and Sustainability Teaching Scholar Amanda Smith, Mechanical Engineering, explaining the life cycle cost of different energy options

✓ In Process

✓ Achieved

## STRATEGY 1 Curriculum

actions	indicators
Sustainability is included in university learning outcomes and general education.	(1) Sustainability education is integrated into university learning outcomes. (2) Systems thinking rubric has been developed for consideration as a general education learning outcome rubric. ✓
Identify sustainability education in colleges, departments, and programs.	Departments and programs with sustainability learning outcomes identified on the Sustainability Office website. ✓
Advocate for colleges, departments, and programs to articulate sustainability-related learning outcomes.	Many colleges, departments, and programs have articulated learning outcomes. ✓
Sustainability education is implemented in undergraduate first-year learning communities and capstone programs.	An implementation strategy will be developed.
Design criteria and process for sustainability course attribute designation.	Faculty can apply for Sustainability-Limited and Sustainability-Complete attributes. ✓
Offer courses with Sustainability-Limited and Sustainability-Complete attributes.	Courses are offered by all colleges and are listed in the course catalog. ✓

## STRATEGY 2 Academic programs & certificates

actions	indicators
Graduate certificate program offered.	The certificate began in 2015 with 18 enrollees. Now, in its fourth year, the program has 45 enrolled and nine graduates. ✓
Develop a Sustainability Scholars program.	Enrollment has begun. ✓
Identify and promote sustainability-focused undergraduate degree programs.	Urban Ecology and Environmental & Sustainability Studies programs have been identified and promoted on the Sustainability Office website. ✓

## STRATEGY 3 Faculty support

actions	indicators
Develop incentives for faculty to infuse sustainability into curricula.	The Wasatch Experience workshop is offered every other year. ✓
Promote opportunities for integrating sustainability education in faculty orientation.	Sustainability education is promoted in faculty orientation. ✓
Recognize faculty and students for excellence in sustainability education.	Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards recognize faculty and students. ✓
Develop and implement an assessment tool and plan for sustainability literacy.	Piloting limited instrument with Environmental & Sustainability Studies. ✓

## STRATEGY 4 Program Support

actions	indicators
Create an interdisciplinary committee to provide feedback on sustainability education initiatives.	Sustainability Education Advisory Committee functioning with diverse disciplinary representation. ✓

## PROGRESS

### 2017-2018 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of spring 2018, there are over **200 COURSES WITH A SUSTAINABILITY ATTRIBUTE**. Students can locate courses with the new Sustainability-Complete (SUSC) or Sustainability-Limited (SUSL) attribute in the course catalog when signing up for classes.

**18 DEPARTMENTS HAVE A SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING OUTCOME** illustrating the interdisciplinarity of sustainability. More departments are in the process of articulating how their discipline contributes to sustainability education.

**THE SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS RECRUITING FOR ITS FIRST COHORT** beginning in Fall 2018. This learning community offers a year-long cohort for students who are eager to apply their learning from sustainability courses to on-campus projects, and is open to undergraduate students from across campus.

The **INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABILITY** program has enrolled 45 students from across campus and nine graduates.

**A SYSTEMS THINKING RUBRIC** was developed for inclusion in the U's undergraduate general education learning outcome rubrics.

### COMMITTEE GUIDES EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In 2016, the Sustainability Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was established to guide education at the university toward the goal of sustainability literacy for every student and provide expertise on education initiatives.

SEAC created the SUSL/C (Sustainability-Limited/Complete) course attributes, which recognize courses with varying levels of sustainability content from across campus. Courses with the attributes are noted in the course catalog. Rubrics have been developed to include sustainability in general education requirements, including a new systems thinking rubric that may impact national standards.



▲ Faculty attending the Wasatch Experience



▲ Students participating in a sustainability-complete course

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The university offers a number of undergraduate and graduate programs related to sustainability, including a BS and a minor in Environmental & Sustainability Studies, BS/BA in Urban Ecology, and an MS/MA in Environmental Humanities. In 2013, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Sustainability was launched to ground graduate students in the overlap of science, society, and policy. Undergraduates are able to apply for the Sustainability Scholars program, a project-based learning community where scholars take five credits of sustainability-related courses and spend 150 hours working on a campus-based project.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY

The third Wasatch Experience workshop will occur in 2019. During the two-day workshop, faculty design an action plan to integrate the big ideas of sustainability into their courses. They spend the next year in small mentor-led groups honing and implementing their plan. Upon completion of the program,

participants receive a \$500 stipend and the Sustainability Teaching Scholar designation.

### HIGHLIGHTING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Each year, the Alta Sustainability Leadership Awards recognize excellence in leadership for the health of our community and planet with a \$2,500 award to winners of four categories: Campus as a Living Lab, Community Partnership, Sustainability Integration, and Sustainability Research.