



Charge to Establish a University Panel on Ecosystem Services

December 2017

BACKGROUND

In November 2015, university leaders accepted a comprehensive set of sustainability goals developed by the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability (PPCS). One of these goals calls for the university to *"Double the acreage that provides at least two ecosystem services, by 2025."*

Given our operational expertise in this area combined with the knowledge, interest and expertise of our faculty and community partners, we are creating a panel to develop a strategic plan to realize this goal and provide a bold vision for initiatives that will have a positive transformative effect on the long-term health, function, and aesthetic appeal of the university's campuses. This work must be done in a manner that respects and harmonizes the development and growth needs of the campus along with the processes already in place for capital plan and project approvals. The university's Framework 2.0 provides important guidance to future development plans on campus.

THE CHARGE

Deliver a strategic plan to implement the goal to double the acreage that provides at least two ecosystem services by 2025, from a 2015 baseline of Ohio State's properties. At a minimum, the University Panel on Ecosystem Services should consider addressing the following issues in its plan:

- **Clarify** terms such as "ecosystem services" and provide clarity on the types of activities that would be acceptable to count toward a rigorous and scientifically based goal of doubling ecosystem services, including on acreage that currently already provides an ecosystem service function;
- **Review of** acceptable metrics for activities such as increasing the tree canopy and native habitat, reducing maintained acreage, increasing multifunctional and productive acreage, and improving stormwater management, among others;
- **Establish** baselines for each metric;



- **Develop** an inclusive system of governance over the implementation of the strategic plan that engages students, staff, faculty and stakeholders in ensuring a rigorous and transparent approach to achieving the goal while respecting and not duplicating existing processes for campus development;
- **Incorporate** ideas for using this initiative as a larger educational component of the Ohio State experience;
- **Identify** potential barriers and potential costs of meeting the goal; and
- **Create** a suggested timeline for action.

PANEL FORMATION / TIMELINE

Mike Shelton, Office of Energy and Environment will convene the Panel with further assistance from Andrew Neil, Physical Planning and Real Estate. Professor Maria Conroy graciously has agreed to chair this group. The Panel is encouraged to bring in additional campus and community voices to the conversation as needed. An initial draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the President and Provost’s Council on Sustainability for input by April 30, 2018.

PANEL MEMBERS

- Maria Conroy – Knowlton School of Architecture
- Matt Davies – School of Environment & Natural Resources
- Christianna Dyer – Student Representative, USG Sustainability Committee
- Greg Hitzhusen – School of Environment & Natural Resources
- Andrew Neil – Physical Planning & Real Estate
- Daniela Miteva – Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
- Tina Mohn – City of Columbus
- Stephen Myers – Office of Outreach & Engagement
- Mike Shelton – Office of Energy and Environment
- Brian Snyder – Initiative for Food and Agricultural Transformation
- Jimmy Uhland - Student Representative, EEDS Major
- Brenda VanCleave – Facilities Operations & Development
- Steve Volkmann – Physical Planning & Real Estate
- Paul Walsh – Facilities Operations & Development

December 20, 2017

