

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS CONFERENCE

MAY 18, 2025

DIGITAL MATERIALS PACKET

Prepared For:
PERC Members
and Attendees

Prepared By:
Olivia DiPrinzio,
Associate Director

www.greencolleges.org

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

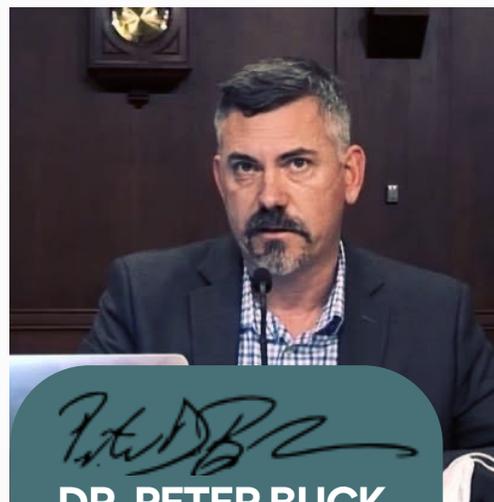
Today, the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) looks back on over two decades of action for environment and sustainability across Pennsylvania's colleges and universities. We have provided thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community partners a platform to share knowledge and take action toward our sustainable future. As a coalition, we take every opportunity to be curious, to learn, and to invite others to do the same. Therefore, we explore curriculum, operations, student life, and community engagement across our network to engage the challenges and opportunities of the Anthropocene.

Furthermore, we recognize that Pennsylvania occupies a special place in the world. We are the home of the United States Constitution and a state with the "right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment" enshrined in Article 1, Section 27 of the Commonwealth's constitution. Adding to Pennsylvania's richness, we also have many colleges and universities of different sizes and legacies, from small liberal arts schools like Dickinson and Haverford to giants like Penn State. Of course, we cannot overlook the present day beyond our Commonwealth. 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded at the end of the hottest decade ever recorded, capping a string of decades hotter than the last. Inequality, injustice, anti-democratic, and anti-enlightenment forces are also on the rise and impacting higher education.

We are stronger together.

PERC knows we need these meaningful in-person connections. It is our role empower sustainability leaders for the challenges and opportunities ahead. After thinking intently about present and emerging topics for sustainability in higher education, PERC curated today's event to benefit large and small institutions, Research I, liberal arts schools, and community colleges. Maybe most importantly, we dedicated the middle of our day to youth voices from our own institutions who are calling on us to work for them and generations to come. Will we listen? I hope so.

I am excited to meet each of you, to hear your stories, and fortify our connections. Thank you for joining PERC today for our Sustainability Leaders conference!



DR. PETER BUCK

President,
Penn State Sustainability
Director for Education

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SCHEDULE

PROGRAM

Sunday, 18 May, 2025 | 10:30 am
Eric J. Barron Innovation Hub
123 S. Burrowes St., State College,
PA 16801

REGISTRATION 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Opening Remarks

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Presentation: Sustainability
Curriculum Best Practices and
Competencies

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Student Film Debut: Sustainability
and Equity

LUNCH 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

Presentation: Carbon Budgeting for
Campus Carbon Goals

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM

Keynote: Dr. Tim Carter, President of
Second Nature

BREAK 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Workshop: Exploring "Fostering a
Culture of Sustainability"

3:50 PM - 4PM

Closing remarks

Sustainability Curriculum: Best Practices and Competencies



Dr. Krista Bailey Associate Director, Penn State Sustainability

Throughout their career, they have put their skills in sustainability research, writing, training, project development, implementation, and evaluation into practice. As a faculty member in the Sustainability Studies program, Bailey developed and taught courses for both undergraduate and graduate students, including graduate and undergraduate courses in Sustainable Food Systems and Leadership Strategies. Their engaging teaching style resulted in a Fellowship that recognized their innovative classroom design, research, and active learning approaches.

Resources

Redman, A. & Wiek, A. (2021). Competencies for Advancing Transformations Towards Sustainability. *Frontiers in Education*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2021.785163>

DiPrinzio and Bailey. (2024). Proposed Meta-competencies and Definitions. Penn State AASHE 2024. <https://opd5018.wixsite.com/penn-state-sustainab/sustainability-meta-competencies> (Below)

ANTICIPATORY	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Ability to carry out or construct simulations, forecasts, scenarios, and visions to anticipate future states and dynamics of complex systems and sustainability problems..."
CREATIVITY	<i>ENGLE ET. AL., 2017</i> "Ability to envision, develop, and apply innovative and strategic solutions and frameworks in order to adapt to changing and challenging situations"
IMPLEMENTATION	<i>BRUNDIERS ET. AL., 2020</i> "The collective ability to realize a planned solution toward a sustainability-informed vision, to monitor and evaluate the realization process, and to address emerging challenges..."
INTEGRATED	<i>BRUNDIERS ET. AL., 2020</i> "To be able to combine and integrate steps of the sustainability problem-solving process or competencies, while drawing on a pertinent... interdisciplinary, ... and other ways of knowing"
INTERPERSONAL	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Ability to collaborate successfully in inter-disciplinary and professional teams and to involve diverse stakeholders... in advancing sustainability transformations"
INTRAPERSONAL	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Ability to avoid personal health challenges and burnout in advancing sustainability transformations through resilience-oriented self-care"
NORMATIVE	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Ability to identify, map, specify, negotiate, and apply sustainability values, principles, and goals to assess the sustainability of current and/or future states of complex systems..."
STRATEGIC	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Ability to construct and test viable strategies for interventions, transitions, and transformations toward sustainability"
SYSTEMS THINKING	<i>REDMAN AND WIEK, 2021</i> "Apply modeling and complex analytical approaches to analyze complex systems and sustainability problems across domains and across different scales..."

Carbon Budgeting for Commitments



Larry Eighmy
Principal and Founder,
The Stone House Group

Larry Eighmy has extensive finance, facilities and operations management experience. He is a founder and Managing Principal of The Stone House Group, which focuses on improving institutions' building stewardship through comprehensive planning, energy and construction strategies. He possesses focused experience in institutional and non-profit finance and has served as the treasurer of Moravian Academy and the Chair of the Board of the Sustainable Energy Fund. Through his projects at The Stone House Group, he and his team share their passion about educating students about sustainability. Larry graduated from Middlebury College with a Bachelor of Arts while continuing his studies at Carnegie Mellon University Graduate School of Industrial Administration and most recently at Harvard University's Executive Leadership Program in Sustainability. Early in his career he held facilities management positions at Brown University, Carnegie Mellon University, Gettysburg College and Washington National Cathedral.

Resources

Eighmy, L. (2015). 10 Steps to a Successful Energy Management Program.

Eighmy, L., & Hayes, J. (2020). The Healthy Building Movement. <https://www.nboa.org/net-assets/article/the-healthy-building-movement>

Eighmy, L., & Hayes, J. (2023). IRA: The Incentive Re-activation Act?

Eighmy, L., Principal, M., Cassel, D., Butch, R., & Hayes, J. (2025). Inflation Reduction Act: Investment Tax Credit Recovery. www.theshg.com

Rodale, M., & Eighmy, L. (2015, August 3). How Schools Can Reduce Energy Costs and Promote a Sustainable Future. https://www.Huffpost.Com/Entry/How-Schools-Can-Reduce-En_b_7924808/Amp.

Rondale, M., & Eighmy, L. (2015, August 3). Three Things You Need to Know About Carbon. <https://qww.Theshg.Com/Post/Three-Things-You-Need-to-Know-about-Carbon>.

Stone House Group. (2025). The Stone House Group Firm Profile.

The Evolution of Climate Action and Leadership in Higher Ed.

Dr. Tim Carter President, Second Nature

Tim Carter is president of Second Nature, a U.S.-based non-profit with a mission to accelerate climate action in, and through, higher education. As president, Dr. Carter provides strategic leadership for the organization, including a focus on leveraging the diverse strengths of the 400+ schools in Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network and University Climate Change Coalition. Prior to Second Nature, Dr. Carter was the founding director of Butler University's Center for Urban Ecology (CUE). Dr. Carter received his Ph.D. in Ecology with distinction from the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia and completed his B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts and is an avid coffee home-roaster.



Resources

Second Nature. (2025a). Climate Action Resources.
<https://secondnature.org/resources/>.

Second Nature. (2025b). Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network.
<https://secondnature.org/climate-leadership-network/>.



Second Nature

Behind the Scenes:

PERC's Short Film

As equity and justice increasingly face national scrutiny, PERC acknowledges both as critical pillars for comprehensive sustainability concepts and actions. Due to the inherent intersectionality of these three practices, PERC selected students and recent alumni to participate in a short film focused on just that. This short film highlights these individuals' efforts in the environmental justice space, both on campus and beyond.

Building upon this, PERC sought to learn about students' perceptions of the role sustainability, equity, and justice play in higher education based on their personal experiences. This film acts not only as an oral record of these students' views but also serves as a call to action for higher education to prioritize justice and equity in all sustainability work. PERC is honored to share the stories of these inspirational agents of change with the debut of this film!

A special thank you to Spark Pixel Production Team for creating this film!



Abigail Thomas
Student, West Chester University



London Dejarnette
Alum, Allegheny College '24



Mia Ray
Alum, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology '23



Natalie Richards
Student, Franklin & Marshall College



Nyla Holland
Alum, Pennsylvania State University '21, '22



Rose Ried
Student, Pennsylvania State University



Exploring “Fostering a Culture of Sustainability”

With students’ desire for sustainability’s integration in higher education, sustainability positions have proliferated throughout institutions. To conclude PERC’s Sustainability Leaders Conference, attendees are invited to explore a common requirement for sustainability directors, coordinators, and officers: “fostering a culture of sustainability.” Broken into three parts, the workshop explores (1) personal perceptions, (2) positions’ main responsibility areas, and (3) how to orient sustainability to support administrative goals

1 PERCEPTIONS

Explore student desires, institutional responses, and personal perceptions to sustainability culture in higher education.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

Investigate campus sustainability positions in terms of operations, climate planning, student life, curriculum, and governance and engagement

3 ALIGNMENT

Brainstorm on how to support administrative goals via sustainability efforts through 5 critical lenses.

+ RESOURCES

Take advantage of provided reports, case studies, guides, and links to foster your institution’s culture of sustainability!



Thank you to our Sponsors!

PERC thanks all of our sponsors for supporting this event! Without the support of its Sponsors, PERC could not do the work we do that allows campuses to collaborate with each other on sustainability.

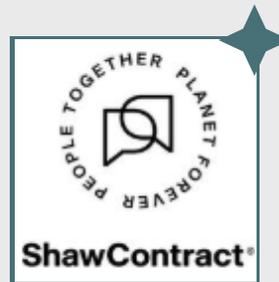
The Stone House Group Champion Level

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Penn State Sustainability

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Sustainable Energy Fund Partner Level

Website: <https://thesef.org/>
<https://energypath.org/>
Email: thesef@thesef.org

Resources

This is your one-stop-shop for resources provided by speakers, sponsors, and PERC's organizers. The resources for the day include case studies, reports and guides, informational articles, and more. Scan the QR code to access and preserve all of these fantastic resources!

◆ Speaker Resources

- Journal Articles
- Newspaper articles
- Case studies
- Reports

◆ Sponsor Materials

- Prospect14's Solar Information Sheet
- Stone House Group's
 - Firm profile
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Investment Tax Recovery projects
 - 10 Steps to Successful Energy Management Program
 - Healthy Building Movement Report
- Sustainable Energy Fund's Energypath Conference Flyer

◆ Workshop Materials

- Development and strategy reports
- AASHE Case Study on communicating sustainability benefits
- Primer guide for institutional leaders and administration
- Additional links to HEI Sustainability Partners

Resource Packet



PSU Welcome Guide



Thank you for attending PERC's 2025 Sustainability Leaders Conference!



“Higher education:
connecting, collaborating,
and taking action.”

Contact



Email: greencolleges@gmail.com



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