



**THIRD WORLD SYMPOSIUM
ON SUSTAINABILITY
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

Sustainability Futures: Challenges
and Opportunities Towards a More
Sustainable World

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Some Best Practices of U.S. Sustainability Offices

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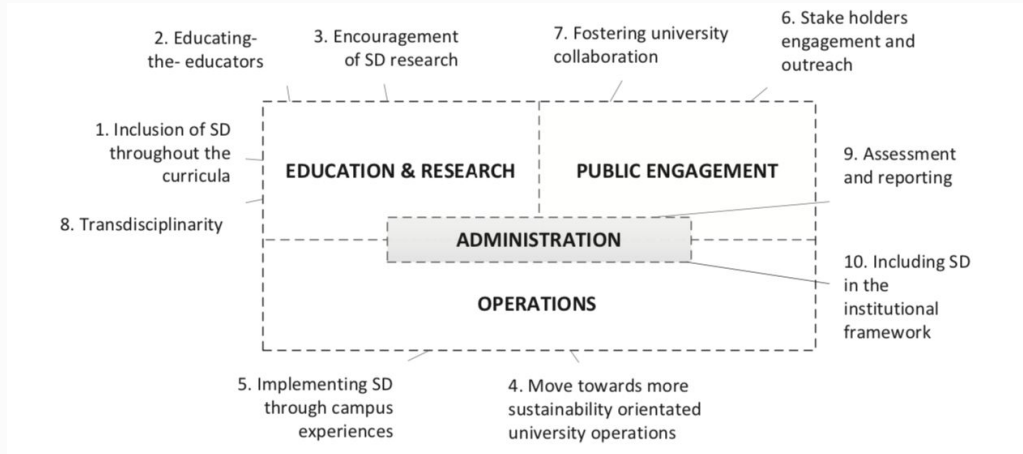
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OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- Highlight Effective Sustainability Office Structures
- Examine universities ranked Best Universities for Environment/Ecology in the United States by the U.S. National News and World Report for 2020 and included in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) framework.
- Determine which type of office structures better facilitates the implementation of integrated campus sustainability goals.
- Describe best practices in terms of:
 - Academic Curriculum
 - Student and Faculty Engagement
 - Innovative Programming

APPROACH USED

- Starting with the Best Universities for Environment/Ecology in the United States and the STARS framework, we identified 15 university case studies from across the U.S.
- Examined chosen universities using the four tiered hierarchy proposed by Gómez et al. (2015).



KEY RESULTS – Case Study 1: American University

- Office of Sustainability – three person structure
- Integrated campus-wide sustainability plan
- Green offices



KEY RESULTS – Case Study 2: Stanford University

- Sustainability Working Group
- Sustainability Working Teams
- Integrated Sustainable Development Goals with Campus Plans
- University as a Living Lab - IDEAL, Inclusion, Diversity, and Access in a Learning Environment
- My Cardinal Green



KEY RESULTS – Case Study 3: Columbia



- Sustainable Leaders Network

Comprised of members of the administration, faculty, and students to generate the university Sustainability Plan, which integrates education, research, and outreach to foster a culture of sustainability.

- Specific programs, such as the smart commuter or the reuse program. They are easy, tangible ways for students to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and foster a culture of care and concern for the environment.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- The elements of successfully achieving university sustainability goals are based on a structure that integrates campus operations, public engagement and academics
- Campus-wide Comprehensive Sustainability Plan, including Sustainable Development Goals
- Integrated Academic and Campus Operations Sustainability Structure
- Engage with Sustainability outside of the classroom – Living Lab
- Provide tangible, easy to implement programs to foster a culture of sustainability

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