



**Ohio Wesleyan University | Environment & Sustainability | 2019-2020**  
**Environmental Science | Environmental Studies | Food Studies (minor)**

More information at [sustainability.owu.edu](http://sustainability.owu.edu)

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*A selection of ongoing activities focused on environmental and sustainability by Ohio Wesleyan students, staff and faculty and off-campus collaborators active during the **2019-20** academic year.*

*OWU's E&S Program has nearly 50 majors who participate in program and campus efforts:*

**OWU Courses** include Ecology, Environmental Politics, Environmental Ethics, Weather and Climate, Environmental History, Environmental Literature, Human Ecology, Environmental Economics, Food Studies, etc.

We have a growing number of **local and regional externships and internships** which can be taken as a full credit course during the semester or summer. We are happy to consider talented freshmen for these externships if they come in with relevant experiences. Some examples:

- Seminary Hill Farm (@ MTSO Campus): Organic farm + food justice
- Stratford Ecological Center: Organic farm + environmental education center
- Delaware Preservation Parks: seasonal naturalist positions, environmental education, etc.
- City of Delaware: Interns working on city projects, environmental projects & mapping
- DelCo Water Co.: Infrastructure mapping & water quality

**New courses, ENVS 110: Introduction to Environment & Sustainability, and ENVS 198/498: Conversations Toward a Sustainable Future** are new courses first taught Fall 2020. These are project and OWU connection-based courses, linking new students to upperclassmen, faculty, campus staff, and our regional partners. ENVS 198/498 is a quarter credit course is taken together with ENVS 110. Senior E&S majors take the course as ENVS 498, where they present their work to date and help freshman shape their futures at OWU.



**Travel Learning** courses to our project site in **Bahia Ballena, Costa Rica** (left) every other year, with a focus on the impacts of global climate change on the regional environment. Part of Geog 347: Environmental Alteration. OWU offers many other environmentally-themed travel learning courses.

As of the fall of 2019 we have an **E&S themed floor** in the Residential Halls. Students are connected to upperclassmen in the Tree House SLU, Environment & Wildlife Club, and with E&S faculty and campus staff, and have specific campus projects: E&S freshmen will be...

- working on campus recycling and the May Move Out initiative to divert unwanted dorm items to local charities
- members of our campus Sustainability Task Force
- working on the design of a sustainable living floor in a future dormitory renovation

A Collaboration between OWU student Janelle Valdinger and the City of Delaware led to the construction of **two bioretention cells** (rain gardens, right) installed in Spring 2018 with more coming this fall and next spring. The cells were designed with plants that appeal to local pollinators and are also very low maintenance.



We are initiating a collaboration with the nearby **Methodist Theological School of Ohio (MTSO)** and their **Seminary Hill Farm** including internships and apprenticeships (with room and board in the summer). MTSO is developing a non-denominational graduate **master's degree in Environment and Food Justice**. OWU students can take related graduate courses at MTSO.

OWU has a range of **mapping, Geographic Information Systems, and Remote Sensing** (satellite and drone imaging of the earth) courses along with internships in these growing geospatial technology fields.

**Dr. Nathan Rowley** (Geology & Geography) is teaching a series of introductory and advanced **weather and climate** courses tied to his research specialties in global climate change.



A student and alumni project to construct a large brick **Chimney Swift Tower** (left) on the residential side of campus is fully funded and scheduled to be constructed in 2020. The tower will be designed with custom ceramics created by our campus Art Department faculty and students, with tiles representing the ecosystem and history of OWU.

OWU student **Brianna Graber** received funds from the OWU Connection and the City of Delaware to install a **storm drain net** in the Delaware Run stream on campus. Storm drain nets collect debris to reduce pollution downstream and allows for analysis of waste in streams. This is the first installation of a storm drain net in Ohio.

E&S is hosting (and will continue to host) a **daylong regional watershed conference** on campus in October: the 16th Annual Olentangy Watershed Forum. This is a great way for students to connect to and network with regional environmental professionals.



**OWU Sustainability Plan** (left): As a liberal arts institution, Ohio Wesleyan University must be a leader in progressive sustainability initiatives through educational, technical, and social means. The Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan created largely by students as part of their coursework at OWU, was officially adopted in 2017 and is currently being updated.

**May Move Out:** A student-initiated project, in collaboration with Goodwill, to divert usable materials from the trash as students move off campus in May. We divert about 10 tons of reusable furniture, appliances, clothes, bikes, etc. on average, each May. Ohio Wesleyan's

May Move Out program was awarded the 2015 Recycling Award from the Keep Delaware County Beautiful Coalition.



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