

Fenn Sustainability Plan | Educating for Sustainability Overview

This document explains the current goals, draft strategies, and rationales for goal focus and target numbers. Brief information on the current state and possible measurement methods is given.

Educating for Sustainability - Students have the tools and skills to live sustainable lives and the Fenn community has a deep connection to the natural world.

Goal	Topic	Language	Rationale	Current state	Metric
1	PLACE-BASED EDUCATION	<p>By 2028, Fenn has a cross-cutting curricular program that connects students and teachers to the outdoors.</p> <p>1.1 Provide training and support for faculty to identify opportunities in the current curriculum for increased sustainability education and outdoor learning. 1.2 Provide training and support for faculty to create new sustainability-related curriculum and project-based units. 1.3 Provide training and support for faculty to help students develop meaningful relationships with the outdoor environment.</p>	<p>Sustainability covers scientific principles, human/community health goals, and economic considerations - it cannot be taught in only one class or subject area.</p> <p>Research shows that elementary- and middle school-aged students turn into lifelong stewards of the environment not due to classroom learning, but to positive, hands-on interactions with the natural world. See David Sobel's work and the Children and Nature Network for philosophies and research.</p>	<p>Currently, teachers across divisions are tackling climate science, environmental justice, and ecological economics independently as individuals. A sustainability scope and sequence does not exist yet.</p> <p>Students have reported through past surveys and current curriculum units that they are concerned about environmental degradation and the climate.</p>	Data collection methods, frameworks, and tracking platforms need to be addressed. Fenn can look to existing frameworks and practices for guidance.
2	SUSTAINABILITY COMPETENCE	<p>By 2028, students have the ability and opportunity to act on sustainability and environmental justice solutions.</p> <p>2.1 Include service and action opportunities as a key component of sustainability-related classroom curriculum. 2.2 Deliver classroom lessons that address the intersection between the environment, human health, and justice. 2.3 Provide all students with opportunities to engage in sustainability-related action/service projects with their Fenn peers and teachers.</p>	<p>Giving students the technical skills and confidence to speak up, create partnerships, and initiate action now will help them be stronger change agents at their next schools, places of work, and future communities.</p> <p>Students can recognize early on that environmental and justice challenges are made up of complex and interacting components; often addressing one problem can help improve another.</p>	<p>Fenn has a strong Service Learning program that has been in place for decades. Many students participate in service opportunities with their families outside of school.</p> <p>All-school activities like Manpower Month and Lightbulb Baseball encourage students to take age-appropriate actions that contribute to sustainability.</p>	Data collection methods, frameworks, and tracking platforms need to be addressed. Fenn can look to existing frameworks and practices for guidance.
3	ADULT ENGAGEMENT	<p>By 2028, all faculty and staff have incorporated sustainability, environmental justice, and equity into their interactions with students and into their roles and responsibilities around campus.</p> <p>3.1 Deliver content and professional development on climate justice and the intersections between the environment and human/societal health. 3.2 Provide technical support and resources to individual offices seeking better sustainability practices and professional growth opportunities around sustainability. 3.3 Update contract, staffing structure, and job descriptions to support and reflect sustainability responsibilities and practices.</p>	<p>The success of Fenn's sustainability plan and aspirations depend on the support, cooperation, and collaboration of the entire community.</p> <p>The knowledge of environmental and human sustainability best practices can be shared widely so that departments and individual faculty and staff can bring about sustainable changes more quickly and over time.</p>	<p>In the past, Fenn has provided professional development days for faculty and staff on sustainability; the most recent one was about a decade ago. The Director of Sustainability has occasionally reported to faculty and staff on campus sustainability and energy performance; awareness has increased over the years, but more training/support is needed for employees to affect deeper changes to the way they work.</p>	Data collection methods, frameworks, and tracking platforms need to be addressed. Fenn can look to existing frameworks and practices for guidance.
4	COMMUNITY SUPPORT	<p>By 2028, Fenn's parents and alumni community are able to foster students' sustainable habits at home and to encourage Fenn's sustainability efforts on campus.</p> <p>4.1 Leverage current Fenn community groups to aid with communicating about and collaborating on sustainability initiatives. 4.2 Develop a communications plan for regular messages to community members about sustainability initiatives and sustainability education. 4.3 On an annual basis, report on sustainability metrics, plan implementation, and opportunities for participation. 4.4 Offer regular opportunities for current parents to learn about and contribute to sustainability initiatives at Fenn.</p>	<p>Support from the current parent community can help reinforce sustainable habits with students. Fenn counts accomplished and passionate sustainability practitioners among its parent and alumni populations; when people are made aware of Fenn's sustainability goals and efforts, many of these adults willingly donate their time and expertise to furthering sustainability practices and education.</p>	<p>Community outreach done during the spring of 2021 and winter of 2022 indicated that the parent and alumni communities are interested in hearing more about sustainability at Fenn (and, through that, learning about sustainability in general). Electronic and social media seemed to be the preferred methods of communication.</p>	Data collection methods, frameworks, and tracking platforms need to be addressed.