

Sustainability in Strategic Planning

To contribute to a more sustainable and just future, through both education and action, Skidmore should emphasize sustainability literacy and environmental stewardship. Elevating environmental sustainability through collective community action and as a planning priority, while seeking to strike a balance between socio-ecological considerations and economic viability, will position Skidmore as a leader, enhance both the student experience and admissions goals, and increase institutional resilience (such as operational efficiencies, energy security, and lower price volatility).

Sustainability Literacy

As “the college seeks to prepare liberally educated graduates... to make the choices required of informed, responsible citizens,” Skidmore should pursue initiatives that advance the sustainability literacy of the student body and the community in recognition of the pressing environmental and social issues of our time. Priority sustainability literacy initiatives:

- Develop and promote institution-wide student **sustainability learning outcomes**
 - Design and administer longitudinal student **sustainability literacy assessments**
 - Support the faculty in integrating **sustainability in the curriculum** through incentives and/or a community of practice
 - Expand **applied learning opportunities** for students to link theoretical learning with experiential sustainability solutions
 - Advance education and engagement activities that **foster a culture of sustainability** through training and communication that builds skills, awareness, and collaboration
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Environmental Stewardship

Environmental sustainability commitments and initiatives are a powerful tool for attracting and engaging students. By greening our operations, Skidmore lives our values about the responsible use and protection of the natural environment. Priority environmental stewardship initiatives:

- Position **climate leadership and decarbonization** as a core objective, informed by science-based targets and executed by climate action planning, with strong consideration of a formal commitment to climate neutrality for leadership, student demand, and accountability reasons
 - Follow a **strategic energy management** approach that increases capacity for data-driven monitoring and assessment to support education and energy conservation investments
 - Deliberate on the creation of an **energy/green revolving fund**, or identify other **financial mechanisms**, to finance energy efficiency and sustainability improvements
 - Pursue and plan for major **energy** (e.g., geothermal conversions, renewables, fleet electrification), **waste** reduction and diversion, and **sustainable food** projects
 - Capitalize on **state and federal funding opportunities** to support projects and programs that save financial and natural resources in the long-term
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Governance

To strategically integrate sustainability into all aspects of the college, Skidmore should aim to:

- Examine internal structures, roles, and processes in order to improve institutional effectiveness, collaboration, and accountability around sustainability goals and outcomes
- Integrate sustainability and systems-thinking through a cross-campus approach with identification of revisions to and development of key policies, practices, and programs
- Recognize and advance decarbonization and sustainability initiatives as holistic long-term investments that improve resource efficiency, address risk, and advance resiliency
- Apply the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals throughout all realms of sustainability teaching, learning, and decision-making to demonstrate how Skidmore approaches sustainability broadly as environmental, social (DEIJ), and economic well-being
- Utilize ongoing annual assessment and our next Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) Report for informed decision-making and goal-setting