

Sustainability Vision Conversation and Input Guide

**For Emory's 2025-2036 Sustainability
Vision and Strategic Plan**

Guide and Facilitator's Companion



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



**sustainability
initiatives**



Note to Facilitators:

This year, Emory is launching the creation of its third Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan. As Emory approaches its bicentennial, the Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan for 2025-2036 will establish and guide Emory's ambitions to model transformative practices and sustainable choices at every level.

To guide the creation of this new plan, a Sustainability Visioning Committee will convene six times over the course of 2024 to assess Emory's progress toward the last Sustainability Vision, craft new goals for the coming decade, and prepare the Vision for leadership review in anticipation of its publication in 2025.

To ensure that the new plan honors the entire Emory Community, your input is essential! The Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI) and Sustainability Visioning Committee are seeking the community's input on your sustainability priorities. Community members will have several opportunities to provide feedback, including in-person or remote sessions, an online input platform, and this Sustainability Vision Conversation Guide. Visit us at sustainability.emory.edu to learn more about your options for providing input.

This guide will enable you to contemplate the future of sustainability at Emory individually or in a small group of colleagues or friends. This guide might be perfect for you if you are unable to attend any in-person or online input sessions, if you would like to submit your input at your own pace, or if you would like to bring your friends or colleagues into the conversation about sustainability at Emory. To lead a conversation:

1. Gather a group of three to 10 friends or colleagues to spend between 30-90 minutes in conversation.
2. Share the presentation or PDF version of this guide so that your group can follow along.
3. Facilitate a group conversation using the resources and discussion questions in the guide. Facilitator's notes will appear in a box in italics on each page to help you lead the discussion.
4. Encourage your group to use their devices to complete the accompanying input survey throughout the conversation.
5. Debrief and share your input by submitting the survey.

OSI thanks you for going above and beyond to ensure that the Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan for 2025-2036 represents your community. Please feel free to email us at emorysustainability@emory.edu with any questions about this guide or the Sustainability Visioning Process.

Facilitator's notes will appear in a white box in italics at the bottom of each page. Use these notes to help you guide the discussion.



Emory's 2025-2036 Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan

This year, Emory is launching the creation of its third Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan, which will establish and guide Emory's ambitions to model transformative practices and sustainable choices at every level.

To ensure that the new plan honors the entire Emory Community, your input is essential! The Office of Sustainability Initiatives and Sustainability Visioning Committee are seeking the community's input on your sustainability priorities. This guide is a tool to help you share your feedback and input individually or in a group of colleagues or friends.

Move through this guide to learn more about the upcoming Sustainability Vision, to discuss or think about sustainability at Emory, and to share your input!

Our goals are to collect the community's wisdom, augment campus expertise, and listen to you! You are the right people, in the right place, at the right time.

This page matches slide 2 of the slide deck. Tell your group about Emory's upcoming Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan, the Sustainability Visioning Committee that has formed to guide the process, and the opportunities for community input.

How to Participate

This Guide is a tool to help the Emory community submit their input on Emory's upcoming Sustainability Vision. Use this guide on your own or in a small group of colleagues or friends. The guide will help you move through the following steps:

01.

Review the background resources individually or as a group

02.

Spend time thinking or talking about each topic and filling out the input survey

03.

Debrief and submit the input survey

This page matches slide 3 of the slide deck. Explain the three steps that your group will move through with this guide.

Resources

The following resources may help you understand the context of sustainability at Emory and the upcoming Sustainability Vision. Take a moment to read the descriptions of each resource and [follow this link](#) or scan the QR code on the right to learn more. It is okay to continue to discussion and input submission without reviewing these resources.



The SDGs

The new Sustainability Vision will use the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework. The SDGs are 17 goals that represent the interconnected nature of environmental, social, and economic issues that support the planet, all people, and prosperous economies.

The Past Vision

The last sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan for 2015-2025 has guided Emory through a decade of sustainability action on and around campus.

The Implementation Progress Report

The OSI team has created an Implementation Progress Report, which provides information on Emory's progress toward all 91 goals from the prior vision.

This page matches slide 4 of the slide deck. Explain the three resources to your group and encourage them to scan the QR code or follow links to read more. If you don't have much time with your group, it is okay to move on without exploring all of the background resources.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: a Blueprint for Peace and Prosperity

In the discussion, your group will spend time discussing what Emory could do to work toward the UN SDGs. The SDGs will be separated into three groups, illustrated in the “wedding cake” infographic on the next page. As you will see on the following page, we can understand the SDGs as falling into four groups: SDGs for the planet, SDGs for people, SDGs for prosperity, and SDGs representing the systems of peace and partnership necessary to achieve the other substantive SDGs. As your group moves into the discussion sessions, you will discuss the planet, people, and prosperity SDGs for ~10 minutes each.

This page matches slides 5 and 6 of the slide deck. Introduce your group to the UN SDGs and help them understand the distinctions between the SDGs for the planet, for people, and for prosperity. The SDGs for the planet, for people, and for prosperity will be the topic of your group’s discussion, so it is important for them to feel comfortable with the SDGs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UN Sustainable Development Goals: a Blueprint for Peace and Prosperity

In the infographic, you can see that a healthy planet forms the foundation for healthy people, that healthy people form the foundation for prosperity, and that peace and partnership support the entire structure.

This page matches slide 7 of the slide deck. Help your group understand the “Wedding Cake” infographic using the description above. This is a helpful way to think about the SDGs, and today’s discussion will be broken down into SDGs for the planet, for people, and for prosperity.

The Wedding Cake



The Survey

As you discuss the SDGs for the planet, people, and prosperity, register your input and answer the questions in the Sustainability Vision Community Input Survey. Scan the QR Code on the right or follow [this link](#) to view the survey.



This page matches slide 8 of the slide deck. You are about to begin discussions on the SDGs for the planet, SDGs for people, and SDGs for prosperity. Each discussion should last ~10 minutes. Before beginning, encourage your group to use a link or QR code to open the community feedback survey which accompanies this guide.

This survey is broken down into four sections: Section 1: Demographic Information and Planet SDGs; Section 2: People SDGs; Section 3: Prosperity SDGs; and Section 4: Debrief and Summary. Encourage your group to take about 5 minutes to complete each section of the survey after you have finished the corresponding session of discussion.

In this survey, participants will be asked to imagine that they are given a number of "Emory Resource Tokens." They will be asked to "invest" these tokens by allocating them to the various SDGs. We recognize that all of the sustainability goals discussed in the conversation guide and in this survey are very important. Because we are interested in learning the Emory community's relative priorities for sustainability, it is acceptable to choose not to invest in some of the listed sustainability goals, even if you think they are important. Invest your "Emory Resource Tokens" in the goals you would most like to see Emory prioritize.

Discussion 1: SDGs for the Planet

What could “we” do to move us closer to achieving the UN’s SDGs for the planet at Emory?

- The SDGs for the planet, pictured in the icons below are:
 - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
 - SDG 13: Climate Action
 - SDG 14: Life Below Water
 - SDG 15: Life on Land
- Discuss for ~10 minutes.
- Choose any SDG that appeals to you/the group and let the conversation flow from one SDG to the others. It is okay if you don’t discuss all the SDGs for the planet.
- Scan the QR code or follow [this link](#) and spent about ~5 minutes on the first section of the accompanying survey.



Scan the QR Code on the left or follow [this link](#) to register your input by taking the Sustainability Vision Community Input Survey.



This page matches slide 9 of the slide deck. Scan the QR code to the Sustainability Vision Community Input Survey, then spend about 10 minutes discussing how the Emory Community could move closer to achieving the five UN SDGs for the planet. After discussing, spend about 5 minutes completing the first section of the survey.

Discussion 2: SDGs for People

What could “we” do to move us closer to achieving the UN’s SDGs for people at Emory?

- The SDGs for people, pictured in the icons below are:
 - SDG 1: No Poverty
 - SDG 2: Zero Hunger
 - SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
 - SDG 4: Quality Education
 - SDG 5: Gender Equality
- Discuss for ~10 minutes.
- Choose any SDG that appeals to you/the group and let the conversation flow from one SDG to the others. It is okay if you don’t discuss all SDGs for people.
- Spend about ~5 minutes on the second section of the accompanying survey.



This page matches slide 10 of the slide deck. Spend about 10 minutes discussing how the Emory Community could move closer to achieving the five UN SDGs for people. After discussing, you and your group should scan the QR code and spend about 5 minutes completing the second section of the survey.

Discussion 3: SDGs for Prosperity

What could “we” do to move us closer to achieving the UN’s SDGs for prosperity at Emory?

- The SDGs for prosperity, pictured in the icons below are:
 - SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
 - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
 - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
 - SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Discuss for ~10 minutes.
- Choose any SDG that appeals to you/the group and let the conversation flow from one SDG to the others. It is okay if you don’t discuss all SDGs for prosperity.
- Spend about ~5 minutes on the third section of the accompanying survey.



This page matches slide 11 of the slide deck. Spend about 10 minutes discussing how the Emory Community could move closer to achieving the five UN SDGs for prosperity. After discussing, you and your group should scan the QR code and spend about 5 minutes completing the third section of the survey.

Debrief and Complete the Survey

- Consider what you have thought and spoken about as you have worked through this guide.
- Is there anything you would like to add as you reflect?
- Take a few minutes to complete Section Four of the survey and submit your survey.



This page matches slide 12 of the slide deck. Lead your group in a debriefing conversation covering the above questions. Then take a few minutes to complete and submit your surveys.

Thank You for Participating!

This page aligns with slide 13 of the slide deck. Thank your group members for sharing a conversation and their input. Encourage them to explore OSI's resource if they are interested. We thank you for your participation!

Thank you for submitting your input for Emory's 2025-2036 Sustainability Vision and Strategic Plan! Your input will be processed by the OSI team and considered in the making of the Vision.

We hope you continue your involvement in sustainability at Emory by checking out the links below!

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

[Become a Zero Waste Ambassador](#)

Check out our social media



[Take the Sustainability Pledge](#)

[Visit our website to learn more!](#)