

A background pattern of stylized, overlapping leaves in various shades of green and grey, creating a textured, organic feel.

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING SESSION: #1 OCT 11 & 12, 2022

# SUSTAINABILITY CRASH COURSE

Before we start, rate your knowledge of sustainability on a scale from 1-5 (5 being the highest). Why did you rate yourself that way?

Think about it or put your answer in the chat! We will take a moment to introduce ourselves as well

# WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY & WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The practice and mindset of making sure that we can meet the needs of all people today in an equitable way without compromising the needs of future generations.

Defined by three core principles (3 Es) of:

**Environment:** Reconnect humans to nature, preserve and replenish harm done to the environment.

**Economics:** Ensure that development occurs not at the expense of the natural environment, but in a way to mitigate ecological costs and impacts.

**Equity:** Acknowledge, address, and repair harm done to women and queer people, low-income, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and disabled communities across the globe. Ensure all people have access to clean water/air/soil, healthy food, shelter, & jobs.



## Environmental Justice:

A movement guided by those most impacted by environmental injustices to achieve protection, resiliency, and restoration of harm done to the planet and people through the education, policy, and activism

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## Environmental Racism:

Policies and practices that result in a higher likelihood of Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income communities living next to hazardous waste sites.



Protestors march against proposed toxic waste dump, 1982



Hazel Johnson, the Mother of Environmental Justice, worked to discover and put an end to environmental racism at Altgeld Gardens, 1994



SUST 350 Service & Sustainability students work for the Chicago Lights Urban Farm, 2013



# ACTIONS AND IMPACTS

## OF THE INDIVIDUAL & INDUSTRIAL

 Transportation

 Food

 Consumption

 Waste production

 Biodiversity

 Energy usage

Industrial nations the most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions

Forced assimilation and colonization of Indigenous peoples

Unequal food access

Disproportionate health impacts on Black, Brown, Indigenous, low-income, young, aging, and incarcerated populations

INDIVIDUALS COMING TOGETHER TO FORM COMMUNITIES AND MOVEMENTS CAN BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DISMANTLE THE INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPPRESSION OF PEOPLE.



# GLOBAL: SUSTAINABLE DVLPMT



United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 (adopted 2015)



# LOCAL: THE SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY



RU students sample macro-invertebrates in the North Branch of the Chicago River, 2010



SUST 350 students planting trees at Eden Place Nature Center, Fall 2014

- Saves energy, conserves resources, reduces ecological footprint, wastes nothing
- Fosters sustainability literacy, environmental stewardship; develops socio-environmental solutions to "wicked problems"
- Engages the campus and serves the community
- Sets the example through leadership on climate change action, social justice, and sustainable development



# SUSTAINABILITY AT ROOSEVELT

**1945:** Roosevelt College founded by students and faculty after YMCA College put quotas on how many women, immigrant, Black, and Jewish people could attend

**1947:** Roosevelt community engages in its first sustainable action by saving and restoring the soon to be demolished Auditorium Building in downtown Chicago

**~1980:** RU Green Sustainability Club is established

**1996:** Roosevelt opens a campus in Schaumburg

**2010:** Sustainability Studies program founded



First student assembly at Roosevelt College

Auditorium Building in Chicago



**2011:** Schaumburg Campus begins prairie and wetland restoration on the 24-acre suburban campus

**2012:** Roosevelt's LEED Gold-certified Wabash Building opens

**2013:** Schaumburg Campus community garden, & Chicago Campus rooftop garden established

**2014:** Strategic sustainability planning begins

**2015:** 5-year Strategic Sustainability Plan is completed and signed by the President of the University & RU earns a Bronze STARS rating

**2019:** Campus-wide composting rollout at Chicago campus

**2022:** Review and revision of Strategic Sustainability Plan begins



Prescribed burn of detention pond/wetland at Schaumburg campus



Schaumburg Campus prairie restoration



SUST students help lead strategic sustainability planning workshops,



Alumni and Professor Gerberich working on WB rooftop garden,



Professor Bryson celebrating compost implementation

Roosevelt University Wabash Building



# 2015-2020 ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

## Context:

- Sustainability is central to RU mission
- Vision for the future and the role of leadership

## Planning Process:

- Student-driven, inclusive, participatory
- Adoption thru RU governance:

## Goals & Initiatives for 2015-20:

- Climate and energy
- Education and outreach
- Waste and natural resources
- Economics and governance

## Accomplishments and Progress as of Fall 2014:

- Affiliations, certifications, and campus projects
- Funding sources and cost-savings





# UNIVERSITY PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

**UN Sustainable Development Goals:** Plans improve human life and environment by 2030

**Principles of Environmental Justice:** Anti-racist requirements for environmental action and social justice made by the People of Color Summit in 1991

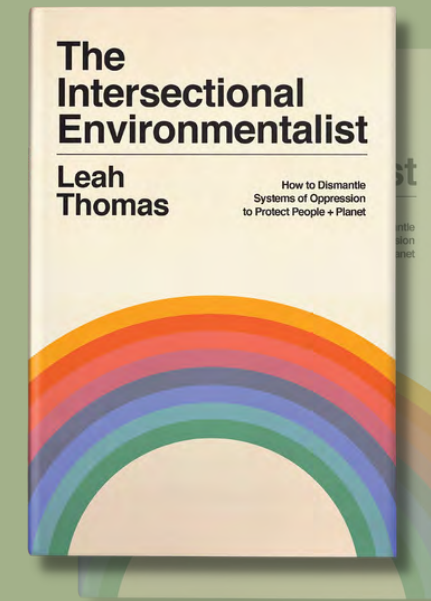
**Climate Justice Alliance Just Transition Framework:**

Transitioning to an economy that eliminates inequalities, preserves and restores the environment, works towards life satisfaction for all

**AASHE Resources and STARS Assessment:**

Covers academics, campus & community engagement, operations, planning & administration, and innovation & leadership

"THE EARTH AND  
ITS ECOSYSTEMS  
THRIVE ON  
DIVERSITY AND  
SO DOES  
CLIMATE  
ACTION"



- Leah Thomas,  
Author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist*



# CURRENT IDEAS & NEXT STEPS

**Academics:** Infuse sustainability into general education & across the curriculum; connect to EXL, service, & online learning practices; increase diversity of faculty

**Engagement:** Expand student involvement & environmental literacy; engage employees & alumni; create active community engaged in social justice

**Operations:** Hire sustainability coordinator; gather & analyze data (energy & waste); reduce waste & improve drinking water access; utilize renewable energy; minimize carbon footprint

**Planning/Administration:** Prioritize & support sustainability; develop climate action plan; divest endowment from fossil fuels; enhance affordability & student access; strengthen governance

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- Identify current sustainable actions
- Set new goals and priorities
- Work towards next STARS report
- Use student ideas
- Procure funding



# GET INVOLVED

## Join Organizations in Your Community

- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- Eden Place Farms
- Chicago Lights Urban Farm
- Sunrise Movement
- Chi Nations Youth Council
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Trickster Cultural Center



Background: LVEJO  
Community Garden Sign

Southeast Environmental Task Force activists  
protest against a metal shredding factory being  
relocated to their neighborhood



# GET INVOLVED

## Take a Sustainability or Environmental Themed Class at RU!

- SUST, SOC, ENVS, BIOL, POS, and other programs offer F2F & online courses
- Service projects, field experiences, campus projects, research opportunities, internships, conferences & symposia



SUST350 students at Eden Place Nature Center, Fall 2014



RU's 1st canoe trip on Bubbly Creek, May 2009, with Friends of the Chicago River



SUST 250: Sustainable University Students after presenting their final projects, Spring 2022



# GET INVOLVED

## Stay Connected to Campus Sustainability Updates and Actions through Social Media

- [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#), [Sust Blog](#), [Instagram](#), [Professor Bryson's Blog](#), [Schaumburg Sustainable Future Blog](#)

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## Join Student Sustainability Organizations like RU Green Club

- [Instagram @rugreenclub](#)
- [Email: rugreenclub45@gmail.com](#)



RU Green members visiting the Garfield Park Conservatory and picking up trash



Beeka Quesnell (BA '15) working on the WB rooftop garden

RU Green members picking up trash on the Ohio Street Beach



# GET INVOLVED



Selected SUST Alumni 2012-2018

**SET THE AGENDA  
AT RU BY  
PARTICIPATING  
IN OUR FALL '22  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PLANNING  
EFFORTS**



# COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, IDEAS?

Reflect on what would you rate your knowledge of sustainability now on a scale from 1-5 (5 being highest). Has your rating changed, why?

**SCAN TO  
TAKE  
THIS  
STUDENT  
SURVEY**

Or go to [linktr.ee/rugreen](https://linktr.ee/rugreen)



**NEXT  
PLANNING  
SESSION  
COMING  
SOON!**

THANK YOU!