Penn State’s Sustainability Strategic Plan addresses real-life applications of teaching and research at the nexus of food, energy, and campus sustainability. “Creating a Living Lab” was the theme of our Sustainability Institute’s 2016 Symposium on Food, Energy, and Water Systems.

Using the Campus Environment for Hands-on, Immersive Education About Sustainable Food, Energy, and Water Systems

Penn State’s Office of Physical Plant (OPP) provides opportunities for Penn State students, faculty, and staff to use on-campus buildings, grounds, and equipment as resources for learning while helping OPP improve its operational effectiveness.

Penn State has its own water system from which it delivers water to campus users. OPP’s extensive experience with delivering water allows us to apply these experiences and apply them using a small, local water system.

Penn State has an in-house laboratory that supplies water for both research and educational needs. OPP has been using this laboratory for many years in order to test various aspects of Penn State’s water systems.

Penn State’s 23,000 acres of land and 32 million square feet of buildings spread across 53 campuses provide a living lab for students to explore the boundaries of classroom experiences and exposure to hands-on field experiences.

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Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, color, creed, disability, or protected veteran status.

Penn State is committed to providing great opportunities for students to be engaged in understanding the complex issues of the day. The Sustainability Institute at Penn State is the center of this effort.

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