

Just DePaul

Sustainability Network Weaving Winter Quarter 2023 Report



Executive Summary

Both Sustainability Network Weaving Events hosted by Just DePaul (housed in the Division of Mission and Ministry) in collaboration with the PSC, were full-house events held in Lincoln Park, and the Loop with 40 and 32 participants respectively. A diverse array of participants including staff, students, alum, and community partners were invited to listen to guest speakers Aaron Durnbaugh, Loyola University's Sustainability Office Director, and Megan Conway, Loyola University's Sustainability Coordinator, discuss sustainability initiatives at Loyola University, and then go on to brainstorm how we can implement similar ideas at DePaul University. Small group discussions and report outs let the Just DePaul team take into account the actions participants were most interested in for campus sustainability. In particular, they were motivated by Aaron Durnbaugh's bold statement that if you don't have a Climate Change Plan, it is criminal. This gave the audience pause to reflect on how we might be more rigorous in our attempts to develop a robust Climate Action Plan for the university.

Participant Metrics

- RSVPs:
 - LPC: 72/75
 - Loop: 60/60

Attendance Totals		
Guest Type	Lincoln Park	Loop
Student	22	11
Staff & Faculty	14	13
Alumni	2	3
Community Partner	1	3
Other	1	2
Total	40	32

Ideation

Click [here](#) for all notes on participant discussion, click [here](#) for staff debrief notes.

Ideation Summaries

Participant Reflection: Think Pair Share

- Easy to talk about sustainability, but hard to implement.
- Having systemic change through education, and educating the youth. Importance of investing in schools and good educational systems. Models of education throughout the sustainable curriculum not only at DePaul, but the entire state of Illinois.

Loyola Q&A

- [Aaron Durnbaugh's presentation](#).
- [Megan Conway's presentation](#).

Topics of questions asked by participants:

- DePaul students (and faculty) are conscious about their carbon footprint while studying abroad.
- Office structure, and how they began the funding process for their office.
- How Loyola sets their goals, and what type of benchmarking process they use to ensure that they are setting achievable goals.
- What is next for Loyola in terms of sustainability, and how they plan to make these goals happen.

Small group discussion and report out

What are you doing to better sustainability at DePaul?

- Advocate for food diversity in plant based food/ compost.
- Advocating for recycling. Poor history of recycling in Chicago.
- Linking students with resources that allow for sustainable practices.

What sustainable practices can we take away from Loyola?

- Work on small things - single use plastic specifically by "Creating the new normal" - reducing carelessness, and increasing awareness.
- Facilitating good behavior by making it easy for all of the DePaul community to do right by the environment. **How do we make it easy?**
- Many found inspiration in a quote from Aaron Durnbaugh: **"It is immoral, at the minimum, to not have a carbon footprint analysis. Universities working towards sustainability should have a net-zero target."**

How do we begin implementing these sustainable practices?

- Staying connected with Megan to begin to implement these food waste practices. We want to know what other universities are doing as well.
- Mindset shift - we need all of the student body on board to push for more sustainable practices.

Contribution to Administration's Vision

We believe that the Network Weaving Events contributes to the administration's efforts in the following areas:

- Responding to the call of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* by activating and connecting DePaul's sustainability agents and assets
- Reinterpreting the Vincentian Mission towards an explicit institutional commitment to sustainability, equity & social and environmental justice
- Increasing a favorable perception of DePaul's brand in support of recruitment and retention
- Providing opportunities for access and transformation for future social and environmental agents of change
- Elevating the potential social and environmental impact of our alumni in civil society and their industries
- Reimagining our digital presence and the tools necessary for networked collaboration
- Engaging with other colleges and universities in the Chicago metro area to create opportunities for best-in-class learning exchanges and collaboration via Chicago-Area Network for Sustainability in Higher Education (CANSHE).

Plan for Continued Engagement

1. Just DePaul to work with [HumanitiesX Collaborative](#) to join faculty and students from DePaul University with community partners from Chicago-area arts, cultural, and civic organizations, in addition to discussing social and environmental justice issues.
2. Invited all attendees to join [Just DePaul's communication channels](#) for continued resource sharing and collaboration.
3. Just DePaul will host another round of Sustainability Network Weaving events in Spring 2023.
4. In partnership with Prof. Lisa Dush's WRD 523: Digital Content course, Just DePaul will facilitate the design thinking process necessary to create sustainability.depaul.edu in order to highlight and celebrate DePaul University's vision, assets, news and initiatives.
5. The President's Sustainability Committee's curriculum working group is developing a two-day faculty development workshop, tentatively titled "*Sustainability Across the Curriculum*," to introduce participants to sustainability and how they can incorporate it into their existing and new course offerings.

Exit Ticket

Responses can be viewed [here](#).

Media

- [Newsline: HELP DEPAUL WEAVE A SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK FOR THE FUTURE](#)
- [Instagram 1](#)

Photos

Click [here](#) for all Lincoln Park photos.

Click [here](#) for all Loop photos.

Lincoln Park Photos



Loop Campus Photos





