

Sustainability Town Hall: Designing the Future Report



Executive Summary

The Sustainability Town Hall event was a full-house of an event featuring 67 people in total discussing ways to promote acts of sustainability in communities at and beyond DePaul University. 53 people showed up in-person, and another 14 joined remotely, to the event hearing from a number of panelists and talked amongst their peers on what ways they can have people get engaged and involved with sustainability. People then grouped together the ideas that they had on an ideation board from different categories with attendee-based questions, leading to a gallery walk for others to read what others had to say and further contribute to the ideas generated.

Participant Metrics

- RSVPs: 91/100
- Total: 67
- In-person: 53
- Zoom: 14
- Faculty: 16
- Student: 17
- Staff: 26
- Alumni: 2
- Community Partners: 4
- Other: 2

Ideation

See [Gallery Walk Notes](#) and [Large Group Notes](#) for all notes.

Curriculum

- Ensure that sustainability courses are common in all colleges. Consider implementing a sustainability course as a requirement for undergraduate students.

Operations

- Limit waste @DePaul. No more free tshirts + things that get thrown away. T-shirts seem to be the most common.
 - How many T Shirts/ regalia are getting donated?
 - How easy is it for students to donate items?

Research

- Supply additional funding for students looking to do research in sustainability.

Engagement

- Have a centralized place for students and staff to learn about sustainability resources and events.
 - Bonus: have a 'suggestion box' for anyone to place any further questions, concerns, and ideas.

"The Garden"

- Addressing the 'privileged food desert' we are in with the loss of Whole Foods and CVS.
 - What can DePaul do to fill the vacant (former) Whole Foods store front?
 - How can DePaul create dining plans that serve undergraduate and graduate students?

Awareness & Education

- Have a clear, concise definition of what *sustainability* means at DePaul, and then act on this definition. Start small, and work our way up.
 - Teach students differently than you would teach a staff or faculty member.

Contribution to Administration's Vision

We believe that the town hall 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 and 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

Plan for Continued Engagement

1. Invited all attendees to join [Just DePaul's communication channels](#) for continued resource sharing and collaboration.
2. Just DePaul will host a Sustainability Network Weaving event on Wednesday, February 1st 2023. Click [here](#) to see more details and register.
3. 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.

Media

- https://www.instagram.com/p/CkeFMKVvhQD/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cjs0U11rW4B/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- [DePaul leaders push for sustainability, host town hall for community stakeholders - The DePaulia](#)

Photos

Click [here](#) for all photos.



