

Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformations

Sustainability: In Theory & In Practice





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**Associate Professor of Anthropology** 



Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformations



## Dr.·Stephanie·Spehar¶

Associate · Professor, · Anthropology¶
Director, · Sustainability · Institute · for · Regional ·
Transformations · (SIRT)¶

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- →Physical anthropologist¶
- ◆Specializes·in·primate·socioecology·(how·ecology·and· the·environment·have·shaped·primate·social·systems·and· behavior)¶
- →Research·focus·on·primate·mating·systems,·group· dynamics·and·social·behavior,·and·communication¶
- ◆→ Secondary·research·interest·in·primate·conservation,· especially·the·effect·of·habitat·alteration,·fragmentation,· and·hunting·on·primate·communities¶
- →Ph.D., `New `York `University; `Master `of `Arts, `New `York `University; `Bachelor `of `Arts, `California `State `University `Los `Angeles¶



When you hear "sustainability", what does it mean to you?

#### When I hear "sustainability" it means to me:

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UN World Commission on Environment & Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987:

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (1987)....A world in which poverty and inequity are endemic will always be prone to ecological and other crises. Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the basic opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life."

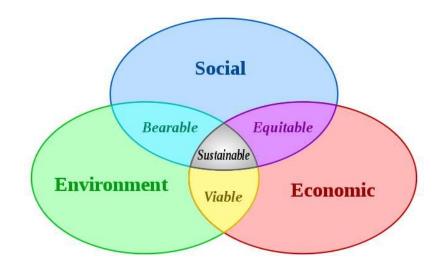
 Sustainability is about figuring out how to structure our institutions and society in such a way that we can <u>live</u> within ecological limits while supporting good quality of <u>life for all</u>

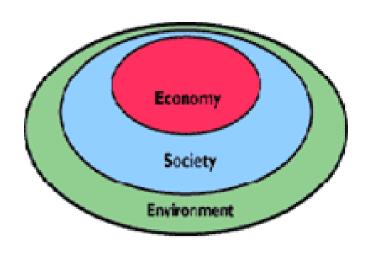
"A dynamic process which enables all people to realize their potential and improve their quality of life in ways which simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth's life support systems"

• UK's Forum for the Future (2006)

## Sustainability Key Concepts

- Ecological limits + social and economic justice: "thrive, not just survive"
- Interconnectedness of human communities and the Earth (often broken into three components or "pillars": environment, society, economy)
- Sustainability = good quality of life. It's about questioning, creativity, and collaboration, not prescription





## **Ecological Limits**

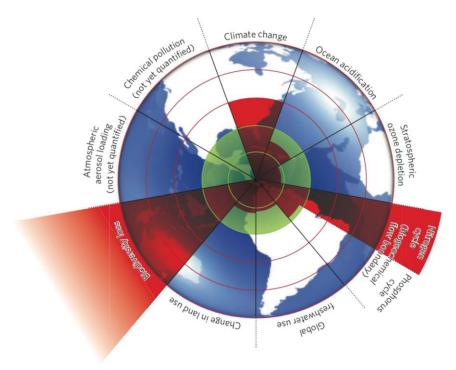


Figure 1 | Beyond the boundary. The inner green shading represents the proposed safe operating space for nine planetary systems. The red wedges represent an estimate of the current position for each variable. The boundaries in three systems (rate of biodiversity loss, climate change and human interference with the nitrogen cycle), have already been exceeded.

Rockstrom et al. (2009), "A safe operating space for humanity." Nature 461: 472-475

News | Climate Crisis

#### 'Now or never' to avoid climate catastrophe: IPCC report

*UN panel warns that policies are leading the planet to extreme* temperature rises, and calls for an urgent halt to rising emissions.



The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says greenhouse gas emissions should be stopped from rising any further before 2025 [File: AFP]

4 Apr 2022





Will "require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."

## Social and Economic Justice

- Who benefits most from the status quo? Who is impacted the most by environmental harms?
- How does "unsustainability" harm economic activity and opportunity?
- >50% of the world's population "highly vulnerable" to climate change





#### Climate change 'cause of most underreported humanitarian crises'

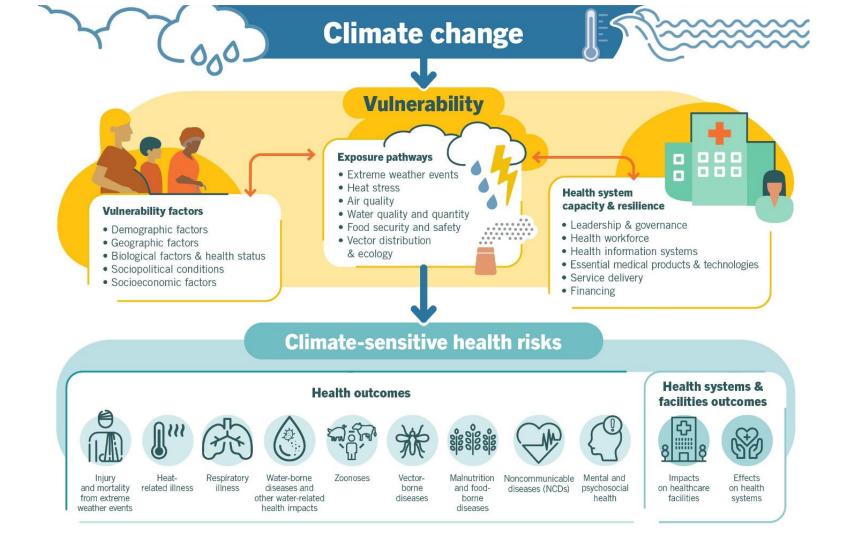
Report says few headlines sparked by food crises that ravaged Madagascar, Ethiopia and Haiti



A girl eats a food supplement in Ifotaka, southern Madagascar, in December 2018. Photograph

Climate change was responsible for the majority of under-reported humanitarian disasters last year, according to analysis of more than a million online news stories

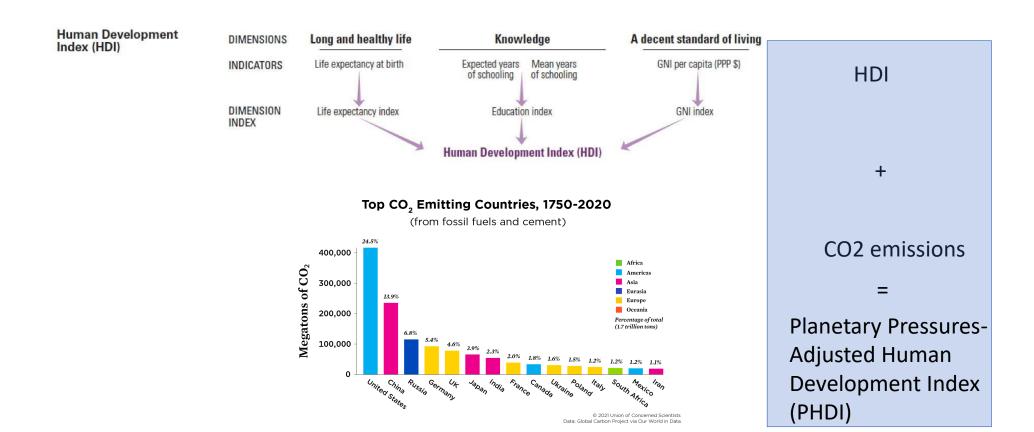




"Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity...the people whose health is being harmed first and worst by the climate crisis are the people who contribute least to its causes, and who are least able to protect themselves and their families against it - people in low-income and disadvantaged countries and communities"--World Health Organization, 2021

## How do we measure sustainability?

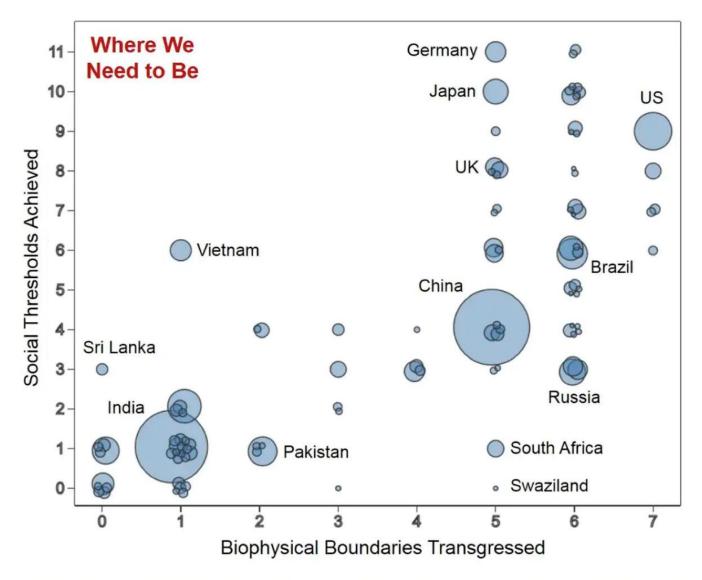
 Plot measures of human well-being against environmental impact: how well are we meeting human needs within environmental limits?



# How do we measure sustainability?

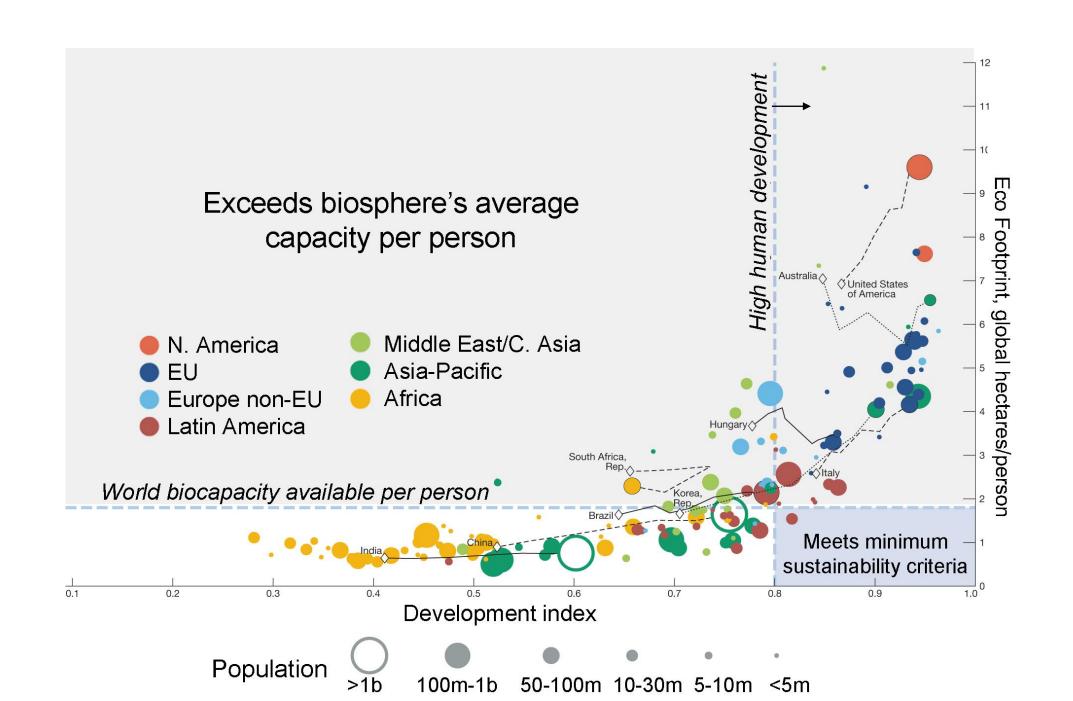
- Good Life For All Within Planetary Boundaries: <a href="https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk/">https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk/</a>
- How well are countries meeting the "social foundation," and how much are they busting through the "ecological ceiling"?





Measures of a 'good life' vs overuse of resources for different countries (scaled by population). Ideally, countries would be located in the top-left corner. O'Neill et al, Author provided

O'Neill et al. 2018, "A good life for all within planetary boundaries" Nature Sustainability volume 1, pages 88–95 (2018)



# But can we measure sustainability?

"Human nature being what it is, we may push the global physical and biological capacities to their very limits, which will be survival rather than sustainability. Survival is merely not dying, whereas we probably think of sustainability in terms of justice, interdependence, sufficiency, choice and above all (if we were to think deeply about it) the meaning of life."

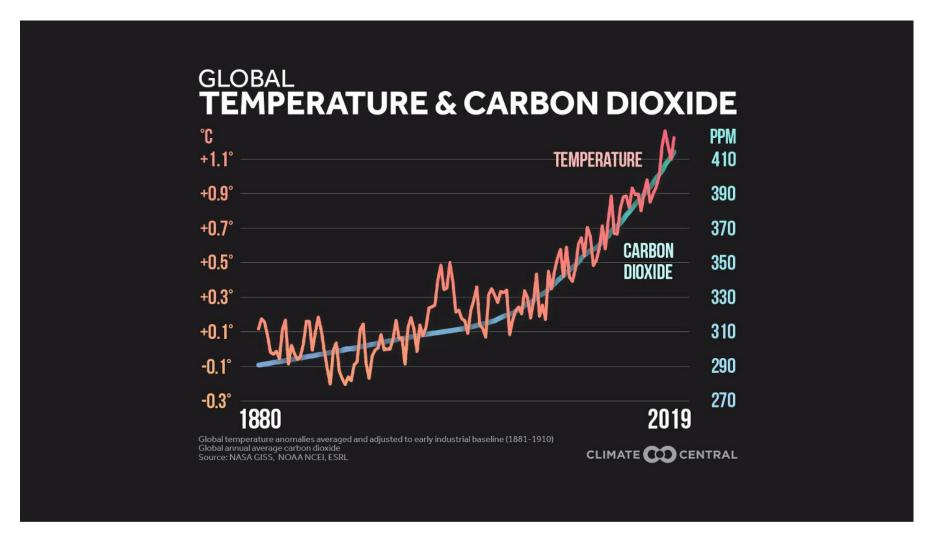
• Fricker (1998), "Measuring Up to Sustainability," p. 192

# Case Study: Climate Change

• Illustrates interconnectedness of environment, society, economy

 Climate change has environmental, economic, and social impacts; has environmental, social, and economic causes

## We have already warmed the planet by ~1.2°C



19 of the 20 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000; July 2022 was the hottest month on record

## Current climate change impacts

- Increased extremes: heat, weather events, rainfall
- Sea level rise
- Food and water insecurity
- Displacement
- All this has economic, social, and health impacts, especially for most vulnerable

Climate change likely helped cause deadly Pakistan floods, scientists find REBECCA HERSHER



It is likely that climate change helped drive deadly floods in Pakistan, according to a



#### No September on record in the West has seen a heat wave like this

In just the past week, nearly 1,000 heat records have been broken

By Jason Samenow lodated September 9, 2022 at 12:03 a.m. EDT Published September 8, 2022 at 4:03 p.m. EDT



The New york Times

With More Storms and Rising Seas, Which U.S. Cities Should Be Saved First?



## Wisconsin Impacts

- WI has already warmed an average of 2.1°F, max in winter
- More rain (+15% since 1950s), more extreme precipitation: flooding, agricultural impacts
- More extreme summer heat, esp in cities
- More mosquitoes, ticks, crop pests
- Lower water quality (blue-green algae)

--Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts





Massive rainfall has put millions of people at risk of flooding and kept farmers out of their fields, harming the nation's ability to produce food. 
☐ SCOTT BLEDN/GETTY IMAGES





#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Connections: Rising temperatures bring health risks for Milwaukee, and some bear a bigger burden



# As Wisconsin's climate gets warmer and wetter, beloved winter activities could be in jeopardy

Skiing, ice fishing and other sports face shorter seasons as snowfall and lake ice cover are affected by rising temperatures.

Madeline Heim, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin
Published 6:02 AM CST Feb. 1, 2022 | Updated 6:02 AM CST Feb. 1, 2022

And summer activities....harmful algal blooms (blue-green algae) are on the rise in our lakes!





#### THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF ACTING NOW

The people in Wisconsin most vulnerable to fossil fuel air pollution include children, the elderly, low-income communities, and people of color.

Nationally, nearly six million African Americans live within three miles of a coal-fired power plant and over 1 million African Americans live in counties that face a cancer risk due to toxins emitted by natural gas facilities.<sup>61,62,63</sup>

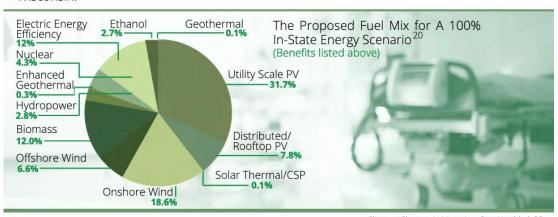
Additionally, high energy costs force lowincome families to choose between essential items, and lack of air conditioning puts these families at higher vulnerability to heat illness.

Switching to 100% clean energy in Wisconsin alone translates to an economic savings of \$21

WISCONSIN YEARLY HEALTH SAVINGS ESTIMATES INCLUDE 20

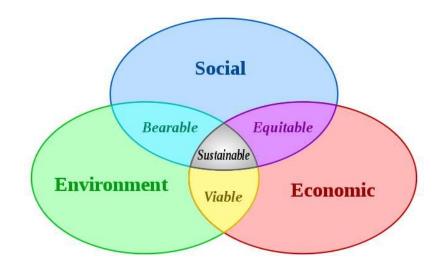
- 1,910 PREMATURE DEATHS
- 650 RESPIRATORY ER VISITS
- 873,000 MINOR RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DAYS
- 148,000 WORK LOSS DAYS
  - 49,400 RESPIRATORY SYMPTOM CASES
    - 34,400 CASES OF ASTHMA EXACERBATION
    - 1,580 CASES OF ACUTE BRONCHITIS
      - 670 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
      - 650 HEART ATTACKS

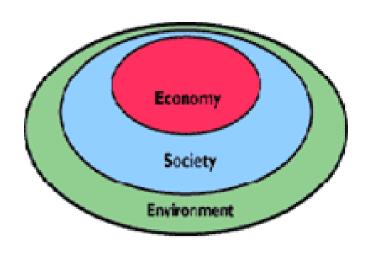
billion.20 Over the last half century, the Clean Air Act has saved \$30 in hospital room visits for every \$1 spent and the estimated health benefits of low carbon policies in the U.S. will offset technology investment costs by 26% to 1050%.<sup>57</sup> According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, the U.S. solar and wind energy industry is creating jobs 12-times faster than the rest of the U.S. economy. Clean energy is estimated to produce at least 162,000 jobs in Wisconsin.<sup>20</sup>



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Alice's Garden



Sustainability=good quality of life Sustainability = innovation, creativity, community, joy-NOT deprivation!



Ohe·láku and Ukwakhwa: Oneida Corn Growers



 Climate Action and Justice at UWO and in UW System





## Bradley Spanbauer, M.Sc.¶

Sustainability · Director¶
Sustainability · Institute · for · Regional · Transformations ·
(SIRT)¶

- →Two-time·graduate·of·UW·Oshkosh¶
- →Master's ·degree · in ·Biology¶
- •→Has·been·with·the·Office·of·Sustainability·since· 2009; has·served·as·Director·since·2019.¶
- ◆→UWO·is·a·recognized·leader·in·Sustainability·and· has·received·numerous·accolades·for·various· projects·and·initiatives.··¶
- •→UWO: ··2022·U.S. ·Department ·of ·Education 's · Green ·Ribbon ·Schools ·award.¶





## Sustainability

- Impacts
  - UW System
    - Infrastructure
    - Students
    - Reputation

- UWO
  - Energy Trends
  - Emissions
  - Solutions

## Sustainability

- How does Sustainability connect to your role on campus?
- What is the cost of inaction?

### For the Future of UW System

- For the future of...
  - our 165,000 current students
  - our 37,000 annual graduates
  - 65 million sq. ft. to heat, cool, and maintain
  - \$119 million spent on utilities
  - our health and wellbeing

#### Enrollment

- Impacts on our students
  - In 2021, 78% of students said that environmental commitments contribute to the school choice (up from 63% in 2018).



#### Mental Health and Wellness

 Climate Anxiety - "the chronic fear of environmental cataclysm that comes from observing the seemingly irrevocable impact of climate change and the associated concerns for one's future and that of next generations" - APA

#### Mental Health and Wellness

- Mental Health 45% of teens and young adults say that climate anxiety if affecting their daily lives and ability to function
- Future Choices Doubt in the future affecting choice to go to college, buy a house, have a family, etc.

#### Infrastructure

- \$1.8 million in flood damage claims at UW-Milwaukee, 10-year period
- \$18.6 million in tornado damage at UW-Platteville in 2014
  - We know storms are getting more severe and more frequent

#### Infrastructure & Health

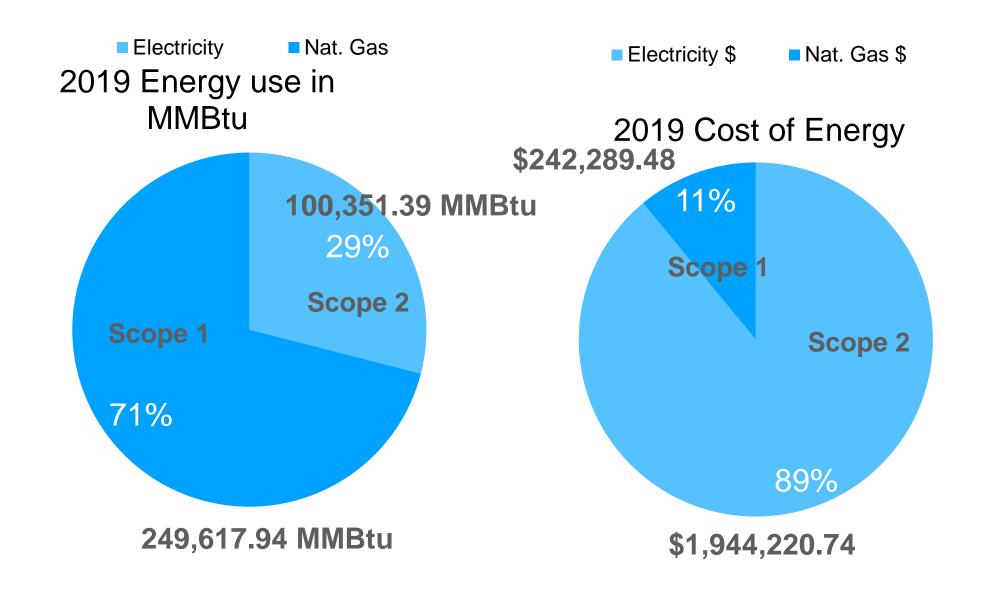
- Health
  - Heat-related deaths have the highest mortality of all weather-related deaths
  - Water-borne disease increase
- Further stress on agriculture, forestry, tourism, fisheries, wildlife

#### Reputation

- University of Michigan Commits to Climate Neutrality
- Ohio State Sustainability Institute
- Ball State (Indiana) Largest geothermal in nation
- U of Illinois System Sustainable Investing
- IL Green Economy Network 48 Community Colleges
- Iowa leading in Renewable Energy installations
- U of Minnesota System hires a Sustainability Officer

#### Sustainable UW Oshkosh

- Energy use in Facilities:
- 30 million kWh/yr for the last 20 years.
- Relying on natural gas and fuel oil for heat, used to be coal
- Students and Faculty responded:
- OSA: OSA 19-025, OSA 20-009, -010, and -011 calling for Climate Neutrality and Divestment
- Faculty Senate passed a Climate Neutrality and Divestment Resolution in Spring 2021
- Climate Neutral by 2030
- We took Action:
- Established Climate Action Committee
- Presented to Strategic Planning



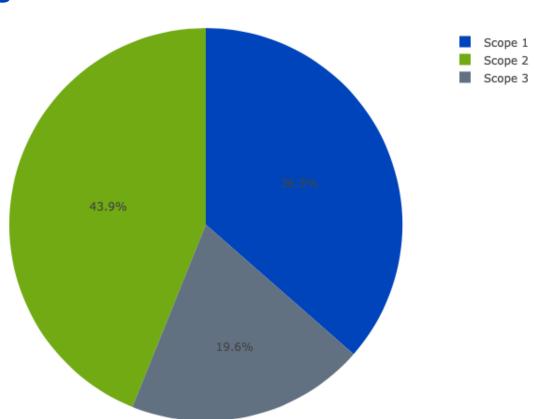
#### **Our emissions**

Scope 1 - Stationary sources

• (Heating Plant) + Campus Fleet

 Scope 2 - Purchased Electricity

- Scope 3 Transportation
- (Commuters, employee travel, etc.)



Carbon: 2019

#### **Our emissions**

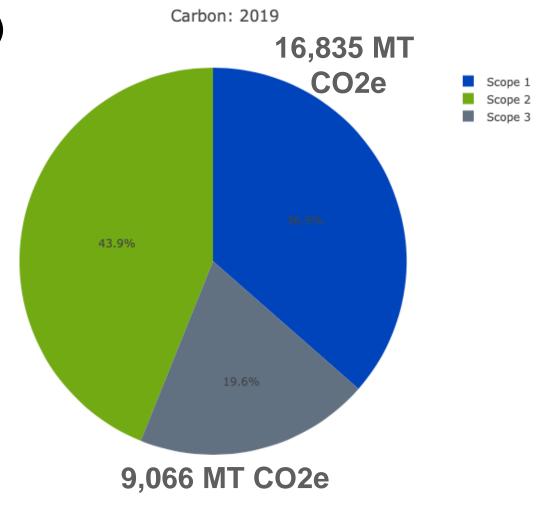
36% - Heating Plant (Scope 1)

44% - Purchased Electricity

• (Scope 2)

20% - Tránsportation (Scope
3)

20,276 MT CO2e



#### Sustainable UW Oshkosh

- Taking Action:
  - Scope 1: Heating Plant and Chiller plant Conversion, Geothermal or Electrified heat pump system
  - Scope 2: Purchased Electricity
    - Virtual Power Purchase Agreement, on-site solar electric panels (PV panels)
  - Scope 3: Commuting Alternative transportation to fossil fuel powered vehicles, purchase offsets, plant trees

#### Sustainable UW Oshkosh

- Taking Action:
  - Energy Conservation
    - Turn off lights, unplug your electronics
  - Focus on Energy
    - \$400,000 in potential incentives

#### Sustainable UW Oshkosh

- Climate Action Committee
  - Climate Action Plan
    - Facilities Master Plan
      - Signatory requirement of Second Nature, Resiliency Assessment
  - Synergy with the Strategic Plan

#### Earth Day 2022 at UWO

- Winner of the Dept. Of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award
- Climate Commitment, Second Nature
  - Neutral by 2030
  - Previously Carbon Commitment
  - Community Resiliency Assessment
- Facilities Master Plan, Synergy with the Strategic Plan



#### Sustainability & Strategic Planning



#### Biogas heat connection project

• UWO received a grant from the Public Service Commission for a biogas heat connection project. Heat produced at the digester will be piped into the immediately adjacent Campus Services Building.





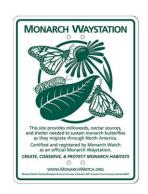
#### Sustainability & Strategic Planning

The future of Sustainable UWO

- Proactive, not reactive
- Sustainability as Brand
- Building a 'Culture of Sustainability'













# Sustainability Journey at 4imprint

Curtis Rohr, SVP-Finance





# Curtis ·Rohr¶ SVP ·- ·Finance¶ 4imprint¶

- →B.S.·in·Accounting·from·Marquette· University¶
- →Current role since 2015¶
- •→Other roles:¶
  - o→Auditor, Arthur Andersen¶
  - O→Manufacturing·Site·Finance· Manager, ·Plexus¶
  - O→Assistant · Corporate · Controller · / · Treasury · Manager, · Banta¶
  - o→Assistant · Controller · /· Director · of · Finance · /· Director · of · Furniture · Operations, · School · Specialty¶



## Discussion Topics:

- Cost?
- SMART Team
- CarbonNeutral® Certification
- Renewable Energy Initiatives
- Products
- Supply Chain



#### Cost?

- To do it or not to do it...
- Significant Risks
  - Environmental
  - Reputational
  - Competitive
  - Compliance
- Company Culture





- Company-wide Engagement Started in 2018
- Continuous improvements in recycling of waste materials – composting project in conjunction with UWO
- LED lighting project full retrofit of office and production facilities
- Team Members participate in Green Masters Program
- Host events and internal chat forum



4/18-4/22)

Join SMART on Yammer and complete FIVE (or more!) activities to be eligible for prizes (details on back).

SHEAR THE WORD	MY COMMUNITY	AT HOME	R	TEAMITAMEN
Share Outagamie recycle video on your Facebook? Instagram/Twitter account	Use reusable bags for graceries	Save grease from cooking and raise with land seed for your binds	Carpool instead of mosting there	Collect trash at your local park and take home to recycle. Past picture to SMART Yammer
Don't tess - Denate and post a picture on SMART Yammer of you denating instead	Ride your little or walk instead of using a car	Post a picture on SMART Yearner of you reusing an item instead of recycling or toos that item	Use year computer sticky notes thritised of paper and pen	Upgrade all lights (deak too) to an LED bulb and recycle the old bulbs.
Start a conversation with year family about what yea, can do better at here:	Start a neighborhood or personal comport bin or share your garden space	SMART WEEK 2022	Fower down your computer at night instead of "sleep mode"	Clean out your car and recycle what you remove. box coded purious tunides in their for an energing collector!
Get a Co-Weddor to "Like" the SMART team on Yammer	ID hard to supplie items and past a picture to SMART Yammer to share this information	Use cooking weater to weater your plants after it's cooked (No Salt)	Turn off your diesk heater and cover up with a blanket instead	Look in your house and find 5+ items to offer fire fire. If no one wants then take them to a local thirt; store to rease.
Call a company about just mail to remove your name from the mailing list did not not have your et anget "cover select".	Carry a reusable straw and/or container instead of using a doggle bag at a restaurant	Reuse egg carters for fire starters or give to chicken farmers	No single use cups for water or coffee. Have a couple at your desk	Stock reusable outlery at your desk





- Began measuring and reporting Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions in 2013
- Achieved CarbonNeutral® certification in October 2021 based on 2020 GHG Assessment (RSK) – Relying on US/global emissions reduction projects
- Included mix of Recommended/Required Scope 3 (mostly transportation)
- Engaged in UPS Carbon Neutral Shipping Program in 2021 – similar reduction projects
- Current focus on transitioning to renewable energy to offset Scope 2 emissions
- Intensity Metrics?

# Project to install a 1MW solar array at the Oshkosh Distribution Center

- 2,660 panel array generating more than 40% of the site's current power requirements
- Power consumption is our largest source of scope 1 & 2 GHG; important step in moving towards reducing our own operational footprint and significantly increasing the proportion of our energy derived from renewable sources
- ~\$2M project, due to be operational late Q3/early Q4 2022







- Major project designed to enable customers to easily find an increasing range of products with a variety of verified sustainability, environmental impact and/or workplace culture characteristics
- Includes clear information as to why a product is in the programme with links to information about the organisations and third-party certifications that make better choices possible
- Approximately 7,000 products to start; will actively seek to grow the range over time as we gather customer feedback and work with our supplier partners to increase awareness of and grow the market for these products

24 Hour Rush Only at 4imprint Hot Products New Products On Sale Outlet



With 4 imprint
3 years

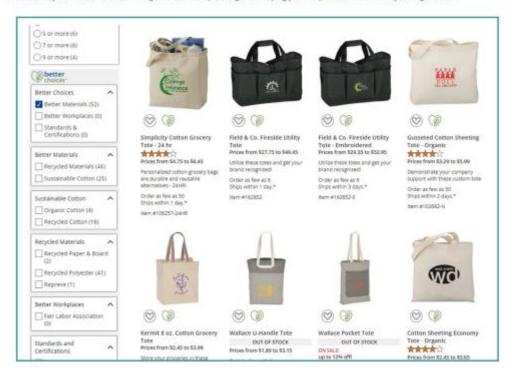
Jim
With 4 imprint
11 years



With Better Choices<sup>to</sup>, we invite you to join us on the journey to a more relevant, sustainable, and effective future.

When you choose promotional products, you consider how style, color and imprint fit both your audience and brand. If characteristics like sustainability, environmental impact and workplace culture are also important to you. Better Choices<sup>10</sup> now makes products with these characteristics easier to find with clear, precise explanations about why products are part of the program. Better Choices<sup>10</sup> also introduces the leading organizations and third-party certifications we've aligned with to make Better Choices<sup>10</sup> possible.

Products may earn Better Choices™ designations in multiple categories, helping you find products that best fit your organization.





## Supply Chain Considerations

- Responsibly sourced paper/packaging
- Transportation partners
- Collaborate with Tier 1 product suppliers
  - Where are they at in their own journey?
  - How are they collaborating with their suppliers?
  - Onto Tier 2, 3, etc.



# ORBIS Corporation's Sustainability Overview



# **Bre Herbert**

Product Manager & Marketing Sustainability Lead



### Who is ORBIS?

- Recognized leader in reusable packaging
- Supply chain insight and expertise in services
- Comprehensive product selection
- Proven successes with today's leading companies
- Proven solutions for industrial/automotive and retail supply chain applications
  - Strong packaging innovation
- 50+ sales, design and manufacturing locations in North America and Europe
- 2,500+ employees
- 160+ year history, family-owned





Containers, Totes, Trays



BulkPak® Containers

#### Capabilities

Environmental Recycling & Waste



PLASTICORR®



Products for E-Commerce Distribution Centers



Products for automated systems

# Top Customers























# Our commitment to sustainability

97%

products are recyclable at end of service life

99%

water used in manufacturing operations is reused



100%

products eliminate the need for single-use packaging reusable packaging products are designed for sustainability

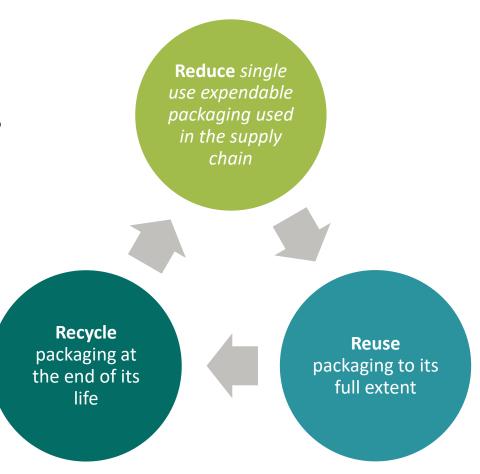






# Mhy Reusables? Reduced waste

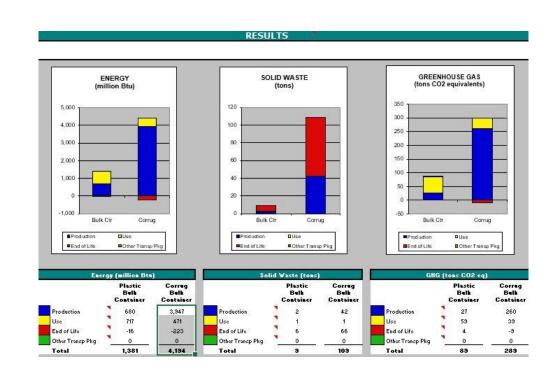
- S Drives supply-chain wide cost savings
- Improved efficiency
- Standardized workflow
- Optimized transportation



ORBIS can run a Life Cycle Analysis specific to customers Supply Chain

## Packaging Design Considerations

- Cube Utilization (full packaging)
  - Right-size packaging to maximize trailer cube utilization
     More pcs / shipment = less shipments = less fuel/emissions
- Light-Weighting
  - Appropriate packaging for application (sleeve-pack vs. bulk-bin vs. steel)
  - Less weight on truck = less fuel/emissions
- Collapsibility/Nestability
  - Maximizing cube utilization for empty return shipments
- Recycled/Alternative Materials
  - Eliminate need to extract or mine for virgin materials



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# ORBIS Material Innovation Center

- In-house material testing
- Creation of material blends
- Material trialing services
- Packaging performance testing
  - Stack tests
  - Impact tests
  - Compression tests





# Recycled Packaging Material Choices

- Differentiate with recyclable material in all plastic products
- 1. Recovered post-consumer and post-industrial plastic
- 2. Recovered plastic at risk of entering the oceans





# Ocean in Mind Program

 Reduces ocean plastic pollution by repurposing ocean-bound plastic into reusable packaging solutions

- Collection of single-use plastic waste near major waterways
- Recycling of collected plastic into reusable packaging solutions





# Questions

