SDG PROGRESS REPORT

2024-2025





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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared global framework for addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including poverty, health, inequality, and environmental sustainability. Adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda, the 17 SDGs call for collaborative action across governments, institutions, and communities to create a more equitable and sustainable future.

Institutions of higher education play a vital role in advancing these goals through research, education, campus operations, and community engagement. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings offer a globally recognized framework for assessing how universities contribute to the SDGs. By combining research performance with evidence of institutional policies, programs, and partnerships, the rankings highlight how universities are translating knowledge into real-world impact.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) is committed to advancing sustainable development through a comprehensive, institution-wide approach. Across its land-grant mission, OSU integrates the SDGs into teaching, research, and outreach, supporting communities in Oklahoma and beyond. Initiatives such as student support services, community-based Extension programs, and sustainability-focused campus operations demonstrate OSU's dedication to improving quality of life and addressing global challenges at the local level.

This report highlights OSU's contributions to the SDGs, showcasing key initiatives, measurable outcomes, and areas of impact across the university. It reflects OSU's ongoing commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and global engagement, while identifying opportunities to further strengthen its role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS SDGS

At Oklahoma State University, we recognize that the world's most pressing challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. The Sustainable Development Goals call for collective action, and meaningful progress depends on strong partnerships, shared knowledge, and sustained collaboration across institutions, communities, and borders. This report reflects not only the work of our campus, but also the contributions of the many partners - local, national, and international - who help advance these efforts alongside us.

As a land-grant institution, OSU is committed to serving both our local communities and the global society to which they are connected. Our mission emphasizes access, innovation, and outreach, and these values guide our approach to advancing the SDGs. Whether through extension programs across Oklahoma, research collaborations that address global challenges, or student-driven initiatives that engage communities worldwide, OSU's impact is grounded in the belief that local action can drive meaningful global change.

This report highlights several areas where OSU has demonstrated particularly strong impact, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). These strengths reflect a combination of robust academic programs, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration that together create measurable outcomes. At the same time, they underscore the importance of continued investment in partnerships that expand our reach and deepen our impact.

We extend our appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, and partners whose dedication makes this work possible. As we look ahead, Oklahoma State University remains committed to strengthening collaboration, advancing evidence-based solutions, and contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future - for Oklahoma, for our partners, and for communities around the world.

Dr. Jeffrey Simpson
Assistant Dean, Director of Global Partnerships
OSU Global
Oklahoma State University

United Nations | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) IMPACT RANKINGS OVERVIEW

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance framework that assesses universities based on their contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unlike traditional rankings, which primarily focus on academic reputation and research output, the Impact Rankings evaluate how institutions are addressing real-world challenges through a combination of research, institutional practices, and community engagement.

The methodology integrates both quantitative and qualitative indicators. Research performance is measured through bibliometric data, including the volume and influence of SDG-related publications, while institutional contributions are assessed through evidence-based metrics such as policies, programs, outreach initiatives, and partnerships. Universities are required to submit detailed documentation to demonstrate their impact, ensuring that rankings reflect not only academic productivity but also meaningful, measurable action.

Participation in the Impact Rankings provides universities with a structured framework to evaluate and communicate their contributions to sustainable development. For Oklahoma State University, this process supports greater transparency, strengthens data-driven decision-making, and highlights areas of institutional strength. It also enables benchmarking against peer and global institutions, helping to identify opportunities for growth while reinforcing OSU's commitment to advancing the SDGs through research, education, and community engagement.

1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1: No Poverty

OSU expands economic opportunity through access to education, student support services, and statewide community engagement.

QUICK FACTS

- All 77 Oklahoma counties served through Extension programs
- Comprehensive student support services reduce financial barriers and support retention
- Statewide outreach initiatives provide education, training, and resource access
- Land-grant mission focused on access, affordability, and public service

11,013

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

PROGRAM GRID

SUPPORTING SDG 1:

1. **Orange Scholars Program**
2. **RISE** (Retention Initiative for Student Excellence)
3. **Student Support Services** (SSS)
4. **Cowboy Innovations Accelerator**
5. **OSU Extension** (Family & Consumer Sciences)

These programs contribute to improved student retention and degree completion among low-income populations.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

OSU integrates food access, sustainability, and community engagement, making SDG 2 its strongest area of impact.

1,044

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE

PLACING OSU AMONG THE TOP GLOBALLY

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Student Farm
- Pete's Pantry
- Pete's Eats
- Our Daily Bread Mobile Market
- Campus Dining Sustainability
- OSU Extension Programs

These initiatives strengthen food security, reduce student hunger, and expand access to nutritious food through sustainable, community-connected food systems.

QUICK FACTS:

- Campus-wide food waste tracking implemented
- Food insecurity programs for students and staff
- Sustainable food options across dining locations
- Strong partnerships with local producers
- Extension supports food access statewide

TOP 30

in the world

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

OSU advances health and well-being through integrated services, community outreach, and workforce development.

1,016

NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Health Center
- Counseling & Mental Health Services
- CNEP (Community Nutrition Education Program)
- One Health Innovation Lab
- Lake Carl Blackwell (community wellness access)
- Employee Wellness Program

These initiatives expand access to preventative care and improve health outcomes across Oklahoma communities.

CNEP

(Community Nutrition Education Program Impact)

14,840 PARTICIPANTS REACHED

4,742 YOUTH REACHED

QUICK FACTS:

- Tobacco-free campus policy
- Free mental health support services available
- Sexual and reproductive health services provided
- Community health outreach programs statewide
- Partnerships across local, national, and global health sectors

$278,037 RAISED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4: Quality Education

OSU advances quality education through accessible academic programs, comprehensive student support services, and lifelong learning opportunities that extend beyond campus to communities across Oklahoma.

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Extension and Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development
- LASSO Center (Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction)
- Office of Student Success
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
- OSU Extension STEM Education Programs
- Academic Reboot Program

183,156

YOUTH REACHED THROUGH 4-H PROGRAMS

25.8k

STEM PARTICIPANTS

QUICK FACTS:

- OSU Extension serves all 77 Oklahoma counties.
- The LASSO Center provides tutoring and academic support at no additional charge.
- OLLI offers lifelong learning opportunities for adults, particularly those aged 50 and older.
- Oklahoma 4-H provides hands-on educational experiences in STEM, leadership, agriculture, and environmental education.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Oklahoma State University contributes to SDG 5 through academic research, educational opportunities, and student-led organizations

PROGRAM GRID:

- Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) - OSU Center for Health Sciences
- Association for Women in Geosciences - Student Organization
- Association for Women in Communications - Student Organization
- Association for Women in Sports Media - Student Organization
- Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies - Academic Program

1st **GRADUATE WOMEN IN SCIENCE CHAPTER ESTABLISHED IN OKLAHOMA**

QUICK FACTS:

- OSU-CHS students established Oklahoma's first Graduate Women in Science chapter in fall 2024.
- The Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies minor includes courses from 12 academic departments.
- Student organizations provide opportunities for professional networking and career exploration in STEM, communications, and sports media.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

OSU combines water infrastructure, policy, and community outreach to support sustainable water use and sanitation.

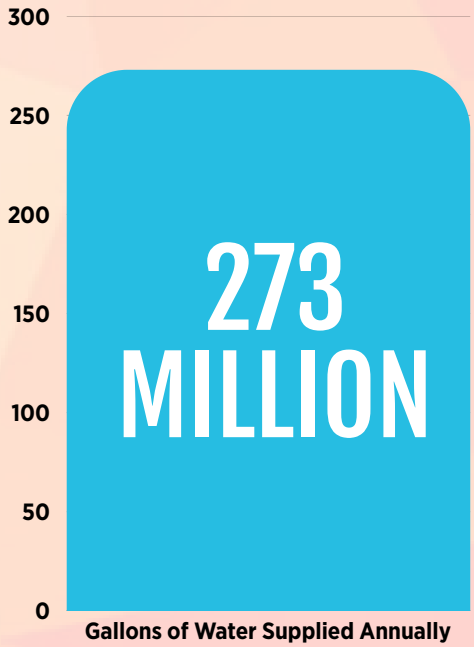
OSU Water Treatment Plant:

- Provides reliable water supply for **28,000+ students, faculty, and staff**
- Supports campus operations, research, and residential life
- Ensures access to safe and treated drinking water
- Enables sustainable water management and conservation practices

PROGRAM GRID:

- Water Treatment Plant
- Water-conscious landscaping
- Sustainable building standards
- Water Center & Extension programs
- Master Irrigator Program
- Global water partnerships (PEER2PEER)

These efforts ensure reliable access to safe drinking water, support sustainable water management, and contribute to the long-term protection of regional water resources.



PEER2PEER Water Security Network

1. **Connects global researchers and policymakers**
2. **Addresses transboundary water challenges**
3. **Supports data sharing, training, and collaboration**

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

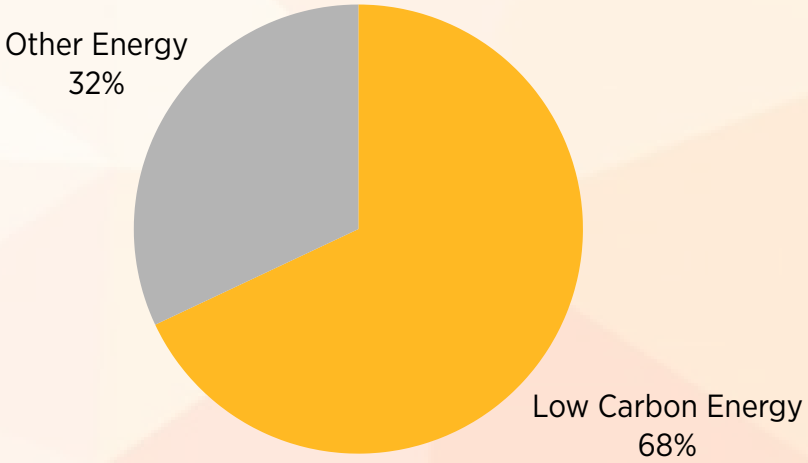


SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

OSU advances clean energy through high adoption of low-carbon sources, energy efficiency initiatives, and community-focused programs.

12 YEARS

OF USING WIND ENERGY TO AID IN THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY FOR OSU, AND BEING A GREEN POWER PARTNER



68%

OF OSU'S ENERGY IS FROM LOW-CARBON SOURCES

PROGRAM GRID:

- Energy Management Program
- Wind energy integration
- Energy-efficient building upgrades
- Extension energy education programs
- Rural Energy Assessment Center
- Energy audits & monitoring systems

These efforts reduce OSU's carbon footprint while increasing long-term energy efficiency.

QUICK FACTS:

- Campus-wide energy efficiency policies in place
- Continuous building upgrades improving efficiency
- Carbon tracking and reduction systems implemented
- Community energy education programs available
- Strong partnerships supporting clean energy innovation

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

Oklahoma State University supports economic growth through career development, workforce training, entrepreneurship, and partnerships that connect students and communities with employment and business opportunities.

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Career Services
- Riata Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- National Veterans Entrepreneurship Program
- Cowboy100 Entrepreneurship Recognition Program
- OSU Extension Community and Economic Development
- Career Fairs and Employer Partnerships

73

OSU-OWNED OR LED BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED AT COWBOY100

$40,500

in scholarships awarded through Riata Business Plan Competition

QUICK FACTS:

- OSU's 2025 Riata Business Plan Competition awarded $40,500 in scholarships to student entrepreneurs.
- The 2025 Cowboy100 program recognized 73 businesses owned or led by OSU alumni.
- The National Veterans Entrepreneurship Program provided entrepreneurship training to 23 military veterans in 2025.
- OSU Career Services hosts specialized career fairs and connects students and alumni with employers and internship opportunities.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Oklahoma State University advances innovation through applied research, modern research facilities, and industry partnerships that support technological development and strengthen Oklahoma's infrastructure.

PROGRAM GRID:

- Hamm Institute for American Energy
- Helmerich Research Center
- New Product Development Center
- Advanced Materials and Additive Manufacturing Laboratory
- ENDEAVOR Engineering Facility
- Cowboy Innovations Accelerator

$258M+

OSU RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

QUICK FACTS:

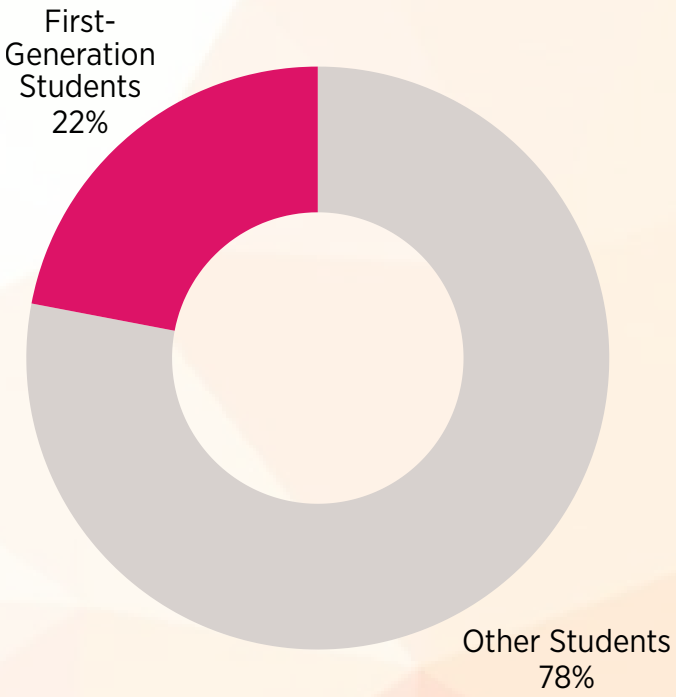
- Federal research agencies supported more than $79 million in OSU research in 2025.
- In April 2025, OSU's Hamm Institute announced a partnership with Divergent Technologies to advance manufacturing innovation in Oklahoma.
- OSU research in additive manufacturing supports technological applications in healthcare, aerospace, and engineering.
- University research facilities provide opportunities for students and faculty to develop and test emerging technologies.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

OSU supports student success through accessible services, targeted support programs, and policies that promote access and opportunity.



PROGRAM GRID:

- Orange Scholars Program
- Institutional Research Dashboard
- Non-discriminatory admissions policy
- Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

QUICK FACTS:

- Non-discriminatory admissions policy in accordance with federal and state laws
- Office of Student Success leads institutional strategy
- Public dashboard tracks student demographics
- Mentoring and support programs
- Accessibility services and campus accommodations

1,267

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS STARTING A DEGREE IN 24-25

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

OSU enhances community life through accessible public spaces, cultural engagement, and sustainable campus development.

QUICK FACTS:

- Free public access to museums and green spaces
- **30+ annual performances** open to the public
- Campus-wide public art installations
- Sustainable commuting initiatives in place
- Affordable housing support for students and employees

PUBLIC ACCESS TO CAMPUS SPACES:

🏛️ **Museums ✔️ Free access**
📚 **Libraries ✔️ Public access**
🌳 **Green spaces ✔️ Open access**
🎨 **Public art ✔️ Open access**

PROGRAM GRID:

- 🎭 McKnight Center for the Performing Arts
- 🌳 OSU Botanic Garden
- 🏛️ OSU Museum of Art
- 📚 OSU Libraries
- 🚌 Sustainable transportation (CNG buses, carpooling)
- 🏘️ Affordable housing initiatives

These initiatives enhance community resilience, improve access to public resources, and support sustainable development across Oklahoma communities.

$16,972,433 SPENT ON ARTS & HERITAGE

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production

Oklahoma State University promotes responsible consumption through campus recycling, food waste reduction, sustainable dining practices, and programs that encourage the reuse of resources.

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Recycles
- ResLife Recycles
- Student Farm Composting Initiative
- Campus Dining Sustainability Programs
- Pete's Eats Food Recovery Program
- Real Cowboys Recycle — SGA Sustainability Committee

6,207.81

TONS RECYCLED THROUGH OSU RECYCLES SINCE 2012

QUICK FACTS:

- More than 6,200 tons of materials have been recycled through OSU Recycles since 2012.
- The Student Farm collects food scraps from campus dining facilities and converts them into compost for growing fresh produce.
- Campus Dining uses reusable and biodegradable products, food-order forecasting, and dining practices designed to minimize waste.
- Pete's Eats redistributes surplus food from participating Student Union dining locations to students.
- The student-led Real Cowboys Recycle program promotes recycling during OSU football tailgating events.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13: Climate Action

Oklahoma State University supports climate action through environmental research, climate education, and programs that help communities prepare for changing weather conditions and manage natural resources sustainably.

PROGRAM GRID:

- Oklahoma Mesonet - Weather and Climate Monitoring
- Rural Renewal Initiative - Climate Resilience Research
- OSU Extension Weather and Disaster Preparedness
- Southern Great Plains Regenerative Agriculture Research
- OSU Energy Management Program
- OSU Office of Sustainability - Campus Education and Outreach

77

OKLAHOMA COUNTIES SERVED BY OSU EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

QUICK FACTS:

- The Oklahoma Mesonet provides statewide environmental monitoring through a network developed by OSU and the University of Oklahoma.
- OSU's Rural Renewal Initiative examines how climate change, drought, and natural resource degradation affect rural communities.
- In August 2024, OSU Extension published research-based guidance on regenerative agriculture, including soil carbon, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate adaptation.
- OSU's 2025 Earth Day event brought together more than 20 student and local organizations for sustainability education and outreach.
- OSU Extension provides weather, climate, and disaster preparedness resources to communities throughout Oklahoma.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Oklahoma State University supports the protection of aquatic ecosystems through freshwater research, water quality monitoring, fisheries management, and educational programs that promote the conservation of aquatic life.

PROGRAM GRID:

- Ecotoxicology and Water Quality Research Laboratory
- Freshwater Community Ecology Laboratory
- Shoup Fisheries Management and Fisheries Ecology Laboratory
- OSU Extension Pond Management Program
- Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Academic Program

3

ON-RAMP RESEARCH TOPICS DIRECTLY RELATED TO AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS AND WATER RESOURCES

QUICK FACTS:

- OSU's Ecotoxicology and Water Quality Research Laboratory provides microplastics analysis, reservoir monitoring, and plankton identification services.
- OSU's 2024–2025 ON-RaMP research cohort included projects investigating harmful algal blooms, microplastics, and water resource management.
- The Freshwater Community Ecology Laboratory conducts research that informs the conservation of freshwater systems.
- OSU Extension provides educational resources on pond management, aquatic plants, fish populations, and ecosystem health.
- OSU's Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology program prepares students to study and manage aquatic species and habitats.

316K+

Ponds across Oklahoma, highlighting the importance of freshwater management

15 LIFE ON LAND



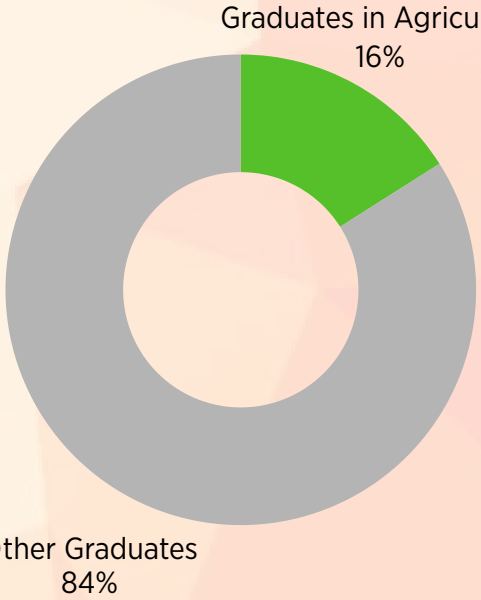
SDG 15: Life on Land

OSU advances biodiversity and sustainable land use through integrated conservation practices, education, and ecosystem management.

PROGRAM GRID:

- Prairie Project
- Native Plant Corridor
- Student Farm
- OSU Arboretum & Tree Care Standards
- Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Extension Biodiversity Programs

These efforts protect biodiversity, promote sustainable land use, and support ecosystem conservation through research, education, and land management practices.



3 PILLARS TO SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT:

- Conservation
- Sustainable Use
- Education

1,044

GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED FIELDS

QUICK FACTS:

- Native plant species prioritized across campus
- Certified Monarch Waystation (Native Plant Corridor)
- Sustainable grazing and land restoration practices
- Campus-wide biodiversity integration in planning
- Strong extension programs supporting land management

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Oklahoma State University supports peaceful and inclusive communities through civic education, student participation, conflict resolution resources, and institutional practices that promote accountability and transparency.

PROGRAM GRID:

- OSU Student Government Association
- OSU Student Volunteer Center - Civic Engagement
- OSU Ombuds Office
- Student Government Association Legal Assistance
- OSU Student Conduct and Accountability
- OSU Voter Education and Registration Resources

3,720

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSES, PROGRAMS, AND OUTREACH.

QUICK FACTS:

- OSU's Student Government Association holds elections twice a year, giving students opportunities to participate in campus governance.
- The OSU Ombuds Office provides confidential, impartial conflict resolution services for students, faculty, and staff.
- The Student Government Association provides free legal assistance to members of the OSU Stillwater community during the fall and spring semesters.
- OSU provides voter registration information and encourages student participation in elections.
- OSU publishes student conduct policies and organizational conduct information to support institutional transparency.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

OSU advances the SDGs through global partnerships, cross-sector collaboration, and transparent reporting across all areas of impact.

QUICK FACTS:

- Cross-sector partnerships with NGOs and government
- Global collaboration on SDG data and research
- Multiple SDG-specific reports published annually
- SDGs integrated into curriculum and extension programs
- Strong focus on transparency and accountability

5+
INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING SYSTEMS

PROGRAM GRID:

- Project ECHO
- IPGS Program (Iran Symposium)
- NGO partnerships (Wishes for Water)
- Engineers Without Borders
- UNAI / global collaboration networks

These partnerships strengthen knowledge exchange, expand global collaboration, and amplify OSU's impact in addressing complex sustainability challenges.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

- 82% of projects meet high functionality standards
- 82% meet quality standards
- 85% show strong community capacity

91% **OF COMMUNITIES REPORT LONG-TERM VALUE**

ADVANCING GLOBAL IMPACT

Through its land-grant mission, Oklahoma State University demonstrates how local action can contribute to global progress. Across research, education, campus operations, and community engagement, OSU advances the Sustainable Development Goals in ways that are both measurable and meaningful. From supporting food security and expanding access to education, to investing in clean energy and strengthening global partnerships, the university's efforts reflect a comprehensive and evolving approach to sustainability.

As global challenges continue to grow in complexity, OSU remains committed to expanding its impact through collaboration, innovation, and accountability. By strengthening data-driven decision-making, increasing transparency, and building on existing strengths, the university is well positioned to further advance the SDGs at both the national and global level.

Together, these efforts highlight Oklahoma State University's role as both a local anchor institution and a global partner in advancing sustainable development. By continuing to align its mission with the evolving priorities of the SDGs, OSU is not only responding to today's challenges but also helping to shape resilient, inclusive solutions for the future. This ongoing commitment ensures that the university's impact extends beyond campus boundaries, contributing to lasting progress in Oklahoma and communities around the world.

Oklahoma State University is committed to advancing sustainable, equitable solutions through education, research, and community engagement, demonstrating the power of higher education to shape a more resilient and sustainable future.












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