



Office of
Sustainability
Princeton University



JULY 2023 SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

A Message from Shana Weber

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

I feel both sadness and excitement as I share that I have accepted a position at University of Michigan as their inaugural Associate Vice President for Campus Sustainability. I will be reporting to the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and will serve as an advisor to the President. My sadness is of course grounded in leaving the dear and brilliant colleagues I have been so fortunate to work with at Princeton over my 17 years here. You have been my village. The relationships don't end here, of course, and I look forward to carrying our shared legacy forward as part of the leadership team at the University of Michigan.

I feel tremendous gratitude for the many opportunities Princeton has provided to grow and strive for a big vision, and for the exceptional leaders who have supported my work, my team, and many collaborators. I am so proud of what we as a community have accomplished together and the momentum that is underway as Princeton enters a new era of scalable demonstrations of climate and sustainable solutions. We are all part of an historic moment of transformation toward a fossil-free campus that comes with some pain, but also inspires hope.

It is with deep appreciation that I thank my team in the Office of Sustainability for their exceptional creativity and skill, care, drive, and deeply collaborative spirit. And to the many partners across campus who have championed sustainability, I thank you. Keep going!

During this transition, I am delighted that the office will be led by the new acting director, Ijeoma

Nwagwu, who currently serves as the assistant director for academic engagement and campus as lab initiatives in the Office of Sustainability. The program is in superb hands while a search begins for a new Director.

My official end date is September 1, with time off in the intervening weeks to make preparations for my family's move.

With abundant gratitude,

Shana



Say Farewell to Dr. Shana Weber

Get Involved

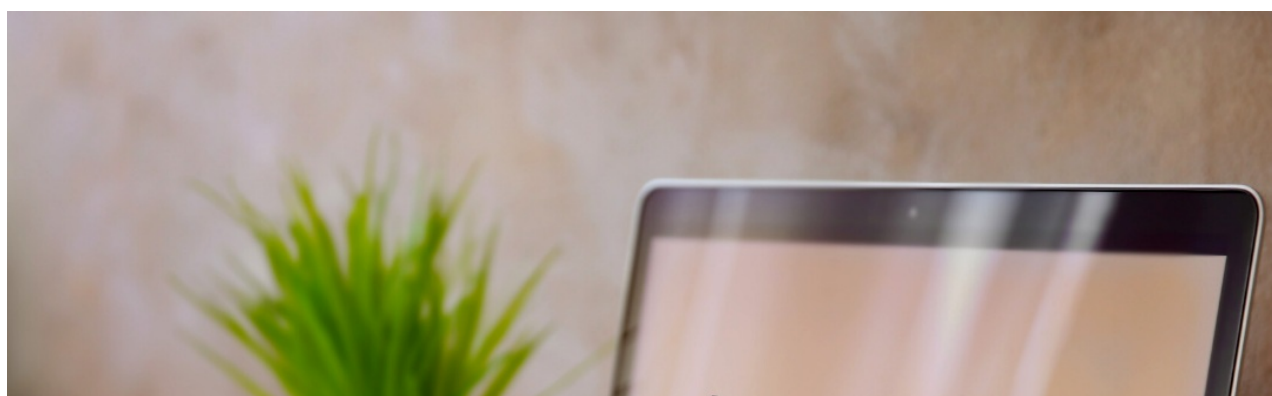


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Office of
Sustainability

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

ECO REP MEMBERS

- Provide bin monitoring services at campus events to support Princeton University's extensive composting program
- Support sustainability-themed events and activities on campus during the Fall and Spring semesters
- \$14.13/hour, flexible schedule
- Training provided, no prior sustainability experience required

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News and Research

**New study evaluates the
climate impact of the IRA**

By Molly Seltzer

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the landmark federal climate law, has committed nearly \$400 billion to mitigating climate change. But will it do enough to stave off the worst effects of global warming and get the U.S. to net-zero, the point at which the country emits no more carbon into the atmosphere than it removes?



Nine research teams across the U.S., including a Princeton team led by Jesse Jenkins, have modeled the effect of the IRA on U.S. carbon emissions. ([Read a July 8 profile on Jenkins in The Wall Street Journal.](#))

The research teams found that the IRA will dramatically cut U.S. carbon emissions, with economy-wide emissions reductions between 43 and 48% below 2005 levels by 2035, but not enough to reach 50% below peak levels by 2030, as the U.S. has pledged. The results were [published in the journal Science](#) on June 29...[Read More](#)



‘This is what saving the planet looks like’: Retreat offers lens into the future of sustainable infrastructure

By Colton Poore

At first glance, the muddy trench outside of Guyot Hall, crisscrossed with metal pipes, might appear unremarkable. But on June 5, a group of industry experts crowded around the security fence to get a better view.

“This is what getting to net-zero campus emissions really looks like,” said Forrest Meggers, associate professor of architecture and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, as the group of dignitaries peered into the hole, which was being fitted with new pipes for a more efficient campus heating and cooling system.

Despite people’s natural aversion to a changing physical environment, Shana Weber, director of Princeton’s Office of Sustainability, used lessons learned from the Princeton Builds campaign to provide practical insight into messaging strategies that counteract negative perceptions of construction. She argued that while easy-to-digest signage is important, campaigns should also establish some channel for communicating more granular information and explaining the visionary “why” behind construction.

John Pickering, chief behavioral scientist at Evidn, added that appealing to an individual’s sense of identity with a group can be a powerful tool for overcoming negative perceptions. He referenced a pilot project at Icahn Laboratory to promote the importance of closing fume hoods for reducing carbon emissions on campus. Even though fume hoods have a small physical footprint, each hood can consume the same amount of energy as an entire residential home when left open. By installing signage that encourages users to close unused fume hoods by appealing to their identity as a member of the Princeton community, Pickering said the project has reduced fume hood energy usage in labs by 20%. The project is now in the process of expanding to other buildings on campus.

“The idea of having pride in Princeton is very powerful,” Pickering said. “People that work here and people that study here think of Princeton as a leading institution that has the power to take ideas forward. And we can tap into that sense of pride to encourage sustainable actions.”...[Read More](#)

Our Community

Meet Marva

I earned my **degree** while working

I met my **husband** at Princeton;
it was love at first sight

I am a **mother** of 3

I feel **respected** when ...
people say hello, even when they're busy



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Office of Sustainability

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