



APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## **Sustainable Technology & the Built Environment**

### **DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN CORE PRINCIPLES**

**VISION STATEMENT:** A sustainable built environment powered by clean energy that contributes to a healthy and equitable world.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To foster within our students, staff and faculty a strong and vibrant culture of inclusion, inquiry, discovery, and innovation, where all belong and are safe to express their culture, identity, values, opinions, and creativity. We strive to create an environment that integrates theory with application, problem seeking with problem solving, local issues with global perspectives, and technological progress with environmental stewardship.

#### **Strategic Direction #1:**

Create learning environments and educational experiences that provide all STBE majors the opportunity to progress toward their full potential as leaders for a sustainable built environment powered by clean energy.

#### **Strategic Direction #2:**

Cultivate a healthy and vibrant scholarly environment

#### **Strategic Direction #3:**

Revitalize the STBE graduate program

**2023 STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT:** By the end of AY 2026/2027, the Department will achieve its mission through the implementation and continual assessment of goals within these strategic directions. A detailed assessment plan will be developed as a part of the strategic planning process.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1:** Create learning environments and educational experiences that provide all STBE majors the opportunity to progress toward their full potential as leaders for a sustainable built environment powered by clean energy.

Technological developments have both opened the door for innovation in teaching and altered student needs for their educational experience. Consequently, there is a clear need to reevaluate how we teach. There is also opportunity to incorporate advances in pedagogy. The goal is to increase and enhance more active and student-centered learning opportunities. This also implies a reduction in passive classroom learning in the form of traditional lecture.

1. Provide faculty development in active and experiential learning pedagogy
2. Assess current curricula for opportunities to adopt active learning strategies
3. Develop new content as indicated, and evaluate effectiveness
4. Explore opportunities to enable faculty to develop emerging course delivery options

In order for students to be effective leaders in a sustainable built environment, they must be thoughtful and effective decision makers. While there are many aspects of leadership, we will initially focus on developing, implementing, and improving curriculum around making decisions.

1. Identify evidence-based pedagogy to develop student decision making
2. Develop, implement, and assess targeted changes into the curriculum
3. Prioritize global thinking and diverse perspectives

Core metric: The amount of active and student-centered learning during class time relative to established departmental and/or course thresholds.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2:** Cultivate a healthy and vibrant scholarly environment.

The Department strives to conduct and disseminate scholarly work that focuses on resilient solutions to important challenges in sustainable technology and the built environment. To

1. Promote and reward scholarly/interdisciplinary collaborations
2. Monitor and report on external funding and submitted publications
3. Engage graduate/undergraduate students in faculty research and creative activity

Core metric: Quantify collaborations, submissions, and students engaged, and survey faculty satisfaction with the Departmental scholarly environment.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3:** Revitalize the STBE graduate program

The STBE Graduate Program remains a uniquely interdisciplinary experience due to the diversity of backgrounds, expertise, and thought of our students and faculty. We strive to revitalize the program through growth in the number of students, while maintaining the excellence of student outcomes only possible via this diverse environment.

1. Review and assess how current and alternative graduate program structures and curriculum meet evolving students and markets
2. Modify program offerings and delivery structure to meet current market trends and prospective student populations
3. Implement recruiting efforts to increase graduate program enrollment
4. Determine and meet target graduate program enrollment

Core Metric: A comprehensive graduate program review. The number of graduate students in the STBE Program.