



SDG

PROGRESS REPORT

2024-2025



Table of Contents

1

Introduction

2

OSU & the UN
SDGs

3

THE Impact
Rankings Overview

4

Areas of Impact

5

SDG 1:
No Poverty

6

SDG 2:
Zero Hunger

7

SDG 3:
Good Health
& Well-Being

8

SDG 6:
Clean Water &
Sanitation

9

SDG 7:
Affordable &
Clean Energy

10

SDG 10:
Reduced
Inequalities

11

SDG 11:
Sustainable Cities
& Communities

12

SDG 15:
Life on Land

13

SDG 17:
Partnerships
for the Goals

14

Additional SDG
Alignment

15

Advancing
Global Impact

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 Nation 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

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.



Areas of Impact

While all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets are interconnected, the following highlight the areas where OSU demonstrates the strongest and most measurable impact:



SDG 1: No Poverty

OSU demonstrates strong performance in SDG 1 through its comprehensive student support systems and community-focused outreach. Programs such as emergency financial assistance, food access initiatives, and Extension services work to reduce economic barriers and support vulnerable populations across Oklahoma. These efforts reflect OSU's commitment to improving economic mobility and access to essential resources.



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

OSU demonstrates strong performance in SDG 2 through a comprehensive approach that combines student support, applied research, and community engagement. Initiatives such as Pete's Pantry, the OSU Student Farm, and Extension partnerships address food insecurity at both local and regional levels. Together, these efforts position OSU as a leader in advancing sustainable food systems and student well-being.



SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

OSU supports SDG 3 through accessible health services, mental health resources, and campus-wide wellness initiatives. The university also contributes to public health through research and Extension programs that promote community health and prevention. These combined efforts enhance both campus and statewide well-being.



SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

OSU's strength in SDG 6 is reflected in its research, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship practices related to water quality and management. University initiatives support water conservation, wastewater treatment, and pollution prevention, while faculty research advances sustainable water solutions. These efforts contribute to protecting water resources locally and regionally.



SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

OSU advances SDG 7 through energy efficiency initiatives and sustainability efforts led by Facilities Management and Energy Services. The university monitors energy use and implements strategies to reduce environmental impact while supporting research in sustainable energy systems. These efforts contribute to long-term institutional and environmental sustainability.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

OSU demonstrates strong alignment with SDG 10 through its commitment to access, inclusion, and student success. Programs supporting first-generation students, international students, and underrepresented populations help create a more equitable educational environment. These efforts are reinforced by institutional policies that promote diversity and inclusion across campus.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

OSU plays a key role in supporting sustainable development across Oklahoma communities through Extension services and community partnerships, initiatives focused on urban planning, infrastructure, and community resilience contribute to more sustainable and inclusive local environments. OSU's land-grant mission is central to its impact in this area.



SDG 15: Life on Land

OSU's contributions to SDG 15 are driven by its leadership in environmental research, land management, and conservation practices. Programs within agriculture, natural resources, and ecological sciences support biodiversity protection and sustainable land use. These efforts are complemented by campus and statewide initiatives that promote environmental stewardship.



SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Partnerships are central to OSU's sustainability strategy, with strong collaborations across academic, government, and community sectors. Through OSU Global and Extension programs, the university fosters both international and local partnerships that support research, education, and community impact. These relationships amplify OSU's contributions across multiple SDGs.

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

CNEP

(Community Nutrition Education Program Impact)

14,840

Participants Reached

4,742

Youth Reached

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.

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

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.

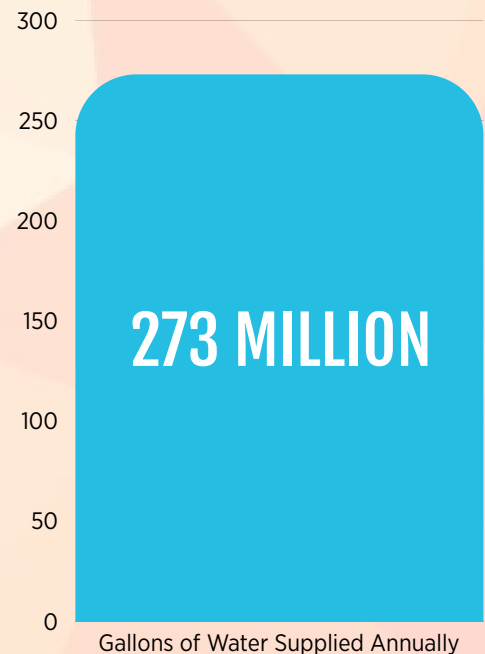
OSU Water Treatment Plant:

- 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.

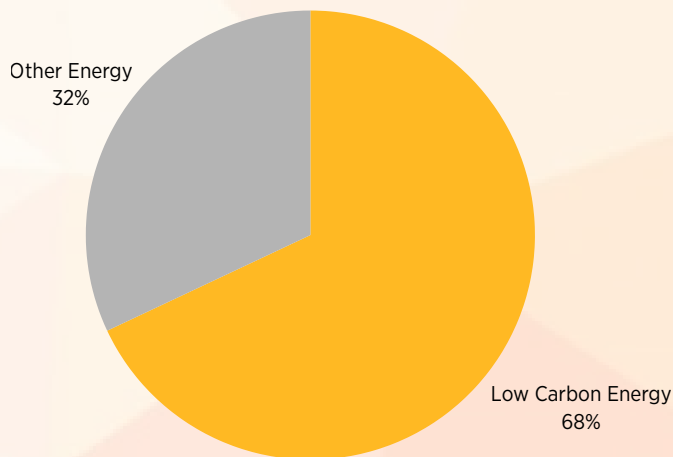
12 YEARS

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

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.



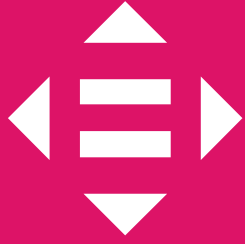
68%

OF OSU'S ENERGY IS FROM
LOW-CARBON SOURCES

QUICK FACTS:

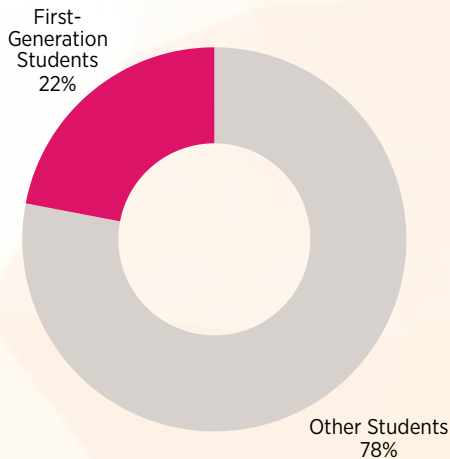
- Campus-wide energy efficiency policies in place
- Continuous building upgrades improving efficiency
- Carbon tracking and reduction systems implemented
- Community energy education programs available
- Strong partnerships supporting clean energy innovation

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

OSU promotes equity through inclusive access, targeted support programs, and institution-wide diversity and accessibility policies.



1,267

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS
STARTING A DEGREE IN 23-24

PROGRAM GRID:

-  Orange Scholars Program
-  Institutional Research Dashboard (tracking diversity)
-  Non-discriminatory admissions policy
-  Diversity & Inclusion Office
-  Affinity groups (e.g., Women's Faculty Council)
-  Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

These programs expand access to higher education, improve outcomes for underrepresented populations, and foster a more inclusive and equitable campus environment.

QUICK FACTS:

- Non-discriminatory admissions policy in place
- Diversity & Inclusion Office leads institutional strategy
- Public dashboard tracks student demographics
- Mentoring and support programs for underrepresented groups
- Fully accessible campus and services

1,304

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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:

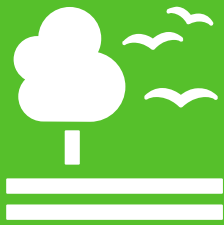
- McKnight Center for the Performing Arts
- OSU Botanic Garden
- OSU Museum of Art
- OSU Libraries
- Sustainable transportation (CNG buses, carpooling)
- Affordable housing initiatives

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

\$16,972,433

SPENT ON ARTS & HERITAGE

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

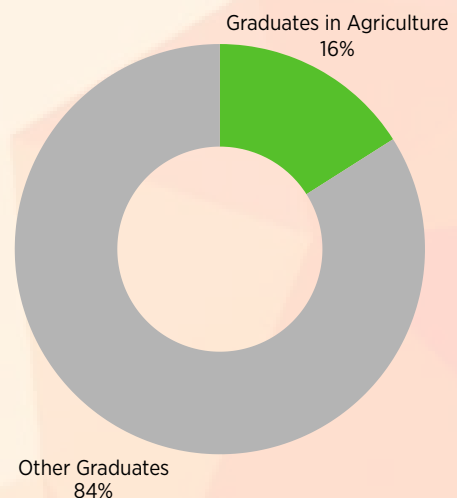
These efforts protect biodiversity, promote sustainable land use, and support ecosystem conservation through research, education, and land management practices.

3 Pillars to Sustainable Land Management:

- 🌱 Conservation
- 🌾 Sustainable Use
- 📚 Education

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



1,044

GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED FIELDS

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

Additional SDG Alignment

In addition to its submitted SDGs, Oklahoma State University contributes to all Sustainable Development Goals through its academic programs, research initiatives, campus operations, and community engagement efforts.



SDG 4: Quality Education

OSU advances SDG 4 through its land-grant mission by expanding access to high-quality education, supporting student success initiatives, and integrating global and interdisciplinary learning across its academic programs.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

OSU promotes gender equality through inclusive policies, leadership development opportunities, and programs that support the advancement of women in education, research, and professional fields.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

OSU contributes to economic growth through workforce development, career readiness programs, and partnerships with industry that support innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

OSU supports technological advancement and infrastructure development that address regional and global challenges through research centers, industry partnerships, and innovation initiatives.



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

OSU advances sustainable practices through campus operations, including waste reduction, sustainable procurement, and resource management initiatives that promote environmental responsibility.



SDG 13: Climate Action

OSU supports climate action through sustainability initiatives, environmental research, and campus-wide efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.



SDG 14: Life Below Water

OSU contributes to the protection and sustainable management of water resources through research and outreach related to water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and environmental stewardship.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

OSU supports climate action through sustainability initiatives, environmental research, and campus-wide efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

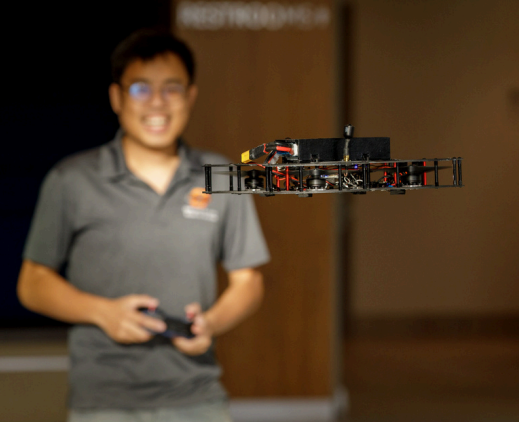
Advancing Global Impact

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.



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
GLOBAL

107 Wes Watkins Center
Stillwater, OK 74078
405-744-6606
globalpartners@okstate.edu
global.okstate.edu