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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

ABOUT US

Penn Sustainability Review (PSR) is a student-run online and print publication featuring sustainability-related opinion editorials, leadership interviews, and academic papers. We aim to provide a platform for all members of the Penn community to exchange knowledge, ideas, and perspectives on wide-ranging sustainability issues. Over the course of each semester, the PSR team will publish a print publication and will maintain regular online updates —through blogs and editorials— that incorporate relevant thought-provoking articles. Both the print and online editions of PSR will cover a number of topics including: climate change, green architecture, corporate strategic sustainability, resource and energy conservation, public policy, and sustainable technology to name a few!

OUR SPONSORS

The Kleinman Center for Energy Policy focuses on reframing the relationship between research and practice to support policy innovation. Launched in 2014, the Kleinman Center provides a forum for scholars and stakeholders to overcome persistent barriers to energy productivity, and construct fair energy policy options.

Student Sustainability Association at Penn is the official student sustainability umbrella group at Penn. SSAP was founded in 2010 to foster cohesion among environmentally-focused student groups, develop strategies for impacting campus sustainability, and to create a unified student voice on green issues at Penn.

The Department of Earth and Environmental Science is the overarching academic unit for environmental science, policy and sustainability studies. The department's self-proclaimed mission is "to bring the time perspective of the Earth scientist to bear on contemporary problems of natural resource conservation and environmental quality."

The Penn Office of Sustainability supports the academic mission embodied in Penn's Climate Action Plan 2.0: to expand opportunities for teaching, learning, and researching sustainability among students, staff, and faculty. The goal is that every Penn student graduates with an understanding of sustainability and climate change, and is prepared to address the global environmental challenges of the 21st Century.

DEAR READERS,

In November 2015, President Obama and 150 other world leaders gathered in Paris to discuss climate change, sustainable development and to forge a global, unified path moving forward. Their mandate was to create a legally binding framework on the path towards carbon emission reductions. Despite the failures of numerous past climate conferences, there was an overarching sense of optimism among participants this year.

It is clear that action will not be easy nor cheap. To that end, it is critically important that we, as individuals, as nations and as an increasingly interconnected world, optimize our sustainability efforts, a concern addressed by this issue of PSR.

Taking actions that have the highest impact and the lowest cost, both socially, economically and ecologically, is critical. We at PSR are excited to introduce our first peer reviewed issue on the theme of 'Optimizing Sustainability.' It is our hope that these articles will inspire readers to consider the real implications of climate change mitigation efforts, such that we can create a more unified, efficient approach.

Sustainably yours,

Sasha Klebinkov