

ODC NETWORK SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

Final Draft 3.30.2022

Core to Our Values

The ODC Network (ODCN) strives to incorporate sustainability as one of its core organizational values. Promoting sustainability through our practices, programming, and partnerships is critical to our organization's success and to the health of the communities that we serve. It is a means of connecting the two foundational pursuits of our mission; a tangible way to act on the outdoor education that we provide in a manner that promotes conservation of the land, water, and natural resources. We acknowledge the importance of stewarding the land, as the indigenous peoples did long before us, for the betterment of the entire community.

Towards a Nature-rich Community

We affirm the common definition of sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Yet we challenge ourselves to aim higher - to see opportunity in this space beyond social responsibility, risk avoidance, and compliance. Our endeavor is to embrace Richard Louv's vision of a nature-rich community, employing strategies that *advance beauty, health, biodiversity, creativity, and social justice* in West Michigan. We will do so by demonstrating our commitment to sustainability through our day-to-day operations; developing sustainability-focused programs and curriculum for our community; and working closely with our partners to share best practices and implement innovative solutions.

We commit ourselves to the following:

Practices:

- Reviewing energy procurement, performance, and efficiency for existing ODCN buildings annually and prioritizing best practices with all new construction projects
- Minimizing our waste stream across all business lines
- Pursuing low-emissions transportation solutions for our employees, visitors, and partners
- Providing transparency through regular reporting

Programming:

- Developing and delivering sustainability education for students through ODC Education Network
- Providing sustainability-oriented programming to the general public
- Developing a community-hub that acts as a gathering place and distribution point for sustainability resources and educational materials

Partnerships:

- Collaborating with community partners to advance sustainability
- Sharing and promoting existing resources from other organizations
- Working with our corporate partners to implement nature-rich solutions in the business environment

Our sustainability goals are directly connected to our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Accordingly, we will be intentional about multi-stakeholder engagement and will pursue these commitments in a way that includes a variety of voices and identities to promote environmental justice in our community.

Every person working for, on behalf of, or in representation of the ODC Network has a personal responsibility for implementing and promoting these principles in their day-to-day dealings with customers, stakeholders, partners, team members and the community.

Sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement with an ever-evolving body of knowledge and methodologies. Accordingly, the ODC Network shall regularly review the objectives outlined in this policy and make every effort to ensure that the organization is meeting our mission and the desired goals and values represented in this Sustainability Commitment.