There are several different factors to consider when starting a Pod on campus. Use this Action Sheet to think through the different options, namely whether an existing club becomes a Pod, or if a Pod needs to be started from scratch. This Roadmap provides a basic overview of the necessary steps to create your Pod.

1. Decide you want to make a difference on campus
2. Read the Toolkit
3. Connect with the Pod Network
4. Hold your first Pod meeting
5. Start a new group, or...
6. ...Work with an existing group
Connecting to the Pod Network

Turning an Existing Club into a Pod: If there is already an existing vegan/animal rights/environmental club which wants to become a Pod, great! Either redesign and redefine the existing club using this Toolkit, or the club can become part of the Pod Network with relatively no changes to the group procedures.

1. Identify an existing club that wants to join the Pod Network, and connect with tens of thousands of people and nearly 500 Pods.
2. Decide who the Group/Pod leader will be (this can be the president of the club, or another appointed club member who wants to stay connected with PPC).
3. The Group Leader will need to submit an application for the Pod.
4. Partake in a short (20-30 minute) interview with a PPC staff member.
5. If desired, restructure the board members, meeting schedule and/or location, the club's mission and name, and anything else, using the sheets in this Toolkit.
6. Schedule the Pod's first meeting!

Creating a Pod from Scratch: If there is no existing vegan group on campus, use these materials as a guide to create a Pod from scratch. Use this Action Sheet to help determine if the Pod should be an official club on campus, or if the Pod can remain independent from your college. If you decide to take the official club route, the process of starting a new club varies across college campuses. Use your college's resources, which may include a “starting a club” webpage, a meeting about new clubs, or a faculty/staff member who works with clubs.

1. If possible, identify another student who is vegan and wants to be involved with the Pod. This will help tremendously with getting the Pod started.
2. Submit an application to start a Pod.
3. Partake in a short (20-30 minute) interview with a PPC staff member.
4. Use the documents in this Toolkit to set up your Pod, and then to hold meetings, organize events, and promote the club.
5. Recruit interested friends and peers and hold the Pod's first meeting!

Campus Club or Not?

The Pod does not have to be an official club on your college campus, yet the benefits of being a club should not be overlooked. An official club on campus may have access to funds from the college, the ability to reserve a table at club fairs, and be listed as a club by the university to help with promotion.

There may be circumstances where it is better not to become an official club on campus. Look into the restrictions on campus clubs, especially as they relate to funds. For example, a club may only be able to spend 20% of their funds (from the college) on food. If your Pod will be too restricted by the college rules, then it is up to the Pod leader and members to decide if it is worth being an official club.

We welcome you to send suggestions and ideas to info@plantpurecommunities.org This material may not be used out of context. Please refer to PPC's terms and conditions for more information. Updated June 2018.