UMD representation at the Student Engagement Leadership Forum on Sustainability, April 2019

Executive Summary (1 of 2)

We support student involvement and action in sustainability. The Office of Sustainability continues to offer multiple dimensions of student engagement, through campus programming, collaborative learning opportunities, and providing a supportive learning environment for students. From Bulldog Welcome Week through Spring Move-Out Reuse programs, we offer students a myriad of opportunities to get involved and connect with other students and our community. We support student projects that apply classroom learning to real-world issues on our campus and in our community.

We pursue projects and planning for a more resilient future. The purpose, scope, and goals for a UMD Master Energy/Utility Plan are solidly determined, and we explored funding pathways (rebates, grants, UMN-system resources) for a planning process. We supported a student on an energy end-use analysis that revealed large savings opportunities on LED lighting retrofits around campus. UMD Sustainability Committees worked on goal-setting for sustainability education and operations.
We guide and communicate sustainability progress at UMD.

STARS is the ultimate tracking and rating system for measuring campus progress, and we are nearly complete in submitting a 2019 update. We increased data transparency by posting key metrics on energy, waste, food, transportation, and student learning in an online Campus Databook. We share progress on sustainability in newsletters, presentations, and tours, and we keep timely features on our website and social media sites. Our staff were featured during local events, such as the Youth Environmental Summit: Our Planet, Our Future event and the Our Climate Futures Summit at UMD. We connect our work to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by U.N. in 2015.
Guiding Statements

I. Vision
UMD Sustainability inspires learning, understanding, and action around sustainability across campus and in the community. Our communication efforts, project and program coordination, and involvement in operational changes provide visible demonstrations of the campus commitment to sustainability.

II. Values
Sustainability, Learning, Collaboration, Excellence, Connection

III. Mission
The UMD Office of Sustainability is committed to communicating, educating, and inspiring action to integrate sustainability into all aspects of campus life.
## 2018-2019 Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainability Goal</th>
<th>Mapping to University Goals</th>
<th>Mapping to Student Life Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connect sustainability with student learning opportunities</td>
<td>1, 5, 6</td>
<td>1, 2, 5</td>
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<td>Clearly communicate progress and challenges in sustainability research, operations, and education</td>
<td>1, 6</td>
<td>1, 4, 6</td>
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<td>Assist in community collaborations and campus partnerships related to sustainability</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5</td>
<td>1, 2, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide leadership for campus sustainability efforts, support departments, faculty, and student groups</td>
<td>1, 6</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
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Students guide our objectives

Students arrive at UMD *activated* around sustainability. They expect green buildings, renewable energy, composting as a waste stream, and sustainability as part of decision-making at UMD.
Objective 1

Students will be connected with sustainability learning opportunities, whether integrated into existing programs, education, coursework and research, or through new initiatives.

Desired Outcome
Increase the number of students participating in sustainability learning opportunities.

Actions
▪ Tracked participants in tours, class presentations, volunteer hours, events, programs, and activities with a sustainability focus
▪ Gathered participant feedback on involvement with sustainability opportunities

Results - What we learned
▪ Our tracking system is working well and is incomparable to previous years in terms of measuring reach and participation
▪ Presentations and tours for classes increased from 17 in 2017-18 to 26 in 2018-19. The number of people reached increased by 63% this year.
▪ New initiatives and partnerships are raising the profile of the sustainability office, increasing the amount of requests for sustainability related talks, programming, and learning opportunities
▪ Supported Student Association Director of Sustainability in their first year
Objective 2

Continue outreach activities to encourage sustainable actions and communicate sustainable changes from all areas around campus

Desired Outcome

▪ Consistent, timely communication of sustainability news to broad audiences
▪ Raise awareness and encourage action on sustainable topics

Action Steps

▪ Tracked key communication items: media stories, tabling, and events
▪ Monitored and tracked web and social media engagement, using existing analytics software

Results

▪ “Be Mine. Love, Planet Earth” Valentine’s Day event with YouMatter
▪ Promoted creation of meal swipe program with Dining Services to address food insecurity issues
▪ Trash, food waste audits, DIY essentials
▪ Our Climate Futures, Our Planet, Our Future Summit
▪ Water Week Tabling
▪ Pollinator Pledge and Bat Houses on campus
Objective 3

Partnerships with faculty, students, and community members on energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy projects continue or are created

Desired Outcome

▪ Energy Planning effort will begin
▪ Involvement in community sustainability partnerships continue

Action Steps

▪ Worked with Facilities Management towards Energy & Utilities Master Plan

Results

▪ Partial funding for Energy/Utility Master Plan is set aside. Goals solidified:
  1. Support Campus Master Plan, future plans/expansion
  2. Address aging equipment
  3. Make progress on Carbon Reduction goals.
Objective 4

Work with Housing & Residence Life to find ways to integrate sustainability into programs and outreach

Desired Outcome

- Support Eco Reps with programming and events
- Support RAs in integrating sustainability into programming
- Improve recycling rates and reduce waste created in campus housing
- Support staff working to improve energy efficiency in campus housing

Action Steps

- Developed/hosted at sustainability programming events
- Conducted waste/recycle audits to track waste & recycling rates
- Obtained energy end-use data analysis to inform energy priorities

Results

- New community within housing around sustainability (Eco Reps)
- Eco Reps led peer-to-peer education programming events like Lester River clean-up, Waste Audits (x2), Make Your Own Products DIY Late Night Program, and reintroduced compost collection in the Residence Halls
Objective 5

Continue investigation of multiple pathways to access renewable energy for campus. Encourage investments in energy efficiency.

Desired Outcome

▪ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Action Steps

▪ Tracked and reported on energy use, solar production, and greenhouse gas emissions
▪ Collaborated with student groups to advance solar energy projects

Results

  ■ UMD reduced total emissions 11% since 2007 (mostly electricity)
  ■ Factoring campus growth, emissions per square foot reduced 23%
▪ Energy End-Use study by UMD student reveals LED project opportunity
  ■ Full project reduces emissions 2,900 tons, saves $330k annually
  ■ Co-benefits: reduce maintenance, improve aesthetics
  ■ Set to begin first phase, in fall 2019
▪ SUN Delegation evaluated solar walls on MWAH as retrofit
▪ On-campus solar production increased
  ■ 43,000 kilowatt-hours of solar energy in 2018
  ■ Tripled renewable energy from 2017
Objective 6

Improve/increase tracking of campus progress on sustainability

**Desired Outcome**
- Manage AASHE STARS submission process. Goal is GOLD certification
- Set campus goals for waste diversion
- Transparent data available for key campus indicators

**Action Steps**
- Gathered campus data for STARS, to assess campus progress in sustainability
- Updated gap analysis of current greenhouse gas emissions and goals for reduction
- Contributed to Board of Regents updates on sustainability for UMD

**Results**
- Campus goal for waste diversion developed, not yet adopted officially
  - 2017 diversion rate: 36.75%, 2018: 45.1%
  - Goal has been suggested as 60% diversion rate by 2023
- AASHE STARS submission expected in Fall 2019, hope to achieve Gold status
  - AASHE audits submission for accuracy before final status updated
- UMD [Campus Databook](#) is online for viewing
Assessment Results

What assessments were undertaken?
- Waste Audits, Food Waste Audit & Awareness, LSBE Classroom Bin Removal Pilot, Community Engagement survey, Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS)

What we learned?
- Waste assessments at: z.umn.edu/lesswaste
- Classroom bin removal in LSBE was successful and will be used as a model to move other areas of campus toward bin-free classrooms in the coming semesters
  - Report of the pilot program and LSBE’s waste system
- STARS Academic & Research category shows significant gains

Actions moving forward
- Continue waste audit monitoring of target areas to focus changes (Kirby Student Center, Housing & Residence Life)
- Work with Facilities Management to remove classroom bins and shift disposal to hallway sorting stations
- Continue Food Waste Awareness Days and work closely with Dining Services to improve back and front of house operations related to composting, recycling, and reuse.
- Finalize the STARS inventory and submit for Gold rating
A collaboration starting between UMD Housing & Residence Life & Sustainability has blossomed into a multi department initiative and additional partners include: International Student Services, UMD Stores, UMD Dining Services, and Facilities Management.

Common items included:

- Bed risers
- Mirrors
- Rugs
- Dishes
- Decorations
- and much more

This initiative kept HUNDREDS of items out of the landfill and given a second life through reuse. Our first Free Store also inspired a Winter Gear Free Store - helping get jackets, sweaters, mittens, hats, scarves, and warm socks into students hands and on their bodies!
LSBE Pilot Program & Outreach

A pilot project was undertaken in Spring 2019 to remove all bins from classrooms in Labovitz School of Business & Economics. The goal of the pilot was to encourage better waste sorting by sending people to the hallway sorting stations, rather than disposing of everything in a classroom trash bin.

Student staff and interns monitored the sorting stations for 6 weeks, performed peer-to-peer outreach & education, and conducted a waste audit to measure progress. Full results of the project can be accessed here: LSBE Waste Analysis. The pilot will serve as a model for future changes across campus to encourage better waste sorting & improve campus waste diversion rates.

Bins are in the hallway! Please sort your:

- Recyclables
- Compostables
- Trash
Climate Summits

Over 1,000 people attended two climate change focused summits this spring. Our Climate Futures was hosted at UMD and featured 16 sessions, one of which was lead by grad students -- focusing on helping people have conversation about climate change. The Our Planet, Our Future Environmental Summit was organized by UMD students and hosted at the DECC, with the purpose of giving youth voice and a platform for action.
Earth Week 2019

This year, we went all out for Earth Week. We packed in 8 events, including one field trip to Fond Du Lac Tribal & Community College and worked with Dining Services to offer a special 50 cent discount all month long for anyone bringing a reusable mug for their coffee, tea, or soda. Events included:

- Sustainability Trivia -- Jeopardy style
- Make Your Own Products -- joint event with MPIRG
- Waste Audit of Kirby Student Center
- Film Showing: Plastic Ocean
- Earth Day Celebration & the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Speaker Katya Gordon of Sea Change Expeditions
- Student Research Showcase at FDLTCC
- Ride the Bus! DTA Demo Day with Transportation Services
The Office of Sustainability budget remains steady, and supports an increased level of student involvement on campus. We increased spending on program materials and student involvement in conference presentation opportunities.

Next year, student payroll will increase as we aim to continue programming for students and add more opportunities for employee engagement in sustainability.
Student Action Drives Change!

Our support for students helps drive sustainable change at UMD.

We continue to connect students with leadership and learning opportunities, along with helping to make their campus a more sustainable place to live, work, and study.