

University Carbon Neutrality Action Plan

Vision: To significantly reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact by embracing sustainability as a core institutional value.

Goal: Achieve a 30% reduction in net carbon emissions by 2030.

Key Strategies:

1. Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
 - Conduct comprehensive energy audits of all campus buildings
 - Upgrade to energy-efficient lighting, HVAC systems, equipment, and appliances
 - Improve building insulation and weatherization
 - Invest in on-site solar, wind, and/or geothermal renewable energy installations
 - Explore purchasing renewable energy from utilities/providers
2. Transportation & Commuting
 - Incentivize public transit, biking, walking, and carpooling for employees/ students
 - Expand university transit/shuttle services using low-emission vehicles
 - Install electric vehicle charging stations across campus
 - Encourage telecommuting and virtual meetings when possible
3. Waste Reduction & Recycling
 - Eliminate single-use plastics in dining areas, events, offices
 - Expand recycling and composting infrastructure and education
 - Donate or re-purpose unwanted goods and materials
 - Reduce paper use through digitization of processes
4. Sustainable Operations & Procurement
 - Prioritize energy efficient equipment and appliance purchases
 - Buy locally-sourced, sustainable food options in dining services
 - Eliminate single-use plastics (SUDs) from campus purchasing
 - Use environmentally-friendly cleaning and office supplies
 - Invest in sustainable grounds management practices
5. Curriculum Integration & Research
 - Incorporate sustainability topics across academic disciplines
 - Support faculty research on climate change, energy, and environment
 - Offer sustainability degree programs and courses
 - Establish a clean energy living lab for student awareness of campus operations
6. Community Engagement
 - Launch efficiency campaigns to reduce energy/resource use
 - Increase tree planting and green space development
 - Partner with city/state on resilience and climate action planning
7. Monitoring, Reporting, and Accountability:
 - Complete a baseline report of greenhouse gas emissions
 - Develop a robust monitoring and reporting framework to track progress towards carbon neutrality goals.
 - Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives.
 - Regularly communicate progress and challenges to the university community and stakeholders through annual sustainability reports and updates.

- Create a dedicated sustainability task force or committee to oversee implementation, provide guidance, and ensure accountability.

This multi-pronged approach covers energy, transportation, waste, procurement, academics, and outreach to systematically reduce the university's carbon footprint through infrastructure upgrades, operational changes, and cultural transformation.