

# Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection Work Group

## Background

The University Strategic Plan established the goal for the University of Maryland to “become a national model for a Green University.” UMD has made significant progress toward that goal – it is recognized as a sustainability leader by the Princeton Review, Sierra Club, and Sustainable Endowments Institute – but much work remains to integrate sustainability into the core of campus operations, teaching, and service.

During the 2011 fall semester, the University Sustainability Council reviewed progress on the University’s Climate Action Plan (CAP), trends in selected campus sustainability metrics, and UMD’s expected performance on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) new Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). This review and assessment revealed the need for leadership and focused work in several priority areas. The Sustainability Council, chaired by Vice President for Administrative Affairs and CFO, Rob Specter, approved the immediate creation of the following work groups:

- Sustainable Buildings and Energy Sources
- Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection
- Education for Sustainability
- Sustainable Transportation Systems

The Office of Sustainability was tasked by the Sustainability Council to identify short-term work group priorities, identify a chairperson for each work group, and work with chairpersons to identify membership for each group. You have received this document because you were identified as a potential member of the Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection Work Group.

## Work Group Priorities

*Water Use and Watershed Protection-* The campus is under regulatory pressure to reevaluate its stormwater and wastewater management systems and a consultant evaluation of campus utility needs is underway. In 2010, potable water use on campus increased by almost 9 percent. A work group is needed to assemble water supply, water conservation and stormwater mitigation strategies from existing recommendations and develop a pragmatic plan for implementing them.

<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Proposed Actions</u>
Jan. 2013	Gather a draft list of the best strategies and recommendations from the Utility Master Plan and other appropriate sources, including both reuse and conservation measures, to reduce consumption of potable water on campus. Identify responsible parties, barriers, and opportunities for implementing each of these strategies.
July 2013	Create a University of Maryland Water System Implementation Plan that includes reduction targets, underlying strategies to reach them, and specific roles and responsibilities for implementation. The plan will address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water consumption, projected use, cost, and conservation/use strategies</li> <li>• Stormwater compliance, re-use, and mitigation strategies</li> </ul>

### **Proposed Membership for Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Protection**

Chair:	Russell Furr, Director, Environmental Safety
Council reps:	Scott Lupin, Associate Director of Environmental Safety and Director of Sustainability Ross Salawitch, Professor, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Other:	Allen Davis, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Karen Petroff, Assistant Director – Arboretum/Horticultural Services, FM Seth Charde, Environmental Planner, FM Dave Shaughnessy, Manager of Utility Assessment, FM TBD, Residential Facilities John Follum, Environmental Compliance Manager Josh Kaplan, Assistant Director, ICA
Undergrad:	Christopher Leininger, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Grad:	Scott Tjaden, Environmental Science and Technology

### **General Principles for all Work Groups**

Work Group Structure – It is the responsibility of the chair, appointed by the appropriate Vice President, to assemble a work group comprised of people who are knowledgeable in the topic area. The chair will determine the number of members, but the group will include faculty, student and staff representatives. There will not be more than one chair from any given department, and no work group will include more than three representatives from a particular department.

SMART Goal Development– Work groups are expected to establish targets that are Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic and Time-limited to support proposed goals.

Synergies between Work Groups – As work groups develop their proposed plans, they are expected to look for opportunities to include synergistic solutions that address their assigned topic area *and* support the goals of the other work groups.

Impact on Local Communities – As work groups develop their proposed plans, they are expected to select potential strategies with a view of how best to benefit College Park and other local jurisdictions while meeting the University’s sustainability objectives.