



Meeting Summary October 3, 2014

Council Members Present:

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Steve Fetter, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
John Farley, Assistant Vice President for Administration and Finance
Ann Tonggarwee, Assistant to President
Eric Wachsman, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, and Director, Energy Research Center
Dana Fisher, Professor, Sociology, and Director, Program for Society and the Environment
Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety, and Director, Office of Sustainability
Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Director, Department of Engineering and Energy
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Craig Johnson, Technical Consultant, DIT (filling in for Dave Cooper)
Ori Gutin, Director of Sustainability, Student Government Association
Matthew Dahlhausen, Graduate Student, Mechanical Engineering

Guests: Russell Furr, Director, Department of Environmental Safety

Meeting start time: 2:00pm

Meeting Highlights

Welcome, Introduction of New Members

The Council welcomed three new Committee members: Matthew Dahlhausen, Graduate Student, Mechanical Engineering; Dana Fisher, Professor of Sociology and Director, Program for Society and the Environment; and Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Director, Department of Energy and Engineering.

Education for Sustainability Workgroup Report - Presentation and Discussion

Steve Fetter, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, presented on five recommendations from the Education for Sustainability Workgroup Report related to academic affairs.

1. Incentivize Development of Sustainability Courses
 - a. Recommendation supported by the Provost's Office, in addition to supporting the integration of sustainability into existing and new courses.
2. Integrate Sustainability into the General Education (Gen Ed) Program
 - a. The revision of Gen Ed is not imminent, and sustainability was specifically not included in Gen Ed at the program's inception since it was assumed that sustainability topics would be inherently present in Gen Ed courses.
3. Integrate Sustainability into High-level Academic Initiatives
 - a. The Provost's Office supports this recommendation but suggested the Office of Sustainability coordinate directly with these academic program directors.

4. Identify Individuals in the Provost's Office to Take Lead on Implementing Recommendations
 - a. Similar to the third recommendation – the Provost's Office thinks the Office of Sustainability should take lead in communicating with academic programs.
5. Conduct Sustainability Literacy Assessment Every Three Years
 - a. Recommendation supported by the Provost's Office. CAWG could work on designing an assessment for the Office of Sustainability to conduct, in addition to providing technical support.

Sustainability Progress Report 2014

Sally DeLeon, Project Manager, Office of Sustainability, presented highlights from the Sustainability Progress Report. See Appendix A.

- The culture of sustainability on campus is growing.
 - Recycling rates are increasing.
 - More people are becoming interested in sustainable food initiatives on campus.
 - Terp Farm was launched by Dining Services this year.
 - Dining Services set a goal to sustainably source 20% of dining hall food by 2020.
 - More people are biking on campus, and there has been an increase in bike registrations.
 - Shuttle-UM ridership has also increased in the past year.
- The university is making progress on becoming a carbon neutral campus, but more action is needed to reduce emissions in the future.
 - In 2013, the university's overall emissions increased about 1% and UMD is currently at 18% below the baseline level of emissions.
 - Greenhouse gas emissions, campus fleet fuel use, and air travel emissions are increasing overall.
 - Since the Climate Action Plan was launched, there has been a 53% increase in air travel carbon emissions.
 - While emissions from commuters have decreased over time, both commuting and fleet emissions increased slightly in 2012-2013.

The Council discussed the steady increase in carbon emissions resulting from increased air travel by university students, faculty and staff. Members discussed the possibility of forming a workgroup to discuss campus transportation, air travel, and carbon offsets in more detail.

University Sustainability Goals – Presentation and Discussion

Scott Lupin, Director, Office of Sustainability, presented a document outlining the University of Maryland's draft sustainability goals. These goals were aggregated from various university reports and plans, including the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Report, Education for Sustainability Report, 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan, Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy, and the Sustainable Food Commitment. The purpose of this document is to succinctly and clearly express the university's sustainability goals and priorities to internal and external stakeholders.

The six major goals outlined in the document are as follows:

Goal 1: Carbon Neutrality

Goal 2: Sustainable Water Use

Goal 3: Waste Minimization

Goal 4: Smart Growth

Goal 5: Education for Sustainability

Goal 6: Local and Global Impact

The Council reviewed the goals and suggested slight modifications. Scott asked Council members to send additional feedback over the next month so that the Council can review a revised draft at its November 2014 meeting.

New Ideas/Issues from Committee Members

Scott Lupin updated the Council on several items:

- The Office of Sustainability will publish the 2014 SustainableUMD Magazine in October.
- The magazine will be released during a SustainableUMD celebration event on Oct 29. The campus community is invited to the event, which will be hosted by the Council.
- The Student Advisory Subcommittee started reviewing Sustainability Fund grant proposals.

Ori Gutin presented two documents to the Council:

- Student Essays, Opinions, & Other Insights on a Sustainable UMD (see Appendix B)
- SGA Student Sustainability Committee: 2013-2014 Recap, Vision, Current Projects, and Prospective Projects (see Appendix C)

In response to Ori's comments about reducing the environmental impact of Maryland Day, the Council agreed to send a letter to the Maryland Day committee encouraging greater integration of sustainability considerations in Maryland Day planning. The Office of Sustainability will draft a letter for the Council's consideration at the November meeting.

Adjourn: 4:00pm

APPENDIX A

Sustainability Progress Report 2014

Annual Sustainability

Metrics

sustainableumd



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University of Maryland Sustainability Progress Report 2014



sustainability.umd.edu

SustainabilityCulture



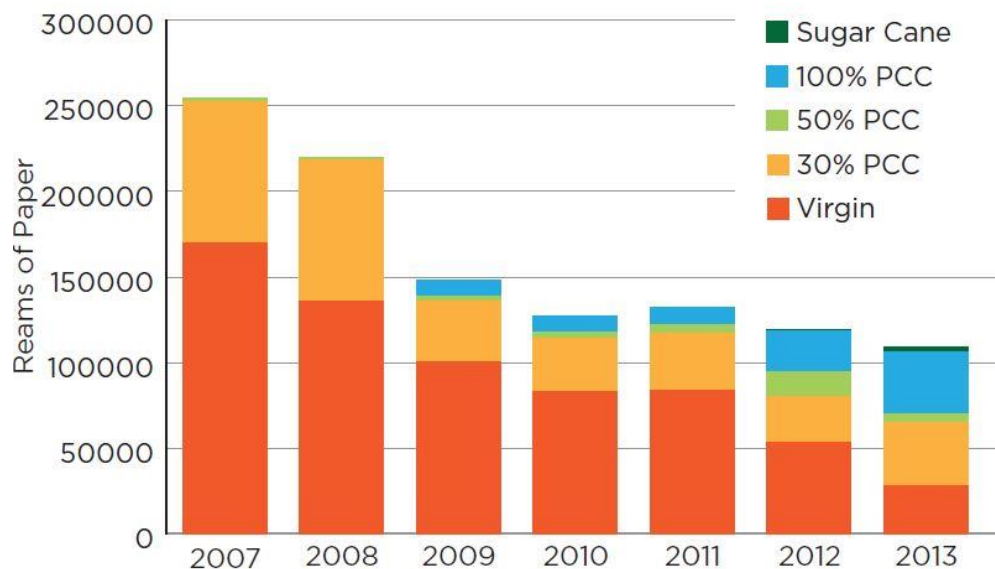
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COPY PAPER CONSUMPTION



SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIORS

		2009	2010	2011	2012		
Campus-wide Recycling	percent of solid waste	63%	64%	76%	78%	CY	
Solid Waste Generation	tons	14,229	12,806	17,096	17,952	CY	
Composted Food Waste	tons	138	431	509	647	CY	
Certified Green Offices	count	N/A	17	67	106	FY	

SustainabilityCulture



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GREEN PROCUREMENT

		2010	2011	2012	2013		
Sustainable Food in Dining Halls	percent of budget	11%	10%	13%	15%	FY	

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

		2010	2011	2012	2013		
The Farmers Market at Maryland	revenue to sellers	N/A	N/A	\$128,714	\$191,933	FY	



sustainability.umd.edu

SustainabilityCulture



sustainableumd



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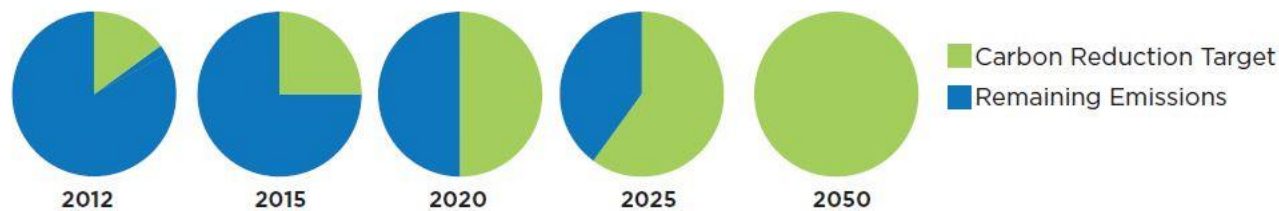
TRANSPORTATION

		2010	2011	2012	2013		
Shuttle-UM Ridership	million rides	2,686,717	2,967,164	3,416,277	3,504,492	FY	
Registered Bikes on Campus	count	1,549	2,137	2,242	3,250	FY	





PLANNED EMISSIONS TRAJECTORY



In 2012, we met the first reduction target in the University of Maryland Climate Action Plan when UMD **achieved a 15% reduction in carbon emissions** compared to the 2005 baseline. **revised to 19% because 2005 baseline is greater due to new research on landfills**

**In 2013 emissions increased slightly—
we are now at 18% below the 2005
baseline.**

ProgressSummary

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RESOURCE CONSERVATION		2010	2011	2012	2013		
Campus-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions	MT-CO2e	239,239	283,616	275,130	279,188	CY	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Capita	MT-CO2e/FTE person	5.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	CY	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Area	kg-CO2e/sq. ft.	10.6	13.3	13.1	12.8	CY	
Steam Production	MLbs	681,480	673,573	696,150	759,450	CY	
Electricity Consumption	MWh	259,097	268,244	269,455	268,104	CY	
FM Energy Conservation Projects	MWh savings	3,277	9,295	9,647	11,311	FY	
Renewable Energy Generation	MWh	5	1,142	13,462	13,358	CY	

TRANSPORTATION		2010	2011	2012	2013		
Student Commuter Parking Purchases	percent of students	29.8%	24.3%	23.0%	22.4%	CY	
Faculty and Staff Commuter Parking Purchases	percent of employees	85.9%	71.9%	73.0%	75.5%	CY	
Campus Vehicle Fleet Fuel Use	MT-CO2e	6,965	6,957	7,056	7,954	CY	
Air Travel	MT-CO2e	34,393	39,190	48,760	50,666	FY	

CarbonFootprint

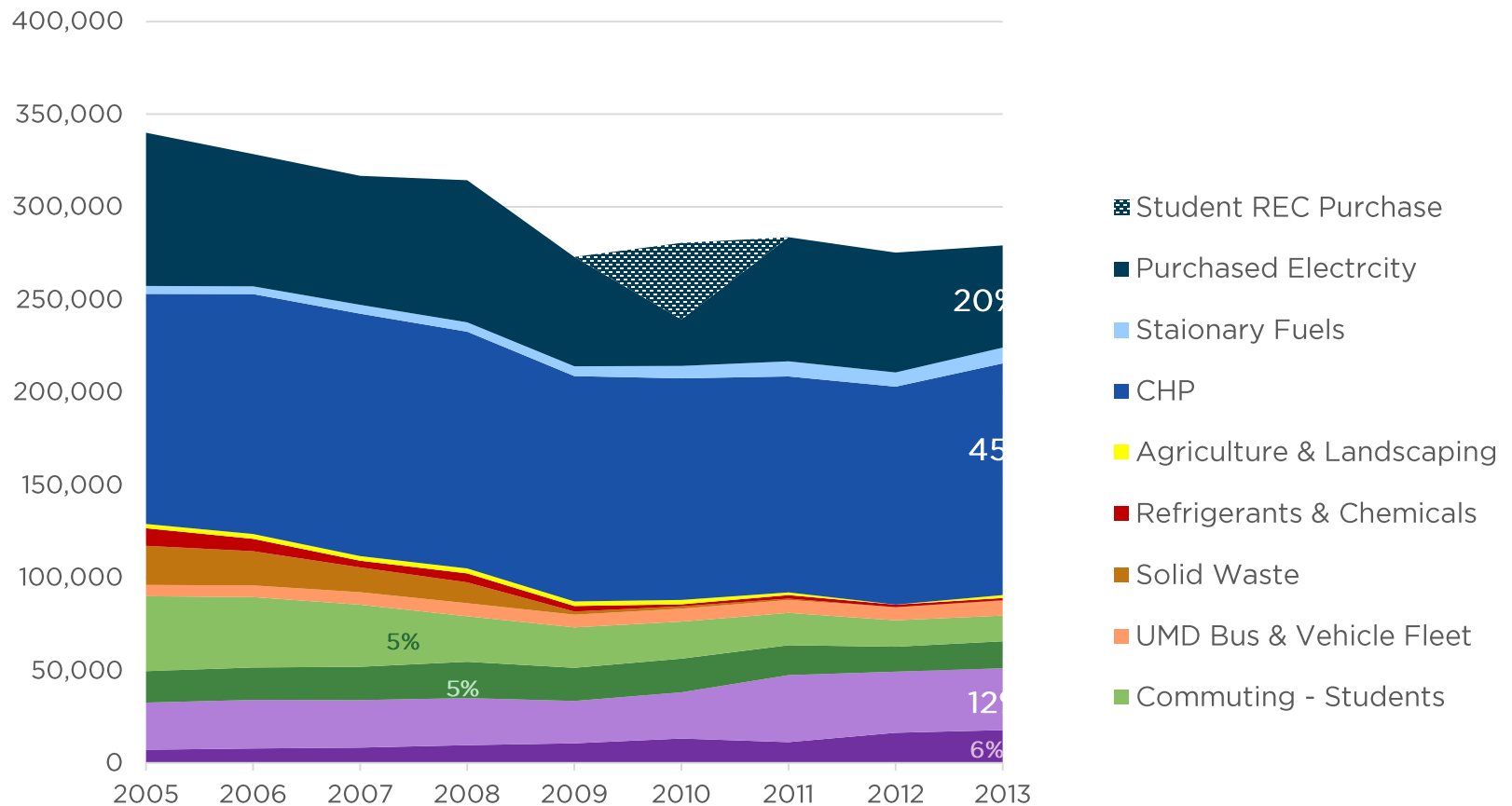


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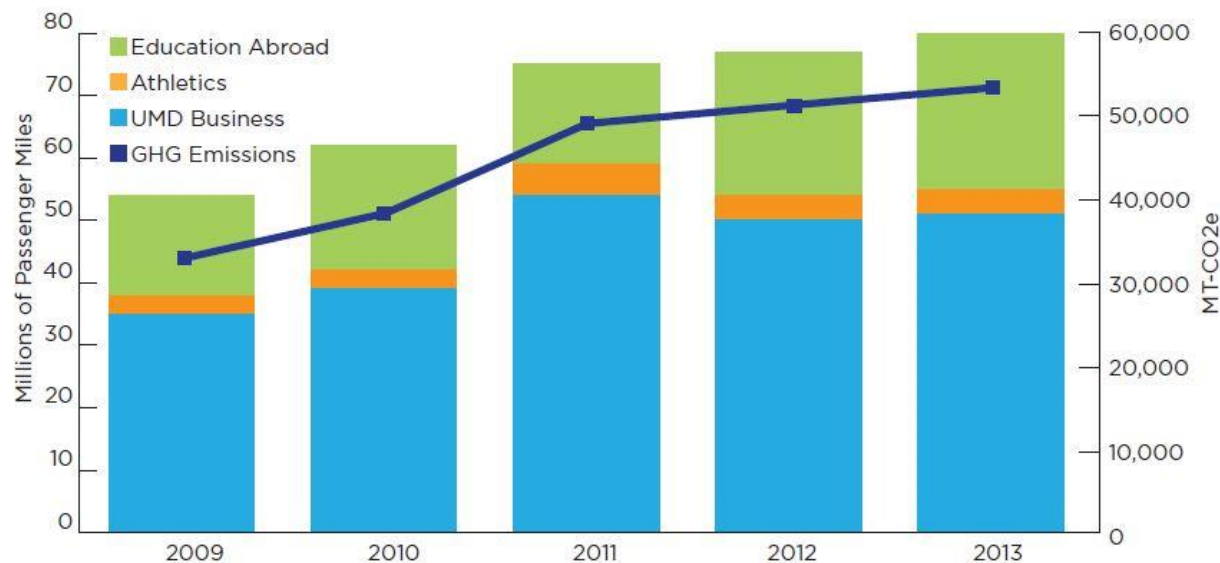
terps leave **small** footprints

UMD Carbon Sources (with sinks included) in Metric Tons CO₂e





AIR TRAVEL DISTANCE AND CLIMATE IMPACT



Since the Climate Action Plan was launched:

- **49% increase in air travel miles**
- **53% increase in air travel carbon emissions**

SustainableTransportation

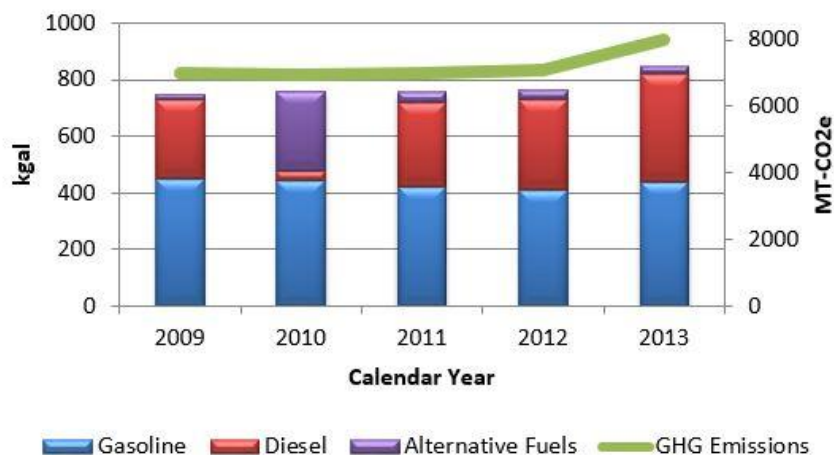


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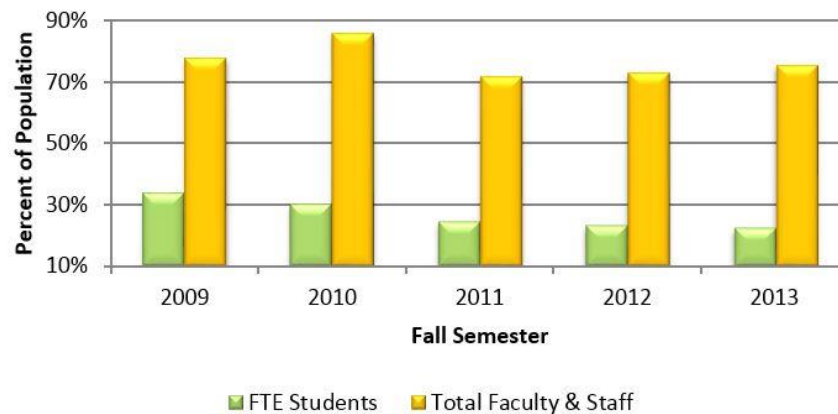


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Fossil Fuel Consumption and Fleet Emissions



Commuter Permit Purchasing



Since the Climate Action Plan was launched:

- Commuting emissions have decreased 28%
- Campus fleet emissions have increased 16%

From 2012-2013 both commuting and fleet emissions increased slightly.

ProgressSummary

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Thank you!



**Further
questions?
Sally DeLeon
sdeleon@umd.edu**



Student Essays, Opinions, & Other Insights on a Sustainable UMD

FROM THE
“WHAT WILL
YOU(MD) DO?”
SUSTAINABILITY
PLEDGE



A Publication of the Student Government Association

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When discussing sustainability, people often talk about large-scale reforms, such as carbon neutrality or zero waste, but sustainability is so much more than that -- **it's a way of life**. While students have created and funded the University Sustainability Fund for large-scale projects, we find it vital for students to recognize the potential of their *individual* contribution to helping the Earth become a better place. That is why the Student Sustainability Committee of the SGA decided to orchestrate the "What Will YOU(md) Do?" Sustainability Pledge. Our goals in creating this pledge were to raise awareness and educate the student body in regards to sustainability, demonstrate that everyone can make a difference, and unite students around the common goal of sustainability.

When students signed up to take this pledge they were challenging themselves to keep sustainability in their mind and in their actions over the course of four weeks. Throughout the four weeks, students pledged to take various personal actions to mitigate the environmental issues of **diminishing natural resources**, **water scarcity** and **climate change**. By participating in the pledge, individuals learned small ways to change their lives that can make a big impact. Finally, the pledge culminated with a huge Earth Day Festival to celebrate the planet and to thank all pledge participant's for their immense dedication to living sustainably. Overall, the pledge was a huge success, as **410** students took the pledge, **300+** students attended the Earth Day Festival and **30** student groups hosted tables at the Festival to share their work on sustainability.

In an effort to empirically demonstrate the student body's commitment to sustainability, we held an essay contest to conclude the pledge and asked students to answer three simple questions:

Why did you sign up for the pledge?
Why is sustainability important to you personally?
What is one thing you'd like UMD to do to be more sustainable?

Students, from Freshmen to Seniors and Business to Engineering majors, submitted essays -- this book contains the top 18.

The sustainability pledge was created as a means to show the University community that sustainability is attainable -- that sustainability does not discriminate and that it is applicable to everyone. Though every action is small, they culminate to create a large impact that alleviates the strain we put on the Earth. From brushing our teeth to powering our cars, we are constantly consuming Earth's finite natural resources. By taking personal responsibility and reducing our environmental impact, together we can take strides in combating environmental degradation.

*The following pages stand as a testament to the importance of sustainability to the student body, and represent the dedicated students who insist that **the University of Maryland does everything in its power to remain a national leader in sustainability.***

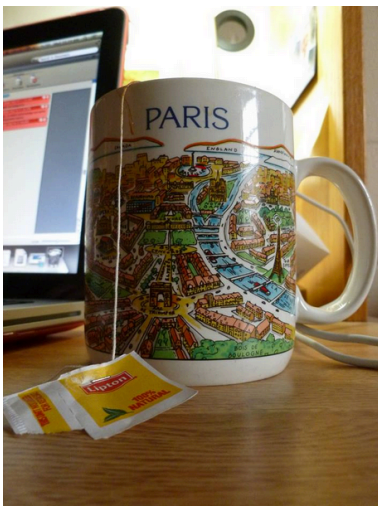
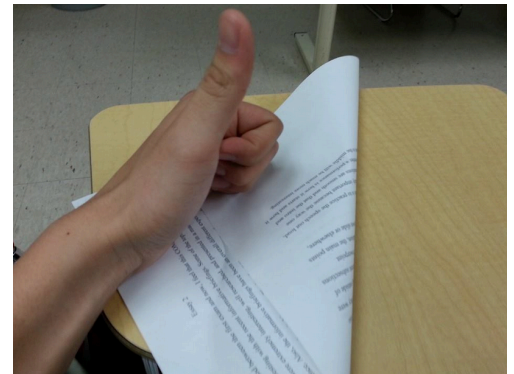
Enjoy,

The Student Government Association's Student Sustainability Committee



#SustainabilitySelfies

Before we get to the student essays, we want you to keep the following pictures in mind. Beyond just submitting essays after the pledge to explain why students cared about sustainability, we asked students to submit pictures of themselves acting sustainably throughout the pledge. We called these pictures **#sustainabilityselfies**. We received many pictures that students sent in, and we picked a few of our favorites to share with you! Below you can see students using handkerchiefs instead of single-use napkins, using reusable containers and bags, supporting local agriculture, printing double sided, using alternative methods of transportation and choosing to drink tea over coffee! Even more importantly, you can see them having fun while doing all of this! Enjoy!



Student Sustainability Suggestions

When thinking of what prompt to use for the essay contest, we wanted to ensure that students had the opportunity to not only voice their opinion about personal sustainability, but also about sustainability at UMD. While our university has made *incredible* strides in sustainability, there is always a higher level we can reach. Just as the Office of Sustainability on campus is always thinking of new and innovative ways to reach that higher level, so are the students. So, in the essay prompt, we asked, “**What is one thing you’d like UMD to do to be more sustainable?**” We got many fantastic ideas, which show the innovation and thoughtfulness of the student body in regards to this issue. Listed below are five recurring themes that were seen throughout all the submitted essays:

1) Sustainability Education

- All UNIV100 courses receive a Sustainability lecture
- Resident assistants provide a tutorial to campus sustainability to all new residents
- Emphasis on sustainability during new student orientation
- Encourage greater use of current sustainability opportunities available on campus
- Increase amount of engaging and educational sustainable activities on campus

2) Clean and Renewable Energy

- Solar energy on campus, especially on buildings roofs, and in parking lots
- Outline plans to lower and ultimately eliminate emissions from the campus natural gas plant
- Expand the purchase of clean and renewable energy from the power grid

3) Waste Management

- More recycling bins around campus, especially in residence halls
- All to-go containers should be recyclable rather than compostable
- Expand composting to residence halls, especially those with kitchens available

4) Efficient Lighting

- Motion sensor lighting in residence halls and academic buildings
- Turn off lights in “off hours” of academic buildings, Stamp, and athletic facilities

5) Landscape Management

- Plant more indigenous fauna on campus
- Use fewer fertilizers on our lawns



Hanum Wensil-Strow

Major: *Animal Science and Environmental Science and Policy*
Class of 2014

I signed up for the sustainability pledge because I felt like I had become inattentive to how my sustainable my everyday actions are. As an Environmental Science and Policy major and the daughter of a climate change physicist and a farmer, I have spent a lot of time learning about sustainability. I recycle, I turn the water off when I brush my teeth, and I know

more about compost than most of my peers. However, I also leave my room light on sometimes, always grab a plastic container for my salad, and drive to places within walking distance. While reading the pledge I realized that recently I have not taken the time to create new sustainable habits and avoid my bad habits. I thought the pledge would provide me with the opportunity to alter my actions so that they reflect my priorities.

As a child growing up on a farm my days were filled with playing with baby bunnies, picking carrots, and climbing our cherry tree. This type of childhood helped me foster a deep respect for the world around me. It also made me more aware of how our world is changing as the direct result of human actions. Currently, fracking and gas drilling are threatening the long-term integrity of our farm, my mother is struggling to grow vegetables in a more extreme climate, and urban development is destroying nearby forests. Since my idyllic childhood, I have seen unsustainable actions threaten or destroy the places I care so deeply about.

In order to be more sustainable I believe the university should reevaluate whether or not lights are necessary in “off hours” in their buildings. For example, the stadium lights are often left on for long periods of time. Academic buildings are often lit at night and dorms lights are often on during breaks. Although I understand that insufficient lighting can be a safety issue I believe a reevaluate of lighting protocol will help the University show students their commitment to sustainability. Hopefully progressive actions by the University will encourage students to also invest in sustainability.

Jay Deep Rao

Major: *Electrical Engineering*
Class of 2017

My name is Jay Deep Rao, and I care about sustainability! I am a freshman electrical engineering major, from the great state of Mississippi. Attending UMD and living in Maryland is a big change from the Deep South, and it's definitely a huge improvement as far as environmental advancements go. Living sustainably is so important to me, because I believe it's up to our current generation to save the environment, and make the changes necessary to provide our posterity with a world that is as safe and as clean as we can feasibly make it. I think that a lot of times, people write off sustainability as futile because they think that, "one person recycling doesn't make a difference."



I signed up for the pledge because I wanted to take steps to lessen my impact on the environment. I was already doing many of the things on the pledge, but I figured that I could always do more to be green. It made me happy to know other people were being proactive and taking measures to help save the environment as well. What people don't realize is that actions speak louder than words. Yes, every UMD student putting their waste in the proper bins will not solve all of our problems. However, it is a step in the right direction. When people realize how easy it is to differentiate between recycle, compost, and landfill, they'll see it's not so hard to be sustainable in other ways. Using OZZI Boxes, getting electronic tickets for sporting events, and printing double-sided are simple ways we can achieve a greener campus.

I think that one thing UMD can do to be more sustainable is to get rid of all trays in the dining halls. I think that the University can save a lot of water, time, and energy that would be used to clean the trays. The primary reason people get trays is to hold both their drink and their plate. I think that a lack of trays would promote students to bring their own water bottles, and maybe even limit their soft drink consumption. While some would argue that it's a hassle to make more than one trip to get food, I think the benefits of this change would outweigh the cost. I would gladly make an extra trip to the salad bar if it meant saving the university money, and promoting a more sustainable UMD.

Although I'm only a freshman at UMD, I encourage friends, classmates, and even strangers, to be as green as they can be. As college students, we have a huge voice, and it's up to us to inform others as much as possible. Even though I can't get through to every person, I'll never stop trying, because for all we know, the next John Muir could be right here in College Park.



Neha Gupta

Major: *Biology and Neurophysiology*
Class of 2017

Friendship is a mutual understanding between two people that they care about each other and will protect one another from harm. My relationship with the environment is similar to my relationship with all the important people in my life.

The environment takes care of me. Like a mother, it calms me when I am worried, anxious, or sad. I just step outside and breathe the fresh air, and clarity instantly hits. Like a coach, it teaches me life lessons. Its vastness puts my small problems into perspective and reminds me not to worry. Like a friend, it keeps me company. My walks to class guarantee at least two squirrel sightings. Like a significant other, it exudes beauty in every way. Even when the weather dresses up in sweats and a tee shirt and gets gloomy from the rain, it is glorious. The smell of wet grass makes me feel so fresh and pure. At any time in any weather, the earth provides me with

unparalleled comfort.

If the Earth can do so much for me, it is only fair that I do just as much back. Not only is it fair, it is also necessary. If I neglect the Earth, I will lose it. I will lose my mother, my coach, my friend and my significant other. I am a product of the world I was born in. By turning my back on the environment, I am turning my back on my home and, consequently, a part of me.

Turning off the lights when I'm not in the room and the water when I'm brushing my teeth is the smallest action I could take for something so important to me. Putting my waste in one bin instead of another is effortless, and it yet it has such a big impact. My friends are important to me, so I work hard to take care of them. Likewise, this earth means everything to me, and I will do anything in my power to protect it.

Yael Gutin

Major: *Dietetics*

Class of 2014

The Golden rule- it is one of the first lessons that your parents will teach you as a child and will be repeated to you consistently from kindergarten through 12th grade and beyond. "Treat others the way that you want to be treated". This rule is meant to teach us compassion, consideration for others feelings, empathy, and responsibility for our actions. This lesson becomes so engrained in our minds as children that we seem to forget its true meaning as we age and we begin to take these words for granted. Yes, as a child you may remember this Golden rule and refrain from pushing your classmate for stealing your last cookie, but why do we not apply this rule to relationships beyond our child years? More importantly, why do we not extend this compassion beyond our daily interactions with people and instead shift our responsibility to an even larger entity- the world we live in?



When thinking about sustainability, it is extremely important to remember that we do not own this planet. The Earth was here long before we were and will be here long after we are gone. Yet, we as a species have forgotten this and are slowly destroying the blessing of nature and beauty that we have been so graciously given. Deforestation, water pollution, greenhouse gases, factory farming- these are all examples of the ways in which we abuse our planet. We have forgotten the importance of the Golden rule when it comes to the world we live in. We have forgotten the responsibility we have to respect this planet, to appreciate it, and to treat it with the compassion and admiration that we would want to receive in return. That is why sustainability is so important to me, because I want to strive every day to give back what I am able to the beautiful planet in which I am lucky enough to spend the short years of my life.

Throughout the weeks of the pledge, I aimed to be more aware of my daily actions and how they affect the world around me. Even more important was the explanation I would offer to people who questioned why I was turning the water off as I was brushing my teeth, or unplugging all my appliances when they were not being used. It was not only impactful for me to carry out these actions myself, but also to help others understand why sustainability is important and encourage them to make these small changes in their daily lives as well. I think there is a huge disconnect between the sustainability movements and passion of students living on campus and off campus, particularly in Greek housing. As a member of Greek life, I am angered and frustrated at the reality that there is only one recycling bin in my chapter house, which barely gets used because many people are uneducated about matters of sustainability. I think a very effective way to increase sustainability awareness among students in Greek life would be to elect sustainability ambassadors to bridge the gap between the efforts of SGA and members of Greek life and increase the involvement of Greek life in events like the sustainability pledge and the Earth Day festival. Perhaps everybody just needs a little reminder of this "Golden" rule, to take a step back outside of ourselves and appreciate the beauty of the planet we live on, and start treating it the way we would want- and how it truly deserves- to be treated.



Amna Farooqi

Major: *Government and Politics*
Class of 2016

Sustainability's importance in my life has evolved significantly since I started college—as I've taken classes, met new people, and embarked on different endeavors, my attitude towards sustainability has changed from reluctant compulsion to more aware of the gravity and intersectionality of the issue. Growing up, sustainability was simply recycling the water bottle I took for lunch; it was finishing all the food on my plate. The motivation wasn't so much a desire to improve the planet's well being as it was a fear of what my mother would do if I didn't. She has always been

dedicated to reducing waste—in our first two homes our fridge was plastered with pictures of starving children from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and different African countries to remind us that going and getting food from the fridge was a luxury many didn't have.

As I got older, sustainability's importance became supporting political positions that were in line with the Democratic Party. I didn't actually know that much about any of the issues, but I knew climate change was real, and I trusted others to do the research and fight the fight. I still recycled, I tried to avoid waste whenever possible, but it was still more a liberal reflex than it was a real priority. My priorities instead were the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, American policy in the Middle East, other aspects of domestic policy—these were the things I was passionate about. I viewed sustainability as a separate thing for others to be passionate about. A year and a half into college, my attitude couldn't be more different. Through conversations with people and experiences in the world, it clicked for me that sustainability is not a “thing” separate from other things. It is not an issue separate from other issues. Sustainability affects all issues; the potential to be sustainable is present in all things. I could never successfully focus on something like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without understanding the role of the environment and the effect of everyone's personal actions on it. Sustainability is important to me now because the environment isn't an isolated issue I can compartmentalize and leave for someone else to care about—the environment is what I am leaving for my children, and every breath I take, no matter what my career's focus is, shapes it in some way.

Sustainability is important to me because if I claim to care about the world and want to improve it, without taking steps to be sustainable in my daily actions, I am at worst actively destructive and at best a hypocrite. This pledge program was fantastic, and I am so proud of the Committee on Sustainability for putting it together, because it reinforced that every action has a consequence. Every faucet turned off and reusable water bottle filled is empowerment and a step towards altering the bigger political picture. I consider myself a realist, but I have enough faith in our generation to believe that through coordinated efforts like this pledge program we can move closer to a paradigm shift in our values and the kind of society we live in. Sustainability is important to me because the planet will outlast us and what we leave behind matters. I intern at the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development in Jerusalem, and my supervisor says that working on a solution to any worldwide conflict without working to reduce climate change is like rearranging the chairs on the Titanic as it was going down. Humanity has come far, but if we don't address this, we've missed the point entirely.

Matthew Chin

Major: *Electrical Engineering*
Class of 2017

I decided to partake in the “What Will (YOU)md Do? Sustainability Pledge” because I felt that I could contribute to this movement both as an individual and as a group member. I believe in the concept that everyone can make a difference, no matter how small, and that if those efforts to make differences come together for the same cause, the ending result can be powerful.

As for me personally, I grew up in a very sustainable-oriented neighborhood. Everything from old newspapers to soup can labels, from milk jugs to soda bottles, was recycled in our house and many efforts in the secondary school I attended were for eco-friendly intentions. Every time I had to dispose of something, I considered whether or not it could be recycled. The concept of “reduce, reuse, recycle” has, for as long as I can remember, been a part of who I am and will continue to be something that I uphold.

One thing that I believe that UMD could do to become more sustainable is to make typed assignments due via ELMS or via email. Society is becoming increasingly digital day by day and paper is becoming decreasingly used. Paper is constructed from trees, which are a valuable and wonderfully beautiful natural resource for both the atmosphere because they produce oxygen for humans to breathe and provide habitats for animals such as squirrels.

Another thing UMD could consider other than making typed assignments due online instead of in class, is simply changing the font requirement of said assignments. Garamond is a font very similar to Times New Roman, but uses about 24% less ink. A sixth-grader made this known to his middle school and his middle school was able to reduce ink costs up to \$21,000 per year. Making this change at UMD would reduce the amount of ink used by a whole lot and save both students and faculty money by not having to buy new ink cartridges nearly as frequently. One last thing to notice: this entire essay is written in Garamond font.





Annie Rice

Major: *Environmental Science and Policy*
Class of 2017

I took the pledge for one simple reason: it is every single person's duty, not just policymakers', to address environmental issues. Human demand is what causes all problems. No other organism on Earth knowingly causes widespread deforestation, air and water pollution, desertification, accumulation of waste, and climate change for its own gain like our species does. All of these appalling realities in our world today are a consequence of our overconsumption. It doesn't have to be this way. No other country consumes like the United States does. At 5% of the world's population, we use 20% of the world's energy, eat 15% of the world's meat, and produce 40% of the world's trash – if everyone on the globe lived like the average American, we would need five planets to support us. The developed world must learn to curtail its immense preoccupation with stuff if we ever hope to prevent our natural resources from gasping

for their last dying breath.

The way that will happen is through personal action. With climate change right around the corner, the individual can no longer afford fall back on the excuse that there will be an invention of some great fix or that Congress will protect us. The onus is now on all of us, and it doesn't have to be difficult. Small sacrifices like taking shorter showers and taking two seconds to sort our trash should not be great burdens, when so many people live with less – we can fulfill all of our basic needs and still find happiness. If everyone in the developed world could learn to live in the literal and metaphorical three-bedroom house rather than grasping for the mega-mansion, perhaps it would give developing countries the chance to fulfill their basic needs of food, water and shelter while allowing the Earth to heave a sigh of relief. Essentially, the world's peoples must embrace a new way of finding happiness. The economy must take a back seat to immaterial goods like the existence of nature, appreciation of art and music, and spending time with the ones you love.

Although the sustainability committee's "What Will You(MD) Do?" pledge was a huge step towards raising students' awareness around campus, there is still much the University can do to be more sustainable. In the dining halls, many students are lazy when it comes to properly sorting their trash and thoughtless when it comes to sustainable takeout (although the ozzi boxes are a wonderful step in the right direction). An obvious reform to the dining hall system would be making sure that all to-go containers and cutlery is eco-friendly. Currently, there are three options for to-go containers: ozzi boxes, which are frequently forgotten in the dorm, plastic salad boxes, and paper containers. Although the paper containers are compostable, because the majority of the time students are taking them back to their dorms, they are not being composted (due to the unavailability of compost in the halls, which is a whole other issue). All to-go containers should be plastic so that when students don't have their ozzi box, they have an option that is recyclable outside of the diners. Finally, the diners should transition to compostable cutlery, since they can't be recycled currently. In the diner, it would reduce waste, and although they wouldn't be able to be recycled outside of the diners, they would break down faster.

Savanah Green

Major: *Chemical and Bimolecular Engineering*
Class of 2014

I signed up for the pledge because I want to commit to being a more sustainable human being. I felt like this pledge was a great way to start and see how I can change my habits. I was able to ease my way into a more sustainable lifestyle and it wasn't that hard at all. Making a few changes to your lifestyle can make things so much better not only for the environment but for your own personal finances as well.



Sustainability is particularly important to me because my mom works for an environmental services company. She instilled in me values to ensure we were making our environment better for future generations, not worse. However, once I got to college, living on my own, I began to let go of some of the habits she taught me. I stopped doing things as simple as recycling just because it was more convenient to have only one trash can. I started to realize and dislike the way I was living and wanted to make a change for the better to get back to how I was raised. This challenge helped me make changes in my life that I will commit to even after the challenge has ended.

To be more sustainable the university could make several changes. The bathrooms in all buildings could have light sensors to turn off when there is no movement for a few minutes. We could use a biking system such as Capital Bikeshare, which is a biking system in DC. This system would need biking stations where people can use and return bikes on campus. This would be beneficial for students because it allows for an environmentally friendly way of transportation for students as opposed to driving a motorized vehicle. Additionally, solar energy systems could be implemented in new places on campus. Lastly, more recycling cans should be placed around campus, particularly in the dorms. The academic buildings have a lot of recycling containers that are emptied efficiently, but the dorms could use more containers or containers that are emptied more frequently, particularly on the weekends.



Megan Von Barga

Major: *Chemical Engineering, and Sustainability Studies minor*
Class of 2017

I signed up for this pledge because I want to make a difference in the world. Every day people complete actions that hurt this planet and they don't even realize it. Even small differences make a difference. Signing this pledge would ensure that I would become more conscious of my decisions, and focusing on each decision for a week at

a time made them automatic decisions that I will continue to make.

Sustainability is important to me because I want to work as a chemical engineer making processes or machinery more sustainable when I graduate. I am minoring in Sustainability Studies in order to focus my education here at the University of Maryland. Growing up, I lived in suburbs with concrete roads and a single park down the street. Each year I would travel to Pennsylvania to visit family who lived on a mountain in the Poconos. That week was spent skiing, sledding, tubing, hiking, and exploring on the mountain. It was the most beautiful place I had ever seen, and going home after the week was over always made me wish my home could be on that mountain, or at least more environmentally friendly. At home I was surrounded by people who preferred to drive two blocks rather than walk, barely recycled, and wasted whatever resources they wanted. I want to stop these life styles from continuing, and by first focusing on my actions, I can then influence the actions of others. I love the world we live in and want to make others appreciate it and want to save it as much as I do.

To make any type of impact, I have found that starting close to home is a good way to start. Just like I hope to influence my hometown in the future, the university should try to influence students at their homes: the dorms. Most residents don't know how to be sustainable or don't think to try to be. Lights in personal rooms and common areas are consistently left on; water is left running; recyclables are thrown away; and insulated windows are opened during the winter because the heat is too high. The university should consider installing motion-sensor lighting and taking into account residents' opinions when setting temperature controls. In addition to this, increasing sustainability education is extremely important. The lectures in UNIV100 classes should expand to every class instead of only half, or possibly resident assistants should be required to talk to their residents about sustainability at the start of each semester.

Not everyone at this university is willing to go out of their way to learn about sustainability, so the education must be brought to them. Any change this will incur will be an improvement from today's situation.

Robert Swam

Major: *Environmental Science and Technology*
Class of 2015

Sustainability is very important to me on many levels. Growing up my family always took vacations to numerous national parks to go and appreciate the beauty nature provides for us one hundred percent free of charge. From an early age I knew what the purpose of these parks were, to preserve a pristine natural environment such that future generations can enjoy them as I did. As I grew older and became more educated, I understood the importance of not just preserving these small parts of the planet, but preserving the planet as a whole because we are on the fast track to ruining our own homes. As I've almost completed my third year in the Environmental Science and Technology program, my passion and understanding for sustainability has never been stronger. I tailor my daily activities to try to use maybe a gallon less water or maybe a pound less of coal because making an impact on sustainability always comes down to the people themselves and their actions.



I'm sure no one would argue and say that the biggest environmental issue facing us today isn't climate change. One way I would like to see the University of Maryland campus become more sustainable is to incorporate more solar technology into buildings, parking lots, bus stations, and any other surface that faces the sun. There are so many parking lots on this campus and no one likes walking to their cars in the rain. Why not cover the lots with solar panels? It is an ambitious idea but has been implemented in other places across the country. We owe it to our planet, and our commitment to being one of the top research institutions in the world, to find ways to minimize our own effect on the planet and become a model for other universities everywhere.



Kimberly Choi

Major: *English and Sociology, and
Sustainability studies minor*
Class of 2014

It is jarring to realize that ‘sustainability’ is a stronger word than we commonly acknowledge. If a lifestyle is sustainable, it is capable of being sustained. We are not living sustainably merely by recycling or turning off the lights when we leave the room; we’d have to live at a level that the Earth’s limited space and resources would be able to support, which few come close to doing.

We speak of it being decent to be unobtrusive, to not impose ourselves on other people or cause them problems, if not to actively help them and support their well-being. Sustainability, to me, is the same principle applied to others beyond whom we tangibly see—it is respecting the Earth as a whole, and people we don’t know, people who may not have even been born yet. It is important that I recognize what I might be imposing upon these others, for the lifestyles of people in the modern age have the potential to do so very much to the Earth.

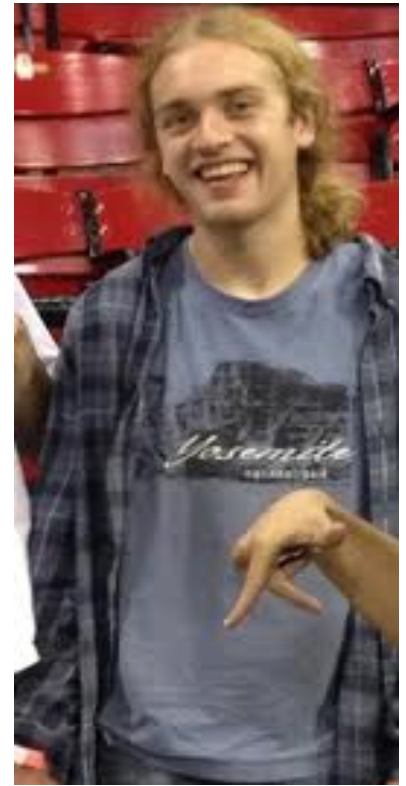
I took the pledge to examine on an intimately practical level what I could do to lessen my environmental impact. In some sense, it was satisfying in the same sort of way that it’s satisfying to choose healthy food over unhealthy food. It made me feel it was in my control to live, in a basic, tangible sense of the word, in a better sort of way. The pledge made ordinary activities like showering and dining more interesting by placing values underneath them and challenging me to improve my habits.

The University of Maryland has a good range of measures in place to make such considerations possible, such as waste disposal, public transportation, and greener dining options. It seems to me that what UMD should be doing is encourage more people to make use of these features.

I see paper Pepsi cups in the recycling bin quite often—I only found out they don’t belong there because someone mentioned it in an environment-related class I was in. The sustainability pledge was effective in turning my attention to lifestyle changes I could adopt, but I learned about the pledge because I subscribe to sustainability listservs. I would like to see UMD engage its students in using the means available on campus to behave more sustainably, as the pledge is encouraging, but also reaching those who do not think of themselves as part of the sustainability community. Awareness of environmental impact should not be merely some piece of a few people’s identities, some mark of membership in a subculture of environmentalism, but a responsibility all of us have.

Peter Thacher

Major: *Government and Politics and History*
Class of 2017



I signed up for the pledge because I feel that with the climate crisis in particular I must do everything I can in the time that I have to move toward a more sustainable and just society. Likely the first action I ever took related to environmental sustainability was when I was in ninth grade I started taking 5 days out of each month where I usually used a car and substituted them with public transportation. I felt increasingly guilty about my carbon footprint and while my trip to school more than doubled, I was much happier afterward. By tenth grade I was taking public transportation to school every day and in eleventh grade I started an activist club directed at increasing the involvement my high school on issues such as climate change. While my emission reduction was small it empowered me to do greater things. That is essentially why I took the pledge, because while personal action may be small, it is usually the tip of the iceberg toward much larger action.

Sustainability first became important to me because I realized that if we did not move toward a more sustainable world, our modern world as we know it would end. Yet over time, I have come to see sustainability as much as an opportunity to better our world as it is to save it from destruction. Our present society and economic system is not sustainable and big changes will need to be made to make it so. There is tremendous opportunity for advancement though, because our present society and economy isn't really working out that well. Wage stagnation, high inequality, oppression of minorities are all aspects of our present society, radically reordering society really isn't as bad as it seems. Indeed, for me at least, a utopian goal of sustainability and justice isn't naïve, it's absolutely necessary. A better world is possible, and if I didn't believe in it would be much harder to act for sustainability the way I do. For me climate change is the utmost message that our whole system needs changing, and that it is finally time to make the push for a way out of the present crises we live in.

I think that our university should begin to take concrete steps to close the college park natural gas plant. It seems a bit out of sync with our green university to have a large fossil fuel plant on campus.



Kenneth Ke

Major: *Bioengineering*

Class of 2016

While walking to class on the Maryland campus, I can't help but appreciate that our campus is in fact, beautiful. The autumn trees are slowly detaching their leaves one by one like fiery angels being discarded from heaven, floating to the grass below in order to circle the chemistry building in a wreath of red and orange. It is as if nature itself is celebrating the triumphs accomplished every day in this haven of education. But beneath this beautiful dance of colors an ugliness is uncovering as the twisted, gnarled branches of the semi naked trees are

beginning to show through the brilliant hues of red, yellow, and orange.

I signed the sustainability pledge because I could not imagine a world lacking the beauty that we experience and take for granted day after day. We live in a gilded society, where on the surface everything seems harmonious as we push the Earth for all we can reap from the land, sea, and sky. But there is trouble looming just underneath the surface. Like a bridge that has far exceeded its maximum capacity, the earth is starting to show signs of wear. The cracks and signs of fatigue are evident as ecosystems are destroyed in the Great Barrier Reef and Glacier National Park is basically on its last limb. It is easy to ignore the warning signs until we do start losing the precious resources we rely on. At that point our Earth's harmony, like our bridge inundated with cracks and material fatigue, will collapse. One thing our university could do to become more sustainable would be to create an algorithm to find which places on campus have the highest wind. By creating this topological map of campus wind patterns we can find the place where the wind converges and the maximum wind speeds are generated. At these points we could build wind turbines to generate electricity in the most efficient way possible. This would minimize the number of actual structures built while maximizing the output.

Morgan Bachman

Major: *Environmental Science and Policy and double minor in GIS and French Studies*
Class of 2014

I personally signed up for the “What Will You(md) Do?” Sustainability Pledge because I think it’s a great opportunity for myself and other participating members of the campus community to reevaluate our highly consumptive daily behaviors. Far too often I read negative opinion articles by pessimistic authors who stereotype the millennial generation as text-obsessed, morally stunted and generally disinterested in attaining classically accepted life achievements. Sustainability is important to me because I believe, quite on the contrary, that the majority of this country’s young adults are some of the most optimistic, socially progressive, environmentally responsible people alive at present. The solutions to the tremendous global issues we inevitably will face can and will be developed by the bright minds of today’s youth. Yet it is important to note that the first step in any movement is self-awareness, which can only be achieved through exposure to new ideas and philosophies. Along the same thought, pledging to take five minute showers or skipping red meat for a week could be the beginning actions of someone’s sustainability domino effect.



Since I began my quest for a Bachelor’s degree as an undergraduate, I have constantly been impressed by the diverse environmental initiatives that continue to blossom and thrive at the University of Maryland. In most cases, these ideas have sprung from grassroots organizations or small groups of students who are extremely passionate about a specific facet of sustainability and set out to enhance the campus standard. Therefore, I believe the remaining barriers to improvement are institutional, in which existing structural systems do not promote collaboration and creativity between the very people who are working hardest to stimulate change.

As UMD officially enters the Big Ten Conference, it becomes even more vital to prioritize environmental innovation amongst a group of universities that have already implemented impressive sustainable policies. I recently read an article detailing how one single professor at Penn State University managed to bridge the institutional gap between students, staff and faculty members across the campus, and I think this approach can be applied to the University of Maryland as well. At an informal meeting of minds, Dr. Christopher Uhl asked participants to think about Penn State as an ecosystem and observe patterns of excess; from there, they drafted a collection of sustainability indicators to gauge water use, energy consumption, waste generation, recycling efficiency and even the ethics of a sustainable campus. Measuring sustainability legitimized it, and the group went on to craft a new university mission statement to highlight the importance of environmental stewardship – which Penn State’s president signed to officially authorize the change.

As a hotbed for innovation and learning, the University of Maryland should be at the forefront of the national sustainability movement, fostering a campus-wide culture of environmental leadership and revolution.



Carolyn Kowalski

Major: *Dietetics and Kinesiology*
Class of 2017

As a dietetics and kinesiology double major hoping to pursue a career in sports nutrition in the future, I know the importance of people treating their bodies right by regulating what they put into them through their diets so that they can get the most out of them. Similarly, in order to get the most out of the environment we live in, we must control what we put into it. This is where sustainability comes in. Just like how the excessive consumption of unhealthy foods and inadequate exercise can lead to complications in an individual's body, the excessive use of fossil fuels and other harmful materials and inadequate use of sustainable practices can and will lead to the deterioration of the world we live in.

I know I, among many others, hope to one day have a family full of healthy and happy children and in order for that to be possible, there has to be fresh air for them to breathe and clean water for them to drink. On the path we're heading in, this will not be feasible for future generations if our wasteful and indulgent actions. With the world population expected to not only reach, but to exceed nine billion, it is crucial for sustainability to be practiced. Even the

smallest of changes in peoples' daily routines can make an enormous difference from turning the lights off after leaving a room to drinking from a reusable water bottle rather than from disposable ones.

I like to think that I lead an environmentally friendly life but I know that I'm not perfect and that there is plenty of room for improvement. Taking this pledge required me to stay conscious of every decision I made during the course of the weeks the pledge took place and how these choices impacted the environment around me. By signing the sustainability pledge, I vowed to take actions to save resources by recycling, not using single-stream plastic or products, as well as to use less water by shortening my showers, only running water when absolutely necessary, and waiting until my laundry basket was completely full before washing my dirty clothes, and to unplug electronics and turn the lights off when I'm not using them. Going into no impact week, I hope combine all of the habits I've started to create over the last few weeks to lead a more sustainable live than I previously had.

This pledge aided in raising awareness around campus about how crucial practicing sustainability is to the present and in the future. However, there are measures that can be take at the university can take to make campus greener. Small-scale examples of this include, having the hallway lights in dorms being dimmer in the late night hours when they are less traveled and during the day when the natural light can be utilized. Additionally, reusable cups, like an Ozzi box but for a drink, should be available on a coin return system for people who want to take their drinks to go without using a paper cup.

Sarasvati Spaur

Major: *Government and Politics and Economics*
Class of 2017

The Sustainability Pledge reflects the growing demand for not just a change in lifestyle, but a total philosophy readjustment. We must realize how our impact on the environment directly affects the future of humanity, and reduce our carbon footprint, before we irreparably pollute the planet. By signing up for the Sustainability Pledge, I agreed to think about how my actions contribute to the burning of fossil fuels, wasting of water, and unnecessary overconsumption of resources.

I took the Pledge because I believe that as an inhabitant of this Earth, it is my duty to protect it. If a person wants to continue living comfortably in their house, they will clean and maintain it. So why do we not apply the same logic to our most basic home, the Earth? To me, sustainability does not imply humanity must devolve back to the Stone Age in order to most effectively reduce our environmental impact. Sustainability instead suggests conservation and preservation. We must conserve our usage of natural resources to ensure the survival of future generation, and preserve habitat so other types of life can flourish hundreds of years from now.

As Maryland's campus blooms into spring, the grass has exploded in vivid color. The bright green hue and lack of weeds does not just come from the green thumbs of gardeners; the University uses pesticides and fertilizers to keep its lawns visually appealing. However, these toxic chemicals get swept away in the next rain, and end up in the rivers and streams that empty into the Chesapeake Bay. For a campus that calls itself "green", this is a major contradiction. The University of Maryland can minimize its watering and usage of pesticides and fertilizers by planting native plants.





Yoojin Park

Major: *Marketing*

Class of *2016*

This past year, something really important happened to me. As cheesy as this may sound, I recently discovered that the purpose of my existence is to help protect the earth around us and those who inhabit it. Though, accomplishing this can sometimes be

difficult because I am not as sustainable as I could be with the lifestyle that I grew up living. Taking the sustainability pledge would allow me to integrate sustainable methods into my life that are not as difficult as one may believe it to be, and will carry on to my life even after the pledge is over. It will push me to be more mindful of my actions that I normally would not pay much attention to without the pledge, and the impacts that they may cause. With all of the problems that are already occurring, there is no reason to put any extraneous pressure on Mother Nature with something that could be easily avoided.

Sustainability is important to me because there is only one earth, and I think it is a really great place to be in. The natural world is something that gives great meaning to my life, and I want it to be around long enough so that others in the future can appreciate it too. Finding harmony with the environment surrounding us is imperative: human beings are not the only ones to exist in this world, and it is important to keep in mind that this home is ours to share. We have already caused a great amount of damage, and it is critical that we start doing something to alleviate some of the pressure that we cause before it is too late.

One thing that our university could do to be more sustainable is to simply care - care about what is going around us, and know why our earth is worth protecting. I firmly believe that in order to create real social change, the root of it is to inspire people to care about why they should do what we believe. In order to do so, not only can we as students do something to spread this message through events or actions, but also have our administration showing that sustainability matters as well. By fostering a community that cares about sustainability, it will motivate people to actually do something about it.

Eric York

Major: *Business Management*
Class of 2016



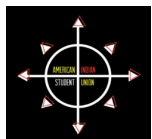
A few weeks ago I signed up for the What Will You Do sustainability pledge as a way to actively participate in environmental conservation. As a member of College-Park Scholar's Environment, Technology and Economy program, I'm heavily vested in the pursuit for an environmentally friendly future. I truly believe that everyone has the potential to make a significant impact, even if they do so in the smallest of ways. By simply taking shorter showers, turning off

electronics, eating less meat, using fewer disposable goods, and supporting eco-friendly policies students at the University of Maryland can not only reduce their negative impact on the natural world, but also set an example for others to follow. While the sustainability pledge is a good place to start for upcoming environmentalists, there are still many other sustainable areas that need to be addressed.

One of the biggest issues that has not received a lot of attention is the University's excessive energy consumption. In addition to the growing dependence of electronic devices used by students (ex. laptops, cell phones, TVs, tablets), the majority of the university's buildings consume enormous amounts of energy to power lights, wall sockets, heating units, etc. Most of this energy comes from power plants that use fossil fuels as opposed to renewable energy. UMD itself has very limited renewable energy utilities (wind turbines, solar panels), plus it wastes electricity late at night to light up mostly unoccupied on-campus buildings and dormitory bathrooms. At the individual level, many students leave the lights on in their rooms after they leave, keep chargers plugged into their walls, and take long hot showers. UMD must resolve this ongoing problem by investing in clean energy and reducing the total amount of energy it consumes while educating its students about how to conserve electricity.

Sustainable Student Groups

Beyond these student essays and the sustainability pledge, there is an immense amount of effort put forth on campus by **students** to promote **sustainability**. There were over 30 student groups that hosted tables at this year's Earth Day Festival to celebrate the sustainability efforts of their organization. Highlighted below are 15 of the most active:



American Indian Student Union: Raise awareness and visibility of American Indian cultures and discuss affairs facing American Indian students and the American Indian community. **They raise awareness about environmental impacts on tribal communities such as the Keystone XL pipeline.**



CHUM: Cooperative Housing University of Maryland perfect the principles of cooperative living, like consensus-based decision making equal housing, and community building. **All the houses have bike racks and many compost, garden, and are powered by renewable energy.** This year members organized and built a community garden in Calvert Hills open to all residents to promote organic food and healthy eating.



Clean Energy at UMD: **This club has become one of the strongest independent voices on campus calling for reducing state and local carbon emissions.** Through advocacy, education and mobilization, we can inspire changes that lead to an empowered university community and a cleaner, greener world.



Food Recovery Network (FRN): Unites students on college campuses to **fight waste and feed people by donating the surplus unsold food** from their colleges and donating to hungry Americans.



Engineers Without Borders (EWB-USA): Supports community-driven development programs worldwide by collaborating with local partners to **design and implement sustainable engineering projects**, while creating transformative experiences and responsible leaders.



Maryland PIRG is a consumer group that stands up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security, or our right to fully participate in our democratic society. **This year they have worked on passing the Bottle Bill in Maryland to reduce emissions and waste within the state.**



Meatless Monday: **Encourages students to adopt more sustainable and humane eating habits** through education and outreach. This year the organization held a lasagna taste-testing event in which students could choose between vegan and meat options. They also handed out recipes for vegetarian meals.



Public Health Garden Club: This club designed and maintains the garden located to the west of SPH in order to **advance the public health needs and policies of our state and beyond through practical lessons on agriculture and sustainability.**



RHA Sustainability Committee: SCOM is focused on promoting "green" awareness, specifically for UMD residents. This year they planned an event and campaign called **"Lose the Lights" to raise awareness about electricity use on campus and how to reduce impact.**



Terp Changers: Catalyzes social innovation in higher education through a global network of entrepreneurial students, faculty and community leaders. **This year the group held consultation meetings to help students launch sustainable business ventures.**



Terrapin Trail Club: Offers students and other interested persons an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, to provide training and guidance in the techniques and safety procedures used in outdoor sports, **to encourage conservation**, and to encourage social participation as an avenue to maturity.



Sierra Club, UMCP Chapter: Aims to act as a branch of the national Sierra Club to support their campaigns, and goal to **explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.** We will work to educate students on different environmental issues and provide community service projects and trips. Students will also gain experience working on national campaigns on campus.



Society for Green Business: Promotes sustainable business values by introducing students to new and innovative ways in which businesses have adopted green practices, encouraging students to value environmental concerns and advocating green measures at the university. This organization led an initiative that **assisted UMD Dining Services to transition to using compostable food containers, Implemented ink-cartridge recycling program, Partnered with NGO, Casey Tree Planting to help plant trees in D.C.**



Smith Net Impact: This is a group within the Smith business school designed to enable students to **connect with other leaders who have incorporated sustainability into their careers so they can "do good" and transform society.**



VegTerps: **Brings together vegan, vegetarian, pescetarian and vegcurious students at University of Maryland.** Has a focus on animal rights, with an emphasis on advocacy and outreach work. VegTerps hopes to increase awareness of the issues that surround animal rights.

Student Sustainability Committee

The **Student Sustainability Committee** (SSC) is a committee of the University of Maryland's undergraduate **Student Government Association** (SGA). SSC strives to ensure that the environmental sustainability needs of the student body remain a campus-wide priority by advising the SGA and University administration.

SSC works on environmental issues on campus, in the community and even in the state. This year and in the past, we have worked on initiatives pertaining to transportation, water and energy use, carbon emissions, food and resources consumption, development and landscape planning, environmental education, and beyond!

If you have any questions related to the content in this book, the Sustainability Pledge, or the purpose that the Student Sustainability Committee serves on campus, please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Sustainability, Ori Gutin, at 240-778-4587 or omgutin@gmail.com.



Back Cover: At the 2014 UMD Earth Day Festival we asked all students in attendance to commit to lending the Earth a “helping hand” by placing their physical handprint on the tree, and by signing their name underneath. The mural represents the collective commitment to sustainability of the student body.

APPENDIX B

Lend the Earth a helping hand!



APPENDIX C

SGA Student Sustainability Committee

Director: Ori Gutin omgutin@gmail.com, 240-778-4587

Mission Statement: The SSC is dedicated to educating and uniting the University of Maryland in regards to sustainability on campus, in College Park and in the State. We challenge the social, environmental, and economic institutions on campus, and beyond, in order to create progressive and innovative sustainable change to better the future for all University of Maryland students.

2013 – 2014 Recap:

- **Power Shift:** Fundraised \$7,500 and recruited 60 UMD undergraduate students to attend a 3-day environmental youth conference.
- **Cove Point LNG:** Partnered with a local nonprofit, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, to raise awareness regarding a statewide environmental issue.
- **Fossil Free MD:** Developed a USM-wide environmental coalition to pursue fossil fuel divestment in the University System of Maryland Foundation.
- **Sustainability Pledge:** Created a month long sustainability pledge program that educated students about sustainable practices and encouraged them to take responsibility for their own environmental impact.
- **UMD Earth Day Festival:** Planned and executed the annual UMD Earth Day Festival featuring over 40 campus and community organizations.
- **President's Energy Initiatives:** Worked with campus administration to express the student body's desire for substantial carbon emission reducing initiatives.

2014 – 2015 Vision: The vision for this year's SSC is to establish a continuously strong presence not only in campus environmental affairs, but also in city and statewide affairs. Though, on-campus issues will remain our number one focus.

- On campus, our goal is to create change in regards to the issues that are both **most important to the student body**, and **most impactful to our campus' environmental footprint**.
- Within SSC, we identified 5 issue areas pertaining to sustainability that we think are the most important to address: **Energy, Waste, Water, Food** and **Education**. Then we polled the campus asking which issue they thought was most important. Thus far, **602 students** have participated in the poll, and the results are as follows:

What broad campus sustainability issue is most important to you?



- Due to the close vote between **Energy** and **Waste**, being separated by merely 2%, the SSC has decided to concentrate on both of these issues during this academic year.
- Currently, the committee is looking into the current status of these issues on campus, researching what peer institutions of similar size have done to address these issues, and reaching out to the student body to determine what they *specifically* would like to see change on our campus regarding these two issues.
- Ultimately, we will develop a list of the 5 most important ways to address each issue, and will proceed from there in creating that change on campus through education, and innovation.

APPENDIX C

Current Projects: These are all project that SSC has already begun pursuing on campus.

- **Sustainable Maryland Day:** We are pursuing sustainable improvements to UMD's biggest event of the year, Maryland Day. SSC has proposed 5 sustainable improvements to this event:
 1. Replace volunteer lunches with buffet lunches or diner vouchers to eliminate waste
 2. Increase sustainability messaging and advertising
 3. Sustainably sourced volunteer t-shirts
 4. Reduce waste by reducing plastic water bottle sales and number of printed programs
 5. Eliminate unnecessary giveaways at departmental tables
- **Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy:** In 2009 the University approved a policy entitled, the "Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy." Among other things, this policy mandated that all university paper should be 100% post consumer recycled by July 1st, 2012. Currently, the SSC is conducting a survey of campus departments to determine how many are aware of this policy and how many actually do use only 100% recycled paper in their offices. How we proceed will be based on the results of the survey.
- **Big 10 Student Sustainability Association:** Now that UMD has officially joined the Big 10, SSC is working to develop a Big 10 Student Sustainability Association, which connects sustainability-oriented campus organizations from all 14 of the Big 10 schools. This Association will help us collaborate on various issues, provide feedback to one another, and eventually, lobby on a grand scale for issues that pertain to all of our schools (*e.g. carbon neutral athletics' programs*).
- **Residence Hall Composting:** Due to student demand, SSC is pursuing the expansion of composting into residence halls on campus. We have begun to work with Residential Facilities and Facilities Management to discuss the logistical aspects, while also working with Resident Life to discuss the educational aspects of this initiative.

Prospective Projects: These are projects that SSC has discussed, but has yet to begin pursuing.

- **Campus Natural Gas Power Plant:** As the lease ends in 2019 for the campus' Cogeneration Heat and Power Plant, SSC is interested in opening the campus dialogue as to how this power plant fits into our campus' clean energy future.
- **Solar Arrays on Campus:** SSC is interested in exploring the possibility of photovoltaic solar arrays on top of campus buildings and in parking lots, in order to supplement our campus' energy needs.
- **College Sustainability Plans:** The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences pioneered the first college level sustainability plan this past semester, defining goals for sustainable education, Green Office program participation, and water and energy reduction within the college. SSC is interested in working with college Deans to develop plans similar to this in every college.
- **Dining Food Portions:** Despite the success of the Food Recovery Network, food waste is still a huge issue facing our campus. SSC would like to work with Dining Services to develop small, medium and large food portions at the diners, giving students the opportunity to take only what they need.

The Student Sustainability Committee recognizes the amazing progress that has been made on our campus thus far, and we are so appreciative to those on campus who have helped to make that progress. Though, as evidenced by what we are currently working on and what we hope to work on, we still see a significant amount of work that needs to be done before we are truly "*a national model for a green university*." For more information, please visit our website (umdsgassc.wix.com/umdscc) or contact the SGA Director of Sustainability, Ori Gutin, at omgutin@gmail.com or 240-778-4587.

