

Council Members Present (via Zoom):

Bob Reuning — Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer (Chair)
Scott Lupin — Assoc Dir., Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk; Director, Office of Sustainability
Ann Tonggarwee — Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Bryan Quinn — Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Mary Dorman — Executive Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk
Colleen Wright-Riva — Assistant Vice President, Division of Student Affairs
Meredith Gore — Professor, Department of Geographical Sciences
Stephanie Yearwood — Professor, Environmental Science and Technology
Tim Knight — Program Director, Environment, Technology and Economy
Susan Corry — Director, Engineering and Energy, Facilities Management
Thomas McMullen — Special Assistant to the Provost, Facilities Management
Courtnee Connon — Graduate Student Representative
Zie Goodman — Undergraduate Student Representative

Guests Present:

Javiera King — Executive Assistant, Division of Information Technology

Meeting start time: 12:00 pm

Meeting Highlights

Welcome & Introductions — B. Reuning

Bob Reuning opened the first Sustainability Council meeting of the Fall 2025 semester, welcoming returning and new members, including faculty representative Tim Knight, undergraduate representative Zie Goodman and graduate representative Courtnee Connon. He expressed appreciation for the Council's work and enthusiasm for continuing sustainability progress on campus.

Council members and staff introduced themselves, representing a wide range of departments, disciplines, and sustainability roles across the university.

Scott Lupin provided an overview of the meeting agenda and recent summer activities within the Office of Sustainability. The agenda included updates on verified carbon offset purchases, Green Labs Program development, Green Workspace participation, student outreach initiatives, and the annual Sustainability Progress and Fund Reports.

Verified Carbon Offsets — S. DeLeon

Sally DeLeon shared updates on the university's verified carbon offset purchases, a key part of UMD's strategy in achieving carbon neutrality. Offsets for unavoidable emissions such as air travel, undergraduate commuting, and new construction were purchased and retired for the first half of the year, with a second retirement scheduled for January 2026. Credits were sourced from three vendors: Native Energy, SCB Group, and 3Degrees.

UMD has joined a Second Nature leadership group focused on higher education offset strategies, alongside peer institutions including Duke University. Due to current budgetary conditions, decisions about future purchases for 2026 will be made later in the fiscal year, though credits are already banked for partial coverage. A public dashboard displaying carbon offset projects and vendors is available on the ProgressHub.

Green Labs Program Pilot — D. Frye

Dyani Frye presented an overview of the proposed Green Labs pilot program, developed with the intention to make research more sustainable by reducing waste, energy use, and resource consumption in university laboratories.

She explained the program's context, noting that previous Green Labs initiatives (2010s, 2018–2019) were limited by bandwidth and coordination challenges. With improved collaboration among ESSR units, the pilot aims to be more sustainable and scalable.

Key components include:

- **Recycling:** Exploring options like Triumvirate Environmental's Plastics4Purpose program to recycle contaminated PPE and laboratory plastics into useful materials such as plastic lumber.
- **Education:** Integrating sustainability modules into SciShield, the online safety training platform, to teach best practices on a wide array of topics including equipment, energy, water, and chemical management.
- **Community Building:** Establishing a Green Labs Community of Practice for researchers to share ideas through events like workshops and lunch-and-learn gatherings.

Next steps involve identifying pilot labs, refreshing web resources, and developing educational content. The program's mission is to build a culture of sustainability in research where sustainable practices become second nature in every lab.

Green Workspace Program — *S. DeLeon (for S. Holt)*

Sally DeLeon provided updates about the Green Workspace Program (previously the Green Office Program) on behalf of Sustainability Coordinator Savannah Holt.

Ten campus units are participating in Green Workspace certification this semester, including the Center for Social Value Creation (CSV), RecWell, Driskell Center, Terps Young Scholars, Entomology Administration, Shuttle-UM, AIM (AI Interdisciplinary Institute), Studio A & Stamp Gallery, the Senate Office, and the Environmental Finance Center.

Updated certification actions and resources were launched over the summer and cohort meetings are currently being planned to build community among staff leading sustainability efforts in their workplaces.

Green Terp Bucket List — *S. Page*

Solana Page introduced the newly launched Green Terp Bucket List Challenge, a refreshed and interactive version of the previous Green Pledge program for students. The challenge engages undergraduates to complete sustainability-themed actions such as visiting the Campus Farm, refilling reusable water bottles, and attending campus sustainability events. Students can earn badges and a green sustainability cord to wear at graduation for completing all challenges.

Collaboration opportunities were discussed with some council members including assigning the challenge to students as part of and integrating locations in the challenge into a campus app.

Sustainability Progress Report (CY2025) — *H. Pham and S. DeLeon*

Ha Pham and Sally DeLeon presented UMD's annual sustainability metrics for calendar year 2024 (*Appendix A*), highlighting progress under the six Council goals and alignment with UMD's Fearlessly Forward strategic plan, the Maryland Moore-Miller Administration's State Plan, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Key takeaways included:

- Carbon Neutrality
 - UMD achieved carbon neutrality as of April 22, 2025, fulfilling the 2017 commitment to eliminate net operational emissions.

- Total emissions for 2024 were approximately 165,000 MTCO₂e, offset by 39,220 verified credits.
- CHP plant emissions decreased 12% from 2023 due to interim boiler operations and reduced stationary fuel use.
- Purchased electricity increased 30% due to temporary reliance on the grid but was fully offset by renewable energy certificates (RECs) from qualified solar and wind farms.
- **Smart Growth and Transportation**
 - 25 LEED-certified buildings now represent 15% of campus building area.
 - Shuttle-UM recorded 1.2 million rides; almost 7,000 bicycles are now registered in the Bike Index.
 - The Smart Commute program is being phased out and OS is in discussions with DOTS about successor initiatives.
- **Water and Stormwater**
 - Campus water use increased 14% (to 700 million gallons), largely due to aging CHP steam line leaks.
 - Facilities Management is launching a \$16 million Underground Steam Line Replacement Project to address these issues.
 - 187 stormwater facilities are in operation, with 147 staff trained in stormwater management.
- **Waste Minimization**
 - 2,700 tons of compost were collected and the institutional recycling rate reached 70%.
 - Terp to Terp diverted 16,000 pounds of surplus items from the landfill to students.
 - Individual (MRA) recycling rate was 54%.
- **Local and Global Impact**
 - 89% reduction in paper purchasing since 2007; and 90% of paper purchased has recycled content.
 - Dining Services continues implementing the Cool Food Pledge and aims to source 20% of food from local or certified sustainable farms.
- **Education for Sustainability**
 - The Office of Sustainability hosted or participated in 52 events, engaging over 3,000 members of the UMD community.

- Sustainability Advisors and Ambassadors have continued to conduct peer outreach and training across campus.

Sustainability Fund FY25 Update — T. Brinks

Taylor Brinks presented information about the FY25 Sustainability Fund cycle and reflected on the success of the previous fiscal year (*Appendix B*).

She reminded attendees that the fund originated in 2007 when undergraduates approved a sustainability fee. FY25 concluded the final year of the three-year phased student fee increase to \$30 per full-time undergraduate.

Since its inception, the Fund has awarded \$4.2 million to 198 projects from over \$14.8 million in requests, making it a competitive grant. For FY26, new bylaw updates include the addition of a Salaries and Stipends Form to justify requests for graduate assistant stipends, faculty stipends, and staff salaries.

FY25 data was presented, showing that of 25 proposals, 11 projects were funded, totaling about \$433,000. With the addition of multi-year funding last year, a total amount of \$485,000 was approved through FY27 for FY25 projects with two- or three-year timelines. Funded initiatives were also spotlighted, including the UMD Libraries Graduate Assistantship which enabled the library to hire a graduate assistant who helped coordinate a waste audit and earn a Sustainable Libraries Certification. Another project supported undergraduate internship scholarships for 57 students in sustainability roles.

Going into FY26, the fund has roughly \$1.1 million available, the highest to date, plus \$25,000 from Maryland Energy Impact Partners for student research and research-related field trips.

The Office of Sustainability is expanding fund promotion through articles and social media and will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the fund with a campus event in March 2026 featuring past project recipients.

Open Forum — B. Reuning

Council members were invited to share any additional comments or ideas for future meeting topics. Scott Lupin encouraged members to propose topics they would like to explore in upcoming meetings, noting that the Council sometimes invites guest speakers to discuss areas such as energy, transportation, food systems, and climate research. Some initial ideas included fleet electrification and infrastructure upgrades, data center efficiency and AI energy impacts and equity and inclusivity related to tribal communities within state sustainability initiatives.

Adjourn 1:45 PM

Appendices

Appendix A: (2025) SustainableUMD Progress Summary CY24

Appendix B: Sustainability Fund Annual Report FY25

DRAFT

SustainableUMD Progress Summary

October 6, 2025



OVERVIEW

- **Review of Sustainability Goals**
 - *Sustainability in Fearlessly Forward*
 - *Council Sustainability Goals*
- **Sustainability at UMD**
 - *Progress by Campus Goals*
- **Highlights Since 2024**
 - *STARS Certification*
 - *Campus Bikeway Project*
 - *Higher Education Clean Energy Grant Pilot Program*
 - *SustainableUMD Network Gathering & Faculty Workshop*





FEARLESSLY FORWARD

Released in February 2022, the new University Strategic Plan, *Fearlessly Forward*, includes sustainability as a key theme. Divided into four principles, the strategic plan is easily connected to campus sustainability goals and international sustainable development frameworks.

1. **We reimagine learning.**
2. **We take on humanities grand challenges.**
3. **We partner to advance the public good.**
4. **We invest in people and communities.**

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL GOALS



Carbon Neutrality

100% carbon neutral by 2025 compared to 2005, site energy conservation measures, expansion of renewable sources, zero emission vehicle expansion



Education for Sustainability

Formal and informal opportunities for students to gain knowledge/skills and to collaborate with staff/faculty on solutions



Local and Global Impact

Partner to further sustainability in Maryland and beyond, encourage sustainable procurement at UMD, support green dining programs



Smart Growth

Alternative transportation, environmental stewardship in landscape, high performance building and utility design



Sustainable Water Use

Reduce purchases of potable water, expand harvesting and reuse, responsibly manage stormwater to protect the Chesapeake Bay

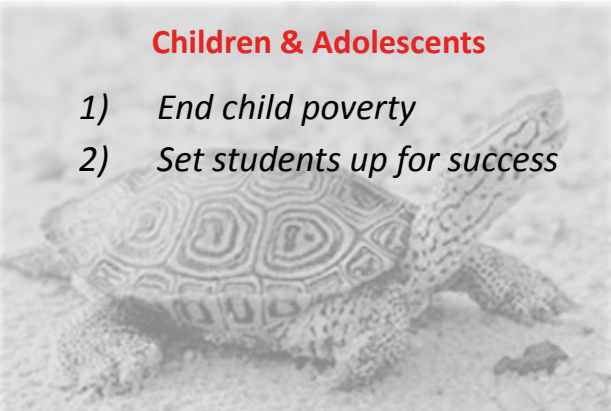


Waste Minimization

Divert 75% from the landfill, reduce solid waste generated per person 1% annually, increase cleaning and waste sorting

2024 NEW STATE PLAN PRIORITIES

Children & Adolescents

- 
- 1) *End child poverty*
 - 2) *Set students up for success*

Sustainable Economy & Growth

- 3) *Create an equitable, robust, and competitive economy*
- 4) *Connect Marylanders to jobs*
- 6) *Make Maryland a desirable, affordable home for all residents*
- 7) *Advance infrastructure to better connect all Marylanders to opportunities and each other*

Health & Safety

- 
- 5) *Create safer communities*
 - 8) *Ensure world-class health systems for all*

9) Leader in Clean Energy

- *Sustainable energy usage*
- *Electrification*
- *Low carbon solutions within government*
- *State and local plans for equitable climate resilience*

9) Greenest State in the Country

- *Restoration of Chesapeake & coastal bays*
- *Sustainable fishing & farming practices*
- *Reduce pollution through enforcement & compliance measures*
- *Invest in sustainable green and blue infrastructure projects*
- *Become a leading state in environmental justice*
- *Prioritize front line communities who experience inequitable impacts from pollution & climate change*

10) State of Service

- *"Service Year Option"*
- *"Maryland Corps"*
- *Reduce barriers for Marylanders to serve*
- *Attract resources to expand Maryland's service programs*

“Smart Growth” (2000-2025) → “Sustainable Growth” (2025-2050)



NEW SUSTAINABLE GROWTH POLICY & PLANNING PRINCIPLES

1.	Land	Optimize productivity of working landscapes Prioritize development within population centers
2.	Transportation	Prioritize transportation networks based on energy efficiency, affordability, and reliability of access to jobs, housing and services
3.	Housing	Enable a mix of quality housing types Enable affordability options to accommodate all who want to live here
4.	Economy	Allow for adaptive reuse, mixed-use, and context appropriate new development
5.	Equity	Engage all sectors of the community in plan development Ensure diverse voices are heard Ensure the needs of underserved populations are prioritized
6.	Resilience	Integrate resiliency measures that minimize the impacts of rapid and unexpected natural- and human-caused threats on communities
7.	Place	Provide for public spaces that encourage social interaction Value cultural, historical and natural resources
8.	Ecology	Protect and restore sensitive ecological systems Conserve natural resources including forests, agricultural areas, and waterways

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (2015 - 2030)



Signature Priority: Experiential Learning & Service

UMD Education for Sustainability Goal (Campus)

- Integrate sustainability broadly across curriculum and student life
- Enhance opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to work together to develop and implement solutions to campus sustainability challenges

Maryland Objectives and Indicators (State)

- Further Maryland's mission to advance environmental justice by developing... educational programs that prioritize justice and equity; Advance Maryland as a leading state in environmental justice
- Provide opportunities and reduce barriers for young people to serve our state

Example SDG Target (Global)

- Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles,... global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development (4.7)



Signature Priority: Climate Action & Clean Energy

UMD Carbon Neutrality Goal (Campus)

- Energy efficiency improvements
- Renewable energy adoption
- Sustainable transportation initiatives

Maryland Objectives and Indicators (State)

- Decarbonize and mitigate the effects of climate change
- Megawatts of clean energy generated
- Decarbonize Maryland's transportation sector

Example SDG Targets (Global)

- Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (7.2)
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (13.3)



Signature Priority: Watershed Stewardship

UMD Sustainable Water Use Goal (Campus)

- Campus Creek Restoration
- Stormwater Pollution Management & Education
- Nextgen Energy Program reduces water loss & pollution

Maryland Objectives and Indicators (State)

- Protect and improve water and soil quality
- Percent of nutrients reduced to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (Chesapeake Bay)

Example SDG Targets (Global)

- Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity (6.4)
- By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution (14.1)



Signature Priority: Sustainable Food & Agriculture

UMD Local & Global Impact Goal (Campus)

- Terp Farm modeling sustainable food production
- Campus Pantry alleviates barriers to healthy food access
- Food Recovery Network reduces hunger and waste

Maryland Objectives and Indicators (State)

- Enrollment in key economic benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Number of Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program best management practices adopted by farms

Example SDG Targets (Global)

- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices... (2.4)
- Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses (12.3)

2 ZERO HUNGER



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Sustainability at UMD





The University of Maryland has achieved its goal of **carbon neutrality** by 2025 - a target set by President Pines at his 2021 inauguration.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 3.0

PLAN: sustainingprogress.umd.edu/ClimateActionPlan

BENEFIT: Estimated to prevent between 1.78 - 1.98 million MTCO₂e from entering the atmosphere between 2023 and 2040.

CAP 3.0 STRATEGIES:

- ▶ Power
- ▶ Power: Heating & Cooling (*NextGen*)
- ▶ Refrigerants & Chemicals
- ▶ Campus Fleet
- ▶ Land Use and Management
- ▶ Solid Waste
- ▶ Commuting & Air Travel
- ▶ Purchasing
- ▶ Education & Research



SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS UPDATE

The SustainableUMD Progress Hub dashboards are up-to-date with CY 2024 data.



Carbon Neutrality

100% Renewable purchased electricity

11% Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2023

39,220 MTCO₂e Of carbon offsets



Education for Sustainability

***226** Sustainability minor enrollments

16 Certified Green Chapters

16 Certified Green Workspaces



Local and Global Impact

20.85% Increase in emissions reduction per plate

29% Cities certified Sustainable MD

56,050 lbs Produce from Terp Farm



Smart Growth

2.5 million SQFT Green buildings added since 2010, 15% of total campus building space



Sustainable Water Use

14% Increase in water consumption from 2023

187 Stormwater management facilities



Waste Minimization

70% Institutional diversion rate

54% Individual recycling rate

2,732 tons Of compost generated

Carbon Neutral

125,862 MTCO₂e

net greenhouse gas emissions

62% reduction

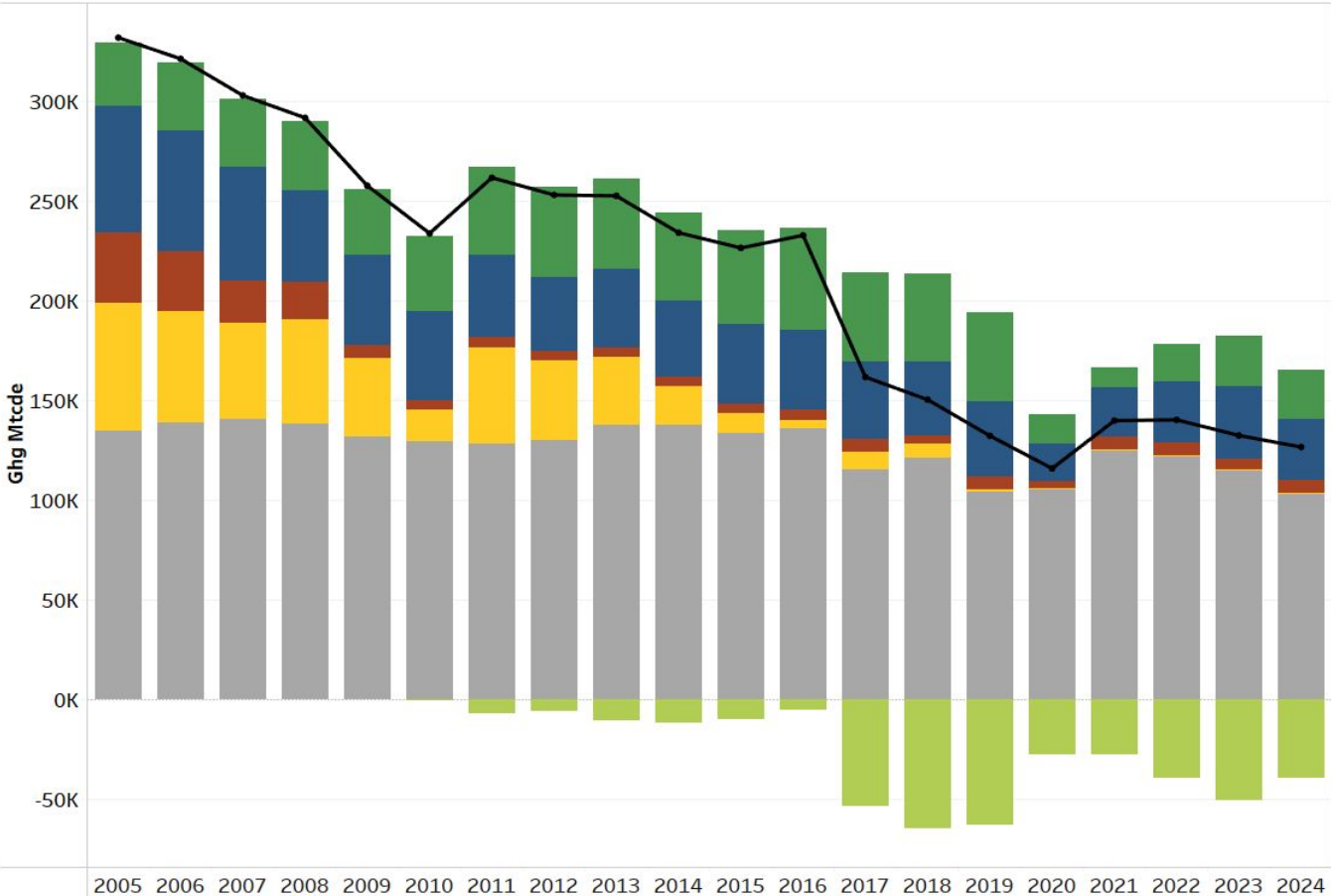
compared to 2005 baseline (Net)

11% reduction

compared to 2023 data (Net)

Sources:

- Air Travel
- Commuting Emissions
- Operations/Waste
- Purchased Electricity
- On-campus Heat and Power Generation
- Carbon Credits



On Campus Heat and Power Generations

- Gross GHG MTCDE

Source	CY 2024	CY 2023	CY 2022
Cogen Electricity and Steam	92,070	105,077	108,461
Transmission & Distribution	3,707	2,885	2,884

Electricity Purchased

- MWH

Electricity Purchased	229,328	173,339	173,134
-----------------------	---------	---------	---------

Transportation Emission Reductions - *Gross GHG MTCDE*

Source	CY 2024	CY 2023	CY 2022
UMD Vehicle Fleet	4,984	5,438	4,905
Faculty and Staff Commuting	15,316	18,156	14,868
Student Commuting	10,635	13,136	11,113
Air Travel	24,684	25,121	19,071

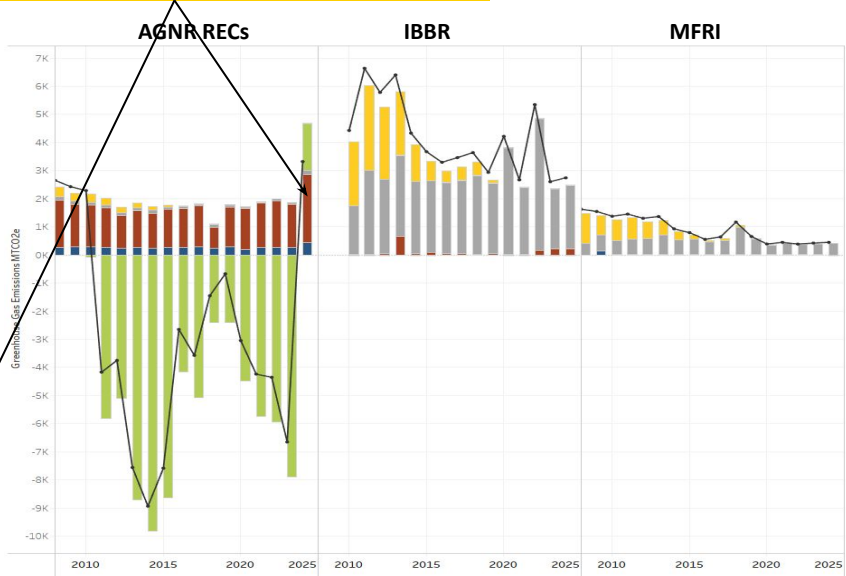
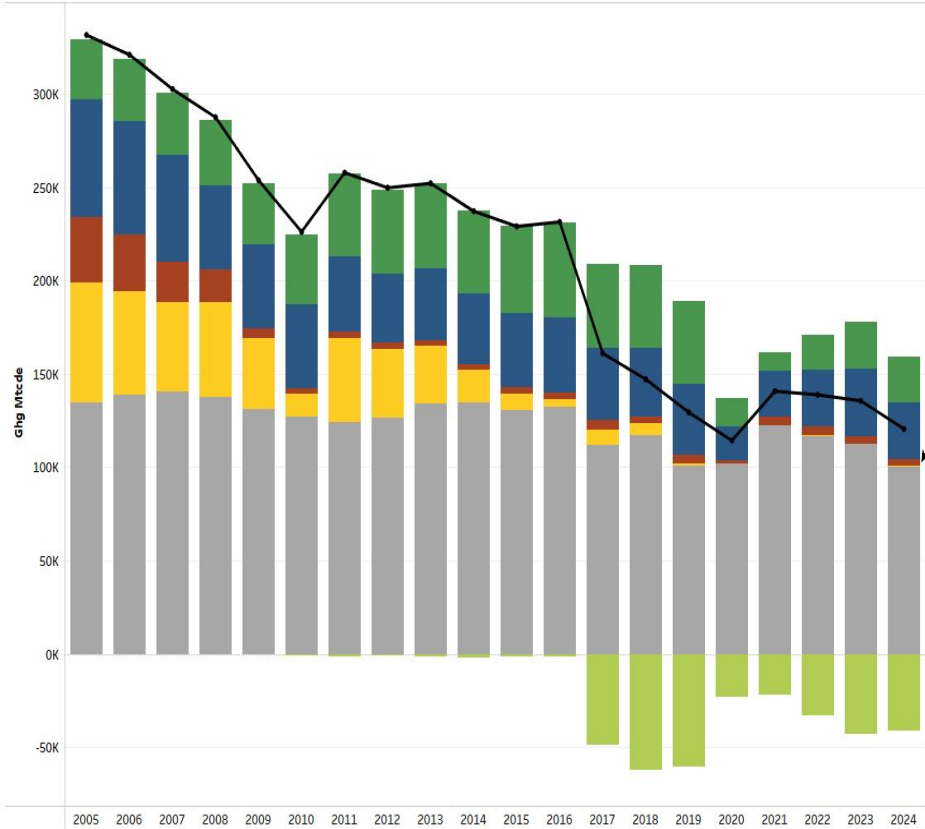
Carbon Neutral

Metric		CY 2024	CY 2023	CY 2022
	Net Emissions per Full-Time Equivalent Student (MTCO ₂ e/FTE)	2.56	2.96	3.12
	Net Emissions per sq. ft. of Building Space (MTCO ₂ e/SQFT)	7.78	8.83	9.13

Carbon Neutral

2024 Fertilizer at College Park: 71 MTCO₂e
2024 Fertilizer at AGNR RECs: 2,409 MTCO₂e

Main Campus, College Park



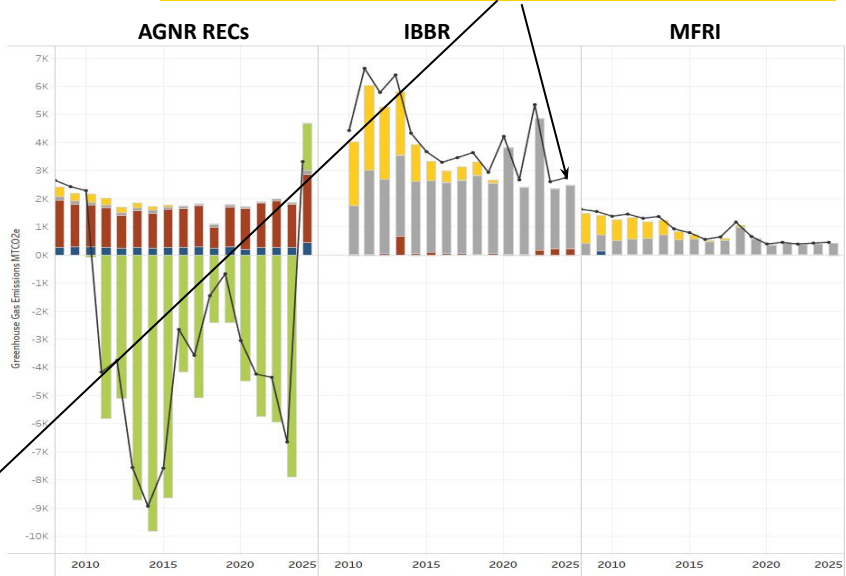
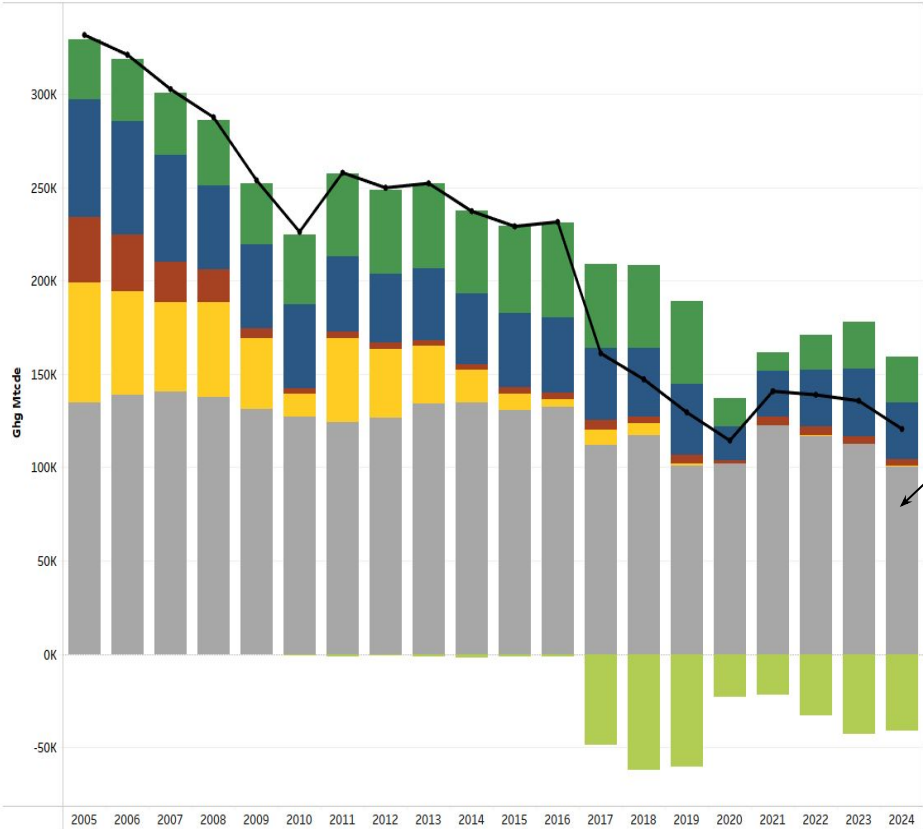
Sources:

- Air Travel
- Transportation Emissions
- Operations/Waste
- Purchased Electricity
- On-campus Heat and Power Generation
- Carbon Credits

Carbon Neutral

2024 Stationery Fuel at College Park: 5,368 MTCO₂e
2024 Stationery Fuel at IBBR: 2,126 MTCO₂e

Main Campus, College Park

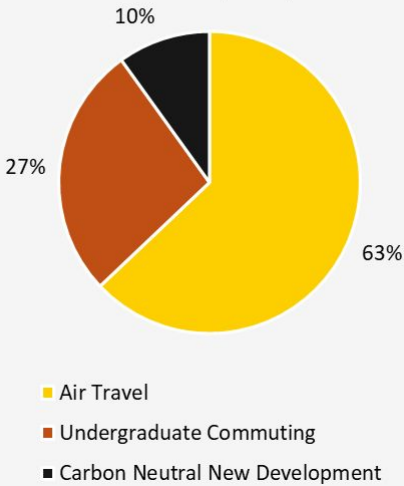


Sources:

- Air Travel
- Transportation Emissions
- Operations/Waste
- Purchased Electricity
- On-campus Heat and Power Generation
- Carbon Credits

Carbon Offsets Retirement

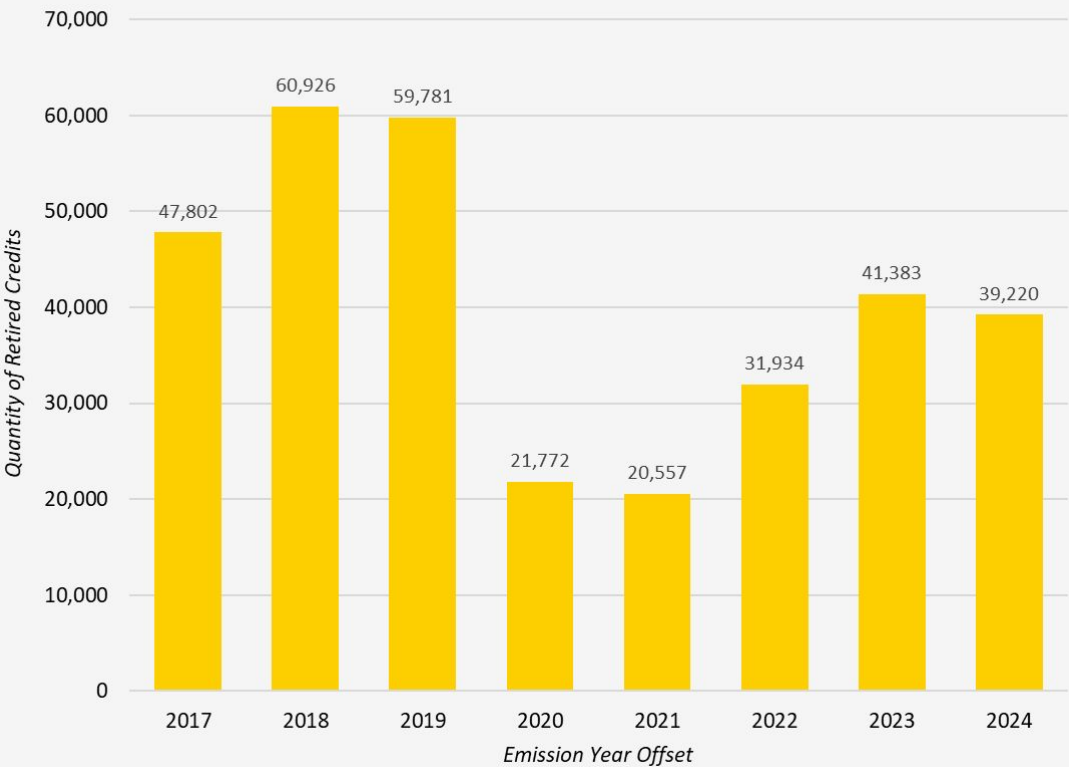
Offset Credits Retired by Emission Sources (2024)



Types of Carbon Offset Projects Retired (2024)

Chemical Processes	95%
Landfill Methane	3%
Green Bricks for Residential and Commercial Buildings	2%

Offset Credits Retired by Year



Carbon Offsets Purchase in 2025

113,991 new credits purchased

13 carbon credit projects

Vendors: **2 New** (SCB Group,
3Degrees) & **1 Renewed**
(Native)



Intermodal Transportation, US



Brazilian Amazon APD Grouped Project



Nam Long Hydropower Project, Laos

Smart Growth

Goal

Campus development, new construction and major renovations that minimize environmental impacts, embrace the concepts of smart growth and sustainable design, and support connectivity.

10 Carbon Neutral New Development Buildings.

25 Green Buildings on Campus between 2010 - 2024.

2.5 million SQFT green buildings added between 2010 - 2024, 15% of total campus building space.

14,706 Beds on- or near to campus, 8% increase compared to 2023.

47% of students live on or around campus, 6% increase compared to 2023.



Smart Growth

1,243,911 Shuttle
M rides

4,390 Microbility
devices registered
with DOTS

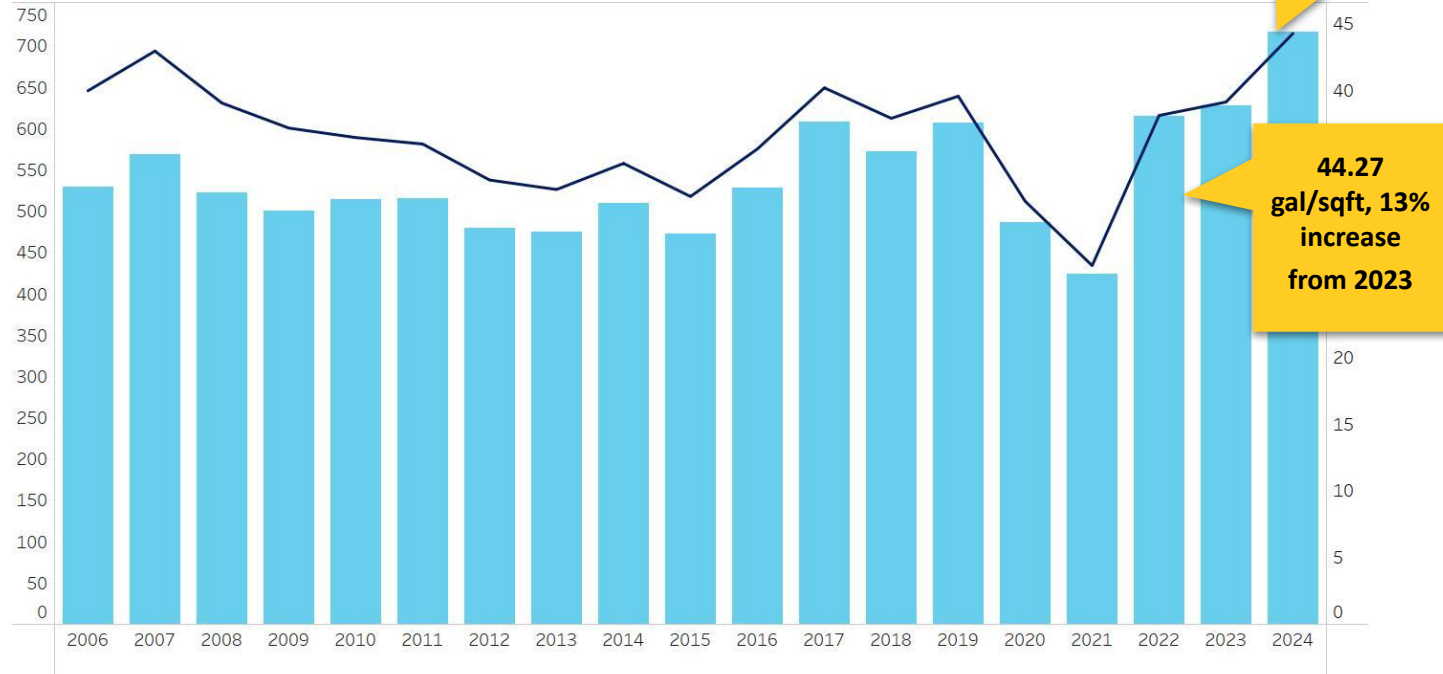
6,988 (cuml.) Bikes
registered in Bike
Index



Goal

Reduce purchase of potable water, seek opportunities and expand harvesting and reuse of water, and responsibly manage stormwater to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Sustainable Water Use



Sustainable Water Use

187

**STORMWATER
BMPS ON
CAMPUS**

147

**UMD STAFF
RECEIVED
STORMWATER
TRAINING**



Goal

Divert a minimum of 75% of total solid waste from landfills and seek opportunities to further reduce waste generation.

Waste Minimization

2,732

TONS OF COMPOST DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS

16.6K

POUNDS DIVERTED FROM THE LANDFILL THROUGH TERP TO TERP REUSE STORE

54%

INDIVIDUAL RECYCLING RATE (MRA MATERIALS)

70%

INSTITUTIONAL RECYCLING RATE (MRA & Non-MRA MATERIALS)



Goal

Create partnerships and other opportunities that further sustainability and smart growth principles and policies with state and local communities, businesses and suppliers, agencies and organizations.

Local and Global Impact

LEADERSHIP IN GREEN PURCHASING

89% reduction in total paper purchasing in 2024 compared to 2007.

\$2 million spent on green cleaning products, around **77%** of total cleaning purchases.

COOL FOOD PLEDGE

16.16% reduction in per plate emissions in 2024 compared to 2015.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

18 Partnership in Action Learning in Sustainability Courses offered.

Goal

Provide students with educational opportunities that will advance their knowledge, skills and awareness of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Education for Sustainability

52

ON-CAMPUS EVENTS,
INCLUDING CAMPUS
SUSTAINABILITY MONTH
CELEBRATION, SWEEP THE
CREEK.

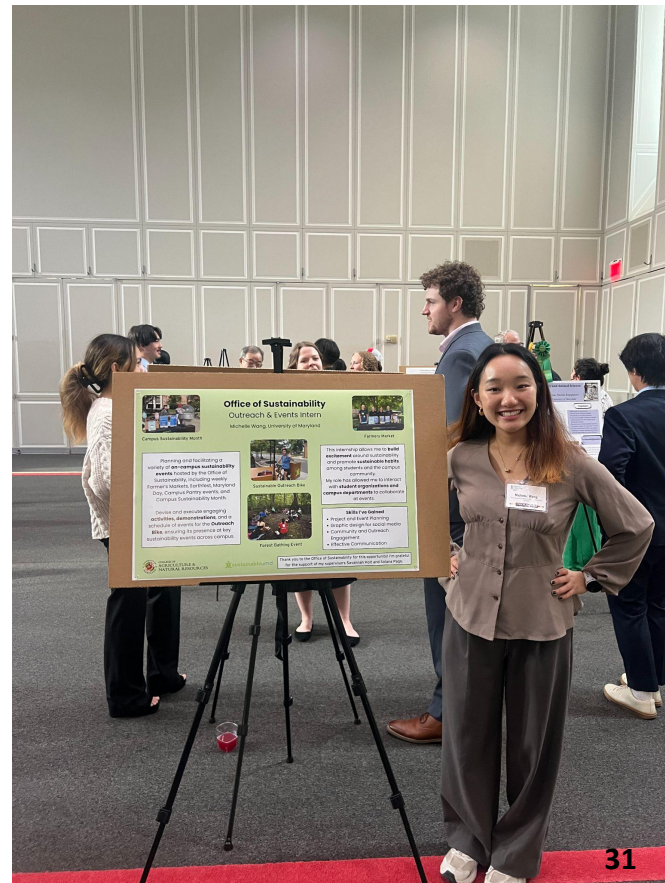
3,303

CAMPUS MEMBERS
ENGAGED

768

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
TAUGHT ABOUT
SUSTAINABILITY

43 PRESENTATIONS
DELIVERED IN 2024-2025
BY STUDENT ADVISORS





GREEN WORKSPACE PROGRAM & SUSTAINABILITY BADGE

16

CERTIFIED GREEN WORKSPACES

200

SUSTAINABILITY BADGES EARNED



Highlights from 2024



CAMPUS BIKEWAYS PROJECT

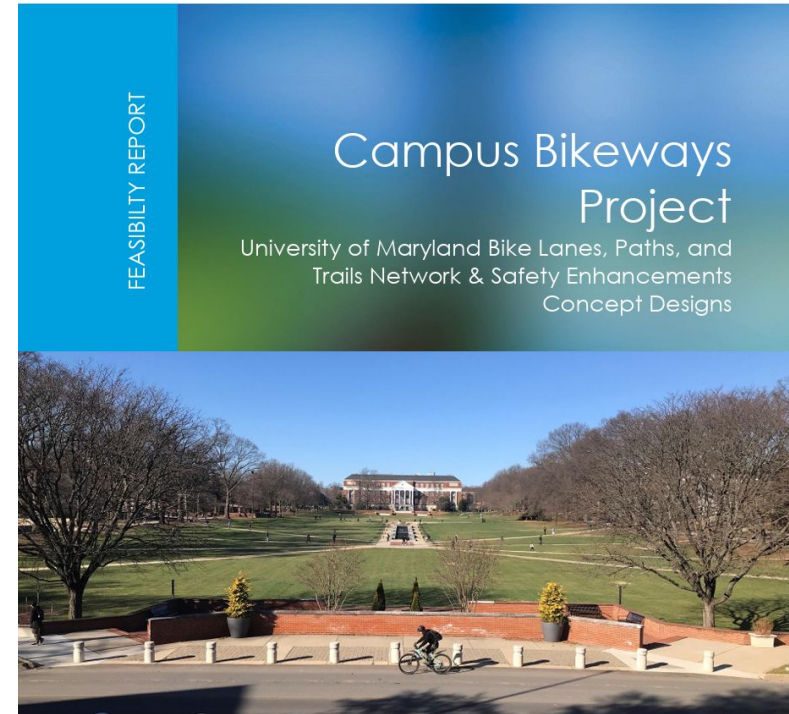
In April 2024, UMD's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) published the Campus Bikeways Feasibility Study, outlining 4 miles of new bike and scooter infrastructure to improve safety, connectivity, and accessibility across campus.

Next Steps:

- Summer 2024 – Pilot installation: Paint Branch Drive road diet + two-way cycle track;
- Summer 2025 – Alumni Drive “Complete Street” project;
- Advance 30% design plans toward final design & construction;
- Secure funding and stakeholder support for full build-out.



*Scan the QR Code to
access for the Full
Report*



April 2024

PREPARED BY
**Mead
& Hunt**

AASHE STARS Certification

UMD has earned a **STARS Gold** rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).



*Scan the QR Code to access for
the AASHE Sustainability
Campus Index Report 2024*



Higher Education Clean Energy Grant Pilot Program (FY2025)



SUSTAINABLEUMD NETWORK GATHERINGS

Since 2024, OS brought back regular SustainableUMD Network Gatherings, a space for students, staff, and faculty to share about their sustainability work and connect with colleagues.



FACULTY WORKSHOP

The Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop on June 2, 2025 brought together 22 faculty from diverse disciplines to explore how sustainability can be meaningfully integrated into teaching and learning.



Questions?

Contact: Office of Sustainability
sustainability@umd.edu | @SustainableUMD

Contact: Ha Pham
hapham@umd.edu | 301-405-5408





Intro to Council's Work

October 6, 2025



SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL GOALS



Carbon Neutrality

100% carbon neutral by 2025 compared to 2005, site energy conservation measures, expansion of renewable sources, zero emission vehicle expansion



Education for Sustainability

Formal and informal opportunities for students to gain knowledge/skills and to collaborate with staff/faculty on solutions



Local and Global Impact

Partner to further sustainability in Maryland and beyond, encourage sustainable procurement at UMD, support green dining programs



Smart Growth

Alternative transportation, environmental stewardship in landscape, high performance building and utility design



Sustainable Water Use

Reduce purchases of potable water, expand harvesting and reuse, responsibly manage stormwater to protect the Chesapeake Bay



Waste Minimization

Divert 75% from the landfill, reduce solid waste generated per person 1% annually, increase cleaning and waste sorting

STATE & UNIVERSITY POLICIES — HISTORY

Carbon Neutrality

- Climate Action Plan (2009, 2015, 2023)
- Council Work Groups (2013, 2015, 2019)
- MD Department of General Services Energy Executive Reporting (2018, 2021)
- NextGen Energy Program
- Climate Solutions Now Act (2022)
- Executive Order to Advance Maryland's Pollution Reduction Plan (2024)

Smart Growth

- Facilities Master Plan (2011, 2017, 2023)
- Design Criteria Facility Standards (DCFS)
- High Performance Buildings Act (2010)
- Sustainable Transportation Policies
- Building Energy Performance Standards (2024)

Local & Global Impact

- Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (2010)
- Cool Food Pledge
- Hunger-Free UMD

Waste Minimization

- Maryland Recycling Act (1988)
- Maryland Composting Law (2023)

Education for Sustainability

- University Strategic Plan (2022)
- Council Work Group (2014)

Sustainable Water Use

- Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Report (2014, 2022)

SDG Progress Report (2025)

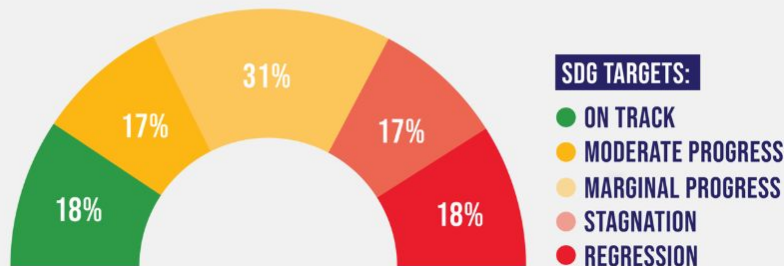


THE SDG REPORT 2025

**ONLY 35% OF TARGETS ARE ON TRACK
OR MAKING MODERATE PROGRESS**



**• WE MUST MAXIMIZE THE FINAL FIVE YEARS
FOR REAL COMMITMENT AND DELIVERY**



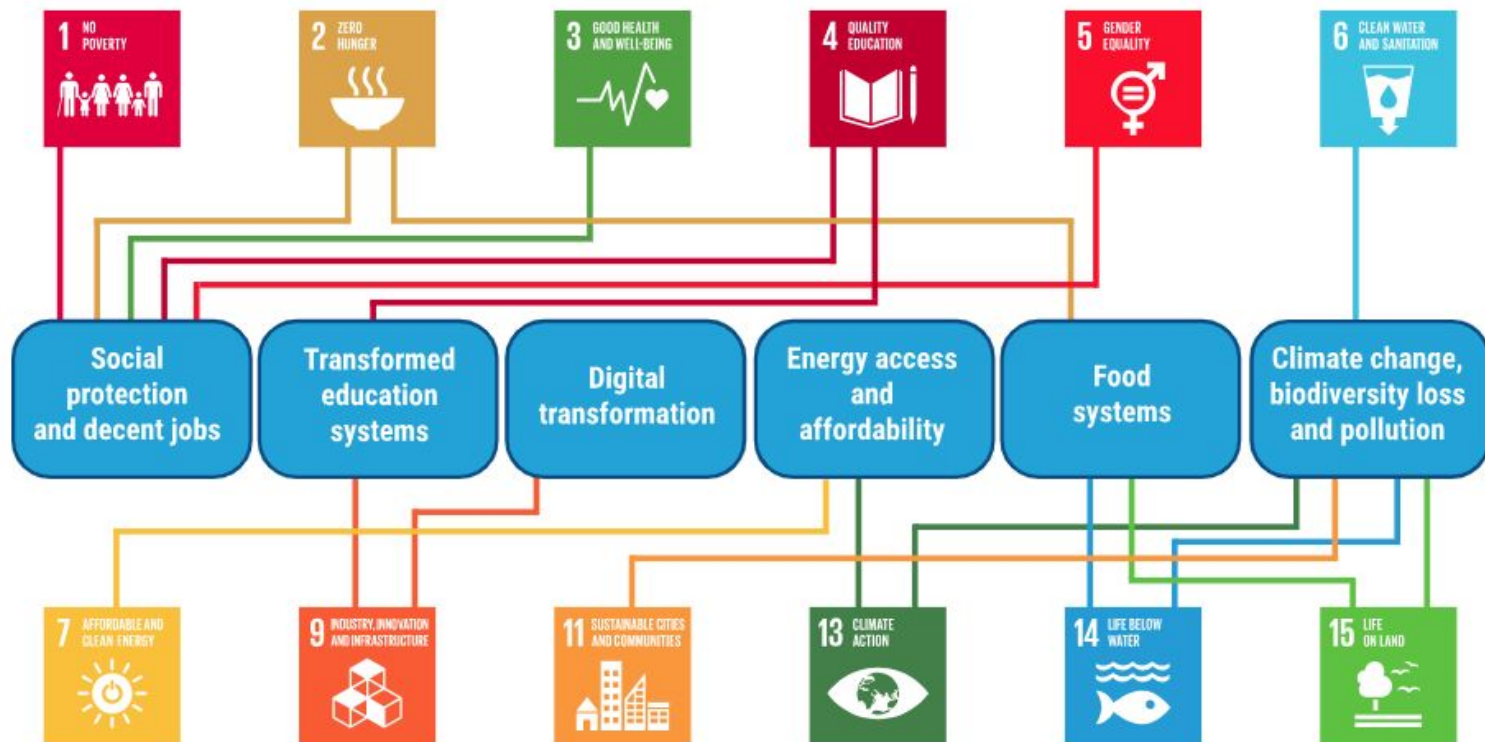
SDG PROGRESS BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF SDG TARGETS WITH TREND DATA.

NOTE: PERCENTAGES DO NOT ADD UP TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

Nearly half of the SDGs are moving too slowly or making only marginal progress, while 18 percent have regressed.



Figure 1. Six transition pathways to sustainable development include 12 SDGs



Source: UNCTAD mapping based on [United Nations \(2023b\)](#).

UMD Strategic Pillar	Global Transition Pathways	State Objectives and/or Core Strategies
We reimagine learning	Transformed education systems; Digital transformation	Increase access to high quality education and care - cradle to career.
We take on humanity's grand challenges	Climate change, biodiversity loss & pollution; Food systems; Energy access and affordability	Tackle Housing, Infrastructure, Health Systems, Climate Change, Clean Energy , Childhood Poverty etc.
We partner to advance the public good	Energy access and affordability; Food systems; digital transformation	Making Maryland a State of Service
We invest in people and communities	Social protection and decent jobs	All Ten Objectives from the State Plan

Emerging Areas: Environmental Justice & Service

July 2025 New Executive Order:

“Valuing Opportunity, Inclusion, and Community Equity (VOICE)”



Establishes the Interagency Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Council
Requires Agency Environmental Justice Strategic Plans with metrics reporting



CALL TO ACTION: USM and State of Maryland

Example Duties of the new Maryland Interagency EJ & Equity Advisory Council

1. Identify and leverage resources for outreach adaptation and mitigation strategies that **improve environmental health outcomes**, particularly for overburdened coastal, rural, tribal and urban communities.
2. Assist local governments in ensuring equitable **access to a healthy environment** by:
 - a. Providing technical assistance;
 - b. Facilitating partnerships between community based organizations and academic institutions.



CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND POLICY IN MARYLAND:
The State Steps Up

TUESDAY, OCT. 14, 2025

4 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

8:30 a.m. Registration | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Symposium

Student, faculty, staff, and the community are invited to spend a day of active learning with climate change and health equity thought leaders and local climate nonprofit and community groups.

REGISTER NOW



 UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

 MEES
MARINE ESTUARINE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

Emerging Areas: Digital Technologies, AI & Machine Learning, IoT etc.



CALL TO ACTION: Digital as a catalyst for the SDGs

SDG Digital Acceleration Agenda (2023)



Emerging Technologies that have the capacity to amplify the impact of existing digital solutions:

1. AI and machine learning
2. Internet of Things (IoT)
3. Decentralized ledger technology (like Blockchain)
4. 5G networks

Steps to Prepare for Updating Council Goals

- ★ Review summaries of Campus, State and Global Pathways from these Slides (particularly Slide 45)
- ★ Be ready to speak of relevant programs and goals in the unit/division that you represent
- ★ Begin to consider these discussion questions:
 - Where do you envision that UMD will act as a skilled leader between 2025 and 2035?
 - What sustainability challenges are most pressing for Maryland in the next 5-10 years?
 - What is the appropriate role for higher education in sustainable development literacy for the current world context?
 - What role do you see for the Council over the next three years?



FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

Taylor Brinks, Office of Sustainability

SUSTAINABILITY FUND HISTORY

- Undergraduate students advocated for sustainability fee in 2007
- The Sustainability Fund was established in 2010
- Mini-Grant program started in 2014 to provide smaller grants, managed by SGA Sustainability Committee



\$30/year

THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FEE FOR FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN FY25

Fiscal Year	Student Fee	Estimated Revenue
FY23	\$18/Year	\$504,000
FY24	\$24/Year	\$672,000
FY25+	\$30/year	\$840,000



Community Learning Garden ADA-Accessible Raised Bed
Renovation, FY23

198 +

**PROJECTS HAVE
RECEIVED FUNDING
SINCE 2011.**



Repurpose Farm Plastic, FY22



\$4.2M +
IN FUNDING HAS BEEN
AWARDED TO 187
PROJECTS SINCE THE
FUND STARTED IN 2011.



Mobile Sustainability Outreach Center, FY21



FY25 REPORT

PROJECTS APPROVED IN FY25

RESEARCH

Updating the Sustainability Studies
Minor Curriculum

Mesoterps

Monitoring Effects of Campus Creek
Stream Restoration on Water
Quality Phase 2

Campus Forest Carbon Project 2.0

EDUCATION

Experiencing the Chesapeake Bay to
Foster Connection and Stewardship

Sustainability Internship Scholarship

Global Terps for a Greener Future

Sustaining Student Engagement,
Education, and Environmental
Leadership

Sustainable Food Production
Internships

Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
Summer 2025 Internships

OPERATIONS

The South Campus Dining Hall
Botanical Refresh Project

FY25 AND CUMULATIVE FUND ACTIVITY

Sustainability Fund Activity	FY25	All Years (FY11-25)
Proposals received	25	422
Funds requested	\$1,390,492.16	\$14,862,501.80
Grants awarded	11	198
Funds awarded	\$433,172.25	\$4,696,151.36
Average award	\$39,379.30	\$24,649.02

UPDATES TO BY-LAWS

Multi-year funding

- Projects can request funding for up to 3 calendar years
- May include projects that require more than 1-year to execute; and/or ongoing projects considered key to campus sustainability by the SFRC & Sustainability Council
- May request lump sum funding or partial funding each year

Research Criteria

1. Significant promise of having a direct impact on campus. Either the work or the fruits of the work can and will be implemented to make an impact on university sustainability goals (i.e. excludes theoretical, or experimental work). Since climate change is a global phenomenon, research involving the advancement of climate science may be supported.
2. Applicants should write the grant application in terms of real-world applications and outcomes.
3. All work related to the grant should be performed on UMCP campus, one of its satellite facilities, and/or with extensive involvement of UMCP undergraduate students.
4. The proposer should identify other sources and amounts of funding for the project, including the entities providing the funding.
5. Verifiable letters of support should be provided from people with relevant expertise and not directly involved in the project.
6. The proposed project does not support a dissertation.

ADDITIONAL FUND ACTIVITY

Multiyear Projects:

- Campus Forest Carbon Project 2.0 (2 yr)
- Experiencing the Chesapeake Bay to Foster Connection and Stewardship (3 yr)
- Sustainability Internship Scholarship (3 yr)
- Monitoring Effects of Campus Creek Stream Restoration on Water Quality Phase 2 (3 yr)
- Sustaining Student Engagement, Education, and Environmental Leadership (3 yr)

Multiyear Projects (Approved FY26 Funding): \$252,584.89

Multiyear Projects (Approved FY27 Funding): \$232,299.44

Terp to Terp Campus ReUse Store (3 Yr Funding): \$73,700.00 in FY26 with 3% COLA each following year



RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

University Libraries Graduate Assistantship Proposal (FY24)

UMD Libraries



Libraries as Sustainability Leaders: The University of Maryland's Innovative Graduate Assistantship Approach		
Gary W. White, PhD, Sr. Associate Dean, Research and Academic Services University of Maryland Libraries College Park, MD		
Background - UMD has prioritized sustainability across all areas since becoming a charter signatory of the President's Climate Leadership Carbon Commitment in 2003. - Inspired by this institutional culture, in 2010 the University established the Library Sustainability Committee (LSC) in 2011 to lead and coordinate green initiatives within the Libraries. - LSC pursued its goals with limited capacity until 2023 when it received an internal grant to fund a sustainability graduate assistantship, finally gaining the support needed to bring long-standing ideas to life.	Key Projects & Initiatives Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP) - The SLCP is a national initiative that helps libraries embed sustainability across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. - After a year-long effort, the UMD Libraries earned certification in May 2023 by completing 81 action items across 34 categories. - The library is also engaged in mentorship from SLCP collaborators and monthly peer meetings with a national community of practice. McKeldin Library Waste Audit - Conducted waste audit at McKeldin Library in collaboration with UMD's Facilities Management. - With support from 15 faculty and student volunteers, 48.52 pounds of waste were collected and sorted into 30 distinct categories for analysis. - Data revealed that while library visitors generally sorted waste correctly, composting practices showed significant room for improvement. Earth Day Programming and Outreach - Celebrated Earth Day at the libraries by hosting "Climate Fact or Fiction? Spin to Win," inviting participants to spin a wheel featuring climate-related facts and myths. - Reduced climate-related facts and myths. - Provided eco library by challenging students to identify climate misinformation through active learning. Lila Bernachea Memorial Libraries Sustainability Fund - Honors Lila Bernachea, a UMD Libraries staff member for over 20 years. - Supports sustainability focused collections, research, and teaching. - Funds educational workshops for students and faculty. Sustainability Lib Guide - Created to support research and learning on the broad field of sustainability among students. - Was included in informational about sustainability at the libraries, campus, first efforts, and selected guides and a organization for further research.	Impact - The UMD Libraries Sustainability Graduate Assistantship demonstrates the potential for libraries to lead in the field of sustainability. - Embedding sustainability in library programs fosters cross-campus engagement and institutional impact. - Graduate assistantship provides strategic support for sustainability goals while offering valuable student experience. - This model is scalable and adaptable for libraries at other institutions. - Student-led sustainability roles help ensure innovation, relevance, and lasting impact. Acknowledgments & Contact Information Special thanks to the UMD Library system's Facilities Management, and the Office of Sustainability for their support. Acknowledgments to the Sustainable Libraries for support through the SLCP, and to faculty and student volunteers who made these projects possible. For more information: Julia Ethun julia2@umd.edu Gary W. White gary2@umd.edu

Sustainability Internship Scholarship (FY23, FY25)

Student Government Association
and Career Services



Getting at the Root of Mangrove Resiliency (FY24)

Student in Department of
Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences



Terp to Terp Campus ReUse Store

Department of Resident Life

38,000+ lbs
OF DONATED ITEMS
RECIRCULATED SINCE MAY 2021





**THIS YEAR
(FY26)**

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY26

Sustainability Fund	Totals
● Student Fee Revenue (estimated):	+\$737,900.00
● Carry-forward from FY25 (estimated):	+\$854,704.04
● Reserve for Mini-Grant	-\$20,000
● Reserve for Undergrad Commuter Offsets	-\$150,000
● Reserve for Approved FY26 Multi-Year Projects	-\$252,584.89
● Reserve for Terp to Terp Carveout (Year 2 of 3)	-\$75,911.00
Available for Grants in FY26 (estimated)	\$1,114,108.15

THIS YEAR, AN ADDITIONAL
\$25,000
IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT
RESEARCH, COURTESY OF
MARYLAND ENERGY IMPACT
PARTNERS (MEIP)



Getting at the Root of Mangrove Resiliency (FY24)

SALARY & STIPEND REQUEST FORM (NEW THIS YEAR)



Salaries and Stipends: Additional Information Request Form

Instructions: This form is only required for applicants requesting salaries or stipends. This includes requests for graduate assistant stipends, faculty stipends, and salaries for full-time staff positions. This does **not** include requests for hourly wages for undergraduate interns nor payment for one-time skilled labor contractors.

The questions on this form are aligned with the [preferred criteria](#) within the University Sustainability Fund bylaws, listed on pages 4-5 of the University Sustainability Fund application.

If applicable, please download this fillable PDF, complete the form, and attach it to your grant application.

Project Name:

Project Outcomes

How would the salary or stipend directly help achieve the project outcomes outlined in the [University Sustainability](#)

Ongoing project spotlights via:

- Articles
- Social media
- Videos

Article Link

Demonstrating Progress: Student-Funded Agricultural Innovations

Growing Power through Agrivoltaics

Article by Vivian Maneval '27

Beneath the shade of solar panels, crops can thrive, livestock can wander, and the plot of land that feeds our power grids can also feed our families. This is the promise of agrivoltaics, an innovative approach that combines renewable energy generation with agricultural production.

For the University of Maryland, this innovation feels like home. Founded as the Maryland Agricultural College in 1856, the university has deep roots in agricultural research and practice. Maryland's lands have long been places of nourishment and abundance. Now, they may also become engines of clean energy and models for sustainable land use.



Sustainability Fund: 15th Anniversary Celebration

Tentative Details:

Wednesday, March 11, 2025

3:00-4:30 PM

Prince George's Room

Short presentations, project posters, light refreshments

QUESTIONS?

