University of Maryland sustainability council

Meeting Summary
October 7, 2026

Council Members Present (via Zoom)

Bob Reuning — Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer (Chair)
Mary Dorman — Executive Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk
Scott Lupin — Assoc Director, Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk; Director, Office of Sustainability
Ann Tonggarwee – Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Colleen Wright-Riva — Assistant Vice President, Division of Student Affairs
Tim Knight — Program Director, College Park Scholars Program, Environment, Technology & Economy
Thomas McMullen — Special Assistant to the Provost, Facilities Management
Susan Corry — Director, Engineering and Energy, Facilities Management
Bryan Quinn — Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Shannon Files — Director of Enterprise Data Services, Division of Information Technology
Institute
Helen Craig — Graduate Student Representative
Hếlène Nguemgaing – Assistant Clinical Professor and Faculty Leader, First-Year Innovation & Research Experience (FIRE)
Eric Wachsman — Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, and Director, Maryland Energy Innovation

Guests Present:

Javiera King — Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer

Meeting start time: 1:00 pm

Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Bob Reuning welcomed Council members to the first meeting of the 2026-27 academic year. New appointed faculty members include Dr. Hếlène Nguemgaing from FIRE (in attendance) and Julie Gabrielli, Clinical Associate Professor from the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (who could not attend today's meeting). New appointed student members include Helen Craig, graduate student in the

Dept. of Entomology (in attendance) and Avesta Hasrat, undergraduate student majoring in Public Health Science (who could not attend today's meeting). Dr. Nmguemgaing introduced herself and emphasized her research work with first year students on how to sustainably use critical resources and set policy. Helen Craig introduced herself and explained how her graduate research supports sustainable food systems.

Office of Sustainability Updates on Summer Work — *S. Lupin, S. DeLeon, D. Frye, S. Page*

Sally DeLeon (Sustainability Manager) shared a link to Climate Action Plan 3.0 which will include status updates for all of the strategies to be published by January 2027. She shared that we will soon initiate development of CAP 4.0 which will be the first major update with regulatory drivers from the State of Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act and other recent legislation. Emphasized that we may need a Council Work Group to make recommendations about how CAP 4.0 should address Scope 3 emissions (indirect sources) which are not regulated. She encouraged Council members to begin thinking about new strategies, questions and any ideas from their departments to help shape CAP 4.0 and to set up a time to check in with her if they would like.

Sally also shared that the new Sustainability goals (approved by the Council in May) are being launched this fall. Taylor Brinks (Sustainability Project Manager) has been working on the communications campaign that will include new webpages, instagram posts etc. Ha Pham (Sustainability Coordinator) will talk more about the new goals in the Progress Report today.

Dyani Frye (Sustainability Associate) gave an overview of the pilot Green Labs program which was initiated last year with support from the Sustainability Fund. Within ESSR, the Office of Sustainability, the Office of Research Safety, and the Office of Environmental Affairs have been collaborating with support from two student interns to create a Green Labs program on sustainability in lab research settings. UMD ranks #1 in Sustainability Research, so we want to provide support to labs to make sure they perform the research with intention to reduce waste and prevent pollution. The program currently includes expansion of plastic recycling for biohazardous waste, best practice sharing and researcher training, and an interdisciplinary group of researchers advising on creating a community of practice. We need to develop an energy conservation component next.

Solana Page (Sustainability Associate) gave an update about collaborative outreach and waste reduction work between the Office of Sustainability and University Athletics. Facets include UMD's new membership in the Green Sports Alliance, UMD's First "Green" Football game on October 17th to emphasize fan participation in sustainable behaviors and proper waste sorting, and a pilot to expand compost collection in the Xfinity Center for the upcoming basketball season.

Revisions to Sustainability Council Charter – S. Lupin

Scott Lupin gave an overview of the existing Council Charter (created in 2009) which required updates including: Council meeting frequency; and clarification of the voting process. Council members with questions or issues should contact Scott directly. The new charter is attached in Appendix A.

Sustainability Progress Report for CY25 and Goals 2.0 Transition - H. Pham

Ha Pham shared a summary of UMD sustainability highlights from CY2025, an overview of Council Goals 1.0 which guided progress from 2014-2025 and a look at Council Goals 2.0 which will guide progress from 2026-2036. She reported on metrics associated with each of the 1.0 Goals as OS has been doing annually since 2015 (see Progress Report slides in Appendix B). In 2025, UMD achieved a 51% reduction in gross greenhouse gas emissions compared to its 2005 baseline, and also achieved carbon neutrality for net greenhouse gas emissions through strategic investment in carbon reduction and removal projects– the Office of Sustainability retired verified carbon credits against all of UMD's remaining emissions. Ha then previewed each of the seven 2.0 Goals with a look ahead to reorganized metrics and dashboards next year for the SustainableUMD Progress Hub.

Council members asked a few questions that were answered by Ha, Sally DeLeon and Susan Corry.

1) Bryan Quinn asked about plans to ratchet down carbon offsetting. Sally shared that 2025 was President Pines' target year for carbon neutrality and the graphs and metrics Ha shared reflect achievement of that target as planned. Recent discussions with President Pines indicate that we will maintain carbon neutrality for CY26 and begin to phase it out in favor of investments in building decarbonization and infrastructure transitions beginning in CY27 so that by CY35 we have very little dependence on carbon offsetting for our carbon commitment. She emphasized that we need input for the pace and approach of how to phase out offsetting and phase in other strategies for Scope 3 (indirect) emissions, particularly from air travel. We will also need to take funding and budgetary considerations into account for decision making.
2) Bryan also asked about the grey portion of the graph of UMD's annual carbon footprint and how the NextGen Energy program will influence that going forward. Susan answered that the Central Energy Plant was a 27MW plant in 2025 and earlier and the recent construction shrank the plant to 16.5MW which will result in fewer annual emissions.
3) Eric Wachsman asked why there was a decision to go to a smaller plant instead of just increasing efficiency and staying the same size. Susan responded that the campus is shifting away from natural gas to power its building portfolio and that Maryland regulations require electrification

which will result in technologies like district hot water piping and building level heat pumps so there will not be a need for a 27 MW plant anymore.

4) Bryan asked about plans for the size of the next on campus solar array. Susan responded that the RFP was issued for a 1300 kW (1.3 MW) array.

Sustainability Fund Annual Report - T. Brinks

Taylor Brinks (Sustainability Project Manager) provided a summary of the annual report on the University Sustainability Fund (see slides in Appendix C and the full report in Appendix D). $6.1 million has been awarded to over 200 projects since the undergraduate sustainability fee began generating revenue for the fund in 2011 (not including mini-grant awards of $2000 or less). She shared highlights from final project reports from a selection of five projects that were awarded grants in FY24 and FY25. In FY26, the Council funded 14 projects from the fund including four research-focused projects, 4 education-focused projects, and 6 operations-focused projects. Five of these projects had 2 or 3 year timelines to completion and will thus be awarded more funds in FY27 and/or FY28. In total $934,341.63 was awarded from the Fund and $25,000 was awarded from extra funding given by Maryland Energy Impact Partners (MEIP) in conjunction with their contract on the NextGen Energy Program. For FY27 the fund will have $713,560.98 that can be awarded to new projects including another $25K donation from MEIP to support projects that involve student researchers.

The Fund cannot maintain the amount of awards given over the last few years for single-year and multi-year projects with the undergraduate student sustainability fee set at $30 a year. The Sustainability Fund Review Committee will have a discussion about whether to propose a fee increase.

The project application template includes a new Project Risk Table to help applicants self-identify risks and include appropriate risk-mitigation strategies in their proposals. Also mini-grant project reports are now required to be submitted at the completion of projects.

Council members asked one question that was answered by Taylor.

1) Colleen Wright-Riva asked for a reminder about the line-item of undergraduate commuting offsets. Taylor explained that SGA and SFRC voted to create a carve out to pay for verified carbon credits to offset annual estimated greenhouse gas emissions from undergraduate commuters with parking permits. The Office of Sustainability helps SFRC select a portfolio of credits to purchase and retire each year and then works with procurement to issue purchase orders funded from the carve out. SFRC can spend up to $150,000 a year on carbon credits.

Open Forum and Closing Remarks — *S. Lupin*

Sally DeLeon shared that the USM System Vice Chancellor for Sustainability —Fernando Morales-Willhelm who is also President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science– is working on a new system level sustainability action plan with input from schools in the system. If any Council members would like to review the draft plan and/or provide feedback, they should email Sally.

Scott thanked the Council for their time and expressed his enthusiasm for working with them this year.

Adjourn 2:55 pm

Appendices

Appendix A: Updated Council Charter

Appendix B: Sustainability Progress Report Slides

Appendix C: Sustainability Fund Annual Report Slides

Appendix D: Sustainability Fund Annual Report for FY26

Appendix A

UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL BYLAWS

[Originally approved March 25, 2009. Revised August 5, 2026]

AUTHORIZATION

In 2009, the Vice President of Administrative Affairs recommended, and the President approved, that the university establish a University Sustainability Council (the Council). The Council forwards campus sustainability efforts and the Climate Action Plan by having the following mission, scope, and membership:

Name: University Sustainability Council

Mission: The University Sustainability Council advises the President, the Office of Sustainability, and the campus community about issues related to the integration of sustainability into campus operations, including the physical campus as well as the university's core missions of teaching, research, and service. In addition to recommending long-term sustainability goals and policies for the university, the Council also supports the sustainability goals of UMD's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan and provides leadership, guidance, and senior-level support in the achievement of these goals. To assist the university in implementing its Climate Action Plan, the Council considers the costs and benefits of various carbon-reducing expenditures and policy activities that support carbon neutrality and sustainability. Further, the Council administers the University Sustainability Fund with staff support by the Office of Sustainability.

The University Sustainability Council will meet to:

Monitor implementation of the campus Climate Action Plan, review progress under the plan, and update the plan as needed

Develop, review, and recommend draft campus policies and guidelines that further or affect campus sustainability to the President through the Administrative Council

Recommend and review campus sustainability goals and program metrics

Recommend sustainability projects and initiatives for consideration by the Vice President for Administration and Chief Administrative Officer, the Provost's Office, the Vice President of Research, and other campus units, as appropriate

Review and approve Sustainability Fund proposals recommended by the Sustainability Fund Review Committee that are to be financed by revenue generated from the Student Sustainability Fee

Recommend standards, policies and practices for sustainability to the Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer and Facilities Council for University financed construction and development projects

Advise the Office of Sustainability

MEMBERSHIP

Membership: The Council will have 15 members. The non-permanent members will be appointed by the President. Members holding fixed terms are eligible for reappointment for one additional term.

Permanent -

- Chair– Vice President for Administration (or Designee)
- Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (or Designee)
- Vice President for Student Affairs (or Designee)
- Vice President for Research (or Designee)
- Vice President for Information Technology and CIO (or Designee)
- Executive Director– Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability, and Risk
- Director – Office of Sustainability
- Director, Engineering and Energy - Facilities Management
- Assistant President and Chief of Staff (or Designee)

2-Year Terms -

- 3 Faculty (Appointed by the President from nominations by the Provost and the Senate Executive Committee)

1-Year Term -

- 1 Undergraduate Student Representative (Appointed by the President with nominations from the Vice President of Student Affairs and the President of the Student Government Association)
- 1 Graduate Student Representative (Appointed by the President with nominations from the Dean of the Graduate School and the President of the Graduate Student Government)

Term Specified at Appointment -

- 1 At-large appointment (Appointed by the President)

Sustainability Fund Review Committee:. The Sustainability Fund Review Committee (SFRC) will be composed of at least three undergraduate students and two nonstudent members of the Council, maintaining a student-majority membership. Additional members may be added by the Chair.

- Chair - The undergraduate student representative to the Council who will be nominated by the President of the Student Government Association and the Vice President for Student Affairs and appointed by the President.
- Other undergraduate student members - Nominated by the Chair of the SFRC and appointed by the Chair of the Sustainability Council.
- Non-student members - Appointed by the Chair of the Sustainability Council.
- Graduate students - In the event that the graduate students pay a sustainability fee in the future, the Graduate Student Government president and the Dean of the Graduate School will nominate graduate student(s) to the SFRC who will be appointed by the Chair of the Sustainability Council. The Council will determine the number of graduate students to be added to the SFRC.

The SFRC will review proposals for funding by the Student Sustainability Fee and make recommendations for funding to the Council.

Subcommittees: The Council may establish subcommittees and work groups in support of its mission.

Council Support

The Office of Sustainability and the Office of the Chair will provide staff support to the Council in meeting its mission. The Office of Sustainability will identify a Sustainability Fund Administrator to manage the administrative duties required by the Sustainability Fund. The role of the Sustainability Fund Administrator is outlined in the Sustainability Fund Bylaws.

MEETINGS

Meetings will take place quarterly or more frequently, as necessary. The notice, agenda, and supporting documents will normally be provided by the Office of Sustainability to the membership one week prior to each meeting.

Council Voting Procedure

Voting is restricted to eligible members of the Council (see " MEMBERSHIP") who are participating in the Council meeting at the time of the vote. A quorum is required for each vote that occurs during a Council meeting. A quorum for meetings is defined as a majority of voting members. Members who are not present at the meeting at the time of the vote cannot vote.

Following *Robert's Rules of Order,* voting must proceed as follows:

1. A voting member makes a motion to vote
2. A voting member seconds the motion to vote
3. The Chair, or in their absence, a designee, states the motion
4. The Chair, or in their absence, a designee, puts the motion to a vote

Motions should be clearly stated to ensure all voting members understand the outcome of the vote should it pass or fail.

Routine motions require a simple majority (more than half of the voting members present) to pass. Motions that limit or alter members' rights require a two-thirds vote. In the event that a majority is not achieved (e.g. an equal number of members present vote in favor or against the motion), the motion is defeated.

Members reserve the right to abstain from a vote. Abstentions do not count as votes cast but do count toward the number of people present.

Items requiring a Council vote must be provided in writing, along with supporting materials, to Council members before the meeting at which the vote will be taken. If a new item is brought up for a vote during a meeting, any member present can move to delay the vote until the next meeting. The Council may vote on the new item immediately if at least two-thirds of the members present support a vote.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Unofficial meeting summaries will be prepared by the Office of Sustainability and disseminated to the Council prior to the subsequent meeting. Meeting summaries will be posted to the campus sustainability website for one year. Earlier meeting summaries can be made available by request.

Appendix B

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CY 2025 Sustainability Progress
& Goals 2.0 Transition

Ha Pham
Sustainability Coordinator, UMD Office of Sustainability

October 7, 2026



Agenda

01

Two Eras of Sustainability Goals

Overview of Council goals 1.0 (2014–2025) and transition to goals 2.0 (2026–2036).

02

2025 Highlights

Key campus achievements

03

CY 2025 Progress & Transition

Detailed evaluation of target progress and closing the sunset review period.

04

Looking Forward

Strategic vision and implementation strategy for launching Goals 2.0.

TWO ERAS OF SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The original six Council goals guided campus sustainability for over a decade.

2014

Goals 1.0 adopted

6 Council goal areas established

2020–2025

Progress Toward Key Targets

Carbon Neutral (2025)

2025

Sunset review

This report — summarizing achievement across all 6 goals

2026–2036

Goals 2.0 launch

7 new goal areas take effect

GOALS 1.0 · 2014–2025

- Carbon neutrality
- Waste Minimization
- Sustainable Water Use
- Smart Growth
- Local & Global Impact
- Education for Sustainability

GOALS 2.0 · 2026–2036

- Research & Scholarship
- Research Operations
- Community Partnership
- Food Resiliency & Access
- Experiential Learning
- Infrastructure & Growth
- Ecoregional Wisdom

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2025 Highlights



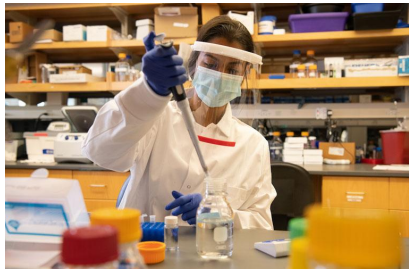
Carbon Neutrality Milestone

UMD met carbon neutrality in April 2025 and continued planning for zero-emissions fleet and fossil-fuel-free central energy.



GreenTerp Bucket List

New experiential program to expose students to sustainability programs on campus. 500+ enrollments in the AY 2025-26 .



2025 Sustainable Campus Index

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) ranks UMD No. 1 in the U.S. for Research

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GREENLABS

Green Labs Program

The program focuses on three areas: recycling lab plastics, educating researchers, and building a community of practice for sustainable research.

2014 - 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 & 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

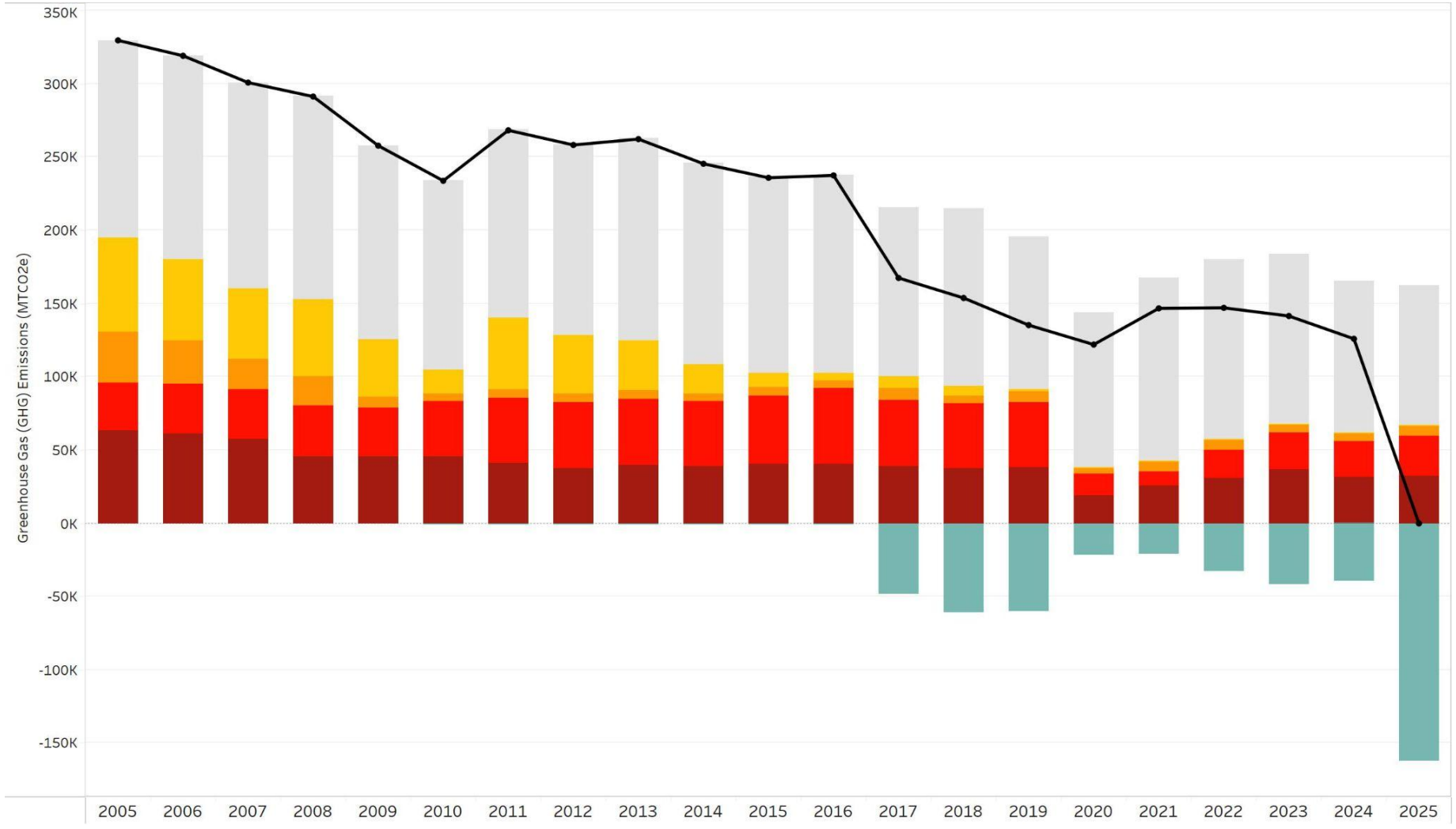
Reduce purchases of potable water, expand harvesting and reuse, responsibly manage stormwater to protect the Chesapeake Bay

Waste Minimization

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

1 | Carbon Neutrality

CY 2025 Progress



162,039 MTCO2e
gross greenhouse gas emissions

51% reduction
compared to 2005 baseline (Gross)

2% reduction
compared to 2024 data (Gross)

Sources:

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

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1 | Carbon Neutrality

Legacy Goal Progress

Renewable Electricity

Purchased electricity emissions are fully addressed through renewable electricity.

Carbon Offsets

Carbon offsets helped close the remaining emissions gap needed to achieve carbon neutrality.

Infrastructure Modernization

Construction of new energy plant and underground steam line replacement began in 2025 to modernize campus infrastructure.

Fleet Electrification

2024 EV pilot introduced 51 vehicles. 5.4% of UMD fleet electrified as of Sep 2025.

Shuttle UM Bus Electrification

27 electric Shuttle-UM buses are planned by fall 2027, reducing diesel use by about 130,000 gallons annually.

Transition to Goals 2.0

Carbon work shifts from reaching the 2025 neutrality milestone toward direct emissions reduction, efficient district infrastructure and fossil-fuel-free energy planning.

2 | Education for Sustainability

CY 2025 Progress

62

events hosted or attended by OS

3,564

campus members engaged

500+

GreenTerp Bucket List enrollees

143

Employees earned a Sustainability Badge



2 | Education for Sustainability





Legacy Goal Progress

Academic & Experiential

Sustainability learning expanded through academic and experiential opportunities.

Events & Student Engagement

Campus events and programs, including Green Chapters and the GreenTerp Bucket List, broadened student participation and exposure.

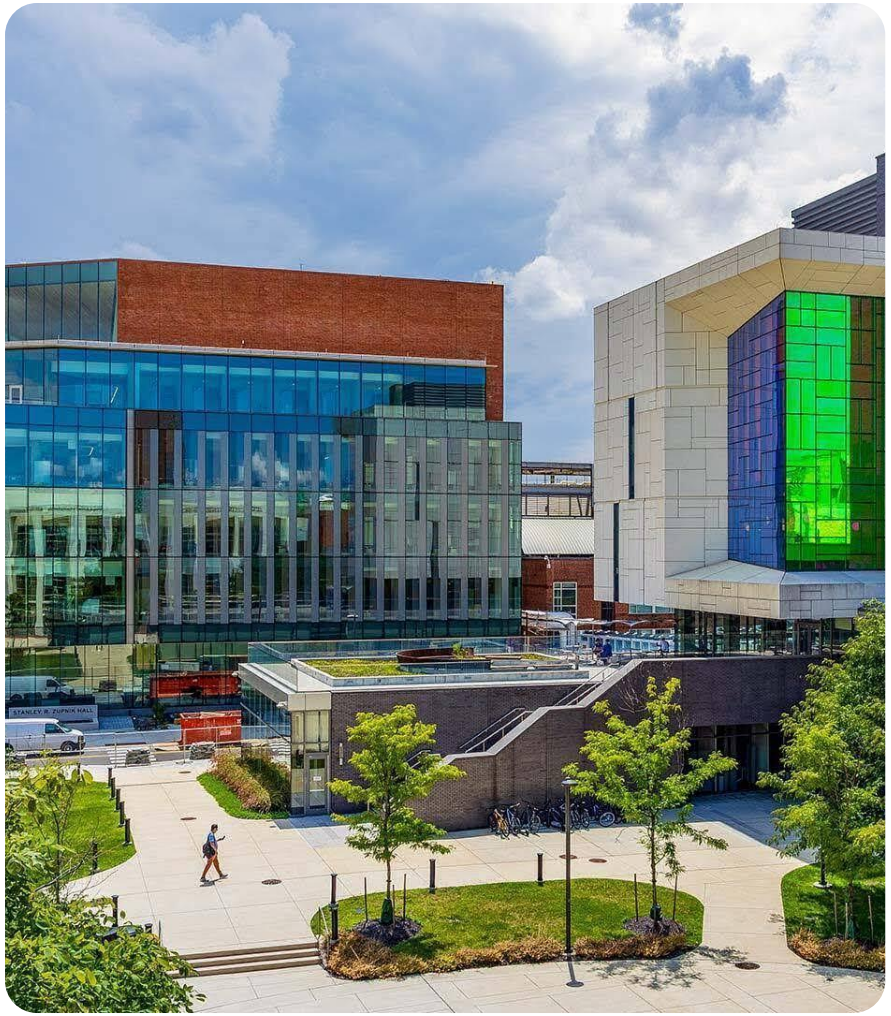
Workplace & Badge Programs

The Green Workspace and Sustainability Badge programs translate awareness into everyday workplace action.

Transition to Goals 2.0

Move from broad awareness and participation toward project-based learning, systems thinking, peer-to-peer practice, and use of campus infrastructure as a living laboratory.

3 | Smart Growth



CY 2025 Progress

34
green buildings on campus 2010–2025

2.7M
green building sq. ft., 17% of campus space

1,800+
micromobility devices registered

1.18M
Shuttle-UM rides

3 | Smart Growth





Legacy Goal Progress

- Green building growth support lower-impact campus operations.
- Bikeways project is currently in active construction and phased implementation.
- Biking and micromobility options have expanded as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel.

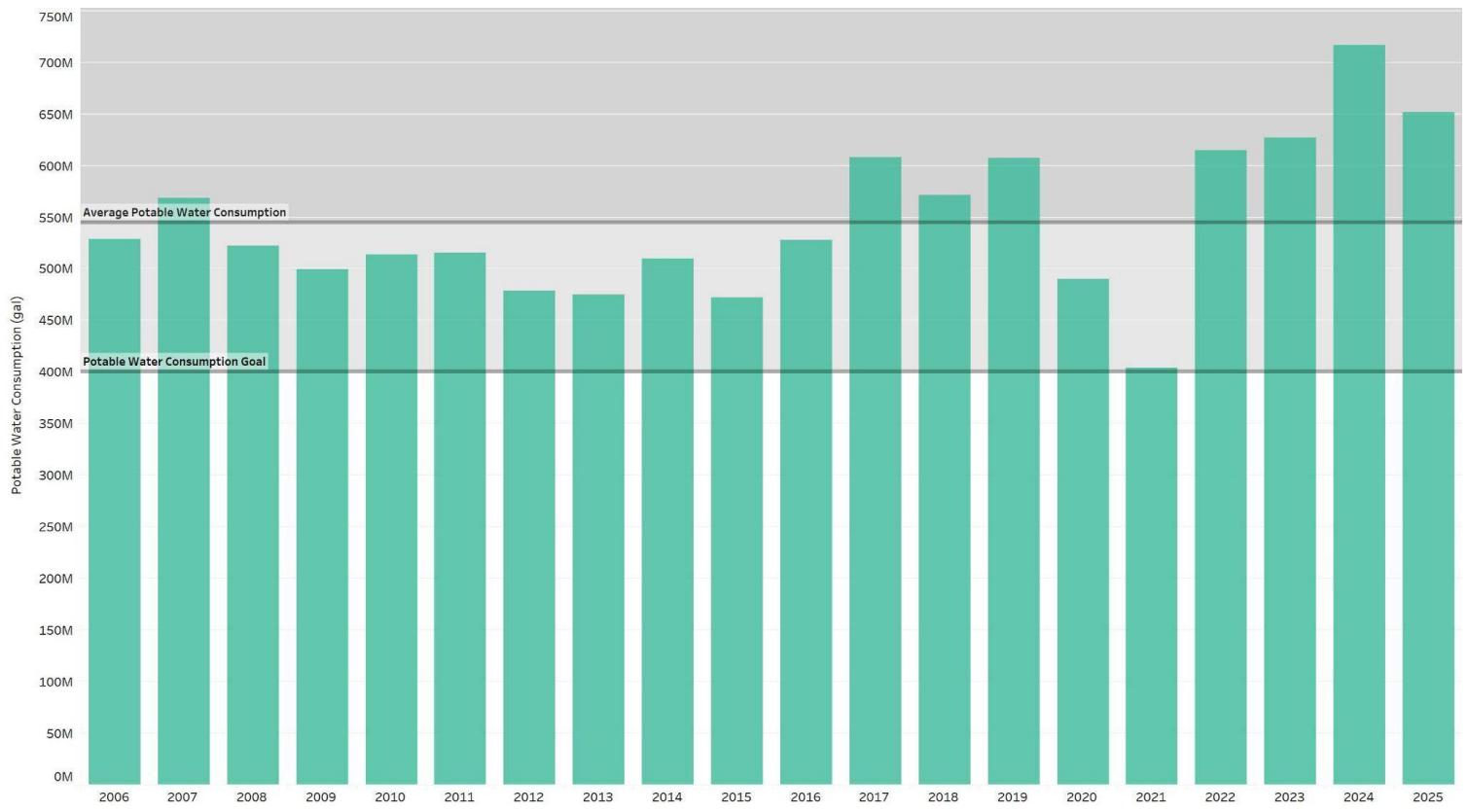
Transition to Goals 2.0

Smart Growth continues as a systems goal across key operational focus areas:

- High-performance buildings
- Transportation choice
- Open space preservation
- Safe micromobility & pedestrian infrastructure

4 | Sustainable Water Use

CY 2025 Progress



40 gal/sqft

in 2025,

10% decrease from 2024

651 mil gal

in 2025,

9% reduction from 2024

4 | Sustainable Water Use



Legacy Goal Progress

- UMD manages stormwater through 100+ control facilities, supported by regular inspections, monitoring, and permit compliance.
- The completed Campus Creek restoration project improved stream health and water quality while also renewing the Animal Sciences Pond.

Transition to Goals 2.0

Water work links potable use, stormwater facilities, campus landscapes, watershed health, and student learning about Maryland's ecology.

5 | Waste Minimization



CY 2025 Progress

2,433

Tons Compost Diverted

from landfills

15.2K

Pounds Diverted

through Terp to Terp Reuse Store

45%

Individual Recycling Rate

MRA materials

66%

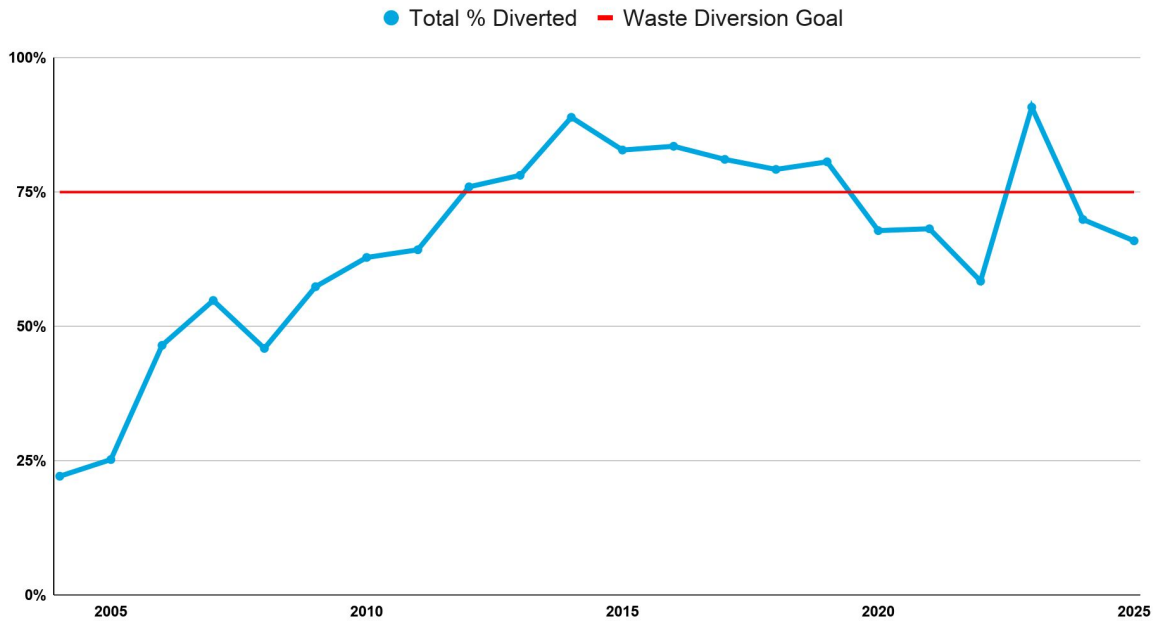
Institutional Recycling Rate

MRA & non-MRA materials

5 | Waste Minimization

Waste Diversion Performance

Historical tracking vs. 75% target benchmark



Legacy Goal Progress

- UMD significantly increased waste diversion over the past two decades, exceeding the 75% target in several years.
- Recent performance has fluctuated and remained below the target in 2025, highlighting the need to strengthen waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

Transition to Goals 2.0

Shift the focus from measuring how much waste UMD diverts to advancing circularity, responsible consumption, food-waste diversion, and compost quality.

6 | Local & Global Impact



CY 2025 Progress

90%

Paper Purchasing
Reduction in total paper purchasing vs. 2007

$2.7M

Green Cleaning
Spent on green cleaning (≈83% of cleaning purchases)

33%

Food Emissions
Reduction in food emissions per plate vs. 2017

51

Municipalities Certified Through Sustainable Maryland

Legacy Goal Progress

- Sustainability became increasingly integrated into campus procurement and operations.
- Partnership programs connect student learning with community sustainability needs.

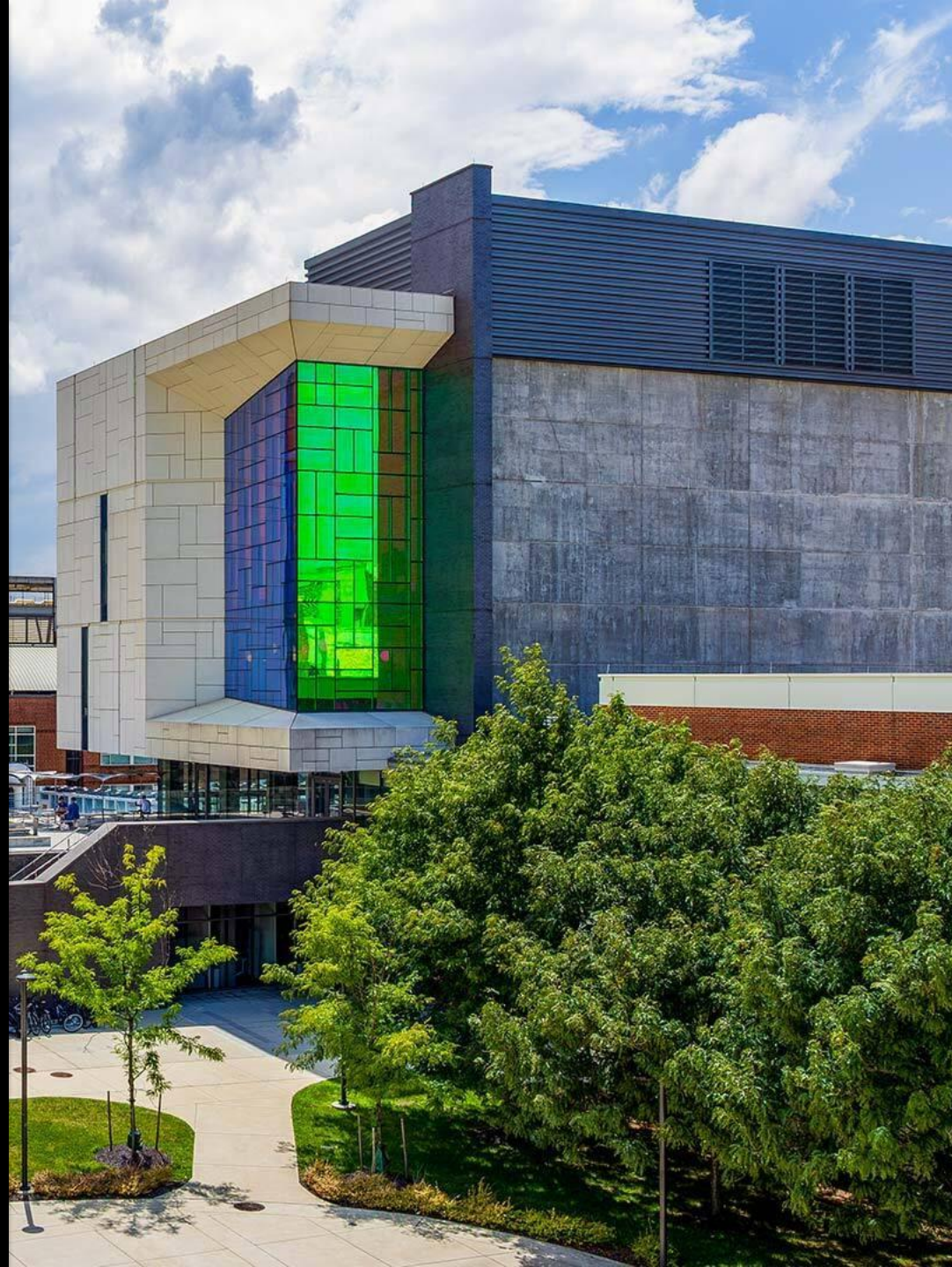
Transition to Goals 2.0

Shift from broadly promoting local and global sustainability impact to building reciprocal partnerships and applying UMD's research, teaching, and service to measurable community-led change.

Source: Progress Summary: pages 21, 26; Goals 2.0: Community Partnership, Food, Ecoregional Wisdom

From Legacy Goals to Goals 2.0

- CY 2025 marks the final review of the 2014–2025 Sustainability Council goals
- Next section introduces Goals 2.0, UMD’s 2026-2036 framework



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THE NEXT DECADE

Introducing Sustainability Goals 2.0 (2026–2036)

Approved by the Council in May 2026 — seven pillars that broaden sustainability from campus operations into research, community, and culture.

Sustainability Research & Scholarship

An interdisciplinary research network informing campus decisions and Maryland's biodiversity goals

Culture of Sustainability in Research Operations

Managing the environmental and social impact of UMD's technology and innovation ecosystem

Community Partnership for Impact

Reciprocity and connection in sustainability work across Maryland communities

Food Resiliency, Access & Education

A resilient, equitable campus food system with strong regional partnerships

Experiential Learning

Project-based learning and problem-solving on real sustainability challenges

Sustainable Infrastructure & Campus Growth

A living model of sustainable urban systems and leadership on the State's sustainability goals

Ecoregional Wisdom

Cultivating connection to Maryland's ecology, culture, and sense of place

THE CROSSWALK

How the Six Legacy Goals Map to Goals 2.0

6 LEGACY GOALS

- **Carbon Neutrality**
- **Waste Minimization**
- **Sustainable Water Use**
- **Smart Growth**
- **Local & Global Impact**
  SPLITS INTO 2 PILLARS
- **Education for Sustainability**
  EVOLVES INTO NEW PILLAR

GOALS 2.0 PILLARS

Sustainable Infrastructure & Campus Growth

Absorbs 4 Legacy Goals:

- Carbon Neutrality
- Waste Minimization
- Sustainable Water Use
- Smart Growth

Community Partnership for Impact

Absorbs: Local & Global Impact (partnerships)

Food Resiliency, Access & Education

Absorbs: Local & Global Impact (food & dining)

Experiential Learning

Evolves from: Education for Sustainability

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WHAT'S NEW

New Frontiers Goals 2.0 Adds



Sustainability Research & Scholarship

Elevates cross-campus research connectivity — previously a thread within Education for Sustainability — into its own standalone pillar with a searchable research directory.



Culture of Sustainability in Research Operations

A new focus on the environmental and social footprint of labs, technology, and generative-AI use in research — not addressed by any legacy goal.



Ecoregional Wisdom

A new commitment to Maryland's ecology, history, and the Piscataway people's legacy on UMD's campus — sense-of-place, not previously a Council goal.

NEXT STEPS

Looking Ahead

01

Finalize metrics & baselines

Work with relevant departments and Council to set measurable metrics and CY 2026 baselines for each of the seven Goals 2.0 pillars.

02

Transition the dashboards

Legacy goal dashboards on the SustainableUMD Progress Hub will be retired or merged into new pillar-aligned dashboards.

03

Keep the reporting cycle

Continued quarterly updates via the SustainableUMD Progress Hub and this annual Council report.


ARMORY

Appendix C

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

FY26 ANNUAL REPORT

Taylor Brinks, Office of Sustainability

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

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



Mobile Sustainability Outreach Center, FY21

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
sustainability fund

$30/year

THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FEE FOR FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN FY26

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



Sustaining Student Engagement, Education, and Environmental Leadership, FY25

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
sustainability fund

$6.1M +

IN FUNDING HAS BEEN AWARDED TO 212 PROJECTS SINCE THE FUND STARTED IN 2011



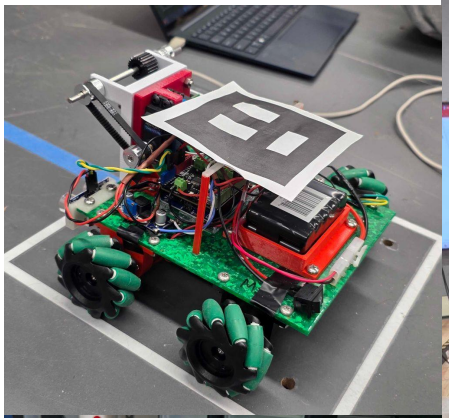
Incorporating Students in the Evaluation of Insect Feed as a Viable Methane Mitigating Supplement for the UMD Dairy, FY24

RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

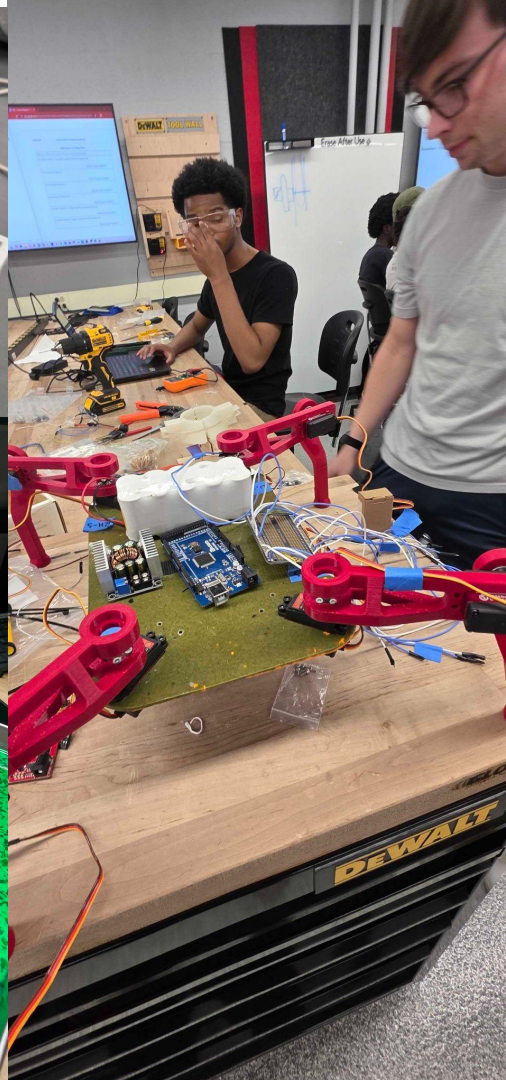
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

Recycled PLA Sheet Manufacturing for ENES100 (FY24)

- ~200+ lbs of PLA recycled & reused
- 14 sections of ENES100 involved
- Plans to place additional collection bins in more labs







UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

Updating the Sustainability Minor Curriculum (FY25)

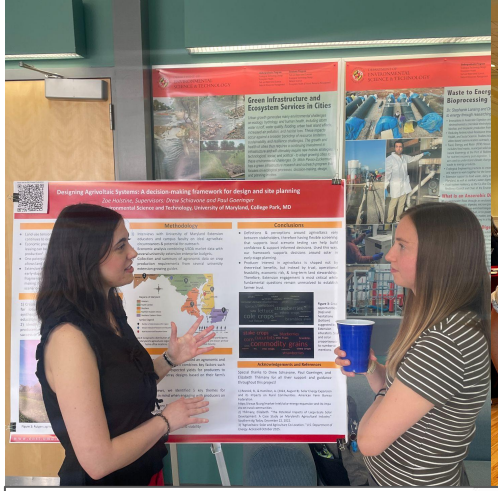
- Surveys , literature review, & institutional benchmarking
- Interest in more experiential learning outside classroom
- Employers seek understanding of practical realities & tradeoffs, ethics, & systems thinking

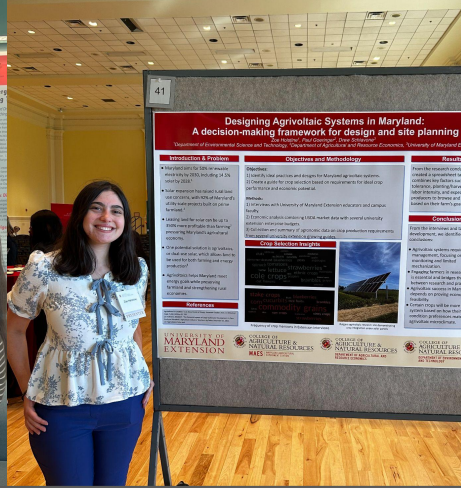


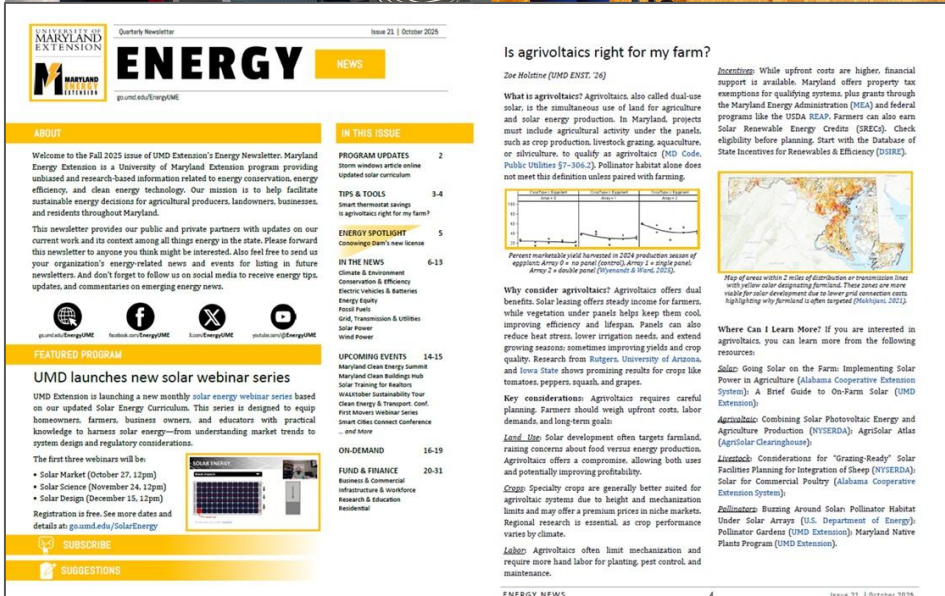
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

Maryland Agrivoltaic Demonstration for Research, Education, and Outreach (FY24)

- Completed feasibility study & site assessment for two UMD RECs
- 3 undergraduate researchers
- Manuscripts, outreach, presentations
- Additional $$ investments







UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

Experiencing the Chesapeake Bay to Foster Connection and Stewardship (FY25)



“It was really cool to get a chance to see the tools we learned about professionals using to determine bay healthiness… and even getting a chance to be a scientist trying a few of them out.
— Student, Annapolis Trip

“The guides helped us to really make an emotional connection to the harbor… The harbor is more than just water and industry. The harbor is a part of the culture of the state.”
— Student, Baltimore Harbor Trip

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

South Campus Dining Hall Refresh (FY25)

- Planted 4 native trees, native shrubs, and flowers (added donation from Arboretum)
- Added signed about the importance of pollinators and native plant restoration
- Created a grants archive

dining.umd.edu/grants



FY26 REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

PROJECTS APPROVED IN FY26

RESEARCH

Wood Vault

AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits (2 yr)

Campus Biodiversity Baseline for Nature-Positive UMD

Campus Stormwater Innovation through Student-Led Biochar–Biopolymer Soil Treatment Pilot for Sustainable Infrastructure (2 yr)

EDUCATION

Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Summer 2026 Internships (3 yr)

Environmental Sustainability Through Learning and Practice (3 yr)

Terp Farm Experiential Ed. Leadership Pilot Program (3 yr)

CEDAR Gallery

OPERATIONS

University of Maryland, Waste Audit Grant Proposal 2025-2026

STAMP Herb Garden

Replacing Water Condensers in Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Teaching Laboratory Courses

Restoration and Implementation of the Golf Course Rain Garden

Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion

Bird-Friendly Windows at The Clarice*

**Pending ALRB review before funding*

FY26 AND CUMULATIVE FUND ACTIVITY

Sustainability Fund Activity	FY26	All Years (FY11-26)
Proposals received	27	449
Funds requested	$2,615,813.46	$18,257,851
Grants awarded	14	212
Funds awarded	$934,341.63	$6,115,375.32
Average award	$66,738.69	$30,166.73
Note: Mini-grant awards not included above.		

FY26 FUND ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Approved FY26 Installments:	$455,064.66
Approved FY27 Installments:	$251,390.90
Approved FY28 Installments:	$227,886.07
Total:	**$934,341.63**

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

THIS YEAR (FY27)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
sustainability fund

THIS YEAR,

$25,000

IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT RESEARCH, COURTESY OF MARYLAND ENERGY IMPACT PARTNERS (MEIP)



Getting at the Root of Mangrove Resiliency (FY24)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND sustainability fund

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY27

Balance at the Start of FY27	$640,850.65
Estimated Student Fee Revenue for FY27	$871,500.00
Mini-Grant	- $20,000.00
Reserve for Undergrad Offsets	-$150,000.00
Terp to Terp Funding (2nd year) (for FY27)	-$75,911.00
Approved Multi-Year Projects from FY25 (for FY27)	-$232,299.44
Approved Multi-Year Projects from FY26 (for FY27)	-$251,390.90
Terp to Terp Funding (3rd year) (Hold for Early FY28)	-$78,188.33
Hold for Bird-Friendly Proposal from FY26	-$16,000.00
Remaining for FY27	**$688,560.98**
Plus MEIP funding	**$713,560.98**

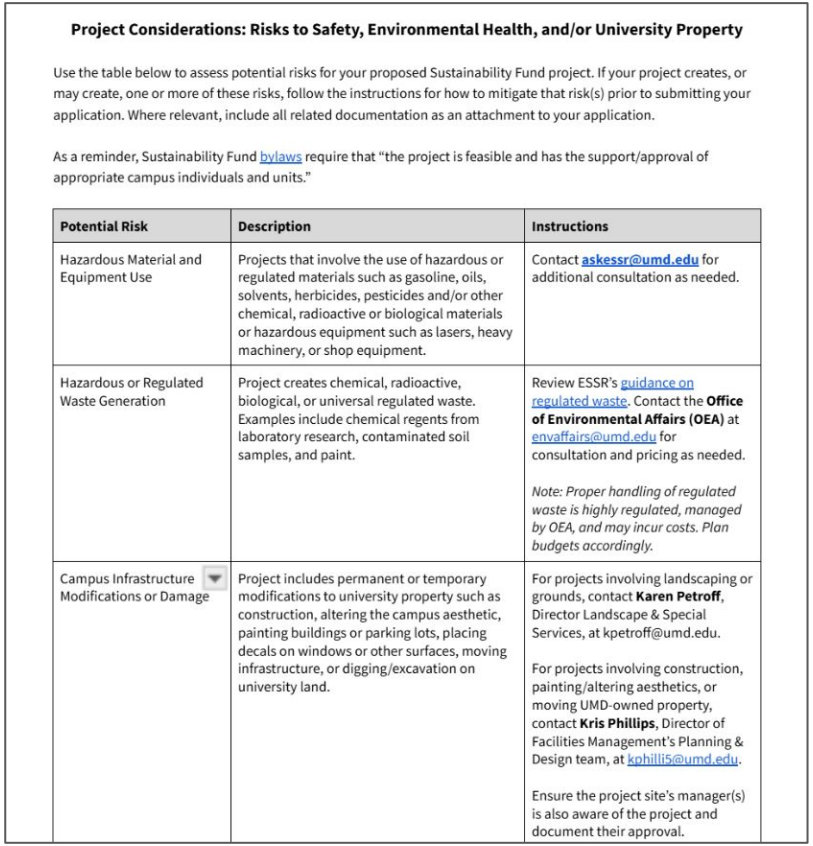
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The SFRC will need to decide if they wish to propose an increase to the Student Sustainability Fee this fall.

PROJECT RISK TABLE (NEW THIS YEAR)

- Helps applicants self-identify potential risks & proactively address them in their proposals
- Strengthens coordination between Fund Administrator and key operational staff
- Aims to save time during Council deliberations

Link to Table



Project Considerations: Risks to Safety, Environmental Health, and/or University Property

Use the table below to assess potential risks for your proposed Sustainability Fund project. If your project creates, or may create, one or more of these risks, follow the instructions for how to mitigate that risk(s) prior to submitting your application. Where relevant, include all related documentation as an attachment to your application.

As a reminder, Sustainability Fund bylaws require that "the project is feasible and has the support/approval of appropriate campus individuals and units."

Potential Risk	Description	Instructions
Hazardous Material and Equipment Use	Projects that involve the use of hazardous or regulated materials such as gasoline, oils, solvents, herbicides, pesticides and/or other chemical, radioactive or biological materials or hazardous equipment such as lasers, heavy machinery, or shop equipment.	Contact **askessr@umd.edu** for additional consultation as needed.
Hazardous or Regulated Waste Generation	Project creates chemical, radioactive, biological, or universal regulated waste. Examples include chemical regents from laboratory research, contaminated soil samples, and paint.	Review ESSR's guidance on regulated waste. Contact the **Office of Environmental Affairs (OEA)** at envaffairs@umd.edu for consultation and pricing as needed. *Note: Proper handling of regulated waste is highly regulated, managed by OEA, and may incur costs. Plan budgets accordingly.*
Campus Infrastructure Modifications or Damage	Project includes permanent or temporary modifications to university property such as construction, altering the campus aesthetic, painting buildings or parking lots, placing decals on windows or other surfaces, moving infrastructure, or digging/excavation on university land.	For projects involving landscaping or grounds, contact **Karen Petroff**, Director Landscape & Special Services, at kpetroff@umd.edu. For projects involving construction, painting/altering aesthetics, or moving UMD-owned property, contact **Kris Phillips**, Director of Facilities Management's Planning & Design team, at kphilli5@umd.edu. Ensure the project site's manager(s) is also aware of the project and document their approval.

MINI-GRANT REPORTS (NEW THIS YEAR)

- Mini-Grant recipients now have to submit a short report at conclusion of the project
- Great communications opportunity to highlight student-led projects

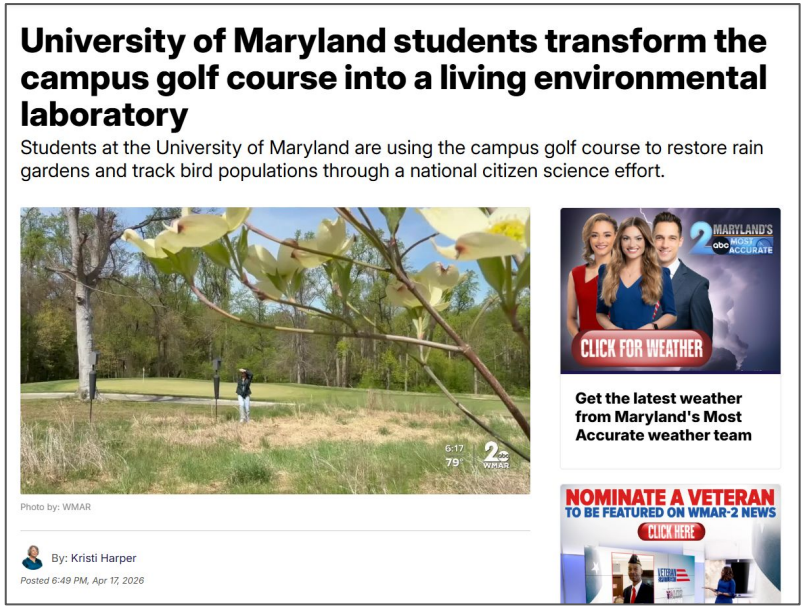


ENST111 Field Trips (FY26- Mini-Grant)

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SUSTAINABILITY FUND IN THE NEWS

- Going Green on the Greens (MD Today, Jan ‘26)
- Student-Led Golf Course Project (WMAR, Apr ‘26)
- $930K Awarded (MD Today, Sep ‘26)
- Rain or Shine: Mesoterps (Progress Hub, Sept ‘26)



University of Maryland students transform the campus golf course into a living environmental laboratory

Students at the University of Maryland are using the campus golf course to restore rain gardens and track bird populations through a national citizen science effort.

Photo by: WMAR

By: Kristi Harper

Posted 6:49 PM, Apr 17, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
sustainability fund

QUESTIONS?



Appendix D

University Sustainability Fund
Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2026

Fiscal year (FY) 2026 was the fifteenth year of the University Sustainability Fund, which is administered by the Office of Sustainability with oversight and funding authority by the University Sustainability Council. All revenue comes from undergraduate students in the form of the Student Sustainability Fee, which was $30 per full-time undergraduate student per year and $15 per part-time undergraduate student per year in FY26. A student-majority Sustainability Fund Review Committee reviews proposals and recommends grant awards to the Sustainability Council. University of Maryland students, faculty, and staff can submit proposals by October 15 (priority deadline) or January 15 (final deadline).

Student Sustainability Fee Revenue and Expenses for FY26

The Student Sustainability Fee account balance at the start of FY26 was $714,769.56. The revenue from student fees in FY26 was $885,779.34.

Funds are set aside at the beginning of each fiscal year for two ongoing initiatives that are supported with Student Sustainability Fee revenue:

1. **Sustainability Mini-Grants**: Funds are transferred from the Student Sustainability Fee account to give the Sustainability Mini-Grant account, also administered by the Office of Sustainability, a balance of $20,000 at the start of each academic year. The Student Government Association's Sustainability Committee has authority, granted by the Sustainability Council, to award mini-grants ($2,000 or less per project) based on proposals received on a rolling basis throughout the academic year.

2. **Carbon Neutral Undergraduate Commuting**: Funds are transferred from the Student Sustainability Fee account to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the annual purchase of carbon credits to offset all greenhouse gas emissions associated with undergraduate student commuting. This program was proposed by the Student Government Association and approved by the Sustainability Council in FY19. Costs for this program are contained with an annual cap on expenditures. Based on the Sustainability Council's approval, $100,000 is reserved for the program with a cap of $150,000 per year. The Sustainability Council, with advice from the Sustainability Fund Review Committee, may elect to adjust the cap, authorize an annual expenditure above the cap, and/or terminate the program.

Following approval from the University Sustainability Council in October 2023 and implementation in October 2024, applicants may request up to three years of funding as either a lump sum or as annual installments. In FY25, the Council approved $252,584.89 in multi-year grant installments scheduled for distribution in FY26.

Prepared by Taylor Brinks on September 9, 2026

In December 2024, following a presentation from the President of the Student Government Association, the University Sustainability Council approved three years of funding for the Terp to Terp Campus ReUse Store beginning at $73,700.00 in FY26 with an additional 3% cost of living increase each following year.

Due to a delay in meeting a contingency, the "Maryland Agrivoltaic Demonstration for Research, Education, and Outreach" project approved in FY24 did not receive its funding until October 2025 (FY26). For this reason, an amount of $100,000.00 was reserved for this project at the start of FY26.

After accounting for revenue and the aforementioned expenses, $928,353.01 was available for Sustainability Fund grants in FY26 (see Table 1). As part of a pilot, Maryland Energy Impact Partners (MEIP) contributed an additional $25,000 to the Sustainability Fund in FY26 to specifically support student research projects.

Table 1. Funds Available at the Start of FY26

FY26 Available Funds With Actuals	
Balance at Start of FY26	$714,769.56
FY26 Fee Revenue	$885,779.34
Mini-Grant	-$20,000.00
Reserve for Undergrad Offsets	-$150,000.00
Agrivoltaics Project Hold	-$100,000.00
Multi-Year Projects Approved in FY25 for FY26	-$252,584.89
Terp to Terp Year 1 (Funded in July 2026)	-$73,700.00
Terp to Terp Year 2 Hold (Held for Funding in July 2027)	-$75,911.00
Actual Available for FY26	**$928,353.01**
MEIP Funds for Student Research	**$25,000.00**
Total Available	**$953,353.01**

FY26 Grant Cycle Outcomes

In total, the Sustainability Council awarded $934,341.63 across 14 Sustainability Fund grants during the FY26 cycle (see Table 2), with $455,064.66 allocated for distribution in FY26. Five of these projects received multi-year funding—three on a three-year timeline and two on a two-year timeline—with $251,390.90 allocated for FY27 and $227,886.07 allocated for FY28.

Table 2. Summary of FY26 and Cumulative Sustainability Fund Activity*

Sustainability Fund Activity	**FY26**	**All Years (FY11-26)**

Proposals received	27	449
Funds requested	$2,615,813.46	$18,257,851
Grants awarded	14	212
Funds awarded	$934,341.63	$6,115,375.32
Average award	$66,738.69	$30,166.73
Note: Mini-grant awards are not included.		

In FY26, $17,372.35 was awarded through the Sustainability Mini-Grant to 13 projects, and a total of $149,00.00 was expensed for undergraduate student commuting.

The “Bird-Friendly Windows at The Clarice” project was approved by the Sustainability Council in FY26 but is pending final approval from the UMD Architecture Landscape Review Board (ALRB). An amount of $16,000.00 will be reserved for this project in FY27 once the ALRB has issued its approval.

Funding Available for FY27

The Student Sustainability Fee balance at the start of FY27 was $640,850.65, and after accounting for estimated incoming fee revenue and reserving funds for the aforementioned expenses, the amount available for the FY27 grant cycle is estimated to be $688,560.98 (see Table 3). MEIP committed to contribute a second installment of $25,000.00 for student research projects in FY27, making the total available $713,560.98.

Table 3. Estimated Funds Available for the FY27 Grant Cycle

Estimated Available Funds for FY27	
Balance at the Start of FY27	$640,850.65
Estimated Student Fee Revenue for FY27	$871,500.00
Mini-Grant	-$20,000.00
Reserve for Undergrad Offsets	-$150,000.00
Terp to Terp Year 2 Funding (Early FY27)	-$75,911.00
Approved Multi-Year Projects from FY25 (For FY27)	-$232,299.44
Approved Multi-Year Projects from FY26 (For FY27)	-$251,390.90
Terp to Terp Year 3 Funding (Early FY28)	-$78,188.33
Hold for Bird-Friendly Windows Project	-$16,000.00
Remaining for FY27	**$688,560.98**
MEIP Funds for Student Research	**$25,000.00**
Total Available	**$713,560.98**

Sustainability Fund Grant Recipients in FY26

Replacing Water Condensers in Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Teaching Laboratory Courses

Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry- $27,016.80 (1 year)

The Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry will replace water-cooled condensers with air-cooled condensers in undergraduate organic chemistry labs to significantly reduce the amount of water used each semester. Students in the labs will engage in experiments to compare waste waste associated with each condenser while learning about green chemistry.

Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Summer 2026 Internships

UMD Arboretum and Botanical Garden- $174,813.60 (3 year project)

The UMD Arboretum and Botanical Garden will hire eight undergraduate interns to support tree inventory management, edible food gardening, and conservation landscaping across campus. This grant will support three years worth of internships.

University of Maryland, Waste Audit Grant Proposal 2025-2026

Facilities Management, Recycling & Solid Waste- $39,700.00 (1 year)

This project will help Recycling & Solid Waste better understand campus waste contamination, strengthen data collection on our waste streams, support improved waste-diversion planning, and reduce waste hauling costs. The audit will include samples from four residence halls and four academic buildings.

Environmental Sustainability Through Learning and Practice

Office of Environmental Affairs & Office of Sustainability- $302,571.75 (3 years)

This grant will provide the Office of Environmental Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability, essential staffing for launching the Green Labs pilot, developing recycling programs for lab plastics, and increasing outreach, training, and prevention programs. This project will expand the university's capacity for environmental sampling, data management, site inspections, and stormwater monitoring.

Terp Farm Experiential Ed. Leadership Pilot Program

UMD Dining Services- $197,291.70 (3 years)

UMD Dining Services will pilot a program offering hands-on agricultural and food systems experience at UMD's Terp Farm while scaling up the supply of local food for campus dining halls. This grant will support three years worth of hands-on internships for eight interns.

STAMP Herb Garden

STAMP Administration- $8,000.00 (1 year)

This project will rejuvenate the 36-by-3-foot garden bed located on the south side of the STAMP Student Union. The refreshed garden space will feature herbs and medicinal plants and will support pollinators, serve as an educational space, and provide small quantities of herbs to the UMD Campus Pantry.

Campus Stormwater Innovation through Student-Led Biochar–Biopolymer Soil Treatment Pilot for Sustainable Infrastructure*

Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering- $50,000.00 (2 years)

Over two years, this project will implement and evaluate a biochar–biopolymer amended soil cover system installed along pavement edges near Lot 11 with the aim to reduce pollutants entering campus waterways from roadway runoff. The system is expected to reduce pollutant loads and provide hands-on research opportunities for undergraduate students in environmental engineering and monitoring.

Wood Vault*

Environmental Monitoring Lab- $20,700.00 (1 year)

Students in the Environmental Monitoring Lab will deploy a wood vault system to bury fallen wood at the Turfgrass Research Farm. This research project will include installing sensors to monitor oxygen and methane levels and ensure the vault remains in anaerobic conditions. The goal is to prevent carbon emissions associated with burning or decomposing wood while testing a carbon sequestration method.

Restoration and Implementation of the Golf Course Rain Garden

ETE Scholars & UMD Golf Course- $5,549.46 (1 year)

This project will restore the University of Maryland Golf Course rain garden, which includes removing debris, introducing native plants, and improving the outflow pattern of the rain garden. The student-led restoration supports UMD's commitment to qualify as a bird and bee campus by creating improved pollinator habitat while enhancing stormwater management. The rain garden is estimated to treat approximately 60,000 gallons of stormwater annually once restored.

Campus Biodiversity Baseline for Nature-Positive UMD*

Dept. of Environmental Science and Technology- $36,115.44 (1 year)

This project will engage students in conducting a campus-wide biodiversity inventory to establish a biodiversity baseline. The project will use environmental DNA sampling and bioacoustic monitoring to identify species present across campus and map biodiversity hotspots. This project would enable identification of areas needing restoration and help to guide future sustainability efforts on campus. Collected data will be incorporated into coursework and research across multiple departments.

AI-Enabled Decision Framework to Maximize Climate ROI in Building-Envelope Retrofits*

School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation & UMD Facilities Management- $33,338.88 (2 years)

This joint research project between the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation & UMD Facilities Management will develop a system using drones and deep learning to identify inefficiencies in building envelopes and predict the energy, carbon, and cost impacts of retrofit strategies. Students across disciplines will gain experience and skills in predictive AI, drone-based sensing, hygrothermal modeling, and life-cycle assessment. The project will focus on the Benjamin Building prior to its retrofit.

CEDAR Gallery

Dept. of History- $9,975.00 (1 year)

This project will support the recently launched CEDAR Gallery with programming, tools, and community-building for navigating climate anxiety, learning about environmental storytelling, and participating in art-focused climate action. The proposal includes funding for visiting speakers, field trips, and student research opportunities.

Campus Micromobility Parking Expansion

Dept. of Transportation Services- $13,269.00 (1 year)

In an effort to meet the growing demand for micromobility infrastructure on campus and reduce improper parking, the Department of Transportation Services will install additional U-racks to increase parking capacity for bikes and scooters. The U-racks will be strategically placed in areas with high volumes of micromobility traffic.

Bird-friendly windows at The Clarice

ETE Scholars & The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center- $16,000.00 (1 year)

This project will install bird-friendly window markers at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center to reduce bird collisions and fatalities. An additional $25,000 was endowed by The Clarice to support this project. Collaborations with Lights Out UMD and UMD's Audubon Society chapter will result in data collected on bird casualties before and after installation of the window markers.

Note: This project is still pending approval from the UMD Architecture Landscape Review Board.

***Project received partial funding from Maryland Energy Impact Partners (MEIP), who contributed $25,000 to support student research projects.**