



drake_sustainability

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Sustainability Plan

2023-2033



Office of Sustainability

Facilities Planning & Management

Introduction

Drake University recognizes global climate change as a concerning threat that requires immediate action. As an anchor institution, it is part of Drake's commitment to build a healthier, more beautiful, and more resilient campus and community by investigating sustainable solutions. Drake University works to minimize Drake University's environmental impact by continuously evolving our sustainability goals to protect the planet. Drake is committed to bettering our campus and our community by doing our part to ensure a better future for all.

Starting in 2007, Drake launched its Blue is Green sustainability program to further engage the campus community in sustainable practices. Shortly after, Drake signed the President's Climate Commitment pledging to be carbon neutral by 2050 and released the first carbon footprint report. This resulted in the formation of the Sustainability Committee and a Climate Action Plan. In 2017, carbon reduction goals were included on the University's Continuous Improvement Scorecard, reinforcing the University's commitment to sustainability initiatives.

In 2022, the initial goal of a 30% carbon emissions reduction included on the Continuous Improvement Scorecard was achieved. As we turn our attention toward setting the new round of goals, the development of a comprehensive Drake University's Sustainability Plan guides our work. The plan is the result of numerous presentations, conversations, and meetings to accurately reflect the university's shared values. Through clear goals, action steps, trackable metrics, and timelines, this plan serves as the roadmap to integrating sustainability across campus for the next 10 years. To make the plan achievable, the first five years are focused on six key categories to address sustainability issues: emissions, water use, waste management, campus engagement, grounds, and transportation.

This is a living document that the Office of Sustainability released in spring of 2023. It will be reviewed every year with a progress report to be published every two years. In the year 2026, sustainability staff will evaluate the plan and set priorities for the following five years up until 2033.



Affiliates

Carbon Climate:

Former President David Maxwell of Drake University is one of the charter signers of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. This formal signing of the Carbon Commitment signifies Drake recognizes the threats of climate change and the need for sustainable innovation. Through this, Drake has pledged to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In coordination with signing the commitment, a Carbon Action Plan was released in addition to a biannual carbon footprint report to track progress and identify areas for improvement.



Tree Campus:

Drake University has been recognized as a Tree Campus Higher Education university by the Arbor Day Foundation since 2012. In order to achieve this recognition, Drake has a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, a Campus Tree Care Plan, a Campus Tree Program, a Service Learning Project, and an observance of Arbor Day. Facilities Planning and Management is committed to promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship. The dedicated team cares for over 1,500 trees on campus and recently updated and published a new Tree Care Plan.



STARS:

Drake University has earned a STARS Bronze rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. STARS is designed to provide a framework for understanding sustainability in all sectors of higher education, enable meaningful comparisons over time and across institutions using a common set of measurements, create incentives for continual improvement toward sustainability, facilitate information sharing about higher education sustainability practices and performance, and build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community.

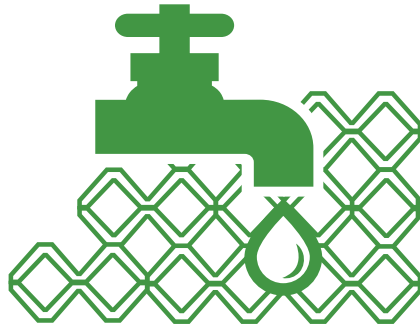




Objectives



**Air, Climate,
& Energy**



**Water
Management**



**Campus
Engagement**



Grounds



Waste



Transportation

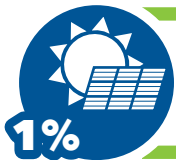
Air, Climate, & Energy

AIM

Reduce the financial, social, and environmental impacts of campus energy consumption through conservation, efficiency, and production/delivery system improvements.



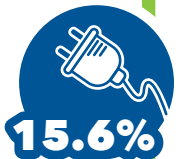
GOALS



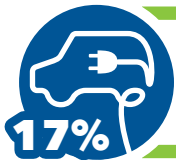
Increase renewably generated energy to 20%



Reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by 65%



Decrease campus energy consumption by 30% compared to the 2007 baseline



Convert 70% of campus to electric vehicles



Double the Drake University Sustainability Revolving Fund

ACTIONS

2023

- » Create a temperature set point policy
- » Develop a utility dashboard

2024

- » Create a published green building policy

2025

- » Establish a utility taskforce '25
- » Pilot a green certificate program for residence halls, offices, and laboratories

2026

- » Conduct a Energy Audit of all rooms in buildings

2027

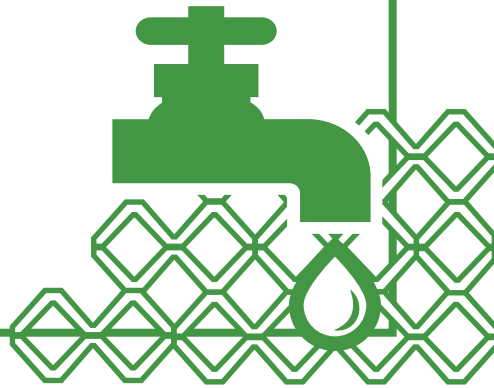
- » Install submeters on all buildings
- » Increase the Drake University Sustainability Plan by 25%
- » Grow the Sustainability Revolving Fund by 50%
- » Upgrade 100% of lighting to LED



Water Managment

AIM

Recognize water as a critical resource and decrease water consumption while also advancing conservation methods and technologies.



GOALS

Reduce water usage by 10%

Maximize stormwater infiltration and evapotranspiration



**0% Water
Reduction**

ACTIONS

2023

- » Host a yearly water reduction competition between the residence halls
- » Construct IDALS bioretention cell

2024

- » Create a permeable surface baseline
- » Draft a rainwater/stormwater management policy

2025

- » Conduct an impervious surface evaluation prior to major construction projects

2026

- » Create hydrogeological profile of Ravine Creek

2027

- » Implement the Beautiful Place restoration plan for Ravine Creek
- » Increase the number of smart irrigation systems to 80%



Campus Engagement

AIM

Expand the culture of sustainability across campus by engaging students, faculty, and staff in all disciplines in sustainability education and initiatives.



GOALS

Increase awareness of sustainability events and projects on campus, and achieve an 80% STARS student engagement score

Have 40% of students volunteer for a sustainability event



Volunteering Score
TBD



ACTIONS

2023

- » Achieve 30% of the STARS campus engagement score
- » Create an Office of Sustainability social media
- » Integrate sustainability into student and employee orientation and welcome week
- » Send montly sustainability update on On Campus

2024

- » Create a sustainability training course that is offered annually
- » Create RA sustainability training
- » Create an Office of Sustainability DUGood volunteer page
- » Pilot a Green Grad program

2025

- » Conduct a sustainability literacy survey
- » Launch an employee focused outreach campaign
- » Create an incentive for faculty to teach sustainability incorporated classes

2027

- » Implement educational sustainability signage
- » Increase the number of interns for the Office of Sustainability (2 interns)

Grounds

AIM

Develop university grounds to remain beautiful and memorable while integrating natural systems and advancing environmental stewardship.



GOALS

Increase the area of native plantings on campus (number in development)

Increase the amount of campus that is managed organically by (number in development) by 2033

TBD
Native
Plants



TBD
Native
Plants

ACTIONS

2023

- » Conduct a native plant survey and display inventory on website
- » Create a native planting suitability map

2024

- » Apply for a Bee Campus Certification

2025

- » Update our integrated pest management plan
- » Pilot an educational beehive at the Sprout Garden

2026

- » Work with Development to reinvigorate tree donations for the future

2027

- » Conduct a survey to identify areas of biodiversity importance and endangered species
- » Increase tree canopy to by 30%



Waste

AIM

Reduce campus consumption and increase the waste diversion rate while promoting responsible procurement practices



GOALS



Increase our diversion rate to 50% by 2033

Decrease waste landfilled from 2007 baseline by 85% by 2033

Eliminate non-essential single use plastics from campus with viable alternatives by 2033

x tons
-45%



x tons
-xx%



x tons
-xx%



ACTIONS

2023

- » Work with Sodexo to give students using The Hub to-go silverware
- » Pilot a move out waste diversion program
- » Enhance the Help Your Shelf reuse program
- » Compost competitions between residence halls

2024

- » Pilot an office supply exchange
- » Create a zero-waste event certification
- » Reduce total waste generated per weighted campus user by 25%

2025

- » Develop a university wide e waste, ink cartridge, and battery recycling process

2026

- » Add a pulper to Hubbell
- » Remove plastic bags from the bookstore
- » Create a furniture inventory
- » Expand composting to academic buildings

2027

- » Reimplement a CSA program
- » Pilot a sustainable purchasing approval policy

Transportation

AIM

Promote and encourage the use of safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation options to everyone to reduce the environmental impact.



GOALS

Increase the number of commuters using sustainable transportation at least once a week (number in development)



Reduce the number of students bringing a car to campus by 15% by 2033

Increase DART ridership by 60% by 2033

ACTIONS

2023

- » Conduct a transportation survey every three years
- » Rebrand Olmsted Bike Library

2024

- » Create a bike and pedestrian safety plan
- » Incorporate alternative transportation education assignment 100% of students complete
- » Reimplement car share program
- » Create a walkability map

2025

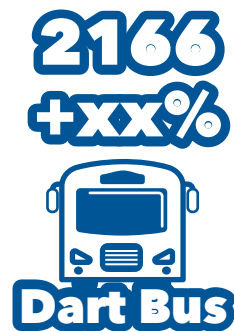
- » Conduct a traffic flow analysis of existing parking lots

2026

- » Pilot a commuter program
- » Create an air travel carbon offset tax

2027

- » Relocate residential parking lots



Contributions

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Student

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Sustainability & Resilience '23 class

