

Final 3/11/15
2020 Strategic Plan
Sustainability Committee

Committee Members

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Vision

The Committee for Sustainability envisions a commitment to addressing sustainability, and environmental stewardship that will create a campus community that is fully engaged, collaboratively and communicatively, for the betterment of our environment and the wellbeing of students, staff, faculty, and society. The campus will be a leader in education, research, and operations that emphasizes sustainability and climate change through a cross-disciplinary, accountable, measurable, and innovative approach that permeates all aspects of the university.

Goals and Priorities

Promote and enhance environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate change literacy throughout the campus community.

- Support the creation of sustainability related curricula and programming that emphasize and expand sustainability learning outcomes.
- Enhance and strengthen research that empowers society to address sustainability and climate change in a manner that's grounded in science and informed by the social, economic, and ethical aspects of this challenge
- Encourage research that will overcome barriers to sustainable human and environmental well-being and will create pathways to a sustainable society
- Encourage cross-disciplinary, collaborative teaching and research about sustainability and climate change by providing incentives for faculty to teach such courses.
- Ensure that all students have the opportunity to graduate with an understanding of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate change to enable them to solve problems, innovate, and become leaders in a changing world.
- Train university leaders so they have meaningful engagement and competence in addressing how sustainability efforts will impact the campus and larger community.
- Provide professional development opportunities for faculty to instill an understanding of sustainability and climate change that can be brought into the classroom and research.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the University's carbon footprint to meet the University's obligation of carbon neutrality as required in the Climate Action Plan.

- Maintain and improve sustainable transportation management opportunities to further encourage public transport and use of efficient vehicles, carpooling, bicycles, walking and to maximize cooperation with local communities.
- Research and advocate for use of renewable energy sources
- Enhance efficiency of solid waste, composting and recycling programs.

Maximize internal and external resources, operations, and efficiencies that support environmental sustainability and promote the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff.

- Improve and increase campus recycling and waste minimization programs, including composting.
- Advocate best sustainable practices, reduction of toxic chemicals, and the purchase and use of environmentally preferred products.
- Research and recommend alternatives for sustainable landscaping alternatives.
- Maximize opportunities for campus green space and opportunities to establish programs that support the university as a "living Lab" model.
- Advocate for water reduction and conservation methods.
- Consider local purchases of sustainable products whenever possible.
- Enhance indoor air quality management programs

Engage the campus and surrounding community in fostering and communicating a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship that promotes UMass Lowell as a living laboratory, locally and globally.

- Brand the Office of Sustainability as a community wide resource and central point for integrating sustainability and environmental stewardship initiatives and activities.
- Continue to develop campus signage and outreach materials to educate, demonstrate and communicate campus sustainability and environmental stewardship initiatives and activities.
- Enhance and increase student involvement with campus sustainability and environmental stewardship initiatives and activities with a specific increased focus on campus student residents.
- Develop sustainability programs designed specifically for faculty and staff engagement.
- Continue and enhance sustainability, climate change and environmental stewardship student educator and employee ambassador programs.
- Actively support and enhance community partnerships and service projects.