

Official Report

Augustana College Sustainability Activities for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

2020 Climate Change Task Force Commitment

As a liberal arts college, Augustana College recognizes its responsibility to the community to take an active and effective role in reducing its environmental impact on the planet and fostering a community that values environmental sustainability. Consistent with our moral obligation, we strive to equitably build a culture of conservation that integrates principles of ecological stewardship into our curriculum, operations and physical plant.



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Task force strategies provided guide for progress

In April 2020, a campus-wide advisory group on environmental sustainability issues provided a report to President Bahls. Their report was written after the task force spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the 2008 Environmental Action Plan, compiling progress made on sustainability in the last decade, and researching best practices from comparable campus leaders in sustainability.

The recommended next steps from the task force were:

- Complete a study to assess and document baseline conditions and trends for each of the sustainability domains.
- In collaboration with stakeholders across campus, develop a campus sustainability strategic plan to prioritize objectives and strategies for the next 5 years.

Strategies for success were provided by the task force and helped shape the college's sustainability activities for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The strategies included but were not limited to:

- Ongoing staff involvement including but not limited to: solar project, LED program, waste control
- Student involvement within the classroom and campus projects
- Faculty involvement within classroom curriculum and campus projects
- Green Fund donations received for the sole purpose of the Green Fund, with 100% of the return going back to the Green Fund and larger funded campus-wide projects



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Eleven areas of focus in 2020-2021

Projects are currently in process at Augie Acres, with an anticipated completion by early spring 2022.

- Raised beds
- Accessibility
- Total clean-up
- Rainwater barrels

1 - Solar Project

Phase #1 of this project has been completed, and design of Phase #2 has begun. The new Peter J. Lindberg, M.D., Center for Health and Human Performance will have solar panels added after construction is complete in the fall of 2021. Connection with MidAmerican Energy's grid is also slated to happen in 2021 for the following locations:

- Carver Center
- Centennial Hall
- PepsiCo Recreation Center
- Westerlin Residence Center



2 - Revamped Campus Recycling

This is an ongoing project.

- Increased number of pickups
- Added two yard-size dumpsters
- Created new locations at student request

3 - Reduction in Dining Waste

This is an ongoing process.

- Created total program waste reduction goals, with all areas of operation, from prep to serving
- Reusable grab-n-go containers saw increased usage during the pandemic, and beyond.

4 - Campus Drone Operations

This program has started and will continue as the curriculum allows. Facilities staff are working closely with Dr. Reuben Heine, professor of geography.

- Heat loss/gain infrared video capabilities
- Student- and faculty-operated
- Roof inspections/damages

5 - Construction Strategies

Sustainable building strategies were utilized during the construction of the new Peter J. Lindberg, M.D., Center for Health and Human Performance and with the renovation of Bergendoff Hall.

- Sustainable construction materials
- High-efficiency equipment
- L.E.D. lighting



6 - Motor Pool

This is an ongoing project.

- Older model/obsolete vehicles replacement program
- Shared riding within departments/trades
- Move to electric transportation – Club Car purchase in fall 2021

7 - Butterfly Garden Expansion

Efforts have focused on boosting the population of insects and birds on campus, while decreasing the need for mowing.

- Pollinator plan – 10 years in progress
- Student, staff and volunteer involvement
- Earth Day 2021 Tree Planting Project



8 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Baseline Energy Project

This project was started in the summer of 2021.

- GHG emissions monitored through data entry
- Student internship experience provided, started June 2021 (Megan Carr)

9 - L.E.D. Project for Efficiency

Old-fashioned light bulbs were changed out for high-efficiency LED bulbs to save energy and money.

- Campus-wide
- Money savings
- Life expectancy
- Less waste

10 - Environmental Studies Class Tour

This project was completed thanks to a partnership between faculty and facilities staff, and it benefited students.

- Power house on-campus tour held March 2021

11 - Earth Day 2021

- Week of April 19-24, during which students, faculty and staff planted more than one dozen new trees on campus
- Earth Day 2022 activities have been planned for fall 2021



Students, faculty and other employees have come together across campus to advance a series of short-term and long-term projects. By doing so, these committed members of our campus community have maintained energy and made progress needed to address issues related to sustainability.

Membership – Permanent

Campus Sustainability Coordinator:
Bob Lanzerotti (Chair)

Faculty Vice-Chair appointed by Provost:
Michael Reisner

Administrator appointed by President:
Kai Swanson

Chief Business & Financial Officer:
Kirk Anderson

Director of Residential Life
Chris Beyer

Membership – Elected: three faculty members for three-year terms

Jason Koontz (2021)

Substitute for Spring 2021 only:
Hyeong-Gyu Choi

José Boquín (2022)

Samantha Keehn (2022 J. Term)

Adam Kaul (2023)

Membership – Appointed: two students for one-year terms

One student appointed by SGA: Sofia Briggs

One student nominated by student environment organization and approved by the college president: Alec Mager



2021-2022 Fiscal Year Working Document

Strategic Goals	Short-term Strategies (12 months)	Strategies and Policies in Place
<p>Energy and Climate (MR,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve zero emissions by 2050 (strive for 5% annual reductions). 2. Reduce energy usage by 20% by 2030 and 40% by 2050 (strive for 2% annual reductions). 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgraded all campus lighting to LED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Upgrade to chillers improved efficiency
<p>Air & Water (MR,)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Removed unauthorized agricultural activity on Beling Ecological Preserve
<p>Grounds, Lands & Ecosystems (MR, RB,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximize carbon storage in all natural areas. 2. Conserve and restore natural areas to enhance resilience to future stresses and disturbances by ensuring health-supporting ecosystem services (biodiversity, nutrient and water cycling, soil resources). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Two rain-swales added adjacent to hills with washout issues ~ Soil conservation measures added to staircase replacements on hillsides prone to erosion
<p>Transportation (JV, RB,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimize the number of cars on campus and increase use of public transportation / self-transport (bicycles, skateboards, etc.). 2. Transition campus-owned vehicles to an all-electric fleet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop various “share” programs (BikeShare, Off-Campus RideShare). 2. Increase awareness of Metrolink Partnerships. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create partnership with Metrolink where Augie students ride for free. 2. Place bike racks throughout campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Share-bike hut placed near Olin ~ Partnership with Trailways to bring bus-stop to campus ~ Continuing to work with QC Chamber on lobby efforts to restore passenger rail ~ Partnered with Metrolink to add Route 53 (AC to Target)



Strategic Goals	Short-term Strategies (12 months)	Strategies and Policies in Place
<p>Food & Dining (HR,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce food waste before and after it reaches consumers' hands. 2. Educate students on the carbon footprint and environmental impacts of their food choices. 3. Continue to source food locally and publicly highlight when food is locally sourced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce food waste by making only smaller plate sizes available and donating, somehow re-using, or giving leftover food at the end of the day to Gerber Center staff. 2. Reduce the amount of red meat the Gerber Center is purchasing and serving. 3. Better organize the composting program and support Augie Acres with Gerber Center food waste. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase at least 25% of food served in our dining facilities from local farms and vendors (2010 Sustainable Campus Goal). <p>~ Adopted biodegradable flatware, eliminated trays, reduced dining energy use by half in combining facilities</p>
<p>Waste(,)</p>		
<p>Investment & Finance (,)</p>	<p>Develop guidelines for socially responsible campus-wide investment decisions.</p>	
<p>Academics (curriculum, co-curricular experiences & research (MR,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate sustainability into curriculum, co-curricular experiences and experiential learning experiences. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a sustainability suffix. as a general education requirement. 2. Add sustainability as a campus-wide learning outcome. 3. Incorporate sustainability into First-Year Inquiry (FYI). 4. Ensure one panel has a sustainability focus at Symposium Day. 5. Increase presence and visibility of environmentally-minded student organizations at Symposium Day, Earth Day, and potential event in fall semester. 	<p>~ Added major in Environmental Studies.</p>
<p>Campus and Community Engagement (MR, JV, RB,)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage students in initiatives that promote leadership and service in sustainability. 2. Become a leader in the Quad Cities in sustainability and other environmental issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with Greek life (through Sustainability Chairs) and encourage service hours through sustainable campus projects. 2. Reach out to local governments/environmental organizations for volunteer opportunities and projects. 3. Implement behavioral initiatives/certifications for students who are engaged in sustainability projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upper Mississippi Center



Strategic Goals	Short-term Strategies (12 months)	Strategies and Policies in Place
Buildings (,)		Design and construct all new buildings to meet LEED silver certification standards (with no commitment to obtain actual certification).
Purchasing (,)		
Governance structure (HR,) 1. Develop an effective and collaborative team of faculty, administrators and students to tackle each category of campus sustainability. 2. Hire a full-time sustainability coordinator to help facilitate sustainability projects and liaise among administration. 3. Create an overall mission statement or broad and bold goals to inspire and guide sustainability projects.	1. Hire a full-time sustainability coordinator. 2. Create 1-2 student worker positions as sustainability fellows to work with coordinator. 3. Create a functioning sustainability committee; provide them with guidance and outline of actionable goals; involve administration through meetings, updates and project support. 4. Prioritize 2-4 sustainability categories to accomplish during the 2020-2021 school year and have semi-structured plans for how to carry out small sustainability projects within them.	1. Defunct sustainability committee from 2008 – What can we learn from this failure? How do we improve?