Utah State University (USU) is one of the nation’s premier, student-centered, land-grant, and space-grant universities. The University is committed to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities by promoting sustainability in its operations and academic and service missions.

USU will develop appropriate systems for managing environmental, social, and economic sustainability programs with specific goals and objectives. This policy supports the goal of the USU statewide system to prepare students, faculty, and staff to proactively contribute to a high quality of life for present and future generations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utah State University Goals</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Energy &amp; Built Environment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchasing</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste &amp; Recycling</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Acronyms**

AASHE- Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education  
ABB- Aggie Blue Bikes  
ACUPCC- American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment  
BGG- Blue Goes Green  
CAP- Climate Action Plan  
DFCM- Division of Facilities Construction and Management  
FY- Financial Year  
GHG- Greenhouse Gas  
SC- Sustainability Council  
SOAR- Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration  
SSO- Student Sustainability Office  
STARS- Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System  
USU- Utah State University
INTRODUCTION

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The 1987 report, Our Common Future, created by the World Commission on Environment and Development, commonly known as the Brundtland Commission set the standard for sustainability. It described how human economic and social development are inextricably connected to the environment, leading to the common paradigm of the “triple bottom line,” “three P’s,” or “three E’s”: people, planet, profit or social equity, environment, economics.

As a university and a microcosm of society, Utah State has an opportunity to model energy efficient measures, alternative design, and programs of behavioral change for generations of decision makers and the communities it serves. Sustaining life on Earth and improving the world we leave behind for future generations is a responsibility for all people, and the University plays a key role. President Albrecht acknowledged the role of higher education in sustainability in 2007 when he signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, committing the University to goals of carbon neutrality and sustainability education. Indeed, USU has a tradition of environmental responsibility, dating to long before the Climate Commitment.

In 1991, the University made its first formal commitment to sustainability when President Cazier signed the Talloires Declaration, which states, “Stabilization of human population, adoption of environmentally sound industrial and agricultural technologies, reforestation, and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all humankind in harmony with nature.” The over 400 signatories to this document pledged to raise awareness and share information on the need for an environmentally sustainable future; engage in sustainability education, research, and policy formation; and set an example of environmental responsibility. As a land grant, research institution, USU is well placed to engage in sustainability education, practice, and research in its operations, laboratories, agricultural land, and classrooms. This early commitment set the stage for the University to progress in the future.

President Kermit Hall named an Environmental Task Force in 2001 to evaluate campus sustainability. The task force released Utah State University Criteria for Best Practices in Campus Sustainability in 2003 with goals and action items for the University, including performing an environmental audit, prioritizing goals, creating an environmental policy by isolating the most effective actions, promoting cost-saving opportunities, improving efficiency, promoting environmental citizenship, and improving the University’s relationships with the community. In some of these areas, the University has made significant progress. USU has reduced its total water usage by approximately 40% since 2005, saving both environmental and financial resources. Programs such as Utah Conservation Corps have involved students as well as others in sustainability projects on and off campus. However, many of the goals of the 2003 report remain as goals for the future and are included in this 2013 plan. Two of the main recommendations, a sustainability audit and prioritizing goals, have only met completion in the present.

In 2007, President Albrecht signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), affirming with other signatories, “We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their
communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality.” President Albrecht also committed the University to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Out of the Presidents’ Climate Commitment came Utah State University’s Sustainability Council, which serves as a catalyst for change, pushing USU to realize its potential in sustainable education, research, and operations. The Council immediately undertook the task of fulfilling the requirements of the ACUPCC. In 2007, the University’s executive council approved USU’s Sustainability Policy 106, and in 2010, the Council submitted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to the ACUPCC. The plan laid the road to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. This goal of zero emissions has become the impetus for the University’s sustainability movement and the primary goal of the Sustainability Council.

Since the signing of the ACUPCC, the University has moved forward by creating utility director and sustainability coordinator positions in 2012. The University also submitted a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report in 2013 after evaluating the University’s sustainability progress in the areas of curriculum and research; operations; and planning, administration, and engagement. The work of the Environmental Task Force, Sustainability Council, and other interested individuals resulted in a silver rating. One credit in STARS is a sustainability plan. The USU Environmental Task Force and the USU Sustainability Policy also recommended producing a roadmap with goals and destinations to assure progress in sustainability. Data collected through STARS provided the groundwork and metrics needed for the work groups of the Sustainability Council to develop this document, a short-term plan providing concrete steps towards a sustainable Utah State University that sends graduates into society prepared for challenges of the 21st century and a university that will achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Utah State University Sustainability Council has approved this plan.

Chair of the Sustainability Council
Curriculum

Energy & Built Environment
Engagement

Food
Marketing and Purchasing

Transportation
Waste & Recycling
The work groups of the Sustainability Council have developed the following goals for the University’s first sustainability plan. Each work group’s section describes goals in detail. Together these goals provide a more complete picture of sustainability at Utah State University in the future.

1. **Sustainability Education & Engagement**
   a. Reach 75% of all students with at least one sustainability-focused or related course by FY 2018.
   b. Engage 10% of the USU FTE student enrollment in sustainability events or activities by FY 2016.
   c. Engage 10% of students in on-campus housing in sustainability events or activities by FY 2016.
   d. Double media reach by FY 2016.

2. **Greenhouse gas reduction**
   a. Energy
      i. Reduce energy 5% in FY 2014.
      ii. Reduce energy 10% in FY 2015.
   b. Transportation
      i. Increase fuel efficiency average from 18.25 MPG in 2013 to 20 MPG for university-owned vehicles by 2020.
      ii. Maintain 2013 adjusted total miles for university-owned vehicles.
      iii. Increase the share of low-carbon transportation alternatives (carpool, bus, and non-motorized transportation) to, from, and within campus by students and employees by 5% by 2016 from a FY 2014 baseline.

3. **Waste reduction**
   a. Implement a pre-consumer waste compost program by FY 2016.
   b. Gather data on the waste stream by FY 2016.
   c. Reduce waste by 3% by FY2016 from a FY 2012 baseline.
   d. Increase waste diversion to 35% by FY 2016 from 25% in FY 2012.

4. **Principled Practice**
   a. Purchase 30% of food served in university-owned facilities that is grown or produced or both within 250 miles of Logan by FY 2016.
   b. Increase the percentage of recycled office paper by cost from 43% to 60% by FY 2016.
   c. Meet LEED Existing Building requirements for green cleaning by FY2015, including maintaining 30% Ecologo, Green Seal, or EPA qualified purchases as measured by expenditure.
STARS Comparison

Utah State University

Arizona State University

Colorado State University

University of Utah

Weber State University

Maximum available points

Innovation
Public Engagement
Investment
Human Resources
Diversity & Affordability
Coordination & Planning
Water
Waste
Transportation
Purchasing
Grounds
Energy
Dining
Climate
Buildings
Research
Curriculum
Co-curricular
**CURRICULUM**

**Mission:** Support the development of a sustainable university by promoting environmental literacy and enabling the University community to ground decisions in Sustainability Principles. The Curriculum Work Group is charged with developing methods to educate the campus and move Utah State towards sustainability by facilitating faculty and students in the development of intellectual tools and practical skills to become caring and competent stewards of the planet, its people, and resources.

**Background**

The Curriculum Work Group of the Sustainability Council is working towards providing all USU students with some educational experience related to sustainability principles and environmental literacy. In 2008, changes to USU General Education Breadth Courses to encourage inclusion of sustainability principles in new courses were proposed. Although, this proposal did not pass, Work Group members continue to promote sustainability in the curriculum by participating in the University’s General Education Committee to encourage the inclusion of sustainability principles in USU 1300-level general education science courses as well as looking at other avenues for including sustainability in the curriculum. Since 2008, significant progress has been made University-wide, largely through the efforts of individual, committed faculty, in offering sustainability-related courses to our students. The Curriculum Work Group assisted in the compilation of sustainability course offerings for STARS reporting, and has supported the publication of these offerings to the University at large. This data collection effort yielded the following results:

**Accomplishments**

1. **Availability of Sustainability Courses**
   - In the 2012 academic year, Utah State offered 24 sustainability-focused courses and 92 sustainability-related courses out of 2,230 courses offered campus wide.
   - An optional sustainability module is available for Connections, a 2-credit academic orientation course available for incoming freshmen.

2. **Sustainability Course Inventory**
   - A complete list of sustainability courses is available online.
   - Twenty-seven of the 50 departments on campus offer at least one sustainability-focused/related course.
   - Approximately 16% of graduates were required to take a sustainability-focused/related course through their program of study.
   - Between 47% and 66% of graduates in 2011/2012 actually took at least one of these sustainability-focused/related courses reflecting the high interest level in the topic by students.

3. **Sustainability-Related Degree Offerings - Undergraduate**
   - A Sustainable Systems Minor (18 credits) is offered at the Undergraduate level through the Department of Environment and Society in the College of Natural Resources
   - The Environmental Studies BS degree is offered through the Department of Environment and Society in the College of Natural Resources
   - Climate Change and Energy Minor at the Undergraduate level through the Department of Plants, Soils and Climate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
4. Sustainability-Related Degree Offerings – Graduate
   • Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management, MS and PhD programs offered through the Department of Environment and Society in the College of Natural Resources
   • Master of Professional Studies in Horticulture, Water Efficient Landscaping Specialization offered through the Department of Plants, Soils and Climate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

5. USU added sustainability as a “macro” level accreditation objective under the new NWCCU system under Core Theme #3: Engagement:
   • University intellectual capital and assets leverage improved quality of life
     Indicators:
     • Participation in social and cultural experiences: arts, culture, athletics, and international activities;
     • Improved environmental sustainability
     • Productive community programs and partnerships

Goals

Short-term goals
1. Promote ecological literacy and innovation by highlighting university accomplishments and investments as well as implementation of sustainable practices by USU Facilities as a “role model” for the students, faculty, and society.
   a. Inform students of ways they could engage in environmentally responsible behaviors as part of the campus community through collaboration with the marketing work group.
   b. Establish a list of sustainability-related field trips, guest speakers, and research opportunities available on campus by FY 2015.

2. Develop and publicize USU’s Ecological Footprint Barometer to measure and monitor the accomplishment of the University community towards becoming an environmental university and reducing our ecological footprint by 2015.

Mid- to long-term goals
1. Meet or exceed National Wildlife Foundation Criteria for Exemplary Schools and sustainability education characteristics by expanding the undergraduate environmental or sustainability related major and minor degree offerings throughout the University by 2020.

2. Reach 75% of all students with at least one sustainability-focused or related course by 2018.
   a. Work within the General Education Committee of the University to incorporate sustainability principles into the criteria for all Breadth designated general education courses.
   b. Work within the General Education Committee to develop requirements for all students at USU to complete a sustainability-focused or sustainability-related course as a requirement for the completion of their undergraduate degrees as a way of introducing all USU students to the concepts and principles of sustainability.
3. Develop an in-house faculty training program on environmental and sustainability literacy to support the development of these principles in curricula throughout the University by 2018.

4. Develop a program to support faculty professional development on environmental and sustainability topics and formally recognize faculty integration of sustainability principles into their courses by 2018.

5. Support and expedite the creation of an environmental institute on campus. Such an institute would coordinate and increase University environmental research and course offerings and create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in environmental research.

6. Ensure that sustainability ignorance is NOT an option for anyone leaving USU.

**Metrics**

To assess progress in the expansion of environmental literacy and sustainability fundamentals throughout the curriculum, periodic assessment of the number and distribution of course offerings and degrees available to undergraduate and graduates students at USU should be carried out. Metrics required for STARS reporting provide a baseline for the collection and evaluation of these data:

- Sustainability courses offered
- Students graduating from a program with a sustainability outcome

Additional indicators of the success of sustainability and environmental literacy efforts on campus should include:


2. Identification of which, if any, courses have included the study and research of campus environmental issues in the curriculum, and the number of students involved in such campus related activities.

3. Identification of any student research projects that have resulted from these courses and any campus environmental programs that were subsequently implemented from this work.

4. Identification of environmental and sustainability literacy programs on campus that train faculty to incorporate environmental and sustainability themes into their curricula, and the number of faculty involved in these programs.

5. Documentation of measures of environmental/sustainability literacy of graduating seniors based on exit survey responses collected from across campus.
The image shows a comparison of sustainability initiatives across various universities. The chart is labeled "STARS Comparison" and includes data for Utah State University, Arizona State University, Colorado State University, Utah of Utah, and Weber State University. Each university is represented by a horizontal bar, with the length indicating the level of engagement in sustainability-related activities. The activities are listed on the left side of the chart, including:

- ER-11: Graduate Program in Sustainability
- ER-10: Undergraduate Program in Sustainability
- ER-9: Sustainability Learning Outcomes
- ER-8: Sustainability Courses by Department
- ER-7: Sustainability-Related Courses
- ER-6: Sustainability-Focused Courses
- ER-5: Sustainability Course Identification
- ER-12: Sustainability Immersive Experience
- ER-13: Sustainability Literacy Assessment
- ER-14: Incentives for Developing Sustainability Courses
- ER-15: Sustainability Research Identification
- ER-16: Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research
- ER-17: Departments Engaged in Sustainability Research
- ER-18: Sustainability Research Incentives
- ER-19: Interdisciplinary Research in Tenure and Promotion

The data is courtesy of Jordy Guth.
Mission: Create, maintain, and operate an environmentally responsible campus built environment that will minimize energy and water consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote the development and use of renewable energy sources.

Background
USU is committed to improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The University generated 5300 MMBtu of renewable electricity and 129011 MMBtu of electricity from natural gas cogeneration in 2012. Total electricity consumption was 240,170 MMBtu. USU also meters electricity, natural gas, water, chilled water, and steam condensate for most facilities on campus.

Accomplishments
1. Policy
   • LEED Silver rating for new buildings to comply with ACUPCC and DFCM commitments.
   • Seven LEED certified buildings are on USU campuses, including two LEED Platinum.
   • USU Policy 525: Energy Conservation and Efficiency
     • The policy includes behavior change components.
     • New electronics, appliances, and equipment must meet Energy Star requirements.

2. Existing Buildings
   • A commissioning plan for all buildings on campus on a rotating schedule, ensures all buildings are operating efficiently.
   • Energy auditing includes education programs for each building on campus in 2014.

3. Energy
   • Decommissioning coal-fired boilers in 2002 reduced the University’s GHG emissions by approximately 230 tons annually.
   • Innovative central plant design, with co-generation, and centralized chilled water and steam production/distribution systems conserves energy.
   • Conducting engineering analysis to centralize campus emergency power to the Central Energy Plant:
     • Reduces emergency power capacity requirements and emissions.
     • Reduces number of emergency generators and operations and maintenance (O&M) requirements.
   • Data centers have been consolidated to a central location to save energy.
   • College of Agriculture LEED Gold building features solar panels on the south side.
   • Housing has installed 6,500 LEDs. The HPER pools have also been retrofitted with LEDs, and retrofits continue around campus.
   • Occupancy sensors are becoming more common.

4. Water
   • Water wise plants are encouraged on new constructions. Small turf areas are discouraged.
• The Rain Bird Maxicom irrigation system on campus adjusts irrigation for the weather.
• Approximately 75% of irrigation water on campus is non-potable canal water.
• Every two years, the water lines are audited for leaks.

5. Local offset
   • In Spring 2012, USU introduced a local carbon offset fund. People traveling with the University have the option to contribute $10 on their travel form.
   • The Council developed an application process for campus entities to apply for these funds in 2013.

Goals

1. Energy
   a. 5% Energy Reduction in FY2014
   b. 10% Energy Reduction in FY2015
      i. Retrocommission the entire campus every 5 years.
      ii. Evaluate LEED Gold versus LEED Silver with additional energy measures.
   c. Increase renewable energy as opportunities arise—Hydro, Solar, Wind.
   d. Establish a process to base capital investment on life cycle costs by FY 2016.
   e. Work with Marketing Committee to promote energy Initiatives.

2. Water
   a. Set goals for water reduction.
   b. Work with Marketing Committee to promote water Initiatives.
3. Sustainability in the built environment
   a. Continue certification as a Tree Campus USA.
   b. Investigate options for VOC reduction.
   c. Establish green cleaning standards.

Metrics
   • Greenhouse gas inventory
   • Water use (potable & non-potable)
   • Energy use by fuel source
   • LEED buildings
ENGAGEMENT

Mission: Engage students and the broader campus community in sustainability efforts and integrate sustainability education into learning experiences outside the classroom.

Background
The Engagement Work Group coordinates efforts between the SSO, Council, housing, student involvement and other interested parties to raise awareness and increase participation in sustainability outside the classroom.

Accomplishments
1. Student Sustainability Office and Blue Goes Green Fee
   - Students proposed the Blue Goes Green Fee in the 2011 ASUSU elections. The fee passed fee at $0.25 per credit hour, not to exceed $3 per student per semester.
   - The Student Sustainability Office (SSO) was officially created in 2012. The office included the Blue Goes Green Student Sustainability Fee in a department with Aggie Blue Bikes and Utah Conservation Corps. In 2013, the office became the Center for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, combining Aggie Blue Bikes, Education Outreach, Service-Learning, Student Sustainability Office, Val R. Christensen Service Center, and Utah Conservation Corps.

2. SOAR and Connections
   - A Sustainability Council representative tables at every SOAR session throughout the summer.
   - Connections incorporates an optional sustainability module. Currently, Sustainability Council representatives present to the classes. A video is in development.

3. Programs
   - Ecoreps is a new class offered in Fall 2013 for students to learn about sustainability on campus and pass on the knowledge through peer-to-peer education.
   - Energy Wars is a competition between residence halls to reduce their electricity consumption. The competition lasts for two months and the winning building gets a prize and a travelling trophy.
   - Recyclemania is an 8-week interuniversity competition to reduce waste and increase recycling. USU has participated in the competition since 2005.

4. Events
   - Earth Week is an evolution of Sustainability Week, first celebrated in Fall 2009. Students organize activities, movies, and speakers with a sustainability theme.
   - Alternative Transportation Week began in Fall 2012 to encourage USU employees and students to walk, cycle, bus, or carpool to campus.

5. Student Clubs
   The Engagement Work Group has identified 16 sustainability-related student groups. Students for Sustainability Club is the primary sustainability-focused club and is an evolution of the Aggie Recyclers.
group applies for a Blue Goes green grant each year and has assisted with the True Blue Reuse Move-out Sale since 2008.

- Aggies for Change
- Amnesty International: Utah State Chapter
- Collegians For a Constructive Tomorrow
- Engineers Without Borders
- Quinney College of Natural Resources Graduate Student Council
- Society of Women Engineers
- Society of American Forestry- USU Chapter
- Society of Environmental Engineering Students
- Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources
- Thrills on Wheels
- U.S. Green Building Council Chapter at Utah State
- USU Photo Guild
- USU Student Organic Farm
- USU Wildlife Society Student Chapter
- Vegan News
- Women in Business Association

Goals
1. Engage 10% of the USU FTE student enrollment in sustainability events or activities by FY 2016
   a. Have a sustainability represented in all the major campus marketing events, e.g. Day on the Quad, SOAR, and Cardopoly.
   b. Co-sponsor an event with at least one other campus organization each year.
   c. Send materials for all sustainability events to USU PR and SC marketing work group
   d. Add sustainability video to Connections.
e. Collaborate with the waste and recycle work group to make at least one Student Involvement event no waste.

2. Engage 10% of students in on-campus housing in sustainability events or activities by FY 2016
   a. Explore the possibility of sustainability themed housing.
   b. Continue and expand the Eco-reps program.
   c. Continue and expand the Energy Challenge. Consider competition between academic buildings in addition to housing.
   d. Continue and expand Recyclemania.

**Metrics**
- Event and activity attendance at university-wide sustainability events
- Event and activity attendance in housing sustainability events and activities
**Mission:** Promote a local, seasonal, healthy, and organic closed loop food system for the USU community

**Background**

USU Dining Services has long been a supporter of sustainability in its operations. Likewise, as an agricultural school, students and faculty have pushed sustainability initiatives in education, leading to the establishment of the Student Organic Farm and student-run community-supported agriculture programs. The Food Work Group has begun tracking these efforts and setting goals to establish a more sustainable dining experience on campus and a stronger food education program for the campus community.

**Accomplishments**

1. **Reduce energy by sourcing local produce**
   - In 2008, faculty and students began a living laboratory for students to learn organic farming practices. Student managers and volunteers run the farm and sell produce at a weekly market and through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.
   - Dietetic students also began a soup and bread CSA in 2013 to provide dietetics students with experience and customers with healthy soup made from vegetables frozen at their peak.
   - USU Dining Services began tracking local and third party certified food purchases and working with local producers to match menus with locally available produce in 2013. Food purchases grown and manufactured within 250 miles of Logan constitute 18% of food purchases by total expenditure.

2. **Reduce waste and increase recycling**
   - Recycling now sends compostable coffee cups to Hyrum to become insulation.
   - Dining services has also been working on improvements in the appearance and labeling of dining recycling facilities.
   - Campus cafes are working with the art department to provide reusable ceramic cups and plates made by students.
   - Dining Services does general cardboard, glass, plastic, and metal recycling within each of its operations.

**Goals**

1. Purchase 30% of food served in university-owned facilities that is grown or produced or both within 250 miles of Logan by FY 2016.
2. Implement a pre-consumer waste compost program by FY 2016

**Metrics**

- Local food
- Compost weight
STARS Comparison

Utah State University

Arizona State University

Colorado State University

University of Utah

Weber State

Max

OP-T2-3 to 12
OP-6: Food and Beverage Purchasing

Courtesy of Paige Gardner
MARKETING

**Mission:** Develop sustainability messages to reach USU community and increase participation and interaction in sustainability activities and discussions

**Background**
The Marketing Work Group has been promoting sustainability through [website](#) updates, press releases, newspaper ads, posters, tabling, radio interviews, community calendars, Facebook, and Twitter. Since the beginning of the Sustainability Council, members of this group have been exploring ways to make the invisible sustainability actions on campus visible to the campus community.

**Accomplishments**
- The Council launched the Blue Goes Green website in 2008 to provide public access to a clearinghouse for sustainability information at USU.
- The Blue Goes Green Facebook group was launched in 2009, and the page was launched in 2010.
- In Spring 2013, the group began working with True Blue Communication, a student PR and marketing group to improve marketing efforts to reach more students.
- The group also worked with the Student Sustainability Office to design interpretive signage to feature BGG projects and other sustainability features on campus in 2013.
- Spring 2013, the group began a sustainability email newsletter.
- Summer 2013, the group redesigned the logo, consolidated the Facebook page and group, consolidated the Twitter accounts, and began redesigning the web page.
Goals

1. Reach more people with sustainability
   a. Add 15 interpretive signs to sustainability projects on campus by FY 2014, and add an average of at least one interpretive sign to new Blue Goes Green projects each year.
   b. Require student sustainability orientation education for all Connections students by FY 2016.

2. Double media reach by FY 2016
   a. Double Facebook likes from 158 (as of July 1, 2013) to 316 by FY 2015.
   b. Double Twitter followers from 82 to 164 by FY 2015.
   c. Double email newsletter subscriptions from 135 to 270 FY 2015.

Metrics

- Facebook likes
- Twitter followers
- Newsletter subscribers
- Interpretive signage
- Connections students exposed to sustainability concepts

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<td>Weber State</td>
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*Marketing serves as a support function to increase the awareness and success of the activities of the Sustainability Council work groups. STARS measures sustainability publications, but otherwise, it measures few marketing activities.
**PURCHASING**

**Mission:** Identify environmentally preferable products and encourage purchasers at Utah State University to choose environmentally preferable products.

**Background**

Environmentally preferable purchasing is choosing to buy products that affect the environment less than comparable products on the market. Higher efficiency, less packaging, more recycled content, or improved recyclability are a few of the environmental attributes that affect human health and safety as well as ecosystems.

In addition to product performance, availability, and cost, environmental factors are important to purchasing decisions because product prices exclude many environmental and health costs. These factors are economic externalities or hidden costs. Hidden costs could include the health effects of air and water pollution, environmental effects of losing biodiversity, agricultural effects of acid rain, or others. The purchase price of a product or service can hide other costs as well, such as a short usable life or expensive operation, maintenance, or disposal. The purchasing work group is working towards encouraging environmentally responsible purchasing decisions.

**Accomplishments**

Currently, 43% of paper purchased at USU contains recycled fiber, and 36% is FSC certified. Of tracked computer purchases, 98.8% are EPEAT Silver or Gold. In FY 2012, campus green cleaning expenditures were approximately 20% by cost. However, the University is on track to reach 30% in FY 2014 since the TSC and Facilities have altered purchasing practices.

- 525: Energy Conservation and Efficiency
  - Energy Star requirement for appliances, computers, heating and cooling equipment
  - CFL, LED, or efficient equivalent lighting
- Environmentally preferable purchasing guidelines developed and accessible from EZ-buy for appliances, electronics, cleaning supplies, interior furnishings, lighting, office supplies, and paper products.
- Facilities moved to EPA compliant, recycled-content toilet paper in FY 2013.
- TSC and University Inn moved to Ecologo certified, recycled content paper towels in FY 2013.

**Goals**

1. Increase percentage of recycled office paper by cost from 43% to 60% by FY 2016
2. Meet LEED Existing Building requirements for green cleaning by FY 2015, including maintaining 30% Ecologo, Green Seal, or EPA qualified purchases as measured by expenditure.

**Metrics**

- Recycled paper or FSC paper
- EPEAT computers
- Cleaning product purchasing
Mission: To advance safe, efficient, low-carbon transportation to, from, and on the USU campus by students, employees, and visitors

Background
Transportation accounted for 23% of university greenhouse gases in 2011, including 7% from commuting, 5% in direct transportation, and 11% in directly financed air travel. In order to address this portion of GHG, USU is encouraging university-owned vehicles to be right-sized and fuel-efficient. USU is also providing and promoting alternative transportation options for employees and students.

In 2011, 71% of students commuted by sustainable transportation options, including 41% who traveled by non-motorized transportation, 16% who carpooled, and 14% who took public transportation. Data on employees is not available, but if employees are similar to other commuters in Cache County, then 75% drive alone, while 25% have a sustainable commute, including 14% who carpool and 10% who use non-motorized transportation.

Accomplishments
1. Policy
   • Utah State University passed a Vehicle Use Policy 514.7 in 2006:
     • Increases minimum fuel efficiency for sedans to 30 miles per gallon.
     • Instates mandatory emissions testing program for all USU vehicles.
     • Encourages the purchase of right-sized vehicles.
   • Compliance with Utah’s goal to increase energy efficiency by 20% by 2015 and HB 110 “State Fleet Efficiency Requirements”:
     • USU’s fleet of 727 vehicles includes
       ▪ 2 electric vehicles
       ▪ 11 CNG vehicles
       ▪ 38 hybrids vehicles
   • USU policy 525 Energy Conservation and Efficiency became effective in 2012:
     • Sets an Idle-free policy for campus.
2. Alternative Transportation
   • A fare-free Aggie Shuttle system on campus runs on compressed natural gas (CNG), with plans to implement an “inversion shuttle” during winter months to serve commuters within the valley. A $69,700 EPA grant replaced the last diesel bus with a CNG bus in 2012.
   • Aggie Blue Bikes (ABB), a free bike share program, with a 300-bike capacity is beginning an $89,660 expansion project funded through federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ), pending final approval on July 19.
   • Bike maps are available online and in ABB. The maps have safety tips and reflect the campus bike plan.
• The USU Open Space and Recreation Plan on campus and a $1.75 million loan for improved trail connectivity in Logan City will improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the city.

• Large permanent sidewalk overlays indicate where cyclists can ride. Roads on campus have either sharrows or bike paths.

• Hertz 24/7 Connection car share program will launch in November 2013.

• A rideshare board is available to employees and students.

3. Programs

• The Clear the Air Carbon Offset Fund allows travelers to choose to donate $10 of their travel reimbursement to the fund for local carbon offset projects. A grant process to apply for the funds is available online.

• Events such as Alternative Transportation Week, Cache in for Clean Air program, National Bike Challenge, Intermountain Bioneers, and Earth Week generate engagement and awareness of alternative transportation options on campus.

Goals

1. Increase fuel efficiency average from 18.25 MPG in 2013 to 20 MPG for university-owned vehicles by 2020.
   a. Investigate strategies to encourage departments to choose fuel efficient, right-sized vehicles when replacing old vehicles.

   a. Adopt strategies to encourage employees to use conference call technologies when appropriate to maintain miles driven.
3. Increase the share of low-carbon transportation alternatives (carpool, bus, and non-motorized transportation) to, from, and within campus by students and employees by 5% by 2016.
   - Encourage Aggie Blue Bikes departmental bikes.
   - Provide car share service.
   - Promote the rideshare website.
   - Encourage walk-it, bike-it, bus-it, share-it program.
   - Investigate the possibility for a free-ride home program at USU
   - Publicize successes

Metrics
- Bus ridership
- Bicycles carried on buses
- Bicycle racks
- Bicycle audit
- Student commute modal split
- Employee commute modal split
- Vehicle efficiency

STARS Comparison

Utah State University
Arizona State University
Colorado State University
University of Utah
Weber State
Max

0 2 4 6 8 10 12
OP-T2-26 to 37
OP-16: Employee Commute Modal Split
OP-15: Student Commute Modal Split
OP-14: Campus Fleet
**Mission:** Identify best practices and opportunities to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials produced or used by the USU community and to raise awareness among the campus community of the environmental and social benefits of using resources wisely.

**Background**
Since 2005, the University weighted campus user population has increased from 16,426 to 17,002, a 3.3% increase while material disposed as garbage increased from 1845.2 tons to 1876.5 tons, a 1.7% increase. Utah State University Recycling Center recycled approximately 625 tons or 25% of its waste stream in 2011, a rate that has remained relatively stable since 2005. Although campus population growth rate is greater than the growth of waste production, the waste and recycling group as well as other actors on campus have set goals to reduce waste and increase recycling.

**Accomplishments**
1. Reducing waste
   - USU Surplus sells used vehicles, electronics, miscellaneous equipment, appliances, and furniture.
   - Trayless dining in the Marketplace reduces food waste.
   - Purchasing recommendations encourage purchasers to consolidate orders, consider packaging, choose recyclable products, and choose recycle-content products.
2. Increase recycling
   - USU received 25 Coca-Cola recycle bins through a grant in FY 2013.
   - Romney Stadium and The Spectrum began using the Coca-Cola recycling bins in FY 2014.
   - A desk-side recycling pilot is ongoing in the Education building.
   - Some demolition and construction waste is recycled.

**Goals**
1. Gather data on the waste stream by FY 2016.
   - Conduct a waste audit in housing.
   - Conduct a waste audit on a non-laboratory building.
   - Conduct a waste audit on an athletic event.
2. Reduce waste by 3% by FY2016 from a FY 2012 baseline.
   - Encourage reusable water bottles and mugs.
   - Pilot reusable to-go containers in Dining Services.
   - Investigate double-sided printing default settings on campus printers.
   - Work with purchasing on order consolidation.
   - Expand True Blue Reuse Sale.
3. Increase waste diversion to 35% by FY 2016 from 25% in FY 2012
   - Evaluate locations and appearance of bins to maximize effectiveness, and train maintenance staff to manage these placements.
   - Add new construction specifications for recycle bins.
   - Create a plan for replacing current mismatched and poorly labeled bins.

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1(on campus residents x 1) + (non-residential full-time students and employees x 0.75) +
(non-residential, part-time students and employees x 0.5) = weighted campus user
Metrics
• Waste produced
• Waste diverted
• True Blue Reuse Sale weight

STARS Comparison
Utah State University
Arizona State University
Colorado State University
University of Utah
Weber State
Max

OP-T2-38 to 43
OP-21: Hazardous Waste Management
OP-20: Electronic Waste Recycling Program
OP-19: Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion
OP-18: Waste Diversion
OP-17: Waste Reduction

Courtesy of Paige Gardner
Sustainability Council Leadership

Jordy Guth  Sustainability Council Chair, Architect and Campus Planner
Alexi Lamm  Facilities Sustainability Coordinator

Curriculum

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Stacy Bevan  Clinical Professor of Dietetics
Steven Burr  Professor of Environment and Society
Art Carsten Meier  Assistant Professor, Photography
Robyn Ceuvorst  Professor of Environment and Society
Sharece Cox  Staff Assistant to VP for Research
Lawrence Culver  Professor of History and designated Representative of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Jim Evans  Professor of Structural Geology
Nat Frazer  Professor of Environment and Society
Paige Gardner  Student, Sustainability Council Intern
Lawrence Hipps  Professor of Climatology
Nancy Huntly  Director of Ecology Center and Professor of Biology
Carlos Licon  Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
Jennifer MacAdam  Professor of Plant Physiology and Forage Production (COA) and designated Representative of the College of Agriculture
Richard Mueller  Associate Professor & Associate Dean, College of Science
Ed Stafford  Professor of Business and designated Representative of the Huntsman School of Business
Richard Toth  Professor of Environment and Society

Energy & Built Environment

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Ben Berrett  Director of Planning, Design, & Construction
Nancy Christensen  Business Assistant Projects & Engineering
Zac Cook  Engineer
William Gilchrist  Communications Distribution Specialist
Jordy Guth  Architect and Planner
Scott Hampton  LOAM Foreman
Mark Holt  Electrical Engineer
Jim Huppi  Landscape Architect
Nathan Jaramillo  Student, LAEP
Drew McKenna  Student
Alexi Lamm  Sustainability Coordinator
Lorin Mortensen  Mechanical Engineer
Reid Olsen  Central Energy Plant, Utilities & HVAC Manager
Jamie Pearce  Water Quality Engineer

Engagement

Kate Stephens  Engagement Chair, Assistant Director of the Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning
Stephanie Tomlin  Former Engagement Chair, Aggie Blue Bike Coordinator
Alexi Lamm  Sustainability Coordinator
Roslynn Brain  |  Professor of Environment and Society  
Jack Greene  |  Community Activist  
Paige Gardner  |  Student, Sustainability Council Intern  
Steve Jenson  |  Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life  
Crista Sorenson  |  Student, President of the Students for Sustainability Club 2012  

**Food**
- Corey Cozzens  |  Food Work Group Chair, Sous Chef  
- Roslynn Brain  |  Professor of Environment and Society  
- R. Ryan Dupont  |  Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Head, Division of Environmental Engineering, Utah Water Research Laboratory  
- Alexi Lamm  |  Sustainability Coordinator  
- Jennifer Reeve  |  Professor of Organic and Sustainable Agriculture  
- Crista Sorenson  |  Student, President of the Students for Sustainability Club  
- Tamara Steinitz  |  Professor of Nutrition Dietetics and Food Science  
- Penny Trinca  |  USU program coordinator, local farmer, founding member of Logan Gardener’s Market  

**Marketing**
- Alexi Lamm  |  Marketing Work Group Chair, Sustainability Coordinator  
- Paige Gardner  |  Student, Sustainability Council Intern  
- Liz Kirkham  |  Student, Student Sustainability Office Intern  
- Ed Stafford  |  Professor of Management in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business  
- Blake Thomas  |  Graduate student, Sustainability Council Intern  
- Alexis Miller  |  Student, True Blue Communication consultant  
- Chase Christensen  |  Student, True Blue Communication consultant  

**Purchasing**
- Alexi Lamm  |  Purchasing Work Group Chair, Sustainability Coordinator  
- Corey Cozzens  |  Dining Services Sous Chef  
- Dorothy Davis  |  Communications Distribution Specialist  
- William Gilchrist  |  Facilities Purchasing Buyer  
- Sheila Lukenbill  |  Facilities Maintenance Manager  
- Heather Nielsen  |  Housing and Residence Life Admin Support  
- Emiko Smith  |  Purchasing Agent Assistant  
- Kendra McKenna  |  University Inn and Conference Center  

**Transportation**
- James Nye  |  Transportation Work Group Chair, Director of Parking and Transportation Services  
- Stephanie Tomlin  |  Aggie Blue Bike Coordinator  
- Alexi Lamm  |  Sustainability Coordinator  
- Liz Kirkham  |  Student, SSO graphics intern  
- Jordy Guth  |  Architect and Planner  
- Alden Erickson  |  Aggie Shuttle Coordinator  
- Kevin Heasley  |  Professor Transportation Engineering  
- Randy Martin  |  Professor of Engineering  
- Joseph Izatt  |  Assistant Director Parking and Transportation Services
Waste & Recycling

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Jack Greene  Community Activist
Blake Thomas  graduate student, summer 2013 intern
Corey Cozzens  Dining Services Sous Chef
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Mike George  Assistant Director of Support Services
Emily Malik  City of Logan Conservation Coordinator
Nate Schwartz  Recycling Coordinator