



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of Sustainability &
Campus Enrichment



2024 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



"Director Wellman and her team's devotion to sustainability's guiding principles is inspiring and provides optimism for a brighter, and greener, tomorrow."

The Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment at Texas A&M University provides education and outreach to foster hope and promote change. Hope that collective efforts can make real differences for the future of our campus, our community and our world. And change that comes from tireless championing, protecting, and promoting of the environmental, social and fiscal resources we hold dear. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Director Wellman and her team for the past two years. Their devotion to sustainability's guiding principles is inspiring and provides optimism for a brighter, and greener, tomorrow.

The Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) remains a road map for building this future with nine themes, 16 evergreen goals, and 47 targets. The Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment steers the course by overseeing this plan, expanding knowledge, and mentoring student and campus community leaders to be ambassadors for the cause.

The team's University Sustainability Advisory Committee connects leadership from across the campus in addressing goals ranging from waste management to energy consumption and social awareness. This report details the important successes the office and their partners have achieved during the 2024 calendar year through data generated for the 2024 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission.

Every Aggie should contemplate ways to provide hope and change with respect for the tenets of sustainability and through acts of selfless service to the Texas A&M community. Glean ideas as you read this report and engage with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment to find out how you can get involved. Together, we can make a sustainable difference.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Scott Shafer".

Dr. Scott Shafer

Professor and Executive Director
Campus & Community Enrichment

ABOUT THIS REPORT

In coordination with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment and with guidance from the University Sustainability Advisory Committee (USAC), Texas A&M University monitors institutional sustainability performance using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). STARS is a program managed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

The highlights in this report come from the campus' most recent STARS submission, where Texas A&M University earned its ninth STARS Gold rating. STARS evaluates institutions based on performance in four categories, and this report provides highlights for each. To view the entire submission, visit [STARS AASHE 2024](#).



ACADEMICS



ENGAGEMENT



OPERATIONS



PLANNING &
ADMINISTRATION

The report also celebrates our stakeholders who drive STARS performance as well as campus members who received Sustainability Champion awards. We are grateful for the more than 30 stakeholders who contribute to reporting on sustainability across our campus.



68.03

2024 STARS Score



47.51

2012 Original
STARS Score



97.7%

data accuracy, awarded top performer by AASHE STARS



RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

Texas A&M University defines sustainability as the efficient, deliberate, and responsible preservation of environmental, social, and economic resources to protect our earth for future generations of Texas Aggies, the Texas A&M University community, and beyond.



ACADEMICS

The **Texas A&M University Libraries** is an active advocate of open access, empowering researchers to distribute their scholarship freely and to stimulate learning and innovation so their knowledge can transform to public benefits.

Innovative programs include:

- Support for dissemination and preservation of scholarly output through its open access digital repository, OakTrust.
- Open access journal hosting, offered via Texas Digital Library, using Open Journal Systems (OJS) software.
- No-cost and discounts for scholars to publish open access.
- OpenEd, library purchases of course materials, and course reserves are a few ways the University Libraries is supporting students in lowering their costs by providing free access to course materials.



\$2.2M

student savings
from library
materials



83

out of the 100 academic departments (or equivalent) offer at least one course that includes sustainability

301

of the 1,194 continuing education courses offered by Texas A&M Extension Services address sustainability

2,099

out of the 12,331 total courses offered are sustainability focused or related



ACADEMICS

Founded in 1992, **Texas Target Communities (TxTC)** partners with communities to assist with needs that would otherwise go unmet through partnership with researchers and leveraging student talent in transformational learning experiences.

Recent projects include:

- Students helped the City of Deer Park (pop. 34,495) to assess parks & recreational facilities, conduct community surveys/needs assessments, hold a community charrette, and presented their concepts to the Park Commission and City Council.
- In Dallas' Tenth Street Neighborhood, students and faculty produced a 3D model of the neighborhood, explored housing typology, and developed a design guideline template.



HOW IMPORTANT IS SUSTAINABILITY TO AGGIES?



88%

think climate change is at least somewhat important globally



92%

think it is at least somewhat important for Texas A&M to be using renewable energy



82%

think it is at least somewhat important that Texas A&M addresses climate change resilience



51%

of sponsored researchers at Texas A&M are engaged in sustainability research



70%

of Texas A&M departments with sponsored researchers conduct sustainability research



ENGAGEMENT



Created by Residence Life, the **Aggie Eco-Reps** is a program in which students educate their peers about how to live a sustainable lifestyle.

Aggie Eco-Reps educate fellow students by:

- Hosting informational presentations in the residence halls and on-campus apartment communities.
- Participating in campus-wide events such as Campus Sustainability Day, Texas Recycles Day, and Earth Day.
- Promoting a sustainable lifestyle by living as an example for fellow students.

The goal of the **Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment's Internship Program** is to bring people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives together to create a dynamic team that works to create a culture of sustainability at Texas A&M.

TO DATE, THE PROGRAM HAS SERVED **173** STUDENTS.





ENGAGEMENT



Texas A&M participates in the **Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS)**, a conference which serves as a forum for Texas higher education institutions to share ideas and collaborate on advancing sustainability efforts.



The Big Event facilitated the contributions of **16,455** Aggie volunteers, who have collectively provided **1,144,872** service hours since **1982**.

46% OF THE STUDENT BODY PARTICIPATES IN DOCUMENTED COMMUNITY SERVICE.





OPERATIONS

Through a long-term **Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) with Samson Solar**, Aggieland now meets 50 megawatts of its electricity demand with clean, renewable electricity. Samson Solar is located in Franklin, Lamar, and Red River counties in Northwest Texas and when complete will generate 1,020 megawatts of renewable energy.



9.48%

of total energy consumption from renewable sources



10%

reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions in the last year



Photo Credit: Samson Solar, Invenergy

100%

of managed grounds are in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management program

100%

of waste from Texas A&M owned electronics are disposed through Logistics Services' University Surplus Property Program

100%

of janitorial paper products purchased are eco-certified



OPERATIONS

Borrow a Bike is a free program for those who need a bike for a short period of time.

- If you borrow a bike today, it is due back by 10 a.m. the next morning.
- If you borrow a bike on Friday, it's not due until the following Monday.
- Customers may borrow a bike 12 times per semester.
- The program is free to anyone employed or currently enrolled at Texas A&M.



72% OF STUDENTS USE SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING OPTIONS AS THEIR PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

Duncan Dining Hall became a 3-Stars Certified Green Restaurant through the Green Restaurant Association. As a result, alongside Sbisa and Commons Dining Halls, more than 50% of on-site food service (by sales) are third party certified.



DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

80%
of all the construction and demolition waste produced by Texas A&M

62%
of waste through recycling, composting, and/or donation and reuse



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



Launched in 2013, the **12th Can Food Pantry** is completely student-led and built to serve Aggies in need of assistance. This year, their work and that of many other campus organizations received 10-year funding to combat food insecurity and ensure no one goes hungry at Texas A&M.

Annual funding will be allocated to:

- **12th Can Food Pantry** stock and expansion
- **Pocket Pantry** program expansion
- **Student Assistance Services** cardswipes and meal plans for students in need
- **Text Away Hunger** to redistribute leftover food from events
- **Residence Life** Meal plans for live-in RAs

TEXAS A&M STRIVES TO MAKE BEING AN AGGIE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE



76%

graduation rate for low-income students



63%

students graduating without student loan debt



\$1.1M

committed annually to address food insecurity on campus



Living Well at Texas A&M received Gold level recognition in the American Heart Association's 2024 Well-being Works Better Scorecard for its commitment to the health of its workforce and community.



TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS
SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

Texas A&M Athletics led with a first-of-its-kind Athletics Sustainability Master Plan, providing a living strategic guide for how Aggie Athletics will support the achievement of campus-wide sustainability goals.



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



The Aggie Green Fund is a grant-making organization for sustainability projects at Texas A&M. It offers Major Grants on an annual basis and Micro Grants on a rolling basis to empower students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring creative sustainability improvements to our campus.



\$2.79M

awarded since 2011



MAJOR GRANTS

- MSC Student Programs Office LED Lighting Upgrade
- Sustainable Furniture for Forster Courtyard
- The Bush School Water Bottle Filler Station
- Texas A&M Solar Car Racing Team

MICRO GRANTS

- Aerogarden
- Fill it Forward
- Recycling bins at GSC and Allen Building
- ECCB Menstrual Product Availability
- Earth Month Textile Recycling
- Scraps to Sprouts
- Zero Waste: One Bag at a Time



\$169.8K

provided for Major Grants in 2024



\$18K

provided for Micro Grants in 2024



\$188K

awarded in 2024

2024 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENTS

In April 2024, the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment hosted its annual awards ceremony to recognize members of the Aggie community who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to making Texas A&M more sustainable.



Madelyn Lewis
Undergraduate
Bioenvironmental
Sciences

Ian Burress
Graduate
Mechanical
Engineering

Christopher Dieckert
Staff
Utilities & Energy
Services

Weisueh Chiu, PhD
Faculty
Veterinary Medicine



Athletics Sustainability Master Plan
Team

2024 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

STARS AWARD RECIPIENTS



STARS Awards recognize stakeholders whose achievements made important contributions in the 2023 STARS report submission.

GAINING GROUND



Transportation Services
Commute Modal Split

Utilities and Energy Services
Clean & Renewable Energy

MOST IMPROVED



Utilities & Energy Services
Waste Minimization

OVERALL TOP PERFORMER



Residence Life



RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment

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