

2016 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

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MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER



2016 Sustainability Highlights



February 17, 2017

Texas A&M strives to be a fearless leader in sustainability and to increasingly embed our commitment to respect, protect, and preserve the financial, environmental, and people resources that support our community not only for today, but for future generations of Aggies.

With the release of the campus Sustainability Master Plan in June of 2010, Texas A&M University set out to embrace sustainability in a holistic, intentional, and meaningful way. Under the leadership of Sustainability Director Kelly Wellman, the Office of Sustainability support staff, and numerous campus stakeholders, Texas A&M has enhanced our stewardship efforts. These efforts have been formally recognized by the receipt for our first STARS Gold rating. This rating is significant, as it incorporates the operational elements of our campus as well as the transformational education we offer to our students and the discovery and innovation resulting from our research efforts.

I am pleased to present the 2016 Sustainability Highlight report, which demonstrates a broad cross-section of highpoints from the four STARS areas of Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration.

We are pleased with the progress we have made over the past nine years, and we will continue our stewardship efforts in 2017. To ensure further advancement in our efforts, Texas A&M inaugurated the Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC) in October of 2016, charged with formulating strategies to foster and promote sustainability throughout the university community. The SAC will monitor Texas A&M's performance using STARS, facilitate campus implementation of the Sustainability Master Plan, and report to me annually with institutional sustainability recommendations. With support from this impactful and exciting initiative, Texas A&M will take steps in 2017 to update our 2010 Sustainability Master Plan, pursue even stronger STARS performance ratings, and continually deepen our sustainability commitments.

Thank you for your interest in Texas A&M's ongoing sustainability journey.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Young". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "Young".

MICHAEL K. YOUNG
President, Texas A&M University

About This Report

From its inception as a land-grant institution in 1876 to the addition of sea- and space-grant designations, Texas A&M University (TAMU) has been a leader in research and education for how we interact with — and impact — our world. In March 2008, the Office of Sustainability (OS) was founded and charged with creating a culture of sustainability in Aggieland to enhance these efforts.

Through OS efforts, TAMU monitors institutional sustainability performance through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), a program managed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The 2016 highlights come primarily from TAMU's most recent STARS submission, where Texas A&M University earned its first STARS Gold rating.

STARS evaluates institutions based on performance in the following four categories, and this report provides highpoints for each:

ACADEMICS



ENGAGEMENT



OPERATIONS



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION





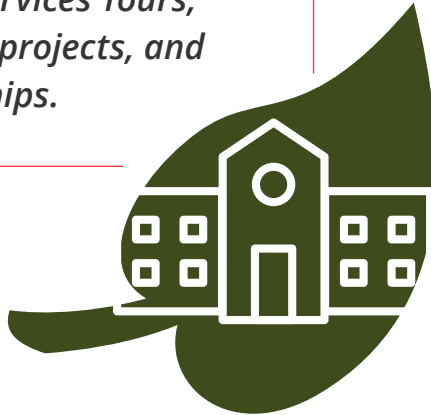
ACADEMICS

Texas A&M University demonstrates initiative by using campus resources to turn the campus into a living laboratory. Examples include: Utilities & Energy Services Tours, Howdy! Farm, class projects, and a variety of internships.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY has formally adopted policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, trans-disciplinary and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions.

More than 90% of Texas A&M departments *with* sponsored research conduct sustainability research.



82% of academic departments (or equivalents) offer at least one sustainability course and/or include sustainability.



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SUSTAINABILITY-THEMED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Ecological Restoration
- Environmental Design
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Geosciences
- Renewable Natural Resources
- Minor in Earth Sciences
- Sustainable Architecture and Planning minor

SUSTAINABILITY-THEMED GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Natural Resource Development
- Water Management & Hydrologic Science
- Sustainable Urbanism (Certificate)



18% of continuing education courses offered by Texas A&M Extension Services address sustainability.



14% of all courses offered are focused on or related to sustainability.

More than 42% of sponsored researchers at Texas A&M are engaged in sustainability research.



Texas A&M offers an immersive sustainability course:

Geography 380

that utilizes multi-disciplinary research to address social, economic, and environmental issues.



ENGAGEMENT



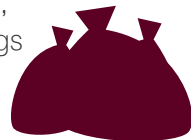
The goal of the Office of Sustainability's Internship Program is to bring people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives together to create a dynamic team that works to create a culture of sustainability at Texas A&M University. To date, the program has served 57 students.



The Energy Stewardship Program, run by Utilities & Energy Services, is designed to decrease energy consumption in campus buildings by working with building occupants.

Environmental Health and Safety

coordinates a volunteer program in which staff and students spend a Saturday once per year cleaning a creek bank. Last year, **127** volunteers removed **115** bags of trash from creek banks.

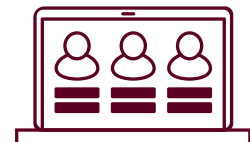


The Aggie Eco Rep Program is an organization created by

Residence Life in which students educate their peers about how to live a sustainable lifestyle.

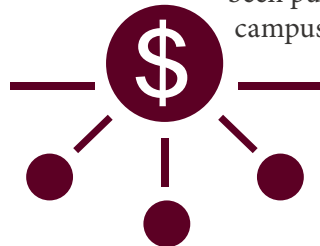


Texas A&M participates in the **Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS)**, a forum for colleges and universities across the state to share ideas and strategies for enhancing sustainability efforts.



IN ONE YEAR
31,050
AGGIE STUDENTS
donated
more than
6 MILLION
hours of
community
service

THE AGGIE GREEN FUND empowers students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring about creative sustainability initiatives to campus. Since 2011, more than \$1.5 million has been put toward projects making campus more sustainable.

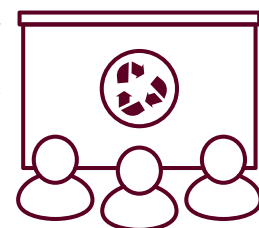


The Texas Target Communities Program in the **College of Architecture** develops partnerships across the state to advance sustainability. Partnerships include: Houston Independent School District, Charity Productions, Tyler County, the City of El Campo, and Impact Lufkin.

Residence Life and Utilities and Energy Services work hand in hand to develop and implement an outreach and education campaign in which residence halls across campus compete to see who can use the least amount of energy over a designated time frame.



At least 50% of staff members participated in sustainability themed training or professional development.





OPERATIONS

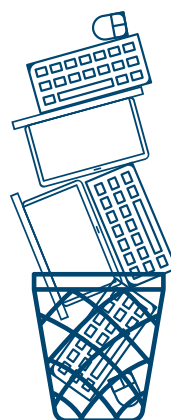


With Utilities and Energy Services leading the way, TAMU has reduced energy consumption per Gross Square Footage by 45% from FY2002 to FY2016. This decrease resulted in a \$200 million purchased energy cost avoidance.



All electronic waste produced is disposed of through the **Logistics Department's University Surplus Property Program**.

The electronics are either re-purposed or recycled sustainably through Responsible Recycling (R2) certified recyclers.



SSC Grounds generates approximately 18,000 cubic yards of miscellaneous green waste annually. SSC



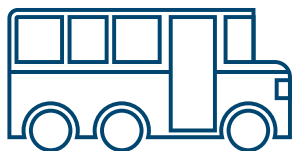
Grounds Department self-composts 100% of the green waste for use on campus.

14% of the food and beverage options **Chartwells**

provides for TAMU are local/community based and/or third-party verified. **Chartwells** also provides sustainability-themed meals and vegetarian and vegan options at numerous locations across campus.

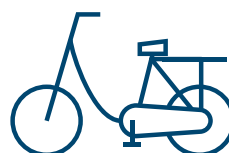


At least 50% of students utilize Texas A&M's available sustainable transportation options.



Transportation Services offers numerous sustainable transportation options for our campus community. We have 13,000 short-term bicycle parking spaces

across campus, a Borrow-a-Bike program, the largest university-run fare free shuttle service in the nation, a ride-share program, and a car-sharing program.



92%
of all
construction
and demolition
WASTE
produced by
TAMU
was diverted
from the
landfill





OPERATIONS



In FY 2016, Recycling Services, Chartwells, and SSC helped TAMU divert 71% of the waste produced on campus from ending up in the landfill. This is up from 61.5% in FY2015 and from 10% in FY2010.

With **SSC Grounds** leading the charge, TAMU is utilizing native adapted & water resourceful plant material, employing drip irrigation technology in planting beds, phasing in water efficient “Smart” irrigation controllers, and utilizing organic fertilizers when possible.



During the past fiscal year, 89% of all cleaning products purchased by **SSC Custodial** were third-party certified as sustainable.



Since 1991, Texas A&M has drastically reduced the amount of water used on campus, even though enrollment and occupied space has increased.

According to TAMU System policy all new construction must be designed to at least LEED Silver standards. The following is a list of some of the major accomplishments:

Designed to LEED Silver

- YMCA
- Memorial Student Center

LEED Silver Certified

- Mitchell Physics Building
- Agricultural Headquarters Building
- Emerging Technologies And Economic Development Interdisciplinary Building (ETED)

Designed to LEED Gold

- Cox-McFerrin Center For Aggie Basketball

LEED Gold Certified

- Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB)



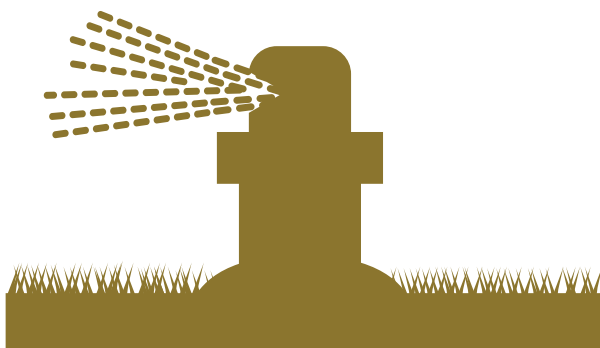
Building operations and maintenance policies for buildings that are not LEED certified also embrace sustainability goals in numerous ways. 85% of uncertified space is maintained with a green cleaning policy, and 100% of uncertified space is maintained in accordance with indoor air quality, energy management, and water management policies.



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



TAMU strives to make being an Aggie accessible and affordable. 22% of our students directly benefit from policies and programs that support low-income and non-traditional students.



SSC Grounds Management, Texas A&M University, Weathermatic, and a private philanthropic organization have cooperatively invested an estimated **\$1 million** to upgrade the irrigation system on campus. The ultimate goal is to reduce irrigation water consumption by 100 million gallons annually.

Human Resources works to ensure TAMU employees receive sustainable compensation for their services. All requests for newly-created and reclassified staff positions are reviewed in Human Resources for appropriate compensation levels compared with the local or relevant market.



work-place injuries on campus

FY 2009

493

FY 2016

164



This improvement was largely due to the Safety Team program implemented by **Environmental Health & Safety**.



Texas A&M has an expansive **Diversity** program coordinated largely by the Office of the **Vice President & Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity**. There are numerous programs that support under-represented groups for students, faculty, and staff. One such program is **STOP HATE**, which works to prevent discrimination on campus.

Human Resources coordinates the **Wellness Works! Program**, which is designed to encourage employees to live healthier lifestyles, to support a healthy workplace, and to create a culture of wellness throughout the campus community. For example, in FY2016 **Wellness Release Time** was implemented, which allows employees to use 30 minutes of their regular shifts, 3 days a week, to pursue wellness goals.

The President's Sustainability Advisory Council

In October 2016, Texas A&M University President Young inaugurated The President's Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC is charged with formulating strategy to foster and promote sustainability throughout the university community.

The primary functions include:

- *Oversee sustainability goals and strategies to integrate sustainable practices in all areas of the campus in coordination with the Office of Sustainability*
- *Monitor A&M performance using the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) tool*

Chair:

Dr. Jerry Strawser, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Members:

Dr. Jose Fernandez-Solis, Representing Faculty Senate

Dr. Debbie Thomas, Interim Dean College of Geoscience

Dr. Patrick Louchouart, Executive Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President & Chief Academic Officer, Texas A&M – Galveston

Dr. Carol Binzer, Director, Residence Life and Housing, Representing Vice President for Student Affairs

Mr. Matt Fry, Assistant Vice President, Representing Vice President for Research

Mr. Casey Ricketts, Manager, College of Education and Human Development, Representing University Staff Council

Ms. Mary Schubert, Director of Strategic Projects, Wellness, & Engagement, Representing Vice President for Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness

Ms. Hannah Wimberly, Undergraduate Student, Student Body President

Mr. Joseph Hood, Graduate Student, Speaker of the Student Senate

Mr. Bryan McBride, Undergraduate Student, President of Residential Housing Association

Mr. Paul Taele, Graduate Student, President of Graduate and Professional Student Council

Mr. Richard Gentry, Director of Regional Operations, SSC Services for Higher Education

Mr. John Yeager, Director of Dining Services, Representing Chartwells

Mr. Antone Nemec, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, Representing Texas Engineering Extension Service

Ex-Officio:

Ms. Jane Schneider, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Operations, Division of Finance and Administration

Ms. Kelly Wellman, Sustainability Director, Office of Sustainability

Ms. Ashley Skow, Administrative Coordinator, Division of Finance and Administration

To view the entire Texas A&M University STARS Report, Visit
stars.aashe.org/institutions/texas-am-university-tx/report/2016-12-20/

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VISION STATEMENT

Every member of the Aggie family works together to champion environmental stewardship, encourage healthy living, and improve social and economic opportunities and outcomes locally, nationally, and globally.



SUSTAINABILITY
RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.