

2017 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Division of Finance and Operations

SUSTAINABILITY

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.



SUSTAINABILITY
RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

2017 Sustainability Highlights



June 8, 2018

Texas A&M strives to lead fearlessly 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.

Texas A&M began our sustainability journey with the release of the campus Sustainability Master Plan in June of 2010 where we 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 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) with the receipt of our fourth STARS report and our second STARS Gold rating. STARS is the premier international assessment tool by which institutions of higher education measure their success in all facets of sustainability. 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 happy to present the 2017 Sustainability Highlight report, which demonstrates a broad cross-section of our achievements from the four STARS areas of Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration.

We are pleased with the progress we have made over the past ten years, and we will continue our stewardship efforts in 2018 with leadership from the President's Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC's charge is to 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.

In 2017, the SAC selected Ayers Saint Gross to update the Campus Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). The SMP will reshape the framework for campus sustainability and use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals lens. I look forward to sharing the SMP with the campus in the near future. Texas A&M strives daily to continually deepen our sustainability commitments throughout all facets of the institution.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent.

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 coordination and with guidance from the President's Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC), TAMU 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 2017 highlights in this report come primarily from the campus' most recent STARS submission, where Texas A&M University earned its second STARS Gold rating. STARS evaluates institutions based on performance in the following four categories, and this report provides highlights for each. To view the entire submission, visit:

stars.aashe.org/institutions/texas-am-university-tx/report/2016-12-20/

ACADEMICS



ENGAGEMENT



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



OPERATIONS





ACADEMICS

*TAMU demonstrates initiative by turning our campus into a **Living Laboratory**. Examples include class projects, Howdy! Farm, Utilities & Utility Plant tours, and a variety of internships.*



The university has formally adopted policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions.



78%
of academic departments (or equivalents) offer at least one course related to sustainability.



TAMU offers **Geography 380 (Workshop in Environmental Studies)** and the **Texas Target Communities Program (TCCP)** as immersive student sustainability opportunities.

More than 90%

of **departments** with sponsored research conduct sustainability-related research.



More than **42%** of sponsored researchers on campus are engaged in sustainability-related research.

17% of the university's offered courses focus on or relate to sustainability.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES maintains a voluntary open-access policy that ensures all scholarly articles produced by faculty and staff are accessible. This policy helps address both the price and permission barriers that undermine global access to products of TAMU's scholarly and creative work.

The university offers sustainability-oriented degrees, minors, and certificates. Examples include:

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Ecological Restoration
Environmental Design
Environmental Studies
Environmental Geosciences
Renewable Natural Resources

GRADUATE DEGREES

Natural Resource Development
Water Management & Hydrological Science

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

Climate Change
Earth Sciences
Environmental Geoscience
Sustainable Architecture & Planning
Sustainable Urbanism (Graduate)

The Institute for Sustainable Communities

conducts research in 5 areas:

Coastal Risk Reduction and Resilience,
Community Infrastructure, Water
Security, Community Resilience, and
Health and Environment.



18% of continuing education courses offered by TAMU Extension agencies address sustainability.



ENGAGEMENT



*The goal of the **Internship Program** coordinated by the **Office of Sustainability** is to bring people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives together to create a dynamic team that works to create a campus culture of sustainability. To date, the program has served **66 students**.*



TAMU was a **Host Institution Master Sponsor** for the **2017 AASHE Conference & Expo**, an annual conference on sustainability leadership in higher education. The event was held in San Antonio.

Environmental Health & Safety

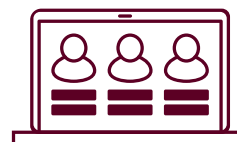
coordinates a volunteer program in which staff and students spend a Saturday once per year cleaning creek banks. Last year, **127** volunteers removed **115** bags of trash from creek banks.



*The **Aggie Eco Reps** is an organization coordinated by **Residence Life** in which students educate their peers about how to live a sustainable lifestyle.*

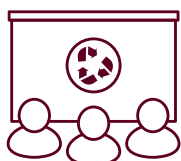


TAMU actively supports the **Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS)**, a network for higher education institutions across the state to share ideas and strategies for enhancing sustainability efforts.

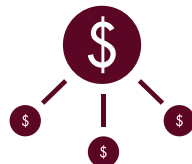


31,050
AGGIE STUDENTS
donated
more than
7 MILLION
hours of
community
service
in 2017

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



The **AGGIE GREEN FUND**



empowers students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring about creative sustainability initiatives to campus. Since 2011, more than **\$1.7 MILLION** been granted for projects making campus more sustainable.

Residence Life hosted the **9th Annual Sustainability Challenge** during Fall 2017 to encourage on-campus residents to incorporate sustainable behaviors into their daily routines.

This past November, the **Residence Life** and **Dinner with a Prof** partnered to host the **4th Annual Sustainability Dinner**. Chartwells caters the locally sourced dinner and the event provides a networking opportunity for students to engage with faculty and staff that live, research, or teach sustainability. Attendance has grown each year and is expected to continue to grow as students become more involved with sustainability efforts.

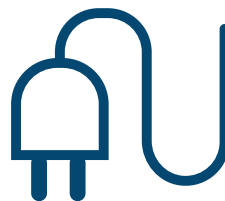
The **Texas Target Communities Program** in the **College of Architecture** develops partnerships across the state to advance sustainability. Partnerships include: Houston Independent School District, Charity Productions, Tyler County, the City of El Campo, and Impact Lufkin.

The program's work in the Houston Ship Channel resulted in TAMU being awarded a **\$10 million** Superfund Research Center grant to further investigate the public health consequences of communities with chronic chemical exposure from petroleum refineries.

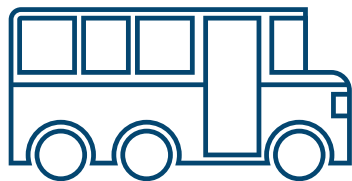


OPERATIONS

With **Utilities & Energy Services** leading the way, TAMU has reduced energy consumption per gross square feet by **47%** from FY 2002 to FY 2017. This has resulted in a cumulative **\$209 million** purchased energy cost avoidance.



10.44% of the food and beverage options **Chartwells** provides for TAMU are sourced locally and/or third-party verified. Chartwells also provides sustainability-themed meals and vegetarian and vegan options at numerous campus locations.



Transportation Services

provides numerous

sustainable transportation options, including extensive no-fare shuttle services, **14,000** bicycle parking spaces, programs for ride-, car-, and bike-sharing, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Even though enrollment and occupied space have increased, TAMU has reduced total water use on campus by **56.6%** since 1991.



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

In FY 2017, **UES**, **Chartwells**, and **SSC** helped divert **72%** of campus waste from the landfill. This is up from 61.5% in FY 2015 and from 10% in FY 2010.

SSC Grounds self-composts 100% of the ~18,000 cubic yards of miscellaneous green waste generated annually.



At least **65%** of students utilize TAMU's available sustainable transportation options.

In coordination with the **2017 Campus Master Plan**, the **Office of the University Architect** is updating TAMU's new construction policy to draw upon best practices from STARS, Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED), and the Sustainable SITES Initiative.



100% of waste from TAMU-owned electronics is disposed of through **Logistics Services' University Surplus Property Program**. Electronics are either re-purposed or recycled sustainably through Responsible Recycling (R2) certified recyclers.

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



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



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

Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness reviews all requests for newly-created and reclassified staff positions to ensure fair compensation levels compared with the local or relevant market.



TAMU, SSC Grounds and Weathermatic, cooperatively invested an estimated **\$1 MILLION** to upgrade the campus irrigation system.

Installation of the state-of-the-art, cloud-based controller assemblies, replete with weather stations, flow control, and master valves, continued in 2017.



In 2017, **Chartwells** and the **President's Sustainability Advisory Council** helped TAMU become the largest U.S. university to receive a **Fair Trade** designation.



Workplace Injuries on Campus

FY 2009

493



FY 2017

163

This improvement is largely due to the **Safety Team Program** implemented by **Environmental Health & Safety**.

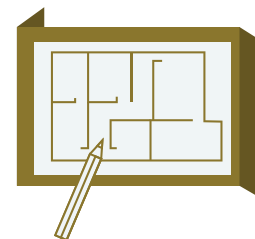
The **Office for Diversity** coordinates extensive campus diversity initiatives. Numerous programs, such as **STOP HATE**, work to prevent discrimination on campus and to provide support to students, faculty, and staff from under-represented groups.

Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness

coordinates the **WELLNESS WORKS!** program, designed to encourage employees to live healthier lifestyles, to support a healthy workplace, and to create a culture of wellness throughout the campus community. Expanding the program, **Living WELL Aware** initiatives were hosted throughout 2017 to provide further staff education and engagement.



In April, the **President's Sustainability Advisory Council**, **Office of Sustainability** and **Ayers Saint Gross** launched the process of updating the **Campus Sustainability Master Plan**.



2017 Sustainability Awards

At the **3rd Annual Sustainability Breakfast** held in March, the **Office of Sustainability** hosted the inaugural **Sustainability Awards** ceremony to recognize members of the Aggie community who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to making TAMU more sustainable.

CHAMPION AWARDS



MR. BRIAN
CHRISTENSEN

Bioenvironmental Sciences

Received the **Student Sustainability Champion** award for his dedicated service to the Internship Program hosted by the Office of Sustainability.



DR. JAYME
WALENTA

Dept. of Geography

Received the **Faculty Sustainability Champion** award for her work teaching Geography 380, an immersive sustainability-focused undergraduate course.



MS. LILIA
GONZALES

Office of the University Architect

Received the **Staff Sustainability Champion** award for her efforts integrating sustainability into the 2017 Campus Master Plan.

IMPACT AWARD



MS. JANE
SCHNEIDER

*Associate Vice President
for Facilities & Operations*

Received the **Sustainability Impact** award for her long-standing support and tireless efforts integrating sustainability into the fabric of the institution.

STARS AWARDS



STARS Top Performer: Office for Diversity

Earned the highest percentage of available points for stakeholders with multiple credits.

STARS Most Improved: Utilities & Energy Services

Making the most progress in their assigned credits.

STARS Above & Beyond: Ms. Leonarda Horvat

For her efforts in securing important data that helped TAMU achieve STARS Gold.

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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.

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