



2022 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS





2022 Sustainability Highlights



March 3, 2023

Fifteen years ago, on March 3, 2008, Texas A&M University took steps to ensure a sustainable Aggieland for generations of Aggies with the creation of the Office of Sustainability. Now, more than ever, the world needs the hope of a sustainable future, and Texas A&M is working to grow the body of knowledge needed and prepare the leaders of tomorrow to help create that future.

Our institutional commitment to a better future for all incorporates this mentality into strategic planning and implementation on our campus and it most clearly evidenced in the pages of our Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). The SMP identifies nine themes, 16 evergreen goals and 47 targets to ensure sustainable approaches are utilized throughout the university. Our campus of over 67,000 students can make an even larger impact when they share sustainable best practices beyond our campus.

This report celebrates our campus sustainability champions, organizational leaders and the work of the entire campus community. The data is mostly generated from our 2022 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) [submission](#).

For 15 years, Texas A&M has demonstrated our loyalty to the future by respecting, protecting, and preserving the financial, environmental, and people resources that ensure Aggies have a sustainable home for the next 15 years and all years that come.

Respectfully,

Susan Ballabina, Ph.D

Chief External Affairs Officer

Senior Vice President for Academic & Strategic Collaborations

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.

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 has been a leader in research and education of 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), Texas A&M 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 2022 highlights in this report come primarily from the campus’ most recent STARS submission, where Texas A&M University earned its fifth 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 2022](#).



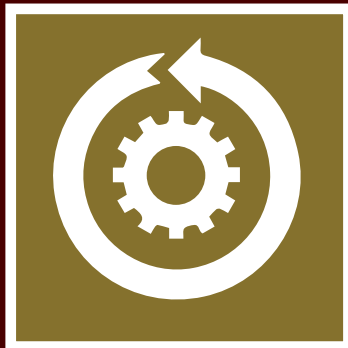
ACADEMICS



ENGAGEMENT



OPERATIONS



PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



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

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Ecological Restoration
Environmental Design
Environmental Studies
Bioenvironmental Sciences
Urban & Regional Planning
Environmental Geosciences
Renewable Natural Resources
Ecology & Conservation Biology
Women’s and Gender Studies
Environmental Engineering
Coastal Environmental Science & Society

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

Energy Technology, Law, & Policy
Sustainable Architecture & Planning
Sustainable Urbanism (Graduate)
Climate Change
Earth Sciences
Environmental Geosciences
Women & Gender Studies
Watershed Certificate
Urban Planning

GRADUATE DEGREES

Natural Resource Development
Water Management & Hydrological Science
Ecosystem Science & Management

ACADEMICS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES maintains a voluntary open access policy that ensures all scholarly articles produced by faculty and staff are accessible. This policy helps address the barriers that undermine global access to products of Texas A&M’s scholarly and creative work.

More than **51%** of sponsored researchers on campus are engaged in sustainability-related research.



More than **72%** of departments with sponsored research conduct sustainability-related research.

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



24% of the university’s offered courses focus on or relate to sustainability.



ENGAGEMENT

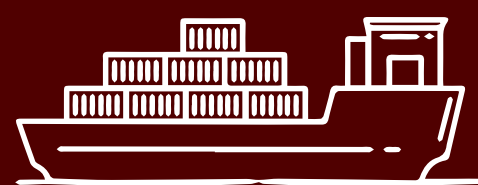


The goal of the **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** coordinated by the **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY** is to bring people from a variety of backgrounds and academic disciplines together to create a team that educates the campus community about sustainability issues. Since 2011, the office has facilitated **222 Internships**.



Over **25%** of continuing education courses offered by Texas A&M AgriLife and Engineering Extension agencies address sustainability.

Texas Target Communities has led important research for **BUILDING RESILIENCE** and **ADDRESSING POLLUTION** and **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS** due to hurricanes and flooding in Galena Park, a city bordering the Houston Ship Channel.



The **AGGIE SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE**, open to all faculty, staff, and students, engages participants in fostering a campus culture sustainability. Individuals, offices, and student organizations are recognized for their contributions to sustainable energy and water use, transportation, food and purchasing, waste minimization, and social sustainability.



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

TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS and the Office of Sustainability are collaborating to create an Athletics **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN**.

Texas A&M actively supports the **TEXAS REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY (TRACS)**, a network for higher education institutions looking to enhance sustainability efforts.

The **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY** was involved in the planning of the 2022 virtual TRACS summit focusing on making workplaces and society better for all.

AGGIE ECO REPS is an organization coordinated by **RESIDENCE LIFE** in which students educate their peers about how to live a sustainable lifestyle.



The **DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENCE LIFE** hosts the “U Challenge,” wherein teams of students (graduate & undergraduate) study utility and energy consumption for assigned residence hall communities, as well as student engagement patterns. Their recommendations are reviewed by department leadership for implementation.

The grand opening for **AGGIE PARK** by the Association of Former Students was held in September. The **20-ACRE PARK** sits right in the heart of campus and beautifies the campus while increasing social sustainability through greenspace, space for relaxation and studying, and a performance pavilion for local artists and student organizations.



OPERATIONS

100% of waste from Texas A&M owned electronics is disposed of through Logistics Services’ University Surplus Property Program. Electronics are either repurposed or recycled sustainably through Responsible Recycling certified recyclers.



100% of managed grounds are in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management program.

100% of janitorial paper products are eco-certified.

90% of runoff from local and regional rainfall events is retained on-site using low-impact development practices and green infrastructure.



Sbis Dining Hall achieved **GREEN RESTAURANT CERTIFICATION** in June for sustainable practices through a partnership with the Green Restaurant Association.

21% of total food and beverage purchases sourced by Aggie Dining were plant based.



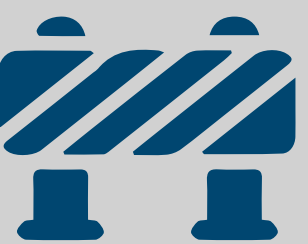
In all **30+** retail outlets, we offer biodegradable consumer food packaging, plates, and utensils made from compostable, plant-based materials such as bamboo and corn.

60K Aggies demonstrated their commitment to shared mobility when they took **633K** Veo rides and traveled **836K MILES** in 2022.

DIVERTED FROM THE LANDFILL

Over **71%** of waste through recycling, composting, and/or donation and reuse.

90% of all the construction and demolition waste produced by Texas A&M.



In FY22, Texas A&M used **7%** less total energy than it did in 2002, even though campus has grown **67%** over the past 20 years.



Even though full-time equivalent students, faculty, and staff increased by almost **52%** and gross floor area of building space increased **136%**, Texas A&M has reduced potable water use on campus by **58%** since 1991.

PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

Texas A&M is designated as a **HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI)** from the Department of Education.

The Aggie Green Fund empowers students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring about creative sustainability initiatives to campus. Since 2011, more than **\$2.2 MILLION** has been granted for projects making campus more sustainable.



The **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH** has granted a five-year renewal of funding to the Texas A&M Superfund Research Center for climate change research.

In 2022, Texas A&M implemented the **GOOD BULL FUND**, which covers or offsets expenses related to the planning and implementation of student-led activities that build community and reflect the Texas A&M core values.

Texas A&M has **COMMITTED** to representing a broader cross section of the Aggie community in public spaces by ensuring public art and the artists who create it is **INCLUSIVE OF ALL AGGIES**.

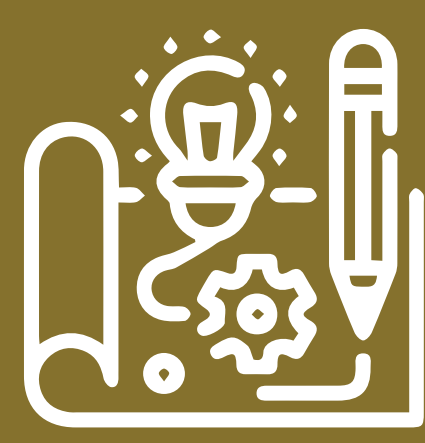
Texas A&M strives to make being an Aggie accessible and affordable. About **72%** of students receive some form of financial aid from the University.

Texas A&M has been a **FAIR TRADE CAMPUS SINCE 2017**.



SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN

The **SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN (SMP)** identifies **9 THEMES, 16 EVERGREEN GOALS, AND 47 TARGETS** to move Texas A&M toward a more sustainable future. The four working groups that helped create the SMP were reconvened as implementation teams.



2022 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

The **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY** hosted its **AWARDS CEREMONY** in **APRIL 2022** to recognize members of the Aggie community who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to making Texas A&M more sustainable.

CHAMPIONS



Ms. Jaedyn Medrano

Student Sustainability Champion Undergraduate
Office of Sustainability



Ms. Lauren Lichterman

Student Sustainability Champion Graduate
Athletics



Dr. Zong Liu

Faculty Sustainability Champion
Biological & Agricultural Engineering



Ms. Erin Schneider

Staff Sustainability Champion
School of Public Health



Aggie Eco-Representatives

Team Sustainability Champion
Residence Life

STARS AWARDS

STARS TOP PERFORMER

**Office for Diversity
Residence Life
University Libraries**

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



OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY



RESIDENCE LIFE



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

STARS MOST IMPROVED

Aggie Dining

Making the most progress in their assigned credits.



DINING



DIVISION OF RESEARCH



AASHE TOP PERFORMER

Division of Research



RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

VISION STATEMENT

We work to respect, protect, and preserve the financial, environmental, and people resources that make Texas A&M and our community so great, not only for today, but also for future generations of Aggies.

Join the **Aggie Sustainability Alliance** to Help Make Campus More Sustainable and Bring Texas A&M's Core Values to Life!

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