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

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.
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

### Graduate Degrees
- Natural Resource Development
- Water Management & Hydrological Science
- Ecosystem Science & Management

### 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

### 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](#).
The goal of the interns 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.

The Office of Sustainability was involved in the planning of the 2022 virtual TRACS summit focusing on making workplaces and society better for all.

The Aggie Sustainability Alliance, open to all faculty, staff, and students, engages participants in fostering a campus culture of 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.

The Aggie Sustainability Alliance 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 green space, space for relaxation and studying, and a performance pavilion for local artists and student organizations.

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.

Sbisa 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.

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.
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.

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.

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

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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.

STARS MOST IMPROVED
Aggie Dining
Making the most progress in their assigned credits.

AASHE TOP PERFORMER
Division of Research

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY

RESIDENCE LIFE

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

DINNING

DIVISION OF RESEARCH

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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!