

Sustainability Plan

University of Richmond 2019-2025



Goal 1: Integrate sustainability into a University of Richmond education.

1.1 Increase the opportunity for University of Richmond students to engage in coursework focused on sustainability.

1.2 Support the integration of sustainability into co-curricular initiatives and high-impact educational practices, including first-year experience, themed semesters, living learning communities, undergraduate research, study abroad, community-based learning, internships, and capstone courses.

1.3 Strengthen connections and establish incentive structures to support scholarship and teaching across different academic programs and disciplines engaged in sustainability.



Goal 2: Increase understanding of sustainability issues and provide resources and opportunities for individuals and groups to enact sustainable behaviors on campus.

- 2.1 Meaningfully feature sustainability in orientation and onboarding activities for all students, staff, and faculty.
- 2.2 Improve the visibility of sustainability on campus.
- 2.3 Establish and promote training and education for students, staff, and faculty in environmental sustainability practices.
- 2.4 Design and execute a comprehensive menu of sustainability events, programs, and activities for student, staff, and faculty.



Goal 3: Implement sustainable practices in campus operations and services that steward the natural world and support human well-being.

- 3.1 Implement resource-efficient and environmentally responsible design, construction, and operation practices in all campus building projects.
- 3.2 Update the 2010 Climate Action Plan with greenhouse gas reduction strategies that accelerate the achievement of carbon neutrality.
- 3.3 Reduce energy use intensity (energy per square foot per year) 40% below 2009 levels by 2025.
- 3.4 Identify opportunities to increase procurement of sustainable food at the capacity needed for consistent, high quality meals
- 3.5 Reduce food waste to the landfill by 50% by 2025.
- 3.6 Develop innovative funding mechanisms to support sustainable practices on campus.
- 3.7 Enhance the University's ability to engage with the campus community on issues of responsible investing.

- 3.8 Increase the amount of environmentally and socially preferable purchases as a percentage of total goods purchased.
- 3.9 Research and implement sustainability procurement standards for vendors.
- 3.10 Design and maintain campus landscapes in a manner that supports ecological health, advances student learning, and promotes recreation.
- 3.11 Manage campus lands to steward the James River watershed, increase water capture, and reduce stormwater impacts.
- 3.12 Reduce potable water usage 50% below 2010 levels by 2025.
- 3.13 Reduce carbon emissions related to transportation and mobility.
- 3.14 Improve campus connectivity with the greater Richmond region.
- 3.15 Divert 75% of materials from the landfill by 2025.
- 3.16 Reduce gross waste totals by 15% by 2025.



Goal 4: Identify and activate organizational systems, resources, partnerships, and processes that weave sustainability into the fabric of the University.

- 4.1 Build UR's capacity to achieve Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Assessment, Tracking & Rating System (STARS) Gold by 2021 and STARS Platinum by 2024.
- 4.2 Support the ability of departments, offices, and other functional units to create unit-level sustainability plans that utilize their unique abilities to advance sustainability on campus.
- 4.3 Welcome an expanded definition of sustainability that includes the capacity to create thriving communities and intersects with wellness, justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and work-life balance.
- 4.4 Incorporate sustainability into development, planning & policy, and strategic communications.