

# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN





## PROGRESS REPORT 2018



LEHIGH  
UNIVERSITY



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# INTRODUCTION

In May 2016, Lehigh University adopted its second sustainability plan. The Campus Sustainability Plan 2020 builds upon our past accomplishments and continues to support the university’s goal of integrating sustainability into our administrative, academic, and operational processes. The plan illustrates Lehigh’s commitment to environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social equity and how the university is integrating those three pillars of sustainability throughout campus.

The following progress report is a snapshot of the progress that has been made toward Lehigh University’s sustainability goals, as outlined in the Campus Sustainability Plan 2020. This progress report, like the Campus Sustainability Plan 2020, is divided into four consumable areas of focus. Each area of focus has measurable goals and shows the progress that has been made. While each area of focus represents a specific set of goals and progress, they are all interrelated and reinforce Lehigh’s overall progress and commitment to sustainability.

Please join us in celebrating our progress in the area of sustainability. Everyone at Lehigh - faculty, staff, students, and alumni - has a role to play as we work to create a more sustainable campus. Together we can further enhance sustainability both on Lehigh’s campus and beyond!





# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

*Lehigh has been working to meet its goals outlined in the Campus Sustainability Plan 2020 with the help of students, faculty, staff, and others in the community. Here are some upcoming projects and initiatives that embody our commitment to innovative solutions at Lehigh and beyond:*



## **Increasing Student Leadership & Engagement**

The Eco-Rep Leadership Program trains student leaders to embody and promote sustainable living in residential halls and Greek houses and identify opportunities for innovation and implement sustainable change. Program growth will ensure that 100% of undergraduate and graduate students are engaged in sustainability outreach initiatives by 2020.



## **Incorporating Renewable Energy in Campus Planning**

Through a collaboration with Facilities Services and other campus partners, Lehigh is evaluating current infrastructure and energy systems to determine ways in which additional renewable energy resources may be leveraged.



## **Bringing “Real” Food to Campus**

By 2020, Lehigh hopes to shift 20% of its existing university food budget away from industrial farms and processed food and towards local/ community-based, fair trade, ecologically sound and humane food —what we call “real” food— through the nationally recognized Real Food Challenge. With support from Lehigh Dining and the Office of Sustainability, students will help to continue to increase the amount of “real” food through smart purchasing and food waste reduction campaigns.



## **Presenting Experiential Learning Experiences**

The campus is expanding programming for students to take the lead on innovative campus and community sustainability solutions. By using the campus as a living lab, students merge passion with grit as they engage in real life, high impact projects focusing on smart and resilient campus systems, multi-modal transportation, supply chain, and food.



## **Expanding Opportunities for Alumni Engagement**

In alignment with the Lehigh Alumni Sustainability Alliance, Lehigh University is creating additional opportunities for alumni to participate in sustainability efforts, including speaking at events, mentoring a student, and organizing networking events.



## **Integrating Sustainability, Diversity and Creative Inquiry Across the Curriculum**

Faculty across the university are working to identify opportunities for students to learn about sustainability, innovation, diversity and inclusion in the classroom. These faculty are taking bold steps in reimagining their syllabus to ensure students more comprehensively understand how these concepts provide a bold foundation for leadership in the 21st century.



# ACADEMICS & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Faculty, staff, and students utilize the campus as a living laboratory to identify opportunities and apply innovative approaches that reach ambitious goals.*

## CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB

A **living laboratory** is a research concept that bridges the gap between the academic institution and the “real world.” It allows students and professors to apply theoretical concepts to tangible problems incorporating fresh ideas and perspectives into solutions.



### FOOD & DINING

As a Mountaintop project, the FEED group worked toward an energy-independent food-growing enterprise at the Community Garden.



### ENERGY

The Green Labs Pilot Program debuted in STEPS as part of the Energy Systems Engineering Institute’s Masters’ program.



### TRANSPORTATION

As a Mountaintop project, students studied the potential environmental impacts of transportation on campus using aspects of urban design and renewable energy. The goal was to develop a smarter transportation system.



### DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

As a Mountaintop project, students wrote and produced a play based on the experiences of currently and formerly incarcerated people. They observed and engaged local community organizations that aim to reduce inequality to help inform the production.



### GROUNDS

Through the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, students used the Lehigh Experimental Forest as a natural laboratory.



### WASTE

The Eco-Rep Leadership Program conducted a survey on water bottle refill stations on campus resulting in maintenance of several stations.



### COORDINATION & PLANNING

The Office of Sustainability collaborates with over 32 offices across campus to collect data for the annual sustainability report to inform future planning.



### PURCHASING

In collaboration with Dining Services, Office of Sustainability students worked to increase the purchasing of local/community-based, fair trade, ecologically sound, and humane products through the Real Food Challenge.

## CURRICULUM & RESEARCH

The Office of Sustainability cataloged sustainability related courses and created an inventory of sustainability research, which includes names and department affiliations of faculty and staff engaged in sustainability research.

### Sustainability Courses



195

Sustainability focused and related courses offered

### Sustainability Research

83



2016



161



2018

Faculty and staff researchers engaged in sustainability research





# CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Lehigh envisions positive, meaningful, and reciprocal engagement and aims to embrace diverse perspectives and experiences throughout campus and the surrounding community.*

## EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

To date, the Sustainable Office Program has served **589** full-time faculty and staff members.



**30**

Certified offices

## STUDENT EDUCATORS PROGRAM

As of Spring 2018, the Eco-Rep Leadership Program reaches **71%** of on-campus students in residential halls and Greek houses. **44%** of residential halls and Greek houses are represented. The median ratio of Eco-Reps to residents is **1:35**.



**37**

Residential  
Eco-Reps



**44%**

Residential halls and  
Greek houses represented



**21**

Greek  
Eco-Reps

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Last academic year, **2,750** out of 5,003 undergraduate students were engaged in community service.



**55%**

Students engaged in  
community service

## ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT



### STUDENT ORIENTATION

**100%** of incoming undergraduate students were provided with opportunities to participate in orientation programming that included sustainability.



### EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

**100%** of new employees were offered an orientation that covers sustainability topics.



### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Office of Sustainability partnered with the Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation, the Hispanic Center's Wellness Center, and community schools in the Bethlehem Area School District.



### ALUMNI PARTICIPATION

The Lehigh Alumni Sustainability Alliance has **218** members whose professions and interests are aligned with sustainability.



## OPERATIONS

*Lehigh is taking action to increase efficiency, reduce emissions, and maximize capital investment, thereby enhancing the overall well-being of the university and community.*

### AIR & CLIMATE

#### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



**53,544**  
metric tons

**48,592**  
metric tons

Reduced GHG emissions by **9%** from 2007 to 2018.

### TRANSPORTATION

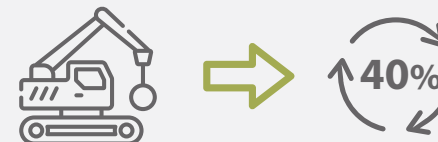
#### GREEN REVOLVING LOAN



Green Revolving Loan was developed to provide financial resources to departments for green projects. The Transportation Services Department used the loan to purchase an all electric bus for its fleet in 2016.

### WASTE

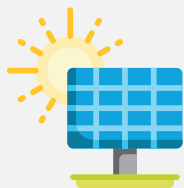
#### CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE DIVERSION



**40%** of Lehigh's construction and demolition materials were diverted through recycling, donation, and/or other forms of recovery in 2017.

### ENERGY

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY



**17 MMbtu**

On-site renewables produced **17 MMbtu** of energy in the 2017-2018 academic year.

### PURCHASING

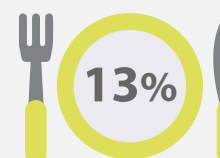
#### SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



With the adoption of the Sustainable Purchasing Policy in 2017, Lehigh now employs a Life Cycle Cost Analysis when evaluating energy and water-using products and systems.

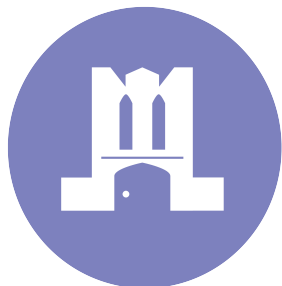
### DINING SERVICES

#### REAL FOOD CHALLENGE



Lehigh tracked the amount of local/ community-based, fair trade, ecologically sound, and humane food served in dining halls during 2017-2018.





## PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

*Lehigh is committed to the integration of sustainability principles in the cultural fabric of the university including the institutional structure, policies, programs, and resources.*

### OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



The Office of Sustainability strives to address issues of sustainability in daily life, while seeking to influence the long-term sustainability of Lehigh University.

### LEHIGH SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL



19 Members

The Lehigh Sustainability Council promotes university-wide sustainability initiatives by building awareness, understanding, and a culture of sustainability on campus.

### OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY



New VP

The Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity had its first successful year under the leadership of the inaugural Vice President for Equity & Community.

### COUNCIL ON EQUITY & COMMUNITY



36 Members

The Council on Equity and Community is an independent advisory board comprised of Lehigh staff, faculty and students committed to the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Lehigh has been nationally recognized a leader in sustainability by Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the Sierra Club, and the Princeton Review.

### SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVE GRANT



\$25,000

The Sustainable Initiative Grant, formerly the GreenFund, has provided over \$25,000 to pilot innovative and scalable ideas to create a greener, more sustainable campus.

# SUSTAINABILITY METRICS






ACADEMICS & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE			
Focus Area	Goal	Metric	Progress
Curriculum	Academic Courses	Percent of courses that include sustainability	9.96%
		Percent of departments that offer at least one sustainability course	54.8%
	Learning Outcomes	Percent of students that graduate with sustainability as a learning outcome	2.56%
	Sustainability Literacy Assessment	Percent of students assessed in sustainability literacy	4.47%
	Incentive for Developing Courses	Does Lehigh have an incentive program to develop new sustainability courses?	No
Research	Research & Scholarship	Percent of research faculty and staff engaged in sustainability research	30.73%
		Percent of departments engaged in sustainability research	62.5%
	Support for Research	Has Lehigh adopted policies and procedures that give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and/or tenure decisions?	Yes
		Does Lehigh offer ongoing library support for sustainability research and learning in the form of research guides, materials selection policies and practices, curriculum development efforts, sustainability literacy promotion, and e-learning objects focused on sustainability?	Yes
CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT			
Focus Area	Goal	Metric	Progress
Public Engagement	Community Partnership	Does Lehigh have a partnership that is supportive, collaborative or transformative?	Yes
	Continuing Education	Percent of continuing education courses that include sustainability	0
		Does Lehigh have a non-degree certificate program that is sustainability themed?	No
	Participation in Public Policy	Does Lehigh advocate for policies that support campus or municipal/local sustainability?	Yes
	Trademark Licensing	Is Lehigh a Fair Labor Association and/or the Workers' Rights Consortium member?	No
Campus Engagement	Student Educators Program	Percent of students reached by peer-to-peer sustainability program	71%
	Student Life	Percent of students with access to orientation that includes sustainability	100%
	Outreach Materials & Publications	# of outreach materials that foster sustainability learning	11
	Employee Educators Program	Percent of employees served by employee peer-to-peer educator program	31%
	Employee Orientation	Percent of new employees offered materials covering sustainability topics	100%
	Staff Professional Development	Does Lehigh have training and professional development opportunities?	Yes



# SUSTAINABILITY METRICS

OPERATIONS			
Focus Area	Goal	Metric	Progress
Air & Climate	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e) reduced, compared to 2007 baseline	9%
Buildings	Building Operation & Maintenance	Percent of buildings certified by a rating system for existing buildings	0%
	Building Design & Construction	Percent of buildings certified by a new building design/construction rating	100%
		Does Lehigh use a certification system for of new buildings?	Yes
Food & Dining	Food & Beverage Purchasing	Percentage of third party verified and/or locally grown and sourced food	17%
	Sustainable Dining	Does Lehigh offer vegan meal options on campus?	Yes
Energy	Building Energy Consumption	Percent reduction of building energy consumption compared to baseline	15.11%
	Clean & Renewable Energy	Percent of energy obtained that is from clean or renewable sources	.0027%
Grounds	Biodiversity	Does Lehigh conduct assessment to identify endangered and vulnerable species?	No
Purchasing	Cleaning & Janitorial Purchasing	Percent of cleaning products with Green Seal or UL Environment certification	0%
	Sustainable Procurement	Does Lehigh employ Life Cycle Cost Analysis when evaluating energy- and water-using products and systems?	Yes
	Electronics Purchasing	Percent of expenditures on electronic products that are EPEAT Gold registered	19.02%
Transportation	Campus Fleet	Percent of campus fleet powered by alternative fuels or power	12%
	Employee Commute Modal Split	Percent of employees using alternative means of transportation	8.6%
Waste	Waste Minimization & Diversion	Percent of materials diverted from the landfill or incinerator by recycling, composting, donating or re-selling	60.81%
	Construction & Demolition Waste Diversion	Percent of waste diverted from landfill	39.55%
Water	Waste Use	Percent reduction in water use per unit of floor area compared to baseline	9.28%
PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION			
Focus Area	Goal	Metric	Progress
Coordination, Planning & Governance	Participatory Governance	Do faculty, staff, and students participate in institutional government?	Yes
Diversity & Affordability	Assessing Diversity & Equity	How many initiatives on cultural competency are available to faculty, staff, and students?	21
	Support for Underrepresented Groups	Does Lehigh administer programs to help build a diverse faculty?	Yes
	Affordability & Access	What is the average percentage of need that was met for students who were awarded any need-based aid?	98%
Health, Wellbeing & Work	Employee Compensation	Does Lehigh have data on employee hourly wages and total compensation?	Yes
	Assessing Employee Satisfaction	Does Lehigh conduct survey on job satisfaction?	Yes
	Workplace Health & Safety	Percent of workplace injuries reduced	0%

## CONNECT WITH US!

-  [sustainability.lehigh.edu](https://sustainability.lehigh.edu)
-   /LehighSustainability
-  [sustainability@lehigh.edu](mailto:sustainability@lehigh.edu)
-  [sustainability@lehigh.edu/alumni](mailto:sustainability@lehigh.edu/alumni)

