

Sustainability in Action

Aggie Green Fund

- Student led initiative to create a student fee that generates \$300,000+ /year for campus environmental improvements
<http://greenfund.tamu.edu>

STARS

- Sustainability Tracking & Assessment Rating System – Charter member of STARS which tracks progress through transparent self-reporting and provides access to peer ratings

Smart Energy Campus Initiative

- Collaboration among faculty and staff to enhance research opportunities in solar generation, use of electric vehicles, alternative technologies for assuring continuous electric supply, optimization of energy uses in clusters of buildings and energy efficient computational resources

Environmental Management System

- Developing an environmental management system (EMS) for all parts of campus to continually evaluate and enhance our environmental performance

Transportation Services

- Utilizes biodiesel as available in transit system
- Enhancing bike friendly campus
- Launched Connect by Hertz – a car sharing program
- Provides free access to AlterNet Rides and supports student-led Zimride service –ride share programs.

University Dining

- Produce from student farm incorporated into campus meals
- Pilot program to green Underground Food Court in the Sbisla complex; currently diverting 95% of waste through recycling and composting
- Recycling food waste and cooking oil
- Sells fair trade coffee on campus

Utilities & Energy Management

Since 2002

- Reduced annual campus energy consumption by 25% while campus gross square footage (GSF) has increased by almost 20%
- Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from energy consumption has been reduced from 68 to 55 pounds/GSF – a 20% improvement
- Annual campus water consumption has been reduced from 2.1 to 1.67 billion gallons – a 20% improvement

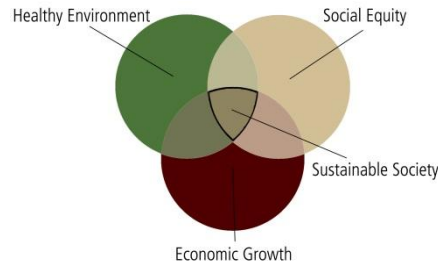
Additional Improvements

- Combined Heat & Power plant upgrade will improve plant operating efficiency by 20% and decrease energy related GHG emissions by 30%
- Achieving a solid waste to recycling diversion rate of 40+%

Sustainability

What is sustainability?

Texas A&M University (TAMU) 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 community and beyond.



Why is sustainability important?

Mission Critical

Sustainable environments and resources must be our legacy for future generations. A physical environment that is conducive to our success, that preserves our natural environment, and that respects our human resources and financial responsibilities is essential to establishing a culture that reflects our Aggie core values: Leadership, Excellence, Respect, Integrity, Loyalty and Selfless Service.

Emerging Trends

There has been a rising interest among students in attending green universities. Princeton Review surveyed 12,000 college applicants and their parents. The results showed that 64% of the respondents would value information about the college's commitment to the environment; of that cohort, 23% said such information would impact their decision. Committing to sustainable practices and action and sharing those successes will become an issue of competitiveness as more students select schools based, in part, on the institution's environmental performance. Our own students have expressed their desire for improved environmental performance with the passage of the Aggie Green Fund. In addition, the achievement of a sustainable campus will help attract and retain top scholars, teachers and researchers.

Since 2006, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has focused on empowering higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. AASHE has rapidly grown to 635 four-year and graduate institution members and 237 Community Colleges and two-year institution members. Learn more about AASHE by visiting <http://www.aashe.org>.

Embedded in Strategic Planning

Sustainability is addressed in Vision 2020, through Imperative 8 and in Action 2015, Goal 5, Strategy 5D. These plans, along with the Academic Master Plan, guide discussion and direction for Texas A&M University.

How does Texas A&M plan to become more sustainable?

In June 2010, the University released its Sustainability Master Plan (SMP), which provides a framework to coordinate environmental, social, and financial stewardship efforts. The SMP details the approach and specific metrics by which Texas A&M achieves these goals. The plan is organized into twelve core components:

Management of climate change	Sustainable land use
Management and funding support	Use of green building practices
Optimization of energy use	Education and research
Utilization of alternative transportation & fuels	Sustainable food and dining
Improving social and economic factors	Management of water resources
Purchasing of sustainable goods and services	Waste management

Download the entire plan at <http://sustainability.tamu.edu>

What is the role of the Office of Sustainability?

The Office of Sustainability works with various campus stakeholders to implement the SMP, serves as the primary administrator for the Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS) <https://stars.aashe.org>, organizes campus outreach through student organizations, events such as Campus Sustainability Day and social media, works with various academic course projects and advises the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Board.

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TAMUSustainability>.

To learn more, contact us at sustainability@tamu.edu or 979.845.1911.

