


UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (1 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2025)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations. We also acknowledge and honor the Tribal nations across Washington State and the many Indigenous peoples from across the country who also live and work in Seattle and the surrounding areas. By doing so, we affirm tribal sovereignty and the people who have been here since time immemorial.



Hundreds of individuals and organizations have contributed to this effort. View the complete list online at:
sustainability.uw.edu/plan/acknowledgments

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INTRODUCTION

REVAMPING THE UW SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The University of Washington's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) was adopted in July 2020 and included 10 measurable targets to be achieved over a five-year period. This plan was the first of its kind for the University and despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, UW has made substantial progress over the past four years toward these goals.

The following progress report for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) showcases the significant strides made over the past year in achieving the existing Plan targets, reflects on current strategies that need to be re-evaluated and looks at actions that will be taken in FY 2025. The current Sustainability Action Plan was adopted with an anticipated 2025 end date, and much of the year ahead will be focused on creating an updated Sustainability Action Plan with a more expansive scope and ambitious targets.

The new SAP will build upon our learnings, address emerging challenges, and create an action-oriented pathway for a more sustainable UW community.

Since the adoption of the Sustainability Action Plan, the UW has advanced many sustainability efforts. Key accomplishments over the past four years include:

- Publishing the first comprehensive [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#) since 2005, quantifying emissions from purchased goods and services for the first time.
- Introducing a new [Green Building Standard](#) to align construction and renovation with the University's sustainability goals.
- Launching a five-part [Energy Transformation Strategy](#) to transition the Seattle campus to 100% clean energy and decarbonize heating and cooling.

- Fully [subsidizing U-PASS](#) for 22,000 employees, helping lower UW's drive alone rate to 13%.
- Hiring new staff for the UW Sustainability office and Campus Sustainability Fund to enhance capacity for student engagement, sustainability planning, and project management.
- Developing [recommendations](#) for a new UW-wide air travel emissions reduction program.
- Releasing UW's first Zero Waste Assessment Report, outlining long-term zero waste solutions.
- Expanding the Seattle campus Metering Monitoring O&M Program with digital meters and controls to optimize energy usage in many buildings.
- Enhancing the Campus Sustainability Fund's continued investment in justice-centered sustainability, with more than \$1 million in grants to student led projects including:
 - Advancing conversations in reproductive justice through the Q Center's menstruation station and EnGender programs.
 - Discussing racial justice and equity in environmental science, conservation and related sustainability disciplines.
 - Increasing accessibility at the UW Farm through interactive signage and accessible pathways.
 - Bringing indigenous foods and medicinal plants to campus through the cross-cultural collaboration at the Burke Meadow and the UW native garden projects.



- Focusing on food security through the OZZI reusable takeout containers at campus dining locations, fresh food recovery at the UW pantry, and Project IF which grows hydroponic food used by Housing & Food Services.
- Improving the sustainability of campus infrastructure with Bird Friendly interventions to decrease bird collisions and implementing integrated photovoltaics and a solar rooftop on the life sciences building.

The new plan will be developed through a collaborative strategic planning and engagement process beginning in Fall 2024 involving faculty, staff, students, subject matter experts, and the broader UW community. A variety of engagement activities will be employed, such as town halls, focus groups, a new student sustainability collaborative and topic/unit-specific working groups to gather diverse input. This inclusive approach aims to create a shared vision for sustainability at UW and recognize the diverse needs and perspectives of the University community.

As the current five-year Sustainability Action Plan cycle concludes, UW Sustainability will lead the development of an **ambitious new plan**. This updated plan will provide an actionable roadmap for UW's 2050 sustainability vision, addressing the unique needs of the tri-campus community and cover topic areas not fully captured in the existing plan. The new plan will include five-year goals, with strategies and actions to support implementation. Funding and resource needs will be included to help ensure that projects and programs are considered in the UW's budgeting process.

The new Sustainability Action Plan will be driven by current scientific data from organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) and other climate research reports. It will also reflect the urgency emphasized in UW's [vision and mission statements for sustainability](#), as well as existing metrics identified in [UW's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report](#). The plan will align with state and local legislation, and be informed by frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).



FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Expand University-wide communication on sustainability

Update the UW Sustainability website to better present sustainability information.

Over the past year, the UW Sustainability's website has undergone a major transformation, significantly enhancing both its aesthetics and functionality. By emphasizing major initiatives and projects, the reimagined homepage offers a more compelling and interactive user experience. This update has not only improved the website's appearance but also streamlined navigation, making it easier for visitors to find information about UW's sustainability projects and resources.

In the first six months of 2024, the website saw a 20% increase in page views compared to the same period of 2023. This indicates the new design has been largely successful and suggests growing interest in sustainability efforts and information among the UW community.

In addition to visual improvements, UW Sustainability has updated the "campus" section topic pages to make sustainability information more accessible and comprehensive for the UW community. The updates provide a broad overview of the UW's goals and efforts around topics including energy, water, buildings, food and transportation. The updates also aim to identify learning opportunities and resources related to each topic, enabling students, faculty, and staff to engage more deeply with these issues.

Revamping the Green Office and Green Lab Certifications

The UW's Green Office and Green Laboratory Certification programs were halted during the COVID response, and have not yet been reactivated. UW Sustainability recognizes a need to develop renewed Green Labs and Green Office programs to help mitigate environmental impacts of these workspaces, while also providing sustainability resources and support to UW staff. In Spring 2024, UW Sustainability hired a new Sustainability and Project Engagement Specialist who will be responsible for overseeing the relaunch of the office and lab programs.

In Spring 2024, a group of undergraduate students in the

I. DOUBLE STUDENT, STAFF, AND FACULTY SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT BY 2024

TARGET ACTIONS FY2025:

- Reimagine our engagement strategies
- Establish comprehensive guidelines for creating and executing Green Labs and Green Office accreditation initiatives

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Choose our research conscientiously



Keep equity and inclusion at the center





Environmental Studies 480 class developed a white paper of recommendations for a new UW Green Labs Program. Key program initiatives recommended by this student group include a “Shut the Sash” campaign, which focuses on reducing energy consumption, and a Freezer Challenge, aimed at optimizing freezer temperatures to lower energy use. The student group also recommended a full-time Green Labs Program Manager, which was a key indicator of program success at other R1 universities with an existing Green Labs Program.

Laboratories have been recognized as a priority due to the outsized resources used by lab space compared to other utilizations on campus. While recognizing the importance of lab operations and research, a Green Labs Program will seek to enhance the sustainability of operations by concentrating on high-impact areas such as energy and water consumption. Through targeted initiatives, the program strives to achieve measurable reductions in environmental impact, along with cost savings and/or cost avoidance for the University.

Fostering Sustainable Collaboration

The University of Washington is dedicated to fostering a culture of sustainability across its tricampus. This has been demonstrated through events like Earth Lab’s [Climate Justice Conversations and Connections](#) gathering and UW Medicine’s [Symposium on Climate Change and Clinical Practice](#) that provided platforms for dialogue and education on issues that are directly affecting the UW community.

The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) cemented their role in leading comprehensive and justice-centered sustainability programming on the UW Seattle campus. Guided by student oversight, from July 2023 to June 2024 the CSF granted \$340,715 to 28 projects. These projects range in topic and size, fostering initiatives such as the SER-UW Native Plant Nursery, UW Bird Friendly Campus, the Black Student Commission Concert, the Seattle Multilingual Youth of Color and Educator Collective and many others. Learn more about CSF-approved projects on their website here: <https://csf.uw.edu/projects/all-approved>.

CSF has showcased student voices through campus events and developed resources centered on intersectionality and equity. In February 2024, CSF organized its inaugural teach-in and mixer focused on [Climate Justice and Collective](#)

[Action](#). The event, which garnered over 100 attendees, featured student speakers and community organizations discussing the application of the Just Transition framework to UW’s Energy Transformation plan and the local community. The event showcased CSF’s goal to bridge conversation and collaboration across disciplines and organizations to collectively build the just and sustainable future UW envisions.

Create a structured Student Sustainability Advisory Group

Over the past year, UW Sustainability and the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) have been working to create a student-focused group that will provide a platform for students to actively engage in the University’s sustainability efforts. The goal is to foster collaboration and coordination among various student sustainability groups and create a more direct connection between students and the University’s sustainability initiatives. The purpose and scope of the student group has evolved over the past year, going beyond just providing advisory opportunities for students.

The group, now named [Huskies for Equitable Sustainability](#) (HuES), aims to create a supportive and inclusive community for students passionate about sustainability. HuES will provide both on and off-campus learning opportunities for its members. Additionally, students involved in HuES will have the chance to contribute their perspectives, ideas, and expertise to the development of UW’s new Sustainability Action Plan.

By creating HuES, UW Sustainability and CSF are taking important steps to empower students to become active participants in shaping the University’s sustainability agenda. The group will serve as a hub for student engagement in tri-campus sustainability efforts, facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing among the many environmentally-focused student organizations on campus.

UW Bothell: *On UW Bothell’s campus, their Sustainability Office engaged with 30 community partnerships over the past year, and collaborated on 20 events that brought in over 1,700 attendees. This marked a 100% increase over 2022-2023 numbers.*



FY25 OUTLOOK

Reimagine our engagement strategies

With the recent addition of a Sustainability and Project Engagement Specialist, UW Sustainability has expanded its capacity to engage students, staff, and faculty around sustainability.

As UW Sustainability looks ahead to updating the Sustainability Action Plan, the process will prioritize collaboration and coordination across the University's three campuses and self-sustaining units. To ensure broad participation and diverse perspectives, UW Sustainability will organize public town halls, focus groups, and working groups tailored to specific topics or units. This inclusive approach will provide opportunities for the entire UW community to contribute to a shared vision for sustainability in 2050 and to help develop new goals, strategies and actions for the next five-year period.

UW Bothell: *The UWB sustainability staff will continue providing support to the [Alliance 4 Sustainability Student Club](#) in their efforts to create a Climate Change and Society minor and a Bothell Campus Sustainability Fund. This focus on broadening engagement efforts across the tri-campus will help raise awareness about the University of Washington's sustainability goals and facilitate intersectional learning experiences.*

Establish comprehensive guidelines for creating and executing Green Labs and Green Office accreditation initiatives

UW Sustainability is developing a structured framework for new Green Labs and Green Office Programs in collaboration with the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC). The Green Labs initiative in particular has been identified as one of the ESC's four key focus areas for the upcoming academic and fiscal year. UW initially launched a Green Labs Program in 2013 but it was paused in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, and has not been relaunched due to the absence of staff resources to manage the program. A well-designed and executed Green Labs Program with dedicated staff will yield significant benefits for UW, including cost savings, enhanced leadership, improved safety and better alignment with the institution's values.

For more information on proposed Green Lab Program initiatives, please read the Green Labs Proposal and slide deck which were developed by a 2024 ENVIR 480 student research group [here](#).

In addition, UW Sustainability is planning to launch a newly-imagined Green Office program in Fall 2024. This program will include training for office staff, along with biennial meetings with representatives from participating offices to share information and resources. The program will also create resource guides and host events to engage staff around sustainability topics.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Continuing work towards sustainability

Over the past year, UW Sustainability worked with the Environmental Stewardship Committee to establish a sustainability mission and vision statement for UW. The new [vision, mission and definition](#) are key components of an UW-wide sustainability framework that reflects a holistic approach to embedding sustainability in everything we do, acting with urgency and centering equity and social justice across our work.

In October 2023, the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) advanced its efforts by implementing a new governance structure. This structure provides clear pathways and channels to more effectively promote sustainability initiatives at the University. Key elements of the new structure include:

- **ESC Charter:** The ESC implemented its first ever Charter detailing membership obligations, meeting frequency and voting procedures.
- **Expanded ESC Membership:** The ESC reassessed the Committee's representation and made efforts to engage a broader segment of the UW community.
- **Annual Charge Letter:** A letter from the UW President that sets expectations for the ESC each year.
- **Partnership with the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship (FCCPS):** As a subcommittee of UW's Faculty Senate, FCCPS offers crucial guidance and insights for the successful implementation of sustainability initiatives across the tri-campus. The ESC acknowledges the importance of its partnership with FCCPS and will continue to collaborate on projects going forward.

UW Sustainability and the Campus Sustainability Fund transitioned their work on a Sustainability Hub Framework to a focus on the creation of a new student-centered sustainability group. This group, now named **Huskies for Equitable Sustainability (HuES)**, will align with the original Hub concept, which aimed to support a variety of student sustainability projects, organizations and efforts through increased student engagement and collaboration

II. ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

TARGET ACTION FY2025:

- Weave sustainability into the fabric of campus culture

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Keep equity and inclusion at the center





FY25 OUTLOOK

Weave sustainability into the fabric of campus culture

Over the next year, UW Sustainability will continue to act as a central resource for sustainability and connection across the UW community. The development of a new Sustainability Action Plan will be key to creating a one framework for the UW, as it will include a clear vision, goals and targets for 2050. This plan will identify new and ambitious goals, strategies, and actions tailored to the unique needs of the tri-campus system, ensuring a cohesive and intersectional approach to sustainability.

The new Plan will be guided by UW Sustainability's mission and vision statements, with a focus on expanding living lab opportunities and allocating sufficient resources to ensure successful advancement of the mission and vision.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Discuss and identify next steps to support and implement Living Lab projects

In 2023, the UW Sustainability team reassessed the goal of doubling sustainability-focused research projects, recognizing the challenges in defining and measuring such research given the vast scope and complexity of work conducted at the University of Washington. Instead of pursuing this broad target, the team has shifted focus to a more tangible approach: expanding Living Lab opportunities on campus.

Living Lab opportunities connect academic researchers with campus operations to provide a practical framework for enhancing sustainability work and research across UW. These collaborative projects bring together students, faculty, and staff to work on research initiatives, pilots or campus-wide programs.

FY25 OUTLOOK

Revitalize Living Lab project opportunities

In Fall of 2024, UW Sustainability will begin the process of developing a new Sustainability Action Plan. This Plan will reflect more ambitious and intersectional goals and strategies, including foundational principles, like Living Labs, that will help UW prioritize learning opportunities that can help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

UW Sustainability will expand its efforts to identify and promote Living Lab opportunities across the University, supporting collaborations with faculty, staff and student leaders to spearhead innovative projects.

By developing comprehensive catalogs of capstone projects, research opportunities, and community partnerships, we aim to create an ecosystem of experiential learning experiences that contribute to a more sustainable UW.

UW Bothell: *UWB plans to elevate research opportunities on its campus and increase community awareness about key areas of campus, such as its [wetland and salmon bearing streams](#).*

III. DOUBLE SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH PROJECTS BY 2025

TARGET ACTIONS FY2025:

- Revitalize Living Lab project opportunities

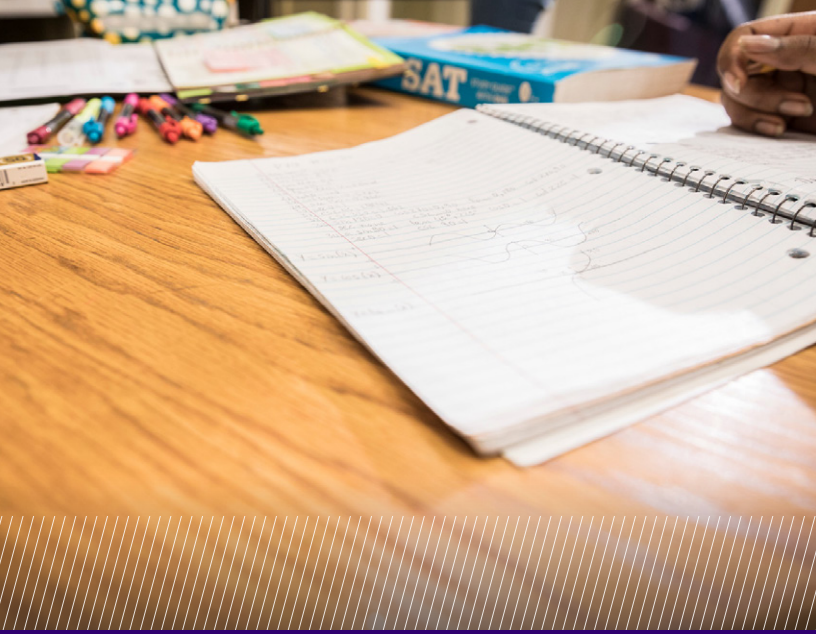
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Choose our research conscientiously







FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

IV. COMPREHENSIVE EQUITABLE PURCHASING TARGETS BY 2022

TARGET ACTION FY2025:

- Strengthen supplier diversity and sustainable purchasing practices

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



FY24 PROGRESS

Increase share of overall spending toward diverse and historically disadvantaged businesses

Over the past year, the University worked to increase supplier diversity within the Workday Round-trip Catalog system. UW has successfully expanded its pool of suppliers from 16 to 19 by adding three small businesses. In collaboration with Fisher Scientific, a major life science supplier, UW has identified local businesses that can partner with them to support the university's needs.

Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation

The transition to the Workday system has presented challenges in implementing sustainability goals as part of the Financial Transformation process. While Workday as a tool has limitations to the integration of new reporting or streamlined purchasing structures, there are still unique avenues for UW to integrate sustainability objectives into its financial operations. Promoting greater awareness and compliance with UW's [Sustainable Purchasing Program](#), along with creating new tools and resources to facilitate responsible purchasing decisions, will contribute to reducing environmental impact. There are still opportunities to implement streamlined purchasing into Workday, but it will likely require an extended timeline to implement.

Identifying opportunities with GHG inventory data

Based on the 2022 UW [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report](#), the creation and delivery of goods and services purchased for the tri-campus resulted in approximately 338,000 MtCO₂e, which is 64% of the University's total emissions. The University of Washington will continue to explore alternative and more sustainable purchasing methods and products with stakeholders across its campuses to lower these Scope 3 carbon emissions.

FY25 OUTLOOK

Strengthen supplier diversity and sustainable purchasing practices

UW will continue to broaden partnerships with other public agencies to provide vendor education and outreach, furthering our commitment to a diverse and inclusive supplier base. Additionally, Procurement Services is developing targeted solicitations for specific categories, such as catering, with a focus on small and diverse businesses.

Improvements to the centralized purchasing system, coupled with enhanced education and guidance on sustainable purchasing practices, could help the University proactively avoid and flag environmentally harmful or hazardous products. These measures would offer effective solutions to reduce emissions associated with purchased goods and services.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Draft Policy for Professional Travel Reduction

The University of Washington is taking steps to create a program to reduce emissions from air travel and mitigate its environmental impact. The Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) and the Sustainability Action Plan Executive Committee (EC) recognize the need for an ambitious long-term approach to consistently reduce air travel emissions.

To address this target, UW formed an ad hoc joint committee in 2019 consisting of members from the ESC and the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship. The group began by gathering information about the environmental and public health impact of air travel, reading the published literature about the culture of academic air travel, compiling UW air travel data, exploring the efficacy of carbon offsets, and learning about air travel reduction efforts at other universities. In 2022 the group expanded to include representatives from UW Medicine and Intercollegiate Athletics and began to report to the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship as well as the ESC. The group also began engaging more broadly with the UW community through focus groups and [two webinars](#) to discuss the environmental and social impacts of UW's air travel, as well as potential policies and actions to reduce UW's impact.

Over the past two years, the University's Professional Travel Emission Policy Committee has collaborated with the ESC to develop recommendations for a new UW-wide air travel emissions reduction program. The proposal was presented to President Ana Mari Cauce who gave preliminary approval and expressed a desire to have this work led by UW faculty. With input from the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship (FCCPS), the group drafted a Class C Resolution for the Faculty Senate. This draft will be further refined and brought forward by the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship for consideration by the Faculty Senate in 2024-2025.

The committee's proposal highlights the impact of air travel on the global climate crisis and outlines two primary goals:

1. Reduce emission from air travel.
2. Mitigate for UW emissions from air travel.

V. 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025

TARGET ACTION FY2025:

- Advance UW's commitment to lowering emissions from University-sponsored air travel

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Use resources responsibly



Decarbonize



FY25 OUTLOOK

Advance UW's commitment to lowering emissions from University-sponsored air travel

The ESC, SAP Executive Committee, and Professional Travel Emission Policy Committee identified the need to re-examine the existing air travel reduction target, which will be addressed during the development of a new SAP in fall 2024. A revised air travel reduction target will be aligned with current climate science (e.g. IPCC assessments) and data (e.g. public health data).

To advance this initiative, the Professional Travel Emission Policy Committee plans to work with the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship (FCCPS) to draft a resolution for the consideration of UW's Faculty Senate. The resolution will seek support and commitment to establish a program to reduce the University of Washington's emissions from air travel. The program design should be led by faculty and designed to empower individual units to customize their emission reduction efforts to reflect the mission of that unit and to leverage opportunities to reduce existing inequities in opportunity for personal and professional growth. The program should be launched by July 2025.

The Professional Travel Emission Policy Committee also plans to host focused meetings with UW Athletics and UW Medicine in the coming year, as well as hold a town hall style meeting to share further updates about the effort with the broader UW community.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Create a Balanced Plate Initiative

The Balanced Plate Initiative continues to grow, guiding recipe formation and menu design. This makes the ordering process easier for the UW Dining Community to create a balanced plate from the expanded plant-based offerings. The UW-branded website, Net Nutrition, will roll out in the 2024-25 academic year. This website will display all the CBORD-based service menus, and provide the opportunity to determine nutritional value for a meal before the purchase.

UW Dining has engaged with several new local vendors to increase the percentage of purchases made from local companies (e.g., [Food With Roots](#)) and has continued to strengthen the relationships already established with local vendors. HFS currently sources 33.5% of its food from local vendors, and will reach its goal of 35% in the 2024-25 academic year.

Expand Outreach to students

In the 2023-24 school year, UW Dining completed several instructional sessions with the Nutrition Department, culminating in several new research projects from NUTR 303. Projects centered around the topics of recycling, food systems and food security at UW. UW Dining also worked with a Discrete Math class to develop new plans for research and analysis related to the optimization of composting information displays for reducing contamination.

VI. 35% OF FOOD IS FROM LOCAL SOURCES BY 2025

TARGET ACTION FY2025:

- Broadening connections on and off campus

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



Use resources responsibly





FY25 OUTLOOK

Broadening connections on and off campus

UW Dining will continue to focus its work on connecting with additional local farms, using a City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and the Environment program to launch purchasing through the [Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative](#) and [Farmstand Local Foods](#). UW Dining continues to source new local vendors by leveraging relationships through their local distributors Peterson Foods and Merlino Foods, and have expanded purchasing with other local vendors like Sunrice Foods and Alki Bakery. They are also learning more about the local brands represented by UW's Group Purchasing Organization, Premier, which has been purchased by OMNIA Partners.

UW Dining plans to boost student engagement through expanded outreach and education, as well as identifying new class partnerships and research opportunities.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Advocate for increased transit hours beyond peak commute times

The University of Washington has been working to improve transit options to better serve its campus community, particularly during off-peak hours. Through frequent communication with regional transit agencies, including weekly, monthly, and quarterly meetings, the University has been able to stay informed about transit changes and push for more accessible transportation options.

Progress is rolling forward on this initiative, as shown by King County Metro Service expansion in September 2024. The transit agency plans to add 3,700 new bus trips per week, with a focus on enhancing night and weekend services. This represents an overall increase of 5% in transit service, with an 8% increase during nights and weekends. This expansion will address the needs of many in the UW community who require transportation beyond standard business hours for evening classes, night shifts, and other campus activities.

Despite these improvements, the University has noticed an increase in single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) usage. This increase is likely attributed to the implementation of return-to-work policies.

The rise in SOV usage presents a challenge to the University's sustainability goals and efforts to reduce campus traffic congestion. It underscores the need for continued advocacy and collaboration with transit agencies to further increase service frequency, reliability, and coverage.

Adopt a Bicycle Parking Plan

In fiscal year 2024, the University of Washington completed and approved a comprehensive [Bicycle Parking Plan](#). This strategic document outlines several initiatives aimed at enhancing bicycle infrastructure and accessibility across the campus. The plan addresses three primary areas of focus:

1. **Bike Locker Renewal:** A strategy was developed to assess and replace aging bike lockers, ensuring secure and reliable storage options for cyclists.

VII. 6% DECREASE IN SINGLE-OCCUPANCY COMMUTING RATE PER CAMPUS BY 2028

TARGET ACTIONS FY2025:

- Enhance sustainable transportation outreach to the campus community
- Improve bicycle parking solutions and accessibility
- Continue progress on Burke-Gilman Trail improvements

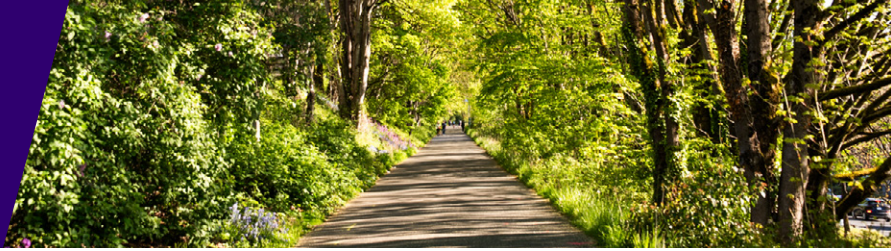
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

Use resources responsibly

Decarbonize



2. **Bike Rack Rebalancing:** The plan proposes a redistribution of bike racks throughout the campus to optimize utilization and meet changing demand patterns.
3. **New Bike Houses:** Introduction of plans for new bike houses on campus, providing additional protected parking options for cyclists.

Update the Burke-Gilman Trail

The University of Washington is taking significant steps to enhance safety and accessibility on the Burke-Gilman Trail. UW's Transportation Services and Project Delivery Group are working together to secure both federal and state grants for improvements to a key section of the trail.

The project focuses on the stretch of the Burke-Gilman from Rainier Vista to the Hec Ed bridge. The design, which is nearing completion, proposes two major enhancements related to lane separation and trail widening. These improvements aim to address longstanding concerns about user safety and congestion on this popular multi-use path.

FY25 OUTLOOK

Enhance sustainable transportation outreach to the campus community

In the year ahead, the University aims to bolster its sustainable transportation outreach efforts. This will involve hiring a dedicated outreach individual who will focus on strengthening communication with transit partners and engaging more fully with the campus community. This role will be pivotal in promoting the U-PASS and encouraging active transportation options.

Additionally, transit representatives will be invited to University events to discuss transit options with commuters and promote vanpool programs. The U-PASS newsletter will also be reintroduced, along with other communication channels, to communicate information on transit news, options and the promotion of sustainable transport options.

Improve bicycle parking solutions and accessibility

UW Transportation Services plans to evaluate new bicycle locker options to replace the aging lockers on the south Seattle campus. Construction of a new bike house at UW Medical Center is set to continue, with completion expected early in 2025. The design and planning of several additional bike houses on campus will also be prioritized.

To make secure bicycle parking more accessible and equitable, Transportation Services plans to reduce secure bicycle parking fees in October 2024. This initiative aims to encourage active transportation on campus.

UW Bothell also plans to explore bike storage options, such as bike lockers, as a way to offer more secure bike storage on campus

Continue progress on Burke-Gilman Trail improvements

The University of Washington will continue its efforts to secure federal and state grant funding to support safety and accessibility improvements on the Burke-Gilman Trail. Focus will be on identifying and addressing additional areas on the trail that require safety enhancements, ensuring a secure and efficient route for all users.



FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Continue energy conservation and metering work

Campus Metering

Over the past year, UW has continued to tackle Phase 1 of the [Energy Transformation Strategy](#), which aims to make the Seattle campus more energy efficient by implementing conservation projects and enabling sophisticated monitoring by installing digital meters, upgrading building controls, and expanding data analytics.

Notable achievements in energy conservation included the installation of variable frequency drives (VFDs) in multiple buildings, such as Aerospace, Mueller Hall, and Hughes Playhouse. These drives help save energy and improve system efficiency. Metering improvements were also a focus, with deduct meters, a device that measures water use, installed on cooling towers in Burke Museum, Paccar Hall, and Mechanical Room K-248, as well as steam condensate efficiency meters in 18 buildings. Additional energy-saving measures included the replacement and adjustment of HVAC air flow controls that conserve energy in Kane Hall and Odegaard, as well as the replacement of leaking steam valves in several buildings. Another major efficiency initiative was the Power Plant Reliability Project, which involved upgrading boilers at the UW Power Plant. By standardizing the boilers to produce a consistent level of steam, the project achieved a reduction of more than 10,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year. That's nearly a 12% reduction in the Power Plant's overall carbon footprint.

These initiatives are expected to result in significant annual energy and cost savings, with the Power Plant Reliability Project alone projected to save \$1,079,036 per year. Other notable savings include \$43,000 from steam valve replacements and varying amounts from VFD installations and air flow repairs in different buildings. While some installations, such as deduct meters and condensate meters, do not directly contribute to energy savings, they provide valuable data for usage monitoring and help reduce sewer costs for the University.

VIII. 15% LOWER ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY BY 2025

TARGET ACTIONS FY2025:

- Increase investment in efficiency projects
- Optimize campus energy systems
- Implement the new Green Building Standard

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Use resources responsibly





EnergyCAP System implementation

In early 2024, the University of Washington adopted and began implementing EnergyCAP, an automated energy management and accounting software. This software will enhance the efficiency of tracking, reporting, and analyzing energy bills across the UW Seattle campus. Additionally, EnergyCAP's CarbonHub application will convert the University's energy and utility data into greenhouse gas emissions metrics, providing detailed reports on Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

Update campus vending machines

In July 2023, UW initiated its partnership with PepsiCo as the official beverage sponsor. As part of this transition, UW Dining implemented a plan to replace older, energy-intensive vending machines with 177 new, more efficient units. Over the course of the past year, UW Dining successfully installed 165 of these new beverage vending machines. These modern units adhere to the latest industry requirements for refrigeration.

Complete updated UW Green Building Standard

In July 2024, the University of Washington released an updated [Green Building Standard](#). This comprehensive new standard goes beyond typical practices and code requirements set out by the Washington State Clean Building Performance Standard, and addresses a wide range of sustainability priorities. The standard aims to provide flexibility for project managers in meeting GBS requirements, and is scaled appropriately using [four tiers](#) for a diverse set of project types.

The revised standard takes a holistic approach to sustainability, focusing on key areas such as water and energy efficiency, biodiversity, embodied carbon reduction, health and well-being, and equity. By implementing these guidelines, the University expects to achieve measurable and trackable results in its construction and renovation projects.

The Green Building Standard update process in 2023 was comprehensive and collaborative. It involved a series of focus groups with key stakeholders, addressing a range of sustainability topics, while also examining the University's procedure for initiating, developing and implementing projects.

In spring 2024, UW Sustainability presented a [preview](#) of the new Green Building Standard as part of the Creating a Sustainable Campus webinar series. This preview provided an opportunity for the University community to learn about the upcoming changes and improvements to the GBS before its official adoption. The University started with a soft launch of the new GBS on several projects, including Haggett Hall, Anderson Hall, ASUW Shell House, and the T-Wing Renovation. This early roll-out provided project teams with valuable insights and the full standard was adopted on July 1, 2024.

UW Bothell: *Bothell has successfully reduced electricity use by over 1 million kWh in the 2023 calendar year through their load shedding program, which allows buildings to turn their electricity on later and turn off earlier while less people are on campus to reduce energy demand during peak times. UW Bothell is in full compliance with the Clean Building Performance Standards, with EUI well under current requirements.*



FY25 OUTLOOK

Increase investment in efficiency projects

The Seattle campus is boosting its commitment to energy efficiency by tripling its annual budget from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million, with a goal of reaching \$3 million per year. This substantial increase in funding operates as a revolving fund model, where the savings generated from implemented energy efficiency projects are reinvested into future initiatives. As more energy efficiency projects are completed and generate cost savings, the available funds for new initiatives grow.

Optimize campus energy systems

Over the next year, the University of Washington will gain valuable new insights into its energy consumption with the implementation of EnergyCAP and the installation of digital metering in Seattle campus buildings. This enhanced data analysis will enable UW to optimize its energy usage more effectively and comply with state and city building performance mandates. These systems will play a crucial role in optimizing energy efficiency on campus by identifying areas of energy waste and uncovering potential savings opportunities. Additionally, they will provide data to inform and shape new goals, strategies, and actions during the Sustainability Action Planning process.

Implement the new Green Building Standard

To ensure successful implementation of the new Green Building Standard (GBS), the University is prioritizing education, training, and tool development. UW Sustainability has developed resource guides to assist project managers and design teams in understanding the requirements and providing guidance for successful GBS implementation across various project aspects, including water conservation, energy efficiency, and embodied carbon reduction. Effective process integration across the University will be crucial for early engagement and adoption of the new GBS, and will help ensure that the standard is aligned with project planning and site selection from the outset.





FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill

In Fiscal Year 2024, UW Recycling updated its waste infrastructure to support single-stream recycling in eight buildings across the Seattle campus. This included strategic placement of compost bins and improved signage in common areas where food is regularly consumed or prepared.

To address the high contamination rates occurring in residence halls, UW Recycling and Housing & Food Services distributed “Recycle Right” door hangers with waste sorting guidance to every residence hall, apartment, and family housing unit at the beginning of the 2024 Fall quarter. Additionally, waste sorting training was provided to Resident Advisors (RAs) to help them share this information with residents on their floors. UW Recycling also sent notifications to custodial, dining and community managers, providing information and a new social media toolkit to address recycling contamination.

UW Recycling nearly doubled its number of outreach events on the Seattle campus in fiscal year 2024, increasing from 51 to 99. More than 5,000 students, staff, faculty, and community members were engaged and educated over the year at events and tours such as:

- Recology Recycling Materials Recover Tour
- Cedar Grove’s Composting Facilities Tour
- Residence Hall Trash Sort
- Tailgate recycling
- Dining Hall “Get Caught Green Handed” initiative
- Orientation leader training
- Welcome Day in-person sessions with new UW employees

Additionally, nearly 400 staff and faculty completed the Intro to Recycling training course, which is now required for all Facilities staff and Housing and Food Services staff. Roughly 600 students also completed the online Waste 101 course.

IX. 10% LESS SOLID WASTE

TARGET ACTIONS FY2025:

- Waste infrastructure and program improvements
- Increase community outreach


SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Use resources responsibly



Decarbonize



Over the past year, UW Medicine has strengthened its commitment to sustainability by establishing a new Sustainability Committee and creating a dedicated website. Additionally, funding was approved for FY25 to hire two new Sustainability Managers—one for UWMC-Montlake and another for UWMC-Northwest.

Reduce single-use disposable items

The University of Washington has taken significant steps to reduce single-use disposable items across campus. This includes Housing & Food Services' expansion of the Ozzi program, which now offers on-demand reusable containers to all meal plan holders. Additionally, a 50-cent charge has been added for single-use containers to encourage the use of reusables. Efforts to minimize food waste have also been implemented through staff training and pre-planning to prevent over-ordering. HFS also switched to durable dishware for dine-in options at dining halls.

Over the past year, Master of Health Administration capstone students partnered with UW Medicine to analyze and propose key sustainability projects. One initiative they identified focused on the diversion of surgical blue wrap waste from landfills. The students' research revealed that in 2023, UWMC generated over 20 metric tons of surgical blue wrap waste. This waste contributed to 27.68 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mtCO₂e) in greenhouse gas emissions and incurred disposal costs of \$3,408. To address this issue, the students proposed several solutions:

- Implementing in-house baling and recycling, similar to the system used at Harborview Medical Center
- Establishing partnerships with vendors for more efficient waste management
- Introducing sterilization boxes as an alternative, potentially eliminating the need for blue wrap entirely

The students determined that investing in sterilization boxes at UWMC would be a more advantageous solution, both environmentally and economically, compared to purchasing a baler for blue wrap recycling.

UW Bothell: Partnered with residential life staff to develop a green move out program, Give & Go, which educates student residents about the positive aspects of waste diversion. Summit Hall residents donated items they didn't need, instead of disposing into dumpsters or hauling to large donation centers. UW Bothell collected more than 800 pounds of supplies which will go back to the campus community in the fall for no cost.

UW Bothell also installed sonar technology in dumpsters to track waste diversion and collection data. This data has already helped in the reduction of pick-ups, which results in cost savings and lower emissions from heavy duty vehicle miles traveled.



FY25 OUTLOOK

Waste infrastructure and program improvements

UW Recycling plans to continue its waste infrastructure improvements across the Seattle campus, with six building-wide conversions that involves switching to single-stream recycling, adding signage and expanding composting where needed. Infrastructure upgrades will also be implemented for one major renovation, one new building and several smaller projects.

Further expansion of reusable programming within UW Dining and UW Athletics will help advance waste diversion efforts. A project already underway is a reusable cup program set to launch for the 2024-2025 women's and men's basketball seasons at Alaska Airlines Arena. The ReUse Cup Initiative is dedicated to reducing the amount of waste that leaves the UW by replacing single use cups (plastic and compostable) with a sturdy, clean, and affordable alternative that will serve the UW for years to come. The groups leading this initiative are UW Sustainability, UW Athletics, Aramark, Bold Reuse and Pepsi.

Increase community outreach

Through distributing resources, building partnerships, and creating educational opportunities, UW Recycling is increasing awareness about the importance of reducing overall waste rather than simply increasing the rate of waste going to recycling and composting.

Over the next year, UW Recycling will work to distribute the Waste 101 guide to more professors and involve the UW in the Washington Department of Ecology's Food Waste Prevention Program. Collaboration with the new UW Medicine sustainability managers will focus on addressing recycling contamination and waste reduction, leveraging insights from Harborview Medical Center's capstone project on recycling best practices. Lastly, a Trash-In event will be organized to further engage the community.

UW Bothell: *The Sustainability Office plans to expand its Give & Go program to two new residential halls on campus. They will also work with Bothell Dining to identify opportunities to divert and reduce waste.*



FY24 PROGRESS & FY25 OUTLOOK

FY24 PROGRESS

Plan to repower the Seattle campus

The University of Washington has made a commitment to fully decarbonize the energy system of its Seattle campus. Over the past year, the University has continued to share its decarbonization strategy with the UW community, state legislators, and local partners. As part of this effort, state legislators, including Executive Constantine, Sen. Joe Nguyễn, Reps. Joe Fitzgibbon and Lisa Callan, and staff from the House Capital Budget Committee and House Democratic Caucus, took a behind-the-scenes tour of the UW Power Plant. Additionally, in early 2024, team members of King County's Executive Climate Office toured the Power Plant and discussed the opportunity to capture waste heat from King County sewer lines that run along the edges of campus. This innovative approach is a crucial component of UW's decarbonization efforts, as it can reduce emissions, save on energy costs, and contribute to climate change mitigation and improved public health.

In August 2023, the University hired Affiliated Engineers, Inc. (AEI) to lead the development of an Energy Renewal Program (ERP), which is centered around the University's [Energy Transformation Strategy](#). This ERP will outline a phased approach to decarbonize and transition the Seattle campus utility and energy infrastructure away from fossil fuels. The plan will include an analysis of constituent projects and provide guidance on how they will be funded. AEI, along with its team of sub-consultants, is scheduled to deliver a final implementation plan by October 2024.

Electrify UW Transportation Services

The University of Washington has made significant strides in expanding and modernizing its electric vehicle fleet. UW Fleet Services on the Seattle Campus has successfully increased its electric vehicle count by 26 over the past year. This addition brings the total number of electric vehicles to 98, representing 13% of the entire fleet composition.

The current fleet composition allows for flexibility while progressively moving towards more sustainable options:

- Unleaded: 269 vehicles (36%)

X. 45% REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030

TARGET ACTION FY2025:

- Charting a pathway towards Net Zero emissions recommendations from GHG inventory

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLE



Decarbonize



- E85: 197 vehicles (27%)
- Electric: 98 vehicles (13%)
- Hybrid: 96 vehicles (13%)
- R99: 42 vehicles (6%)
- PHEV (Plug-in Electric Hybrid): 41 vehicles (6%)

To support the growing number of electric vehicles, Fleet Services has initiated two major charging infrastructure projects:

- **N26 and Fleet Yard Project:** A project to install 39 additional level 2 charging stations in the N26 area and Fleet yard has been put out to bid. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.
- **E2 Parking Lot Project:** Following the completion of the N26 project, Fleet Services plans to begin work on adding 74 additional level 2 chargers to the E2 parking lot.

By investing in electric vehicles and the necessary charging infrastructure, UW is making significant progress towards reducing its energy consumption and electrifying its transportation system on campus.

Identify opportunities and implement recommendations from GHG Inventory

In February 2024, the University of Washington released its new [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#), which provides a comprehensive picture of the University's emissions. This marks UW's first comprehensive inventory of its direct emissions since 2005 and the first time ever the University has quantified the emissions connected to its purchased goods and services.

The report highlights that purchased goods and services make up the largest source of emissions, accounting for approximately 64% of the University's emissions in 2022. The second largest source is emissions generated on campus from fossil fuel combustion, which accounts for approximately 18.5% of emissions. Other significant categories of emissions include air travel, which accounts for 6.3% of 2022 emissions, and commuting to and from campus by students, faculty, and staff, which accounts for 5.7% of emissions.

The University of Washington is working to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions through various initiatives, including the Energy Transformation program. Over the last year, the UW has utilized the results of the GHG Inventory Report to inform additional projects such as the development of a new [Green Building Standard](#), [efficiency optimization to boilers at the UW Power Plant](#), and efforts to reduce air travel emissions.

The UW Sustainability team also shared insights from the GHG Inventory Report with the University community during a [webinar event](#).

FY25 OUTLOOK

Charting a pathway towards Net Zero emissions

Over the next year, the University of Washington will prioritize creating actionable pathways to reduce carbon emissions and emphasize the urgent need to address climate change within the UW community. This effort will build on existing initiatives, such as the UW Green Labs program and advancing policies to reduce air travel emissions. UW Sustainability will continue sharing updates on decarbonization progress and offering various opportunities for members of the UW community to actively participate in its efforts to lower carbon emissions.

The forthcoming Energy Renewal Program (ERP) will provide a roadmap for implementing specific actions aimed at eliminating reliance on fossil fuels, significantly advancing the decarbonization of the Seattle campus. Additionally, the University will revive the Zero Carbon Roadmap, which will outline strategies and resources needed for the UW to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

These initiatives will be further strengthened through the development of a new Sustainability Action Plan. By setting ambitious goals, informed by climate science and metrics like the UW Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report, the University can more effectively advance its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SUSTAINABILITY IS IN OUR NATURE

Sustainability efforts are ongoing at the UW. **UW Sustainability** is a central resource office for information regarding activities, projects, initiatives, campus engagements and programs.

Visit **sustainability.uw.edu** to stay up to date.

We welcome your comments and feedback for the FY25 Plan.

Please send inquiries to:

sustainability@uw.edu

The online version of this and future Sustainability Action Plan documents, as well as any updates to elements of this plan will be posted at **sustainability.uw.edu/plan**.