

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

We are often asked what Colorado State plans to do next after becoming the first institution to earn a Platinum STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) score in 2015. We have since become the only institution to earn three Platinum ratings and our answer is always "MORE" as we work toward implementing our Institutional Learning Outcomes and meeting our Climate Action Plan commitment of 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040.

The purpose of this Sustainability Strategic Plan is threefold:

- 1. Relative to our Platinum STARS ratings, utilize the STARS rating tool as a gap-analysis to improve the areas and aspects of sustainability where CSU could enhance sustainability outcomes.
- 2. Outline specific goals and strategies to help us accomplish our Climate Action Plan.
- 3. Address the social, economic, and environmental justice aspects of sustainability that are so critical to a holistic approach that considers and engages our entire university community.

This is a living, active document that will be updated as we make progress and identify new goals and strategies. The President's Sustainability Commission has established four sub-committees, one for each of the sustainability areas below, to lead the goals within that section:

- Academics and Research
- Administration and Planning
- Engagement
- Operations

The President's Sustainability Commission has created this Sustainability Strategic Plan for our entire university community to work towards together and we ask you to join us in our mission to promote and facilitate the effective integration of sustainability across all aspects of the University.

ACADEMICS and RESEARCH

This section seeks to advance sustainability goals related to the areas of academics, curriculum, learning outcomes, and research activity. The PSC serves as a partner to the academic colleges, schools, departments, and the Office of the Vice President for Research to advocate for and advance these goals. Additional collaborators include but are not limited to TILT, SoGES, the university, college, and department curriculum committees, and the Academic Associate Deans.

Goa	Goal #1: Infuse sustainability (definition to include environmental, social justice, and economic) core knowledge					
	and thinking throughout CSU's curriculum					
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?		
1.1	Carry out an inventory of current sustainability content, as defined by learning objectives in course syllabi, to identity gaps (missing pillars) and collect overarching learning outcomes/objectives.	Tony Rappé, Zahra Al-Saloom, Teaching Subcommittee	Summer 2021/Fall 2021	Data will inform efforts to provide sustainability content for all CSU students		
1.2	Collaborate with Department and College efforts in their implementation of sustainability student learning outcomes (SLOs) by providing example SLOs from other departments and colleges and serve as a sounding board for their efforts.	PSC and Teaching Subcommittee	Spring 2022	All colleges will have sustainability SLOs		
1.3	Investigate the development of an on-line non-credit sustainability course (roughly 15 short modules) to be completed by all CSU students either as self- study or as a part a first-year seminar. We will explore the feasibility of hosting this course in Canvas and the viability of having Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness curate the results. Future requests for funding will be informed by the outcomes from 1.1 and 1.2.	Teaching Subcommittee, in collaboration with TILT, Institutional Research, and central IT	Spring 2022	Investigation will inform planning for 2022 academic year		

1.4	Continue the PSC-SoGES <u>Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grant</u> program by: i) summarizing results/outcomes for FY21 RFP and ii) requesting \$50,000 for SoGES to continue and grow the program in 2022. The additional funds will be used to expand the number of proposals funded and offer larger sums to multi- collaborator proposals. Link: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Announcing- the-2021-Sustainability-Curriculum-Innovation-Grant- Recipients.html?soid=1107630230415&aid=wgutaNmYJZ0 Work to secure a commitment for future funding so the announcement can be provided by December 2021 and the resulting work spread over both semesters of 2022.	Teaching Subcommittee, SoGES	2022 Academic year	Expansion of Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grant program
	#2: Conduct research in accordance with university sustainabili			
2.1	Promote the CSU Green Labs Program to departments and research units on campus: share educational resources developed by the Operations sub-committee with laboratory intensive departments and research groups	PSC	2022 Academic Year	Campus community receives information promoting the CSU Green Labs Program
2.2	Promote the environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy in research by sharing the policy details with all colleges link: http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=513	PSC	2022 Academic Year	Campus community receives information promoting the environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy

- Created a subcommittee of sustainability curriculum and teaching experts.
- Met with Provost, Academic Associate Deans, and SoGES Curriculum Committee to discuss sustainability infusion across the curriculum.
- Collected and shared best practice examples of university-wide sustainability learning outcomes with the Provost's Office.
- Sustainability included in the draft University Learning Outcomes document that was prepared by a Task force of the Committee on Teaching and Learning (CoTL).
- Creation of CSU Green Labs Program.

ADMINISTRATION and PLANNING

This section seeks to advance goals related to the institution's sustainability efforts from an administration and long-range planning lens. Related categories in STARS include areas such as Coordination & Planning, Diversity & Affordability, Investment & Finance, and Wellbeing & Work. The PSC goals in this section require collaboration and participation from many partners including but not limited to the CSU Executive Leadership Team, CSU Advancement, the CSU Foundation, Human Resources, Employee Councils, Vice President for Diversity, Student Diversity Programs and Services, and others.

Goal #1: Transparent Financial Reporting					
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?	
1.1	Create a financial transparency report for money managed by CSU (similar to what State Treasury provides publicly)	CFO/Lynn Johnson	2021 and ongoing	Publicly available report on CSU website	
Goa	#2: Increase positive sustainable investments	· · · ·			
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?	
2.1	Continue to evaluate positive sustainable investments and establish some goals/milestones with the CSU Foundation for STARS 2.2 report.	CSU Foundation	2021	Goals/milestones will be discussed by Foundation Board in September 2021	
2.2	Utilize the CSU research database to generate a list of sustainability-related CSU ventures and spin-offs to share with the CSU Foundation to explore positive sustainable investments related to CSU.	CSU Foundation & CSU Ventures	2021	Discussion will be scheduled at a Foundation Board meeting once the list is received from PSC	
2.3	Collaborate with the CSU Foundation to expand investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion funds and businesses.	CSU Foundation	2021 and ongoing	Record investment expansions	
Goa	#3: Create funding mechanisms to grow sustainability infrastr	ucture and initia	itives		
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?	
3.1	Support student efforts to establish sustainability-related student fees.	PSC	Ongoing	Approval of student fees	
3.2	Explore funding opportunities to pursue WELL Health-Safety Rating for CSU.	Brian Dunbar	2022	Funds identified and secured	

3.3	Collaborate with Advancement to engage donors on sustainability initiatives and projects.	PSC/Advancement	Ongoing	Track donor engagement for sustainability initiatives
Goal	#4: Support and Advocate for Living Wage and Affordable Hou	ising Initiatives		
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
	Continue to evaluate and maintain a living wage for all CSU employees (including part-time and student staff) in partnership with Classified Personnel Council, Administrative Professional Council, Faculty Council, and Human Resources.	Cabinet & EO/HR	Ongoing	Maintain living wage for all CSU staff
4.2	Support campus efforts to develop affordable housing initiatives for employees.	PSC	Ongoing	Forward progress on affordable housing for CSU employees
Goal	#5: Center Social and Environmental Justice in PSC Decision-M	aking and Initia	tives	
5.1	Collaborate with Native American Cultural Center and campus partners to incorporate more indigenous stories, contributions, and programs into sustainability initiatives (i.e., Earth Week, sustainability timelines, fact sheets, etc.).	Tonie	Ongoing	Examples of indigenous stories, contributions, and programs highlighted in sustainability initiatives
5.2	Collaborate with Housing & Dining Services and Rams Against Hunger to relaunch the Ram Food Recovery Program in a model that meets COVID-19 public health guidelines.	Tonie Miyamoto and Mary Liang	Spring 2021	Successful relaunch of Ram Food Recovery Program with COVID-19 restrictions
Goal	#6: Collaborate with CSU System Partners			
	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
6.1	Collaborate with the CSU Systems Office to tell CSU's Sustainability story; Seek shared goals and exchange best practices with the other CSU campuses	Jocelyn Hittle	2021	Sustainability included in Systems website, newsletters, and/or materials

• Established and launched the CSU Sustainability Fund, sponsored by PSC, in Fall 2020.

• Redesigned the Green.Colostate.Edu website and won a national design award, 2020.

• Land Acknowledgement prominently featured on Green.colostate.edu website, 2020.

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- Increased positive sustainability investments and was recognized by AASHE in the 2020 Sustainable Campus Index as a Top Performer in the Investment & Finance category.
- Incorporated sustainability into the University Strategic Plan and created topic-focused subcommittees within PSC (academics, research, engagement, facilities, and administration) to drive ongoing progress.
- Created a Sustainability Strategic Plan that directly supports goals within the University Strategic Plan.
- Completed a snapshot of current progress towards living wage for faculty and staff (using STARS criteria from MIT Living Wage Calculator for Larimer County).
- Supported \$30k base salary for all CSU full-time staff members (implemented in Fall 2018).
- Established and documented on a public website the charge and membership of the CSU committee for investor responsibility.

ENGAGEMENT

The Engagement section brings forward goals inclusive of both campus engagement and public engagement. These may be oriented around students, employees, the people of the state of Colorado, or beyond. To achieve these goals, the Engagement sub-committee utilizes partnerships from across the institution, and in some instances, external partners, including but not limited to TILT, Orientation & Transition Programs, Facilities Management, Parking & Transportation Services, Housing & Dining Services, Procurement, External Relations, Extension, multiple student organizations, and more.

	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
1.1	Recommend/develop opportunities for CSU employees to learn about or be actively engaged with CSU sustainability efforts and initiatives, trainings, peer-to- peer education, department/unit level sustainability committees, PDI sessions, campus events, providing "Sustainability 101 at CSU" through TOD, etc. (Supports related goals in Operations section)	PSC Members: Stacey Baumgarn, Mary Liang Partners: TILT, FM, PTS, TOD, Procurement, any dept. delivering employee trainings that incorporate sustainability	Annually / Ongoing	Documented employee participation in trainings, committees, initiatives, and other activities and events
1.2	Collect/track data on employees who participate in the "Assessing Sustainability Culture Survey" (a campus-wide faculty and staff focused survey that collects data on sustainability literacy, administered biannually by CSU Housing and Dining Services, in conjunction with IRR). Review survey results and analyze for additional strategies to increase employee sustainability awareness and culture at CSU.	PSC Members: All	Biannually / Ongoing	Biannual survey distributed to a representative sample of CSU employees Results analyzed, and strategies developed for futur engagement efforts
1.3	Develop a "Sustainability at CSU Handbook" for employees	PSC Members: Allison Vitt, Andrew Warnock, SSC	FY22	Handbook written and electronically distributed widely

	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
2.1	Collect/track data on students who participate in the "Assessing Sustainability Culture Survey" (a campus wide student focused survey that collects data on sustainability literacy, administered biannually by ASCSU DEA). Review survey results and analyze for additional strategies to increase employee sustainability awareness and culture at CSU.	PSC Members: All	Biannually / Ongoing	Biannual survey distributed to a representative sample of CSU students Results analyzed, and strategies developed for future engagement efforts
2.2	Incorporate sustainability throughout Ram Welcome, and other major student- focused events. (Supports related goals in Operations section)	PSC Members: Mary Liang, ASCSU DEA Partners: Zero Waste Team, Orientation & Transition Programs	Annually	Waste diversion results Survey all Ram Welcome booths and assess percentage of booths adopting "Sustainable Tabling" recommendations
2.3	 Develop a university-wide database or reporting process to document, track, and assess: student demographics and volunteer hours percent of students who volunteer total volunteer hours Create a volunteering "job board" on RamLink to list volunteer opportunities and encourage use of database through departments and other trainings. 	PSC Members: All Partners: SLiCE	Ongoing	Database created to track student volunteer hours and demographics Volunteer database created to list volunteer opportunities

2.4	Establish a community service/volunteer graduation requirement for	PSC Members:	Long Term /	Documented campus
	undergraduate students, which is documented on an official transcript.	All	Aspirational	commitment
	Develop recommendation for PSC to present to CSU Administration.	Partners: Provost, Registrar's Office, CSU Administration		Ongoing documentation of service learning and volunteer hours on official transcript hours documented
2.5	Update and promote "Sustainability at CSU Handbook" for students.	PSC Members: ASCSU, SSC	Annually / Ongoing	Annual review of handbook and update as appropriate
				Ongoing electronic distribution of handbook
Goa	I #3: Further integrate sustainable best practices into CSU eve Strategy	nts, materials, tr Who is responsible?	ademark licensing, When should this be accomplished?	and partnerships What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
3.1		Who is	When should this	What measure(s) will tell us
3.1	Strategy Develop best practice guidelines and certifications for sustainable university	Who is responsible? PSC Members: Stacey	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful? Documentation of adopted best practices and
3.1	Strategy Develop best practice guidelines and certifications for sustainable university outreach, events, materials, and publications. Create pre/post-event questionnaires to prompt best practices and gauge	Who is responsible? PSC Members: Stacey Baumgarn, Allison Vitt,	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful? Documentation of adopted best practices and certifications Guidance easily found on

3.2 Develop recommendation for PSC to present to CSU Administration to strengthen the integration of requirements for Fair Labor Association, Wor Rights Consortium, and/or Fair-Trade criteria into university apparel procurement (where absent).	kers PSC Members: Stacey Baumgarn Partners:	Ongoing	Updated contract language to include procurement best practices
(Supports related goal in Operations section)	Athletics, Book Store, Procurement Office, Student Organizations		
 3.3 Sharing sustainability news, information, and how-to: Gather and add list of channels to share sustainability news / messagi engagement (a subset of: https://socialmedia.colostate.edu/social-mediarectory/) Write articles about CSU sustainability efforts for CSU SOURCE, CSU Li The Rocky Mountain Collegian, and other publications to highlight suc stories. Diversify the type and number of success stories written to incorporat aspects of sustainability. Outreach as appropriate or partner with sustainability related student organizations https://green.colostate.edu/student-organizations/ (Supports related goals in Operations section) 	edia- Stacey Baumgarn, fe, ASCSU DEA, SSC ccess re all Partners: External	Ongoing	Created list, maintained as current Number of articles written, published, and categorized by subject keywords

- Ongoing Successful bi-annual distribution of student and employee sustainability culture survey. Assessment and results can be seen here: https://green.colostate.edu/assessment/.
- Ongoing SOURCE, CSU Life, and Collegian articles written and published. Currently tagged as "Sustainability". More to be captured.
- Summer 2020 Provided three "Sustainability at CSU" orientation sessions for interested incoming students and their families.
- FY20 presented 14 "Sustainability 101 at CSU" sessions to campus audiences.
- Fall 2019 Incorporate land acknowledgement question into student and employee sustainability culture survey.
- Fall 2020 Developed a "Sustainability at CSU Handbook" for students (posted on websites).
- Jan. 2019 Created and began delivery of a monthly "Sustainability 101 at CSU" training and information session.
- 2018 & 2019 Created three campus sustainability guides (posted at https://green.colostate.edu/campus-sustainability-guides/): Zero Waste Event Guide, Sustainable Tabling Guide, and the Sustainable Printing Guide

- (Since) 2018 Initial success with engagement and integration of sustainability practices to "green" Ram Welcome.
- (Since) 2017 Published two reports of student community service and volunteering participation in 2017 and 2019 for STARS 2.1 reports.
- 2016 First created and distributed a student-focused (distributed by ASCSU), and employee-focused (distributed by IRR) campus sustainability surveys that demonstrate national best practices in assessing campus sustainability culture (as a separate survey from the Sustainability Literacy Assessment).
- 2016 (and for subsequent STARS reports) Determined the % of Under Armor apparel with the university logo that meets Fair Labor Association, Workers Rights Consortium, or Fair-Trade certification.

OPERATIONS

This section outlines goals related to reducing the environmental impacts of CSU operations. Related STARS categories include Air & Climate, Buildings, Energy, Food & Dining, Grounds, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste, and Water. To achieve the goals in this section, many layers of collaboration need to align and intersect. Partners in these efforts include but are not limited to Facilities Management, Housing & Dining Services, Procurement, Parking & Transportation Services, Fleet Services, Integrated Solid Waste, Outdoor Services, student organizations, and more.

Goal #1: Support Energy & Water Efficiency Measures in Buildings/Infrastructure

Energy use (electricity and natural gas) is by far the largest contributor to the university's GHG emissions. Utility costs for energy & water are some of the largest operational expenses. This goal supports CSU's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
1.1	 High Performance and Inclusive Building Standards and Design: Support continuing efforts to 3rd party certify all new construction and major renovations (LEED, Green Globes, Energy STAR etc.) with a focus on energy performance and overall IAQ Provide additional support to implement energy & water efficiency and IAQ strategies in existing buildings. Pursue certification of existing buildings to benchmark energy, water and IAQ performance. Support standards developed by the Inclusive Physical and Virtual 	Carol/Stacey /Brian/Tom/ Aaron	Ongoing	Number of 3 rd party certified buildings. Track EUI (kBtu/SF) and monitor trend University Policy requiring LEED/other certification requirements for new and existing buildings
1.2	 Water Efficiency Improve water efficiency of both treated and raw water applications on campus Support wider adoption of grey water usage in Colorado Convert treated water use to untreated water use where applicable (leverage water rights of College Lake) Reduce usage of treated water (for irrigation / cooling towers) Water efficient landscapes with smart irrigation 	Carol	Ongoing	Performance in STARS credit areas related to indoor and outdoor water use intensity WUI (water use index), a metric of water use per sf
1.3	Support conservation/behavioral engagement (supports related goals in Engagement section)	Stacey	Ongoing	Tracking of conservation and behavioral engagement campaigns

1.4	Communications:	Carol/Stacey	Ongoing	Number of people engaged
	 Develop communications strategy for a broad range of sustainability efforts. Invest and encourage a sustainability culture within CSU colleges and units. Develop a road show to share the story. Include specifics like High Performance Buildings, Airline Travel, ESRP, CSU Moves Online Transportation Module, Carbon Neutrality from 2050 to 2040, etc. (supports related goals in Engagement section) 			

Goal #2. Resource Utilization

While recycling and zero waste are very important goals, it is imperative to focus first on reducing waste and choosing better options through purchasing and operations policies. This goal supports CSU's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

	Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
	Promote the Green labs to departments and research units on campus: share educational resources developed by the Operations sub-committee with laboratory intensive departments and research groups	PSC	2022 Academic Year	Campus community receives information promoting the Green labs program
2.2	Promote the environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy in research by sharing the policy details with all colleges link: http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=513	PSC	2022 Academic Year	Campus community receives information promoting the environmentally and socially responsible procurement policy

Goal #3. Greening Transportation and Fleet Operations

Airline travel & commuting are the 3rd and 4th highest contributors to the university's GHG emissions inventory. This goal supports CSU's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

Strategy	Who is responsible?	When should this be accomplished?	What measure(s) will tell us if we are successful?
Support reduction in GHG emissions from airline travel paid for by the university. Strategies include: • Reducing trips	Air Travel Subcommittee		Reduction in emissions as measured by the annual GHG inventory

 Measure the economic, environmental, and social impacts of our food procurement practices Support continued annual Nitrogen Footprint calculation Utilizing the FY19 Nitrogen Footprint as a baseline, establish and adopt a nitrogen reduction goal for CSU Work with CSU's Food Systems group to develop specific goals related to social justice, economic development, and environmental outcomes Join related initiatives focused on sustainable institutional food procurement 	HDS, Eco Leaders, Stacey, Jill Baron, Matt W.	Ongoing	Developed set of sustainable food procurement guidelines Nitrogen Footprint and nitrogen reductions compared to FY19 baseline
 Pursue partnerships to establish food procurement initiatives that support producers and purveyors that support our environmental, conservation, and social justice goals Pursue partnerships within the university and among suppliers to develop standards to meet increasing sustainability and equity standards Develop a consortium of like-minded institutions to increase our leverage with purveyors Build partnerships with Extension and others to connect producers across our state with educational materials about food production practices Explore an optional fee to support sustainable procurement 	Matt W /Becca Jablonksi	Ongoing 2023	Increased procurement of local and third-party certified foods (and improving STARS performance in food credit areas)

- 2020 Two grants to support expanding the composting site were received in FY21
- 2020 completed FY19 baseline Nitrogen Footprint inventory
- 2019 Achieved recertification as a Platinum Bicycle Friendly University
- 2019 Over 100 water bottle filling stations on CSU campuses
- 2018 Student led Zero Waste Team has made significant inroads in achieving waste reduction on game days (Football and Men's Basketball)
- 2018 Bike-in themed football game
- 2018 Achieved Bee Campus USA certification
- 2017 Established the Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee as a subcommittee of the President's Sustainability Commission
- 2017 CSU Facilities Management enhanced the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) to support Bee Campus USA certification
- Chemical Distribution Center underway

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- Implemented a way-finding system on campus. Developed Construction Standard for roadways, sidewalks, and trails that includes ADA and wayfinding standards.
- Drafted a memo from PSC to encourage the integration of more electric vehicles into the CSU fleet
- 2016 Supported the successful proposal to the University Facility Fee Advisory Board to establish an on-site composting facility on the Foothills Campus
- 2016 CSU Athletics joined the Green Sports Alliance
- 2015 Endorsed the City of Fort Collins Road to Zero Waste Plan and served as an active partner in implementation
- Since FY13 An Energy Reserve Fund, managed by an Energy Team in Facilities Management, has implemented approximately \$1,000,000/year of energy and water efficiency projects. Set up as a revolving fund, the project portfolio has an average 20% ROI/year