Introduction to Sustainability at U-M

Sustainability at University of Michigan

During the 2011 EarthFest celebration, University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman reinforced the University’s commitment to sustainability with the introduction of five operations-focused Sustainability Goals. These goals are measured against a Fiscal Year 2006 baseline and should be achieved by 2025.

Many of the efforts to meet these goals take place behind the scenes in order to make buildings and fleets operate more efficiently, and target operations efforts to reduce waste. However, there are a number of programs to involve staff, faculty and students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>2025 Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Action</td>
<td>• Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by 25%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Decrease carbon intensity of passenger trips on UM transportation options by 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Prevention</td>
<td>• Reduce waste tonnage diverted to disposal facilities by 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy Environments</td>
<td>• Purchase 20% of UM food according to Sustainable Food Purchasing Guidelines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Protect Huron River by reducing runoff and reducing chemicals used on campus by 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td>• Invest in program to educate our community, track behavior, and report progress over time</td>
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Efforts to make the University operate more sustainably require the enthusiastic participation of the entire campus community. As Coleman remarked, “These goals are ambitious. But with the resolute efforts of many, they are achievable.”

Join the UM Sustainability Movement!

The Planet Blue Ambassador Training provides an interactive online training to teach you about the University’s goals, what is being done on campus to reach them, and personal actions you can take to help. The training comes in 5-10 minute modules that can be taken individually or all at once.
To learn more or begin the online training tool, visit:

https://sustainability.umich.edu/pba/training

Green Tips for You

🔹 Enable sleep mode on machines & shut off at night
🔹 Use a double-sided default for printing
🔹 Eliminate unnecessary printers and other equipment
🔹 Use electronic communication and storage
🔹 Prioritize sustainable options when ordering & purchase in bulk to limit packaging and the number of deliveries. When possible, reuse existing office supplies. Most workplaces have a centralized place to store items which can be shared between teammates to avoid over-purchasing.
🔹 U-M has single-stream recycling. This simplifies recycling, placing paper products and other recyclable containers into the same recycle bin. If your workplace does not have a sign indicating what is recyclable, visit the Sustainable Workplace website for details: http://sustainability.umich.edu/ocs/workplace/resources
🔹 Locate the collection area in your workplace for special recycling items such as cardboard, toner and printer cartridges, electronic media and batteries.
🔹 Avoid one-time use items like kitchenware, utensils and coffee cups
🔹 Look into carpooling and ride share programs. Some carpools may be set up informally through your workplace. Additionally, U-M offers a number of programs to help connect you to vanpooling and carpooling options.

Additional Resources

Bookmark http://www.sustainability.umich.edu! This website is the go-to site for all things sustainability. Events such as EarthFest and speaker series, new campus initiatives and the annual sustainability report are found through this site.

Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS): http://sustainability.umich.edu/ocs works to identify, support, and coordinate opportunities to reduce energy consumption and increase sustainable
operations. Information on current or potential projects to increase sustainability of campus
operations or facilities comes from and can be shared with this office.

Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute: http://www.graham.umich.edu/index.php engages
the campus community and external collaborators in partnerships to support research, create policy
and develop learning opportunities around sustainability. Information on academic programs and
presentations are available through this institute’s website.