

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Since 2005, George Mason University has strived to become a leader in sustainability research, teaching and operations. Mason aims to be climate neutral by 2050. Mason's progress in research, teaching, energy management and emissions reduction is paving the future of sustainable growth and practices in higher education.

In 2014 and 2017, Mason received a STARS Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. In Mason's 2014 Strategic Plan, and 2017 update, sustainability is identified as a core value – stating “We are careful stewards. We manage the economic and natural resources entrusted to us responsibly and sustainably.”

OPERATIONS

BUILDINGS

Mason's Design Information Manual includes sustainability principles and prioritization, such as energy efficiency and water usage. Mason has 8 LEED certified (7 silver or above) buildings, with 4 more in progress.

TRANSPORTATION

Mason reduced single occupancy vehicle (SOV) use by 15% from 2009 to 2016. Its focus on alternative transportation saw increases in carpooling and public transportation, including 1.2 million rides per year on Mason Shuttles.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

In 2018, Mason implemented large scale composting of food waste generated in Southside and Globe dining halls. Mason also partnered with Canon to encourage scanning, default to double-sided printing, and follow me printing to reduce paper use.

ENERGY

From 2006-2016, energy use was down 30% from non-renewable electricity and natural gas per building square foot. The university has invested in 43 energy savings projects that save \$2.5 mil annually.

PATRIOT GREEN FUND

\$100K
ANNUAL FUND



PGF's annual \$100,000 fund is devoted to making Mason's campuses more sustainable through infrastructure improvements and student research projects. The PGF provides students with opportunities to be change makers. The PGF has supported numerous projects including



PGF success story:

**FRESH PRODUCE/YR &
\$20K REVENUE/YR**

HYDROPONIC GREENHOUSE

recycling centers, solar charging tables, green roof research, water bottle refill stations, the Presidents Park hydroponic greenhouse, the Innovation Food Forest, bee apiaries, bike rehabilitation and rental, and the Piedmont Rain Garden, among others.

Community Outreach

Mason has worked with a number of different entities and stakeholders to promote sustainability in the community. These collaborations range from advising on climate change policies from the local to the international level, to investigating public understanding of climate change, to protecting watersheds, and conserving wildlife.

Examples of Stakeholders:



Center for Climate Change Communication (4C)



Virginia Governor's Advisory Board



Smithsonian at Mason



Potomac Environmental Research & Education Center

A special thank you from the Office of Sustainability to all our other Mason and community partners as well – without you we would not be able to meet our goals.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ENERGY STAR and EPEAT are voluntary programs that help consumers save money by making energy-efficient (EE) product choices. Products have to meet a number of standards in various environmental categories. Mason's certified EE products include:

VENDING MACHINES 100%

94% WASHERS



80% COMPUTERS

In FY2016, Mason purchased over 2,200 computers and displays, 80% of which were certified as EPEAT silver or gold.

Communication & Education

COURSE OFFERINGS

18 UNDERGRAD DEGREES & MINORS
5 GRADUATE DEGREES
125+ SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED/ RELATED COURSES



46 MILLION KWH
OF RENEWABLES BOUGHT



BUILDING ENERGY

23 STORMWATER MGMT FEATURES



**GHG ↓ -30% per sq ft
-18% per student**
2006-16 GHG REDUCTION FROM BUILDING ENERGY

3.5+ MILLION



BOTTLES REPLACED @ WATER BOTTLE REFILL STATIONS

LIGHTING



REPLACED OVER 2,000 BULBS WITH LED BULBS



BIKING



PROGRAMS



Green Office



Green Residence



Earth Month Events



Greenhouse & Gardens



Green Game



Patriot Packout



Green Patriots



Green Jobs & Internships

