

UW SUSTAINABILITY 2015 FACTSHEET

We promote sustainability by engaging, connecting and informing members of the University of Washington community.

WHAT WE DO

UW Sustainability provides support to the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and many other campus projects including paper reduction; green certification for offices, labs and housing; and sustainability in the curriculum. The office oversees two grant funds to reduce UW's environmental impact: the Green Seed Fund for research projects and the student-run Campus Sustainability Fund. UW Sustainability gathers and reports data for the online Sustainability Dashboard and compiles campus information for national and global reporting. Each year UW Sustainability organizes the SustainableUW Festival in the fall and campus Earth Day events in the spring.

2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

- Launched "A Century of Sustainability," an interactive online timeline tracing UW's history of environmental and sustainability efforts
- Organized the first SustainableUW Festival
- Initiated Green Up Partnership with Seattle City Light
- UW signed the Washington Business Climate Declaration, supporting energy efficiency, clean fuel investment, advancing renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- UW Board of Regents voted to divest from coal

CENTURY OF SUSTAINABILITY

For more events in UW's history of sustainability, see green.uw.edu/timeline



1969

- Committee on the Environmental Crisis founded. The UW ecology action group hosted early Earth Day activities and other events.

1911

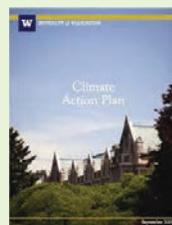
- Medicinal Herb Garden established on UW campus.

2008

- Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability office created.

2009

- UW Climate Action Plan submitted to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment
- College of the Environment established



2010

- Student-initiated and funded Campus Sustainability Fund launched.

2012

- Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee, formed in 2004, restructured into the Environmental Stewardship Committee
- UW President Young signs Executive Order No. 13 for Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

2015

- UW Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability office renamed UW Sustainability
- UW signs Washington Climate Business Declaration
- Launched "In Our Nature" blog

2014

- First SustainableUW Festival
- Received International Sustainable Campus Network Award 



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Reporting to the President and Provost, the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) provides recommendations for environmental sustainability policies at the University of Washington, and oversees progress towards meeting the goals of the UW Climate Action Plan. ESC works to identify emerging and growing opportunities for collaboration among academic and administrative units, offering the campus as a learning lab for students and faculty to work with administration on increased operational sustainability. The ESC is chaired by the Dean of the College of the Environment, Lisa Graumlich.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

- A cross-departmental team continued reviewing Climate Action Plan strategies
- Used a Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) to evaluate strategies
- Presented additional carbon-reduction strategies to the Environmental Stewardship Committee and UW leaders for endorsement

UW AT A GLANCE

82%

commute using alternative forms of transportation

61%

waste diverted from landfill

over 40



sustainability-focused student groups are active on campus

29 buildings



Leed-certified at UW

over 1,300



sustainability courses offered

2014 - 2015 AWARDS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Meet Squatch, our sustainability mascot!
green.uw.edu/squatch



- Named to The Princeton Review's 2014 Green Honor Roll with a perfect 99 Green Rating for the 4th straight year
- Awarded Seattle Business magazine's Community Impact Award for Sustainability in Business Operations
- The UW Tower Data Center earned ENERGY STAR Certification from the EPA for the 2nd year in a row, one of just 22 U.S. data centers to qualify.
- Won American School & University magazine's 2014 Green Cleaning Grand Award
- Achieved STARS Gold rating in 2012 (valid for 3 years) and expected renew Gold rating in 2015
- Completed Smart Grid Project in cooperation with Department of Energy and other external partners.
- Named a Gold-level Bicycle Friendly University by The League of American Bicyclists

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FUND

The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) grew out of the student body's vision to have a more substantive engagement with University of Washington sustainability efforts. The goal of the CSF is to foster positive change by giving the UW community the opportunity to develop, create and implement their ideas. Since its establishment in 2010 CSF has awarded more than \$1.25 million to student-led sustainability projects.

\$260,000

average annual granting budget (an increase of \$25K from last year)

\$490,000

average project proposal total from campus community per year (an increase of \$5K from last year)

GREEN SEED FUND

The Green Seed Fund was created in 2013 to engage faculty, students and staff in opportunities that advance sustainable research while contributing to campus sustainability goals. Successful proposals use the campus as a living, learning laboratory and help the UW find solutions to the most pressing environmental issues.

\$250,508

amount granted to six teams in the 2014-15 academic year

more than \$1.5 million

in project proposals for the 2014-15 academic year



GREEN LABS

The Green Laboratory program celebrated its two-year milestone in 2015 with 68 certified labs. The program aims to help labs conserve water and energy, and reduce waste. In 2014-2015 the program partnered with Puget Sound Energy to install free faucet aerators in labs and worked with UW Recycling to develop a new lab recycling guide to make waste diversion easier and safer. Students interested in getting involved can join the newly formed UW student chapter of the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories.

CLIMATE OF CHANGE SERIES

Climate of Change is our premier video series showcasing the University of Washington's sustainability efforts in the areas of research, teaching, co-curricular programs and campus operations. This four-part series highlights the University's role in shaping how we teach students, develop research and manage our resources for a sustainable society. green.uw.edu/climate-of-change



SUSTAINABILITY UNITES UW

- **UW Athletics** reached its goal for the 2014 football season, diverting 75 percent of all gameday waste from the landfill
- The newly-opened Prairie Line Trail project at **UW Tacoma** earned awards from Washington Governor Jay Inslee and the Pierce County Regional Council
- **Harborview Medical Center** and the **UW Medical Center** were each selected for the Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award by Practice GreenHealth
- **UW Bothell** and Cascadia College were awarded \$553,000 from the Washington State Department of Commerce to install a fourth solar array on the combined campus

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