

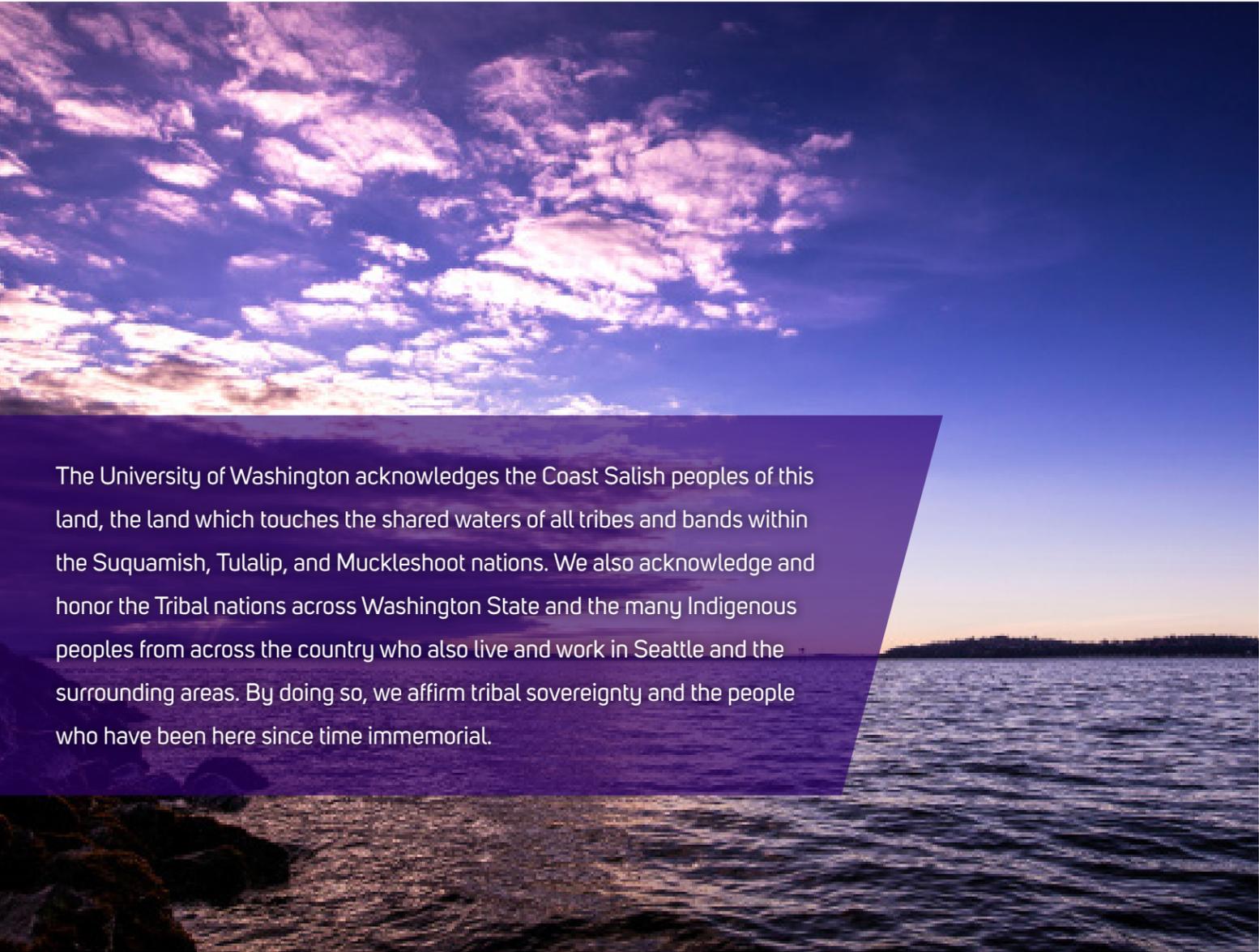
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2023 (1 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023)



# 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.

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Hundreds of individuals and organizations have contributed to this effort. View the complete list online at: [sustainability.uw.edu/plan/acknowledgements](https://sustainability.uw.edu/plan/acknowledgements)



# INTRODUCTION

## FISCAL YEAR 2023 UPDATE FOR THE UW'S SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The University of Washington adopted its first Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) in July 2020, after a several-month-long planning process. The original intent of the Plan was to set targets with a five-year window, and then annually determine the actions to be taken toward those targets.

The Sustainability Action Plan is UW's first comprehensive sustainability plan. UW has made significant strides in SAP implementation over the last few years, including: creating new communication avenues that connect stakeholders across the organization, a governance structure with monthly meetings of SAP Executive Committee, and quarterly meetings of the larger UW Environmental Stewardship Committee. However, implementation of this initial Plan has also identified opportunities for improvement in the planning and implementation processes.

In May of 2022, UW hired Lisa Dulude as the new Director of UW Sustainability, which prompted the UW Sustainability Office and its partners to step back and re-assess the Sustainability Action Plan, including gaps and opportunities to accelerate and scale-up the UW's sustainability efforts. As a result the Sustainability Office, Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), and SAP Executive Committee (EC) determined that updating the Sustainability Action Plan will ultimately put UW in a

better position to establish and meet bold organizational goals with a sense of urgency. Building off the excellent work in the existing SAP, the UW Sustainability Office will lead a strategic planning process to update the Plan. The update process will prioritize engagement with UW staff, faculty and students along with sustainability stakeholders to center equity, and establish a bold vision with specific actions.

A key first step in the SAP update process is creating one shared vision and mission for sustainability at UW. As a higher education institution and world-renowned university, UW is uniquely positioned to foster the next generation of leaders to address our most urgent and complex environmental challenges. Successfully addressing these challenges requires a bold vision and urgent mission for a sustainable future, as well as a commitment to take action. As such, UW Sustainability has begun work with the ESC and EC, as well as students, faculty, and staff, to draft a sustainability mission and vision statement. This critical step will help ensure a clear, shared understanding of UW's vision for sustainability and our role in that future.

A second critical step in the SAP update process is conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and analysis report. In order to develop a SAP that is informed by current data and best available science, a complete picture and assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) across the organization is needed. UW tracks and reports Scope 1 and 2 emissions annually, as required under State mandates. However, this is the first time that UW will

conduct a consumption-based inventory as part of its Scope 3 emissions. This project will serve as a current and comprehensive report of UW's Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. It will provide a holistic and granular analysis of GHG reduction progress over a 2005 baseline, as well as GHG composition at the three campuses, self-sustaining units, sectors and subsectors. A key element of the final report will be a 'contribution analysis' of key changes in operations-based emissions, and a wedge analysis of pathways to meet near and long-term organizational GHG reduction targets. The level of analysis outlined above is necessary to better identify opportunities and inform decision-making for UW emission reduction efforts.

As these new efforts get underway, it will not hinder the work already in-progress towards UW's sustainability commitments. This report aims to capture the work done under the existing Plan in the Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) and the new actions for Fiscal Year 2023, starting July 1, 2022.

# ENERGY AS A KEY FOCUS

Since the Sustainability Action Plan was first adopted, Washington State has enacted new legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, namely the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). In order to meet CCA requirements, UW will need to make substantive changes to the primary fuel source used by the Power Plant at the central Seattle campus. The Power Plant currently burns natural gas to make steam, which provides heat and hot water to nearly all of the Seattle campus buildings and medical center. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions created by the Plant is well above the CCA threshold. UW has a new strategy to transition the Power Plant off fossil fuels, and work is underway to begin implementing this strategy. This energy transformation project is a specific action item under Target 10 in the Sustainability Action Plan, and will continue to be a central focus of the University for the foreseeable future.

The energy transformation strategy for the central Seattle campus includes multiple phases, namely: scaling-up our energy efficiency projects through increased investment, converting the heating system from steam to hot water, updating Seattle campus piping infrastructure, electrifying the system with commercial heat pumps, capturing low grade waste heat, and centralizing the cooling system.

Energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction are part of the Sustainability Action Plan (Targets 8 and 10), and are a key focus in the upcoming year. The Sustainability Action Plan Executive Committee has been working on a Carbon Reduction Roadmap, which provides a clear pathway for the UW to achieve its emissions reduction goals, and a foundation for future updates to the UW's Sustainability Action Plan. The Roadmap includes Strategies and Actions to reduce Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Building out the roadmap for all three campuses is a central focus for the foreseeable future.



# 2022 PROGRESS



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

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Expand University-wide communication on sustainability
- Enhance community engagement opportunities

### Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Choose our research conscientiously



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



### AASHE STARS categories

EN 2

Student Orientation

EN 9

Professional Staff Development & Training

EN 12

Continuing Education

EN 13

Community Service

This Target is about increasing the visibility of, and access to, sustainability in campus life. Implementing actions include a wide range of education programs, collaborations, and volunteerism that touch the lives of nearly every student, staff and faculty member, as well as community members in the neighborhoods surrounding UW campuses.

### Target actions for FY 2022

- **Whole U and UW Sustainability collaborate to expand university-wide equitable engagement**
- **Expand professional development opportunities for faculty and staff**
- **Inventory and expand community engagement**

Much of the work under this target has focused on organizing and promoting sustainability events, providing opportunities for the UW community to connect on a variety of sustainability topics. Events enable new learning and engagement around topics in-depth or at an introductory level, and promote cross-disciplinary collaborations between different units.

The engagement working group organized several events throughout the year to facilitate this engagement, including a Tri-Campus Food Systems event in the Fall and a Food Systems Conversation Series in the Spring. UW Sustainability also welcomed a return to in-person events with a Sustainability Fair in the Fall - inviting academic departments, operational groups and student organizations to table and provide information on sustainability efforts - and Earth Day events in the Spring. There are also hundreds of events hosted by different groups across the UW every year, including academic seminars and lectures, volunteer work parties and student-led events. Annual offerings include the School of Environmental & Forest Sciences' Sustaining Our World Lecture, the Student Food Cooperative's Humble Feasts, the Foster School's Environmental Innovation Practicum, the American Indian Studies Department's Living Breath of *wəṭəbʔaltx*: Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge symposium, and many more from a wide variety of disciplines.

While events play an important role in community engagement, events are a small part of the larger sustainability picture, and generally only reach a small percentage of the UW community. This target will be re-evaluated to address quality of engagement rather than only quantity, as high-quality engagement with fewer people can be equally if not more impactful. We also want to better identify the desired outcomes from an engagement target, and how equity can be better

centered in our collective sustainability engagement work. Finally, if the updated Plan includes a measurable target for engagement, we will need to ensure the target can be measured over a baseline.



For fiscal year 2023, UW Sustainability will develop strategies to enhance engagement, with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Equitable and diverse engagement across the entire organization will be a priority for the Sustainability Action Plan Update, with UW students, faculty, staff, and extended community playing a critical and central role in providing input. Re-evaluating our goals, strategies, and subsequent actions will be developed through a robust community engagement process.

Until then, UW Sustainability will continue to work toward the spirit and intent of this target. In particular, the office will focus on supporting sustainability efforts happening across the UW, increasing awareness of these existing actions while also providing resources and information around sustainability for the UW community.

## Expand University-wide communication on sustainability

### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Revise the UW Sustainability Website to better serve as a central HUB for information and resources across UW sustainability across UW**
- **Revamp the Green Office and Lab Certification programs**

### Revise the UW Sustainability Website to better serve as a central HUB for information and resources across UW sustainability across UW

The UW Sustainability website is the primary online resource for sustainability information at the UW. In addition to highlighting sustainability programs and efforts at UW, the site provides sustainability related information across a variety of areas including research & academics, operations, and community and global leadership.

UW Sustainability has identified a need to revise and

update the website navigation and homepage, making it easier to discover, engage in, and access the content. We intend for the website to better serve as an information hub for sustainability across the University, elevate communication on current projects and opportunities, and promote opportunities for engagement across campus.

This is an initial phase of a larger website revamp, with an overall goal of creating a central clearing-house of sustainability related information where users can easily find resources, learn about UW's sustainability efforts and get involved. UW Sustainability has reviewed a wide selection of university sustainability websites to identify best practices for navigation structure and information presentation. In addition to making existing content easier to find, UW Sustainability will audit existing website content, update outdated information, and fill gaps where information needs to be added. We will create a schedule for updating website content, making it easier to ensure information is consistently updated in a timely manner going forward.

UW Sustainability will also continue expanding our stakeholder network, identifying efforts on all three UW campuses and UW units to share and highlight.

### Revamp the Green Office and Lab Certification programs

The Green Office and Green Laboratory Certification programs run by UW Sustainability have served as an outreach program to encourage and recognize sustainability practices in workspaces across the UW. These programs were put on hold during the pandemic response when most work was being done remotely. Now that instruction and many staff have returned to in-person or hybrid schedules, UW Sustainability is evaluating these programs to determine programmatic changes to help us meet our goals.

## Enhance Community Engagement Opportunities

### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Create a student energy task force at the Seattle campus**
- **Develop a framework for a structured student sustainability group**
- **Coordinate with Continuum College on sustainability education**

### Create a student energy task force at the Seattle campus

UW Sustainability, UW Facilities Energy, Utilities & Operations, and the Campus Sustainability Fund are partnering to organize a student task force related to the UW's decarbonization effort. This task force will provide an opportunity to share information and updates with students, as well as give students an avenue to voice suggestions, concerns and other feedback regarding the project.

### Develop a framework for a structured student sustainability group (advisory to UW Sustainability) to start in fall 2023

There are dozens of official student organizations at the UW focused on aspects of sustainability, and many more students working on sustainability related projects or activism efforts. Yet, there is a need for a structured student group to consistently make their voices heard in sustainability discussions.

UW Sustainability will work with the Campus Sustainability Fund to create a representative student sustainability committee, to help foster collaboration and coordination among student groups as well as creating a more direct connection to students for

sustainability engagement. The sustainability committee is also intended to serve in an advisory and activism role, supporting UW sustainability efforts and cross-disciplinary efforts across the organization.

In the upcoming year, we will develop a draft framework for the new student sustainability committee, including the role of the committee, governance structure, member selection, and more. To begin developing this draft framework we will conduct stakeholder outreach, including existing student organizations, to provide their input on the initial committee framework. This year will also help determine how best to structure and support a student sustainability committee to maximize impact, and ensure consistent engagement over time.

### Coordinate with Continuum College on sustainability education

UW Sustainability will work with the Continuum College to determine opportunities for developing innovative sustainability content, including community lectures and summer youth programs.



# 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS



## TARGET II.

### ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

#### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Develop a sustainability mission and vision statement for UW as an organization
- Collaborate with academic departments to refine course list
- Develop a Student Sustainability Hub strategic plan

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



#### AASHE STARS categories

AC 1

Academic Courses

AC 2

Learning Outcomes

## 2022 Progress

### Target Actions for FY 2022

- **Finalize and publish the university-wide definition of sustainability**
- **Develop standardized reporting of academic content**
- **Identify minimum learning outcomes**
- **Determine feasibility of a student sustainability hub**

### Finalize and publish the university-wide definition of sustainability

This past year the UW finalized an institutional definition of sustainability, which was endorsed by UW President Ana Mari Cauce and adopted by the University.

The process of creating the definition involved gathering input from faculty, staff and students from all three campuses. The definition and full information on the process can be found at <https://sustainability.uw.edu/definition>

#### The definition:

*At the University of Washington, we define sustainability as the capacity to create and maintain healthy, equitable and diverse communities and ecosystems. That capacity comprises 1) an understanding and respect for the interdependence of the atmosphere, the waters, the land, and all life on Earth, 2) a full recognition of legacy and on-going impacts of human activity, and 3) a commitment to cultivate collective wisdom and to deliberately act out of that understanding, respect and recognition.*

### Develop standardized reporting of academic content

UW Sustainability worked with a pair of Environmental Studies Capstone students to examine existing courses offered by all UW departments, and identify courses which were sustainability focused or sustainability inclusive, using the UW sustainability definition as a guide.

UW Sustainability then created an interactive webpage to make the sustainability courses easily browsable by users. This course list is at <https://sustainability.uw.edu/courses/list>

Course information used in the interactive webpage was identified by the title and description from the course catalog. The Sustainability Office recognizes that this initial effort most likely did not capture all of the evolving subjects and courses UW has to offer. Our office plans to build off of this initial effort, and next steps will include engaging with departments to develop an on-going process to identify and update sustainability course offerings.

This action calls us to build a centralized reporting platform for identifying and reporting courses that incorporate sustainability. The UW's central course registration system (MyPlan) currently only has flags to identify graduation requirements. UW Sustainability has started discussions with stakeholders to determine the possibility of incorporating an identifier for sustainability courses without a UW-wide sustainability requirement, and those discussions are ongoing.

### Determine feasibility of a student sustainability hub

In Winter quarter 2022, UW Sustainability worked with the Environmental Studies Sustainability Studio course. Students in the course researched the need for a Student Sustainability Hub at the university, including a recommendation for a dedicated physical space. UW Sustainability has also started a review of peer institutions to learn how they support student sustainability.

During work planning strategy sessions in Summer 2022, the UW Sustainability focus around the concept shifted from a physical space to a Hub framework that increases student engagement and collaboration opportunities. This summer, the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) team conducted an impact assessment, and is currently re-evaluating the current funding model. Ultimately, the CSF team intends to move to a more student-centered sustainability HUB program model, supporting a variety of student sustainability projects, organizations, and efforts.

In the upcoming year, UW Sustainability and the CSF will work to create a Student Sustainability Committee (see the actions for Target 1) which will also help determine the best future path to support student sustainability at the UW.

## FY 2023 Actions

### Develop a sustainability vision and mission statement for UW as an organization

UW Sustainability has been working to create sustainability mission and vision statements for the University of Washington, gathering feedback from sustainability stakeholders and members of the UW's Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) and Sustainability Action Plan Executive Committee (EC). The draft statements will be finalized with these groups and UW Sustainability will then work with UW leadership and other stakeholders to formalize these as our institutional sustainability mission and vision.

### Collaborate with academic departments to refine course list

To build off the work of creating an initial sustainability course list, UW Sustainability will connect with UW academic departments to refine the list, asking the departments to identify courses which should be added or removed from the list. This will build a course list which is more useful to students, while building relationships with academic departments. Ideally, this process will also help identify faculty who may be interested in other sustainability collaborations or Campus as a Living Lab work.

### Develop a Student Sustainability Hub strategic plan

UW Sustainability and the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) will create a strategic plan around the creation of a possible Student Sustainability Hub, which would be a resource dedicated to supporting students around sustainability.



## TARGET III. DOUBLE SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH PROJECTS BY 2025

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Expand living lab opportunities while centering equity, diversity and inclusion

### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Choose our research conscientiously

### AASHE STARS categories



## 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS



### 2022 Progress

#### Target Actions for 2022

- *Develop sustainability research catalog*
- *Expand campus as a living laboratory*

This target has presented challenges, including the difficulty of defining “research” at an institution with many different scales and kinds of research, ranging from large grant-funded projects to student-driven independent efforts. This target lacked clarity on the desired outcome(s) for doubling sustainability research projects. The UW Sustainability team also realized that increasing the number of research projects may not be the most effective and impactful way to reach UW’s sustainability goals.

In the upcoming year as we undergo the process of creating a new Sustainability Action Plan for UW, we will work with faculty, researchers and academic departments to re-examine goals around academic research for sustainability, including alignment with our SAP guiding principles.

Under the current target, UW Sustainability has had conversations with stakeholders regarding how to support and expand campus as a Living Lab efforts at the UW and will continue this work.

### FY 2023 Actions

- *Expand living lab opportunities while centering equity, diversity and inclusion*

Expand living lab opportunities while centering equity, diversity and inclusion

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

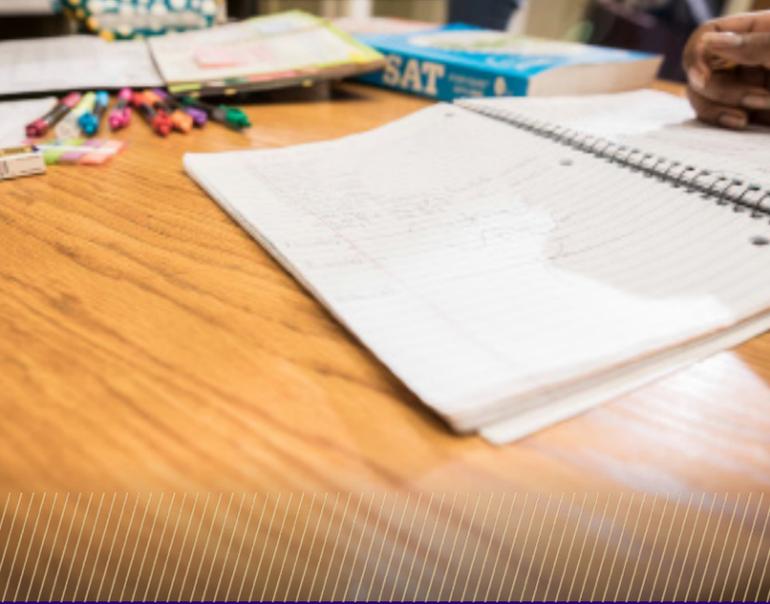
- *Host a Living Lab connection event for faculty to connect with staff on research projects*
- *Discuss and identify next steps to support and implement Living Lab projects*

#### Host a Living Lab connection event for faculty to connect with staff on research projects

UW Sustainability is planning an event for Spring 2023 to help foster new connections and develop possible Living Lab projects on our campus. This can provide an opportunity to increase student experiential learning on campus projects, a way to learn about others’ efforts, and spark more cross-collaboration for future projects.

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

This may include connecting with academic departments to build a contact list of faculty and courses that align with sustainability related living lab projects. Identifying other ways that student research projects are created in different departments, such as Capstone project lists, will also help determine best steps to support Living Lab projects.



# 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS



## TARGET IV. COMPREHENSIVE EQUITABLE PURCHASING TARGETS

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation
- Create UW supplier diversity training and roll out to campus

### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

### AASHE STARS category

OP 11

Sustainable Procurement

Procurement comprises a significant portion of UW’s spending. With its purchasing decisions UW can endorse suppliers who are practicing sustainability; we aspire to have 100% of them aligned with our Supplier Code of Conduct. We are quickly working to incorporate students’ voices in purchasing decisions. As we work with campus units and departments to develop equitable purchasing targets, we will follow the state’s goals for minority- women- and veteran-owned businesses under the Results Washington strategic framework.

## 2022 Progress

### Target Actions for 2022

- *Campus awareness related to supplier diversity*
- *Implement a Supplier Code of Conduct*

The UW was recognized for its efforts with the 2022 Jesse L. Moore Supplier Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. This award is a national recognition honoring colleges and universities that take proactive steps to support and engage with minority-owned businesses through supplier diversity offices, unique programs, and leading initiatives. The 10 recipients were selected by INSIGHT Into Diversity based on their efforts to engage and retain suppliers from underrepresented groups.

Over the past year, Procurement Services developed a Supplier Diversity Guide, including information about the importance of using diverse suppliers as well as tools to locate suppliers. The guide was used in presentations to several UW departments, and will be used during future campus outreach visits. In February 2022, Procurement Services also hosted a forum for campus departments where information on supplier diversity was presented. The office is also in the process of developing a Supplier Diversity Training for University employees, in partnership with the State Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises.

Procurement Services utilized student internships to help promote supplier diversity efforts. Students completed a proposal to implement a Supplier Diversity Pledge, began tracking Supplier Code of Conduct acceptance, and researched small, local, and diverse caterers to expand the pool of companies approved for use by campus departments.

## FY 2023 Actions

- *Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation*
- *Create UW supplier diversity training and roll out to campus*

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

The UW’s Financial Transformation project will include transitioning the UW’s procurement platform from Ariba to Workday. The transformation could provide opportunities for integrating sustainability policies and goals into the procurement platform, including the ability to easily search for sustainable products and diverse suppliers.

### Create UW supplier diversity training and roll out to campus

The UW is creating an online training and toolkit for employees around supplier diversity. This is in response to a Washington State Executive Order for Equity in Public Contracting signed in early 2022. The training will support supplier diversity efforts in Washington State and increase spending with minority-and women-owned businesses. Procurement Services will track the number of staff that complete the training and determine how best to conduct outreach around the training. Procurement Services will also continue to provide annual funding for two student internship positions supporting supplier diversity work.

<sup>1</sup> The UW Procurement Services office does not serve UW Medicine purchasing.



## TARGET V.

# 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Continue work on programs to offset travel emissions

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Use resources responsibly

AASHE STARS category

N/A

Collaboration is a central activity of academic research, and UW faculty travel for networking, researching, learning and reporting. Until sustainable aviation fuels are widely deployed there are no meaningful low-emissions alternatives to jet travel.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic response kick-started rapid and successful deployment of videoconferencing technologies that UW staff and faculty can leverage by being aggressive adopters and by taking initiative to organize events online. Simultaneously, we will explore high-quality greenhouse gas (GHG) offsets that travelers may use when there is no viable alternative to air travel.

## 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS

### 2022 Progress

#### Target Actions for 2022

- *Facilitate department/unit specific travel reduction*
- *Implement programs for offsetting air travel emissions*

In Fall of 2021, a survey was conducted targeting faculty and staff across the UW on attitudes and opinions around professional travel. The 26-question survey garnered 501 responses and gathered both quantitative and qualitative information.

The full results and analysis of the survey can be found at <https://sustainability.uw.edu/plan/professional-travel/survey>. A few high-level takeaways include:

- 68% of respondents favored replacing some air travel with remote options
- 54% supported a UW air travel fee which would contribute to projects reducing carbon emissions, with another 30% replying “maybe/other” and only 15% opposed.
- 49% of people support UW purchasing carbon offsets for travel, with another 20% supporting if the offsets are well-proven and vetted
- Common reasons given on why people like traveling professionally included connecting with colleagues and meeting new people, with the most common reason given for disliking travel was the time commitment. The survey also showed there are people who feel reluctant or unable to travel less for a variety of reasons, including career opportunities and requirements.

The Professional Travel Emission Reduction working group used the information gathered from the survey, along with looking at peer institutions and the data on the UW’s professional travel and created a document “Roadmap to (Near) Carbon Zero for UW Professional Travel” with recommendations around policies, incentives and steps needed to reduce travel emissions within the University.

The group also looked into the efficacy of carbon offsets and created a policy analysis, which can be found along



with the Roadmap document at <https://sustainability.uw.edu/plan/dashboard/target-5-professional-travel>

### FY 2023 Actions

Continue work on programs to offset travel emissions

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Continue evaluating feasibility, costs, and benefits of a carbon offset program*

The Professional Travel Emission Reduction working group will continue to work on determining the feasibility of a carbon offset program for UW travel. This will include presenting to various leadership and stakeholder groups at UW to determine support and garner feedback.



## 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTION



### TARGET VI.

## 35% OF FOOD IS FROM LOCAL SOURCES BY 2025

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Increase student engagement education and understanding of impact of plant-based options

### Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

Use resources responsibly

### AASHE STARS category

OP7

Food and Beverage Purchasing

Our food is particularly emblematic of sustainability, a personal and literal symbol of the connection between the social and the environmental. The physically closer we are to the original sources of our food, the greater our ability is to affect positive change.

At all three campuses, focusing on local food sources means we are engaging with, investing in, and providing support to our local food systems while reducing the carbon footprint of our community.

### 2022 Progress

#### Target Actions for FY 2022

- *Increase sourcing of local foods 1% each year based on a 2021 baseline*
- *Expand plant-based options by 10% by 2025*
- *Increase student engagement education and understanding of impact of plant-based options*

Housing and Food Services (HFS) is committed to sustainability and works to ensure they offer sustainable options across UW's Dining locations. However, the current purchasing system makes it difficult to track the metrics for local or plant-based options. For the UW's most recent STARS report, the UW Dining conducted an inventory of purchases for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (chosen to give a representative account as the most recent year unaffected by the COVID-19 response) showing that more than 35% of the food purchased that year was plant-based. Obtaining this data was extremely difficult and time-consuming by requesting vendor reports. Many vendors did not or could not supply the information, and as a result the 35% plant based food purchase was estimated based on 60% of total food purchased.

HFS has partnered with the SEED student group to pilot a program with OZZI reusable takeout containers, giving students an alternative to single-use disposable containers. This year HFS expects to expand the program with a second OZZI machine, which dispenses containers to students and accepts the return of used containers. HFS also is exploring initiating a charge for disposable tableware in locations where there is a dishwasher available to encourage the use of rewashable plates, and has eliminated trays in dining areas to discourage food waste.

HFS chefs have also organized cooking demonstrations with students to teach plant-based recipes. This past year, chefs organized blind taste tests of several different plant-based chicken tender products, and the winning product will be used as an alternative in dining locations.

### FY23 Action

#### Increase student engagement education and understanding of impact of plant-based options

HFS will continue to explore ways to expand their plant-based and sustainable offerings while ensuring they meet student demand and maintain revenue needed as a self-sustaining unit, and will continue to explore ways to educate students.



# 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS



## TARGET VII.

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

#### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Encourage sustainable transportation options
- Improve active transportation infrastructure and access
- Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

Use resources responsibly

Decarbonize

#### AASHE STARS category

OP 16

Commute Modal Split

## 2022 Progress

### Target Actions for FY 2022

- *Encouraging sustainable transportation options and telework post COVID-19*
- *Evaluate expansion and demand of daily parking options*
- *Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel*

### Encouraging sustainable transportation options and telework post COVID-19

The U-PASS program provides Husky Card holders with unlimited rides on regional transit systems. Most students on the Seattle and Tacoma campuses are automatically part of the program, and Bothell students can opt-in. The student U-PASS was temporarily suspended for the 2020-2021 school year when most classes were remote, but was reinstated for 2021-2022.

In Spring 2022, the UW updated the Transportation Services funding model to move employee transit costs to the central University benefits fund, allowing the institution to provide a fully-subsidized U-PASS for all faculty and staff starting in FY23. This provides easy access to public transportation options for nearly all UW employees.

UW Transportation Services monitors transit recovery on a monthly basis, reporting to the University Transportation Committee at each meeting. The UW has advocated for increased transit service levels through the East Link and North Link public review processes as a member of the process review board.

Transportation Services also received permits to build three new bike houses on the Seattle campus, expanding the parking and support infrastructure to encourage bike commutes.

### Evaluate expansion and demand of daily parking options

New gate arms were installed at the South Campus

Garage on the Seattle campus to allow pay-per-use parking implementation in FY23, expanding the number of pay-per-use options, which is a best practice for parking management to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips and maximizing parking space utilization.

Transportation Services continues to review parking demand at all three campuses to determine how best to implement daily parking options.

### Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel

Transportation Services implemented improved routing of the shuttles to better service UW Medical Center - Montlake patients and employees. They are also reviewing U-CAR key management software vendors for implementation in FY23 to improve the customer experience.

## FY 2023 Actions

### Encourage sustainable transportation options

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Advocate for increased transit service levels*
- *Implement free transit fares for 18 and under*

The fully-subsidized U-PASS for all employees was approved in the Spring and was effective July 1, 2022. This expansion covers an additional 22,000 employees across all campuses and medical centers, giving them subsidized access to most public transit options in our region.

Transportation Services will continue to advocate for increased transit service levels from regional partners to provide commuting options for all employees and students.

This fall, Transportation Services will also work to implement free transit fares for students and staff 18 years old and under, in accordance with new state policy.

### Improve active transportation infrastructure and access

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Complete a long-term bicycle parking plan for the Seattle campus*
- *Launch scooter share*

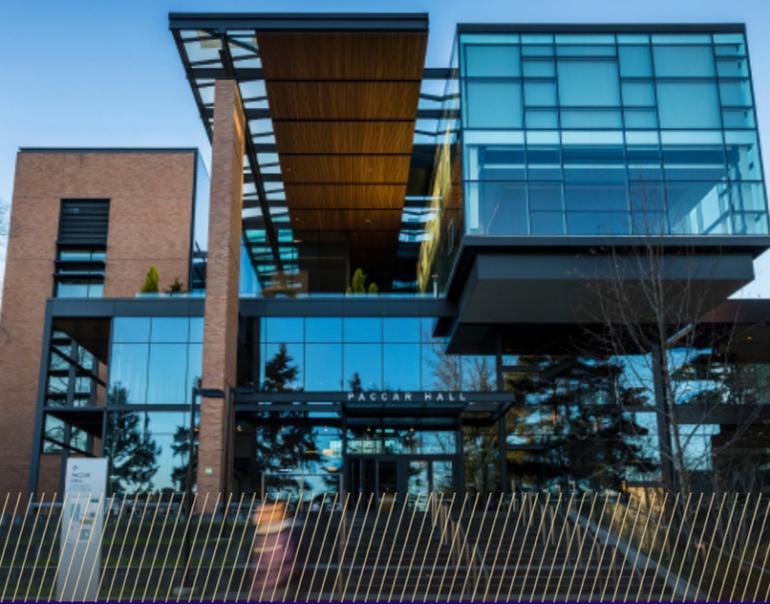
Transportation Services will complete a long-term bicycle parking plan for the Seattle campus. This study includes an evaluation of the current bike locker program to determine technology improvements to improve utilization and customer experience. They will expand bike parking options by opening three new bike houses on the Seattle campus, providing expanded capacity for 150 bicyclists. They are also evaluating the parking infrastructure at the Bothell campus.

### Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Develop and implement a marketing plan for UW Shuttle services to UW Medical Center employees and patients.*
- *Develop and implement a marketing plan for U-CAR service at all three campuses.*

Transportation Services will develop and implement a marketing plan for U-CAR service on all three campuses, and develop and implement a marketing plan encouraging use of UW Shuttle services to UW Medical Center employees and patients.



# 2022 PROGRESS & FY 2023 ACTIONS



## TARGET VIII.

### 15% LOWER ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY BY 2025

#### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Pilot energy efficiency reinvestment program
- Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Use resources responsibly

#### AASHE STARS categories



Eighty percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions come from combusting fossil fuels to generate energy, including electricity. We need to do our part toward reducing energy consumption. Achieving this goal will require accelerating the implementation of energy conservation projects, targeting older and less efficient buildings for deep retrofits, and ensuring all new buildings meet the UW Green Building Standard to minimize water and energy consumption. The expanded use of utility metering and monitoring based commissioning will keep buildings operating optimally.

**Water conservation**

UW will monitor opportunities to reduce water consumption for new building construction, maintenance and irrigation. In collaboration with academic units, UW Facilities will explore paths to research the feasibility of enhancing water reduction through the use of new technologies or integration into campus planning.

## 2022 Progress

### Target Actions for FY 2022

- *Implement cost effective conservation investments*
- *Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program*
- *Develop a Demand Side Management (DSM) approach*

### Implement cost effective conservation investments

In 2015, comprehensive energy engineering audits of 112 campus buildings identified energy conservation opportunities requiring \$25 million of capital investment that would avoid \$5 million in energy waste annually.

The UW Energy Resource Conservation program has worked to address the opportunities that have a large return on investment. In FY22, the program undertook nine conservation projects. The estimated total capital cost for these projects is \$1.93M, and half of those are complete. We have captured rebates of \$530,000 and about \$300,000 in captured utility costs over the past year. When the projects are fully completed, they will capture \$425,000 in avoided utility costs annually.

In order to scale-up and accelerate future energy conservation efforts, a new Green Revolving Fund (GRF) was officially proposed and approved in the summer of 2022. The GRF will use realized utility savings to finance future energy conservation projects and accelerate their implementation.

### Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program

In FY22, work continued to install and monitor utility meters and to use the data from those meters and from automated building management systems to detect problems and identify opportunities for reducing waste. The Executive Director for Energy and Utilities has created a plan and proposed budget to accelerate and fully staff this work.

## FY 2023 Actions

### Pilot energy efficiency reinvestment program

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Create a process to reinvest in energy savings into new efficiency projects.*
- *Implement efficiency projects that align with GRF and State/Local mandates*

The UW has been exploring the creation of a Green Revolving Fund to support energy conservation projects by putting realized utility savings from completed projects toward funding future projects. This year the UW has allocated about \$3 million in seed funding for energy conservation projects from prior utility rebates and a small influx from the Treasury. The UW will implement energy conservation projects with this funding, and work to determine the utility savings for possible future reinvestment in energy projects. Such reinvestment helps to lower energy and utility costs, and allows Facilities to take on more and larger conservation projects. The results of this pilot will be evaluated with an eye toward possibly implementing a Green Revolving Fund at the UW.

### Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program

The UW will work to implement the plan for additional meters, digital controls and data analytics, and to secure funding for all aspects of the project.



## 2022 PROGRESS



### TARGET IX.

## 10% LESS SOLID WASTE

#### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill
- Reduce single-use disposable items
- Evaluate University contracts and sponsorships as opportunities to reduce waste

#### Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Use resources responsibly



Decarbonize

Everything we throw away is something that we don't need. That may seem self-evident, but combined with life-cycle thinking it means an opportunity to reduce manufacturing emissions, energy consumption, transportation, and even raw materials extraction associated with whatever object we didn't need. "Reduce, reuse, recycle" remains a powerful hierarchy of solid waste management, but there are even more details of product and materials management, economics, and urban ecology that can receive both our research attention and our operational attention.

#### Target Actions for FY 2022

- **Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill**
- **Implement low-waste campus kitchens**
- **Reduce single-use disposable items**

#### Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill

To increase compost capacity on the Seattle campus, UW Recycling completed two building-wide waste infrastructure updates in FY22: Graves Hall and Graves Annex both adopted the MiniMax program in April 2022. Twelve compost bins were added to common areas and eating areas, and paper towel composting was added in 11 restrooms. UW Tower was updated to single-stream recycling in the summer of 2021 and public area bins were updated to include compost in each set which resulted in a net increase of 12 compost bins throughout the building.

UW Recycling hosted or attended 25 outreach events which reached 2,343 people, and 715 staff, faculty or students took the "Intro to Recycling & Waste Diversion at UW Seattle" online training. They were able to participate in in-person outreach again including blue bag outreach in tailgating areas during football games, tabling several times in Local Point dining hall, and tabling for the Sustainability Fair and Earth Day. Customer-facing waste sorting signage was updated in Local Point and back-of-house waste sorting signage was created and is expected to be posted in Summer 2022. The HUB's 3D waste sorting displays were updated in partnership with the EcoReps student group and translated signage was added.

#### Implement low-waste campus kitchens

HFS has implemented overproduction tracking in all kitchens, allowing Dining to refine their purchasing decisions and reduce waste from unused food. HFS also has a partnership with the UW Food Pantry, providing an opportunity to distribute food through the Pantry that would have otherwise been wasted.

#### Reduce single-use disposable items

UW Recycling collaborated with the Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN), a zero waste consulting company, to create a Zero Waste Assessment Report covering all three campuses. The report was released in Fall 2021, and outlines potential long-term zero waste solutions for the university to improve sustainability performance.

The report was shared with all stakeholders and a blog post outlined key takeaways from the report. UW Recycling also presented the report to Facilities leadership in December 2021. Beyond a brief discussion on the report with the Sustainability office, UW Recycling did not have the bandwidth to meet with stakeholders to determine how to implement the changes outlined in the report.

AASHE STARS category

N/A



## FY 2023 Actions

### Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill

To increase compost capacity, UW Recycling will install waste containers in two new buildings: Health Sciences Education Building and Founders Hall. Compost containers will be standard in all public areas, kitchens, and restrooms. In addition, several buildings will be updated to single-stream recycling throughout the year which includes adding compost to all public area bin sets, and making sure there is adequate access to compost in common areas and kitchens.

To help reduce contamination in the residence halls, UW Recycling will create and distribute door hangers containing waste sorting guidance to every residence hall room at the beginning of Fall quarter, and every apartment unit will receive a "Sorting Sustainably" brochure. The recycling online course is no longer available to students, so UW Recycling will develop an alternative online training for students on a different platform. The current course is still accessible to staff, faculty, and student employees and will continue to be promoted to relevant groups. A new Student Contamination Reduction Assistant began work with UW Recycling in July 2022 and will focus on updating and improving waste sorting signage, and conducting outreach to students on campus. Our office will also work closely with our vendors to amplify our outreach efforts, and one of our vendors, Recology, will bring on a temporary intern to assist with special projects to reduce contamination and increase waste diversion. UW Recycling will also continue to update customer-facing and back-of-house signage at various dining locations in partnership with HFS.

### Reduce single-use disposable items

UW Recycling will work to facilitate conversations between groups interested in participating in the Zero Waste Task Force. As UW Recycling does not have the ability to lead the Zero Waste Task Force on its own, they will discuss the tri-campus assessment's key takeaways with numerous groups. They will start by continuing

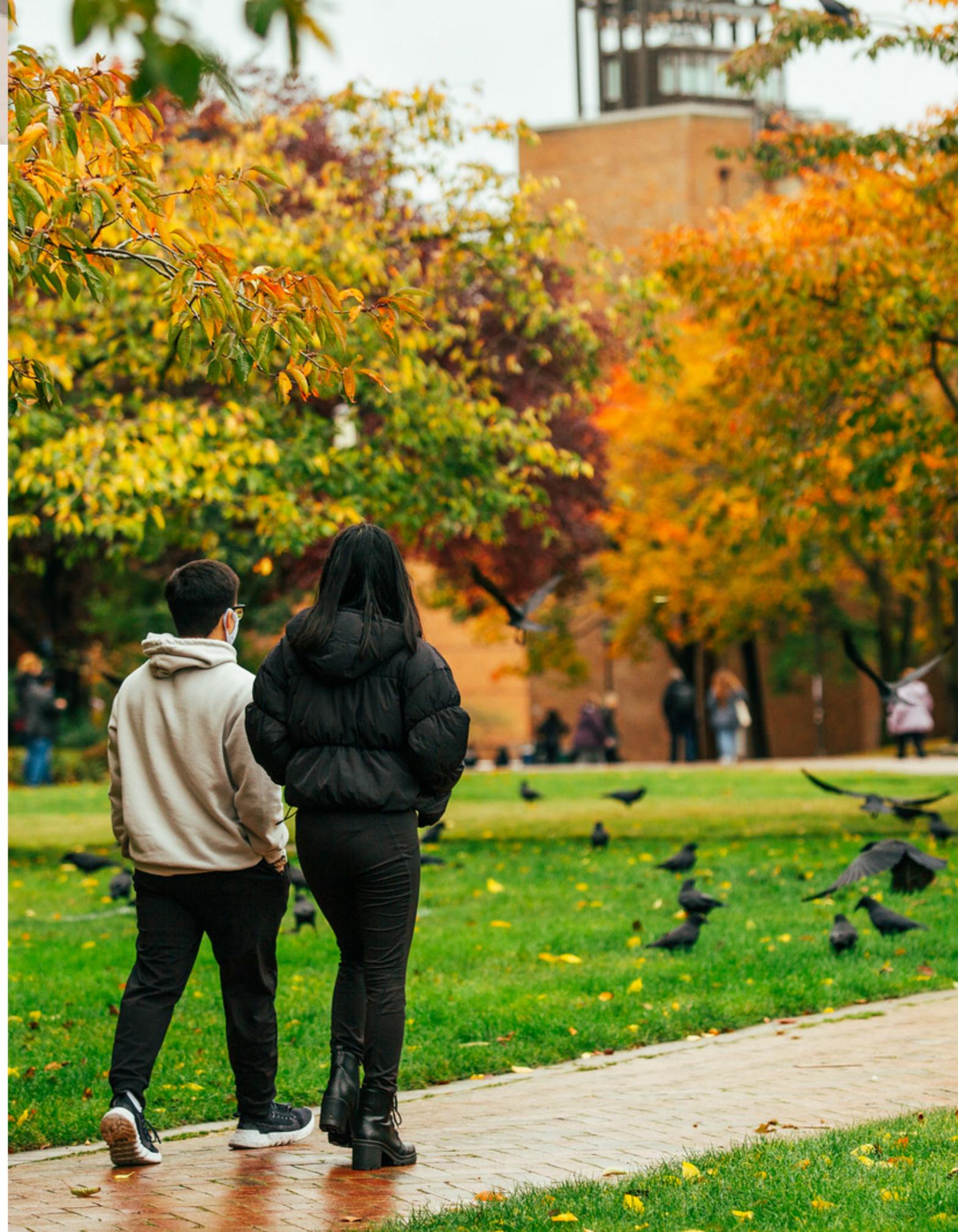
conversations with UW Sustainability and HFS. Support from leadership beyond our department will be necessary to create the task force.

### Evaluate University contracts and sponsorships as opportunities to reduce waste

UW Sustainability will continue to work with Purchasing, Marketing, and other units across the University to prevent waste and increase recycling through contracts, purchasing, and corporate sponsorships. During the spring and summer of 2022, UW Sustainability participated in the interviews and evaluation of vendors for the University's beverage contracts. Participation in this process has illuminated opportunities to reduce single-use plastic beverage containers and as well as reduce landfill waste. The beverage contract selection process is still underway at the time of this report, and UW Sustainability will continue to be part of this process working towards sustainable solutions for the University in this regard.

### Waste Diversion Through Donation

Besides reducing our kitchen waste, we also have a plan for better handling the waste that we do have. Some high-quality food waste can avoid either landfilling or composting, and instead be donated to other organizations. 2019 food recovery for donation was 15,000 pounds (9,000 pounds from Housing & Food Services/Dining, and 6,000 pounds from UW Recycling's student moveout collection program). Our goal is to reach 16,000 pounds collected for donation by 2022.





## TARGET X.

# 45% REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030

### TARGET ACTIONS:

- Plan to repower the Seattle campus
- Implement Seattle campus solar plan
- Electrify UW Transportation Services
- Develop a UW Carbon Roadmap

### Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Decarbonize

### AASHE STARS categories



## 2022 PROGRESS



### Target Actions for FY 2022

- **Electrify UW Transportation Services**
- **Plan to repower the Seattle campus**
- **Implement campus solar plan**

### Electrify UW Transportation Services

The UW has set a goal of converting its fleet to all-electric (EVs) and hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) (with the exception of selected emergency vehicles) by 2030. Transportation Services has also worked to identify opportunities to utilize solar generation for much of the charging infrastructure, and has worked with the UW Solar group to determine the capacity for parking to house solar canopies which would largely power new EV charging infrastructure.

Over the past year UW Transportation has continued to transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles when replacing vehicles, and has continued to pursue opportunities for installing solar arrays on parking areas.

### Plan to repower the Seattle campus

In November 2021, UW hired David Woodson as the new Executive Director of Campus Energy and Utilities for UW Facilities. In this role he will be overseeing the effort to decarbonize the university's energy infrastructure. Woodson had the helm for a similar effort at the University of British Columbia before being hired at UW.

The UW has already started looking at the feasibility and cost of a variety of options to transition the university away from fossil fuels and move away from steam as the primary building heating method, including a number of studies over the past several years, and continued to evaluate options over the past year. The information from past studies and current efforts will be used to help inform the planning process.

In the past year, a faculty task force was established to help provide more perspectives on the decarbonization effort. In addition, Spring 2022 saw the beginning of a communications campaign to let the UW community know about the effort and why it is required. In conjunction with Earth Day in April 2022, an article about Woodson and the effort was published on the UW Facilities blog and publicized along with an event with Woodson and UW Sustainability discussing the effort.

### Implement campus solar plan

UW Solar and UW Resource Conservation have developed a Solar Energy Plan for all three UW campuses, assessing all buildings on campus for feasibility of supporting solar energy. This Solar Energy Plan provides a framework for possible future solar installations at the UW.

Solar projects are likely a good fit for financing through the future Green Revolving Fund. As the Fund is implemented, the Solar Energy Plan allows the UW to identify projects which are the best fit for impact and feasibility.

Climate change is the environmental issue of our time. The UW is a world-class research center in climate-related topics; in fact climate change's centrality to our academic life is reflected in a Guiding Principle of this Sustainability Strategy. We're going to follow through on our sustainability commitment by embarking on a major energy planning process to drastically reduce the Seattle Campus district heating system's demand for fossil fuels, and reduce our dependence on utility energy with solar photovoltaic power on all our campuses.

*This Target is relative to a 2005 baseline, for consistency with Washington State law. All other Targets in the UW Sustainability Plan are relative to a 2020 baseline.*



## FY 2023 Actions

### Plan to repower the Seattle campus

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Request resources for Phase 1 of plan & implement**
- **Socialize the Seattle steam plant energy transformation strategy**
- **Host steam plant decarbonization tours**
- **Host steam plant decarbonization discussions with key stakeholders**

The UW will continue to develop the plan for decarbonization, including evaluating transitioning the campus heating system from steam to hot water. This will include determining technological and financing options, creating a strategy for achieving the carbon reduction goals while maintaining reliable and cost effective service.

This year, UW Facilities is beginning to implement phase one of the Energy Transformation strategy, which is to increase resources toward energy conservation efforts, while working to communicate and socialize the full strategy among the UW community.

Development of the plan will include key stakeholder involvement and engagement with the UW community. In addition to creating a communications plan and determining ways to effectively convey the need for this project to campus users, UW Facilities and UW Sustainability are organizing tours and discussions of the steam plant with key stakeholders to provide context around the need for decarbonization.

### Implement Seattle campus solar plan

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Conduct pre-design and planning for E-18 parking lot solar canopy**

The Seattle campus solar plan created by UW Solar includes opportunities for creating new solar power

installations on campus. UW Transportation Services is starting a process to move forward with planning for a solar canopy on parking lot E-18, which would provide new charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

### Electrify UW Transportation Services

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Transition 50-70 ICE vehicle replacements per year to EV, as feasible.**
- **Implement charging infrastructure in concert with a fleet electrification plan.**
- **Implement a two-pronged strategy for solar canopy and EV charging installation.**

The UW will continue to transition to electric vehicles, with a target of 50-70 vehicle replacements each year, while also implementing new charging and solar infrastructure as needed. Transportation Services is working on plans for creating additional charging infrastructure, including installing solar canopies in parking lots to help power EV charging stations.

### Develop a UW Carbon Roadmap

#### Steps we will take in FY 2023

- **Continue work on the Carbon Roadmap so that each unit, campus, etc. Has annual steps to take to reach interim targets.**

The Carbon Roadmap is a strategy to meet our greenhouse gas emission requirements under state legislation and other mandates. The Carbon Roadmap working group will continue creating the strategy, including identifying interim targets and required annual steps by various units to meet those targets.

## 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 on the Sustainability Action 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**.

