



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Washington College



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Higher Education
Member since February 2010

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

In response to the shift in health and social justice concerns that catalyzed the world in spring 2020, Washington College appointed an Interim Director of Sustainability and Regenerative Living to connect institutional environmental efforts with wellness, diversity, and inclusion. The Office of Sustainability counts among its collaborators faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors. Student interns work under the supervision of the Office of Sustainability on a range of issues.

The Office of Sustainability follows a broad mandate to conserve energy and water on campus, reduce the campus carbon footprint, reform waste management practices, and engage students, faculty, and staff with the ecological practices taught in its curriculum.



Annual Environmental Goals

The Climate Action Committee undertook a review of the College's greenhouse gas emissions beginning in 2006, and biennially since. From that baseline, the committee produced a climate action plan to bring down the College's Scope 1 (emissions coming from sources owned or controlled by the college) and Scope 2 (indirect emissions generated in the production of electricity consumed by the college) to net zero by 2050. Emissions inventories are conducted every other year to chart the College's progress.

Environmentally Preferable Procurement

In 2007, the College officially adopted the following purchasing policy:

Washington College will purchase Energy Star equipment for both single and mass purchasing actions whenever financially possible and where such purchases are consistent with the needs of research and teaching. Budget managers must analyze the short- and long-term savings of an Energy Star appliance over a less energy efficient model before every purchase. Budget managers deciding not to purchase Energy Star products must provide a rationale for alternative purchases to the College's Controller, clearly indicating the circumstances and reasons for not following this policy. Random audits will be used to verify compliance with this policy.

This policy will generate significant savings for the individual departments, programs and offices, as well as for the College as a whole. The Energy Star website has a calculator tool for most appliances that can be used to calculate the long-term energy savings from a particular Energy Star appliance: <https://www.energystar.gov/products>. The appliances listed on the website are abundant and diverse, ranging from computers and photocopiers to light bulbs, water heaters, and dishwashers.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Washington College offers numerous courses in its curriculum that explore how the issue of sustainability relates to a given topic. The College also has degree programs in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science, which, along with the innovative Chesapeake Semester and the Eastern Shore Food Lab, provide students with a diverse and extensive education in environmental issues.

The campus hosts 4 Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, including 3 Tesla stations and 1 station that can charge any electric vehicle.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Washington College is an active partner with the Town of Chestertown on community environmental planning. Our new Hodson Boathouse and Semans-Griswold Environment Hall will be part of a Town/College pathway along the Chester River waterfront that will unite the new Town Marina, the existing Hynson Pavilion and Wilmer Park, and new greenspace. The park/walkway offers views of the Chester River, provides an opportunity to engage with the built and natural environments, and will help provide important buffer space during high-water events.

The College has also collaborated with the Town of Chestertown and Shore Rivers on a planning grant to examine stormwater management on the

campus and in the Town, with the goal of better stormwater remediation before rainfall enters the Chester River.

Through its Center for Environment & Society (CES), Washington College participates in numerous community environmental projects, such as tree canopy research, tree plantings, community forest master planning, oyster gardening, shoreline restoration, Eastern Neck Island clean-up, symposia on environmental issues (such as the recent one on zero waste communities), as well as the popular Waterfront Festival and Earth Day programs.

CES works closely with the town of Chestertown on environmental projects. With assistance from CES, the Town was recently awarded the Maryland Municipal League's Green Award for medium sized towns, and is a Sustainable Certified Maryland community. Some of CES's staff members helped convince the Historic District Commission to promote energy efficiency in historic buildings, and the Town was a recipient of an Energy Efficiency Grant as part of the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative.

CES also hosts the River and Field Campus (RAFC), which includes parts of the Chino Farm property and the Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. Parts of the RAFC are managed grasslands that promote quail conservation; other parts are in active agricultural use. The property is equipped with numerous stormwater BMPs and serves as a showcase for conservation.

In addition, the Geographical Information Systems lab at Washington College has assisted local municipalities with analysis of green infrastructure as well as visioning tools to help evaluate development proposals and comprehensive plans.

Waste



Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

The Dining Hall employs many sustainable practices: no disposable implements are used at all; take-out containers are reusable; and a student-led chapter of the Food Recovery Network ensures that unclaimed food is distributed to persons in need in Chestertown and Kent County.

Elsewhere on campus, plastic straws have been replaced with paper straws, and in an effort to reduce the need for plastic bottles on campus, the Student Government Association has installed water-bottle filling stations in all academic buildings and public spaces. That project continues to plan for filling stations in residence halls.

Recycling

The College's recycling program is a partnership with Kent County and Creafill Fibers. In 2017, the campus recycled 18.8 tons of corrugated cardboard, and 4.7 tons of plastic and glass drink containers.

The Student Environmental Alliance, Student Government Association, Student Affairs team, and the Office of Sustainability hosts a "green move-in," each fall semester. In its inaugural year in 2018, the effort diverted 2 tons of corrugated cardboard, approximately 500 cubic feet of styrofoam packaging, and over 50 pounds of plastic bags, wrap, and film.

Composting

A student-led Compost Team has established "drive-thru" composting at the Campus Garden, where individuals on campus and in the community can drop off organics to be composted in an aerated static composting system. Additionally, the Compost Team promotes zero waste living practices with public film screenings, including "Dirt! The Movie" (2019) and "Kiss the Ground" (2020). In conjunction with the Campus Garden club, students also learn how to produce compost in a three-bin system and have access to tumblers as part of a demonstration composting site.

Beginning in Spring 2021, the Student Government Association and Dining Services are collaborating to introduce weekly composting from the dining hall. Kent County Waste Services will collect and transport two 48-gallon totes of food waste to Sassafras Environmental Education Center (SEEC) as feedstock for a food production program that is growing produce to be used in educational workshops by Washington College's Eastern Shore Food Lab. The intention is to expand this program to collect more organic waste from the dining hall as we learn the capacity of each organization.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The College has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement for solar energy developed at an off-campus location. The solar PV generates enough power to meet almost half of the campus's annual use.

Campus lighting, both indoor and outdoor, has been retrofitted with LED fixtures in most spaces.

The College continues to renovate buildings and include in-ground geothermal HVAC systems.

The College is also exploring upgrades to building equipment and controls, and is examining a relationship with an energy-services contractor (ESCO) firm.

Transportation

Employee Commute

Washington College offers a weekend shuttle service from campus with stops at the Annapolis Mall and New Carrollton Metro Station once each day on Friday and Sunday, twice on Saturday. The shuttle is available to all members of the College community.

In conjunction with our Office of Public Safety, free EV charging is available on campus with an annual \$25 registration fee.

Efficient Business Travel

In the College's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) lab, courses are taught through remote systems using Adobe Connect Pro software. Up to 100 students can be using the teleconferencing program at a time, saving the College the cost of sending 5 instructors a minimum of 75 miles one way to conduct the training in person, twice a week for 15 weeks. In addition, through the GIS lab's crime mapping program, roughly 25 tech support calls come through the Adobe software per month, which allows the College to save the cost of traveling to remote sites around Maryland to handle support issues.

Fleet Vehicles

The College purchased a hybrid car for the Director of the Center for Environment & Society.

Water

Water Conservation

Low-flow showerheads are installed in the new residence halls; sprinkler systems installed around the new residence halls are fitted with rain sensors.

Stormwater Management and Site Design

Rain gardens are installed at the new residence halls; stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are included with all new building and renovation projects. The campus continues to plant trees as part of its pending Tree Campus USA certification.

As noted above, the College has also collaborated with the Town of Chestertown and Shore Rivers on a stormwater planning grant.

Green Building

LEED/ Living Building Challenge

Although Washington College doesn't participate in the certification process, it has an official policy that requires all new or renovated building construction to meet LEED Silver requirements.

The new Semans-Griswold Environment Hall, which opened in Fall 2019, received Living Building Certification, denoting energy neutrality, energy storage capacity, high efficiency, and attractive, functional, and healthy classroom, laboratory, office, and function spaces.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

The student-led Campus Garden is a Bay-Wise Certified demonstration site, and open to the public to explore best practices in ecological landscaping.

Washington College is also the first institution in Maryland to become Bee Campus USA certified, celebrating pollinator advocacy through a variety of annual programs.

Additionally, the Student Government Association (SGA) runs a Bike Share program to promote access to pedal power for all students. In spring 2021, the SGA plans to launch a Gift Wall in the student center where members of the community can donate gently used items to find future homes.



[View our video](#)

Profile Updated December 2020



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

