

## Campus Sustainability Efforts - Spring 2019

### Awards and Recognition

#### *Signatory* - Second Nature's "Carbon Pledge" in January of 2007

- *There are three types of pledges - Carbon, Resilience, and Climate (which is a combination of the Carbon and Resilience pledge).*
- *The Carbon Commitment is focused on reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible.*

#### **Gold** - 2016 AASHE STARS Report

- *STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to gauge relative progress toward sustainability.*

#### **Gold** - Bicycle Friendly University (BFU<sup>SM</sup>)

- *The Bicycle Friendly University (BFU<sup>SM</sup>) program recognizes institutions of higher education for promoting and providing a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors. The BFU program provides the roadmap and technical assistance to create great campuses for cycling.*

#### **Gold** - USA Tree Campus

- *Tree Campus USA program recognizes college and university campuses that effectively manage trees and engage students.*

#### **73<sup>rd</sup>** - Ranked 2018 Sierra Club Cool Schools Report

- *The annual 'Cool School's rankings assess colleges' performance in everything from what they teach to how they obtain their electricity to their sources of cafeteria food and how they manage their water.*

#### **15 Buildings** - LEED Certified

- *All new NAU building projects must meet the USGBC LEED requirements to be Silver LEED certified at minimum. We updated our technical standards to match these LEED requirements.*

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### **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW**

Office of Sustainability is housed within Facility Services and oversees all sustainable initiatives on the NAU Campus from student groups to building utilities. Currently, the Office of Sustainability Manager is responsible for 21 student worker positions, managing student groups, and working with facilities to further implement best practices on campus.

Environmental Caucus (EC) is a centralized hub for sustainable initiatives on campus. It is comprised of students, faculty, staff, and community members. The EC hosts monthly networking meetings and community presentations, as well as sends a bi-weekly “Green NAU” newsletter to over 3K people. The EC helps direct student clubs, working groups, and action teams.

- Green Jacks is a student environmental club on campus with 20-30 active members. The Green Jacks are the leading student group involved with sustainable initiatives on campus through monthly events, sustainability outreach and engagement campaigns, and campus clean-ups.
- Gardeners manage and recruit volunteers for the SNAIL and SSLUG gardens.
  
- Waste Minimization Coordinators’ priority is campus-wide recycling and consumption awareness. They execute educational campaigns and promote recycling at athletic events, work to reduce and recycle hazardous waste and chemicals, and recruit volunteers for the Food Recovery Network based out of Dining Services.
  
- Community Outreach Coordinator is a position to bridge NAU sustainability to the Flagstaff community. In the fall semester of 2018, this position worked with the City and the Azulita Project to inspire the NAU mountain campus to go straw-free in addition to 9 businesses in downtown Flagstaff.
  
- Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator manages coalitions between the Office of Sustainability and diversity clubs, such as the Black Student Union and the Indigenous Abaya Yala, while ensuring that the Office of Sustainability is participating in diverse hiring activities and inclusivity in our student programs.
  
- EC Action Teams meet monthly to focus on a specific area of efficiency and are comprised of community, faculty, staff, and students.
  - The *Waste Action Team* is dedicated to spreading educational materials to increase awareness about waste reduction techniques, as well as supporting the initiatives of the Waste Minimization Coordinators (who are Student Workers).
  - The *Landscaping Action Team* has worked closely with the *Northern Arizona Pollinator Habitat Initiative (NAZPHI)* to register gardens in Flagstaff as pollinator habitats and plant native seeds across campus and the community. NAZPHI won an Arizona Forward Award for their work. However, this action team is currently inactive.

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- The *Energy Action Team* enables collaborative student projects to work with Facility Services and operates as a vetting committee for all energy related proposals from outside consultants. Currently, they are reviewing Biomass Feasibility and a Revolving Fund.
- The *Transportation Action Team* includes members from NAU, NAIPTA, City of Flagstaff, and the Police Department to devise ways to increase alternative transportation on campus in conjunction with the surrounding Flagstaff community.
- *Environmental Justice Action Team* – Recently formed in March and was one of our most attended Action Team meetings to date. We plan to focus on both social and environmental justice issues.

### Conservation Projects:

- The Sustainable Ambassador Program is a certification students can earn by going through the program steps. The program includes seminars on the basics of sustainability and climate change. Over 200 students are currently enrolled in the program and hundreds more have attended SCP events.
- The Energy Mentor Program trains faculty and staff on how to decrease their environmental impact in the office. Currently, 194 faculty and staff are certified energy mentors.
- The Green Office Certification is a program in which office members work to be sustainable by filling out a checklist of best practices and engaging in sustainability initiatives - 21 offices are currently certified.

The Green Fund is a committee composed primarily of students who manage an annual fund of \$220,000, dependent on rolling enrollment from paid student “Green Fees.” Since 2008, they have funded more than 60 projects initiated by faculty, staff, and student totaling over 1 million dollars. Currently, the committee is working on seven proposals to better environmental and social sustainability on campus. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, ABOR approved the Green Fee increase from \$5/semester to \$15/semester.

ASNAU employs a Sustainability Director to collaborate with the Office of Sustainability on different initiatives and events. The Director also advises the ASNAU President on how to best advocate for sustainability to the undergraduate student population.

**OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW-** Operational efforts focus on sustainable improvements and the achievements reached as defined by the 2015 Sustainable Action Plan (SAP).

Utility Services: NAU has accomplished 35% of our 2015 SAP energy and climate goals by increasing metering across campus, implementing IT best sustainability practices, completing a biomass feasibility study, installing solar hot air heaters and a solar array, and purchasing 15% of its electrical consumption through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

- Water: NAU updated the building standards to require higher water efficiency, implementing best practices for landscaping water management by installing CALSENSE operators on new grounds projects, installing low-flow fixtures, and using reclaimed water across campus.

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- Gas: Between 2002-2015, NAU had an overall reduction of its natural gas consumption per square foot by 31%. During this 13 year window, there was an overall increase in the student population of 6,750 and an increase in campus square footage by 50%.
- Electricity: In 2014, NAU made an 18 million dollar investment in a campus wide energy efficiency retrofit and conservation program. NAU purchases 15% of our electricity from renewable energy sources every year. Utilities installed meters and sub meters to track energy consumption and water usage. We are purchasing 15% of our electrical consumption through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
- Student Project Collaboration: Utility Services works with a range of student groups and initiatives. Below is a recent list of a few collaborations with student projects:
  - HVAC Fault Detection Reviews
  - Energy Dashboard and Data Retrieval Program (still in process)
  - Storm water use for Chilled Water Condensing Loop
  - Solar Controlled Outside Air System

Planning, Design, Construction: All new NAU building projects must meet the USGBC LEED requirements to be Silver LEED certified at minimum. We updated our technical standards to match these LEED requirements. We have 15 LEED buildings on our mountain campus.

Recycling and Waste: NAU has accomplished 40% of our 2015 SAP recycling and waste minimization goals by recycling at athletic events and within the Skydome, by creating a hazardous waste minimization program, and requiring contractors to follow LEED construction and demolition waste management planning practices.

Transportation: NAU has accomplished 34% of our 2015 SAP transportation goals by initiating a car share program, improving pedestrian walkways, creating educational safety signs, and encouraging online rather than in-person meetings. NAU is a Gold level Bike campus and student Life oversees the Yellow Bike initiative that boasts 92 bikes that can be checked-out for a week at a time across campus.

Operations: NAU has accomplished 38% of our 2015 SAP operation goals by constructing all new buildings to LEED silver standards at a minimum, increased composting, recertifying our Tree Campus USA certification, and improving our campus gardens.

Procurement: NAU has accomplished 14% of our procurement goals as defined by SAP by spending \$472,738 on certified green cleaning products and using compostable materials at catered NAU events.

Academics: NAU increases sustainability in the classroom. Currently, 41.18% of academic departments offer sustainability courses and 68.61% of students graduate from programs with at least one sustainability learning outcome. The Academic Sustainability Steering Committee is currently inactive.

Dining: NAU Dining and Sodexo have partnered to divert waste on campus through post-consumer composting, donating over 2,400lbs of food a semester to the Flagstaff Family Food Shelter, implementing the O2GO reusable container program, removing straws from campus, and going tray less.