



Sustainability at UW–Madison: Fall 2022

Strategic Initiatives

- The Office of Sustainability launched the new [Sustainability Dashboard](#). The tool, which is under development, will host dynamic data in the categories of academics, engagement, operations, and planning & administration.
- After receiving tremendous support from the campus community following the [cessation](#) of the previous composting program, the Office of Sustainability [facilitated a food waste collection program](#) on a trial-run basis.
- UW–Madison completed Stage 2 of the [Atlas Zero Waste Program](#), including facilitating stakeholder engagement, reviewing Stage 1 certification, identifying organizational gaps, and establishing a strategic vision.
- Thanks to a prestigious NSF grant, the [Nelson Institute will fund](#) low-income science, technology, engineering, and math undergraduate students who wish to focus their studies on sustainability and community.
- UW–Madison's [agrivoltaic project at the Kegonsa Research Campus](#), which will generate enough green electricity to power more than 450 homes, passed all zoning approvals.

Research

- The inaugural [UW–Madison Sustainability Symposium](#) featured remarks by Chancellor Mnookin as well as flash talks and posters from faculty, staff, and students on topics ranging from carbon conversion technology to campus waste audits.
- Through a novel catalytic process, Dr. John Berry's lab has [discovered](#) a way to spontaneously produce nitrogen without added energy, which has important implications for producing clean electricity.
- A new Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program, which will be piloted by the Office of Sustainability starting in spring 2023, will create a cross-campus community of scholars who can provide targeted input on sustainability opportunities at UW–Madison.



Office of Sustainability interns show their love for the Earth at Sustain-a-Bash 2022.



246

attendees registered
for the first annual
UW–Madison
Sustainability
Symposium



58

tons of food waste
was diverted from
the landfill during the
first four months of a
new back-of-house
compost program

Student Involvement

- The Class of 2022 chose the UW–Madison Green Fund as the [recipient of the Senior Class Gift](#).
- More than 200 students attended [Sustain-a-Bash](#) in September, an annual event hosted by University Housing and the Office of Sustainability.
- The [UW–Madison Sustainability Writing Awards](#) attracted a range of submissions on the topic of climate resilience; winners represented the departments of Library and Information Science, English, Music Performance, and Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- The Office of Sustainability and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies will launch a new corporate internship program in 2023 that pairs undergraduates with businesses to work on sustainability projects.

Green Fund

The Green Fund supports student [projects](#) that address the environmental footprint, social impact, and operating costs of campus facilities. Among other projects supported by the Green Fund:



- [Students worked with UW Grounds](#) to purchase electric mowers that save money and greenhouse gas emissions while offering a safer, quieter experience for grounds staff.
- The Wisconsin School of Business Multicultural Center installed permanent [artwork from 12 UW-Madison students](#).
- Staff and students met with Ho-Chunk community leaders and artists to discuss a mural that would be created beside the Memorial Union Terrace in partnership with the [Teejop Community History Project](#).

Wisconsin Experience

- In November, more than 60 students, faculty, and staff working in sustainability, including more than 20 from UW-Madison, [convened at the annual UW System Sustainability Meeting](#), which was held at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Staffing

- Dr. Matthew Ginder-Vogel, associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, will serve as Interim Director of Sustainability Education and Research while Dr. Andrea Hicks is on sabbatical during spring/summer 2023.
- The Office of Sustainability is sponsoring three researchers working on sustainability-related topics in Professor Morgan Edwards' Climate Action Lab at the La Follette School of Public Affairs: postdoctoral research assistants Jaime Garibay-Rodriguez and Sagar Rathod, and Energy Analysis and Policy master's student Henry Hundt.



40%

of UW-Madison employees use [active transportation modes](#) to get to and from campus most or all of the time



530

people volunteered their time and effort to care for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in 2022; 72% percent of those volunteers were UW students, faculty, and staff

Alumni

- In his current role as an energy advisor with Franklin Energy, Cordell Murphy '19 works with clients in the agricultural sector to help them to invest in clean energy. His career trajectory was shaped by his degrees in agricultural business and environmental studies as well as his [experience as an Office of Sustainability intern](#).
- Ally Magnin '20, another Office of Sustainability intern, [leverages her training](#) in communications, project management, and collaboration in her role as Assistant Deer & Elk Specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Honors & Mentions

- The Electric Eats food truck [launched for full service](#) this fall, offering a variety of responsibly sourced food items in low-waste packaging options and garnering a [local feature](#).
- UW-Madison earned [Bee Campus USA Certification](#), making it one of 140 Bee Campus Affiliates nationwide.



Staff members from the Office of Sustainability haul cut sumac shrubs from a section of the UW Arboretum as part of a volunteer event.