



Sustainability at UW–Madison: Fall 2023

Strategic Initiatives

- UW–Madison offered a pilot program of the [Free Food Alert](#) system to the staff, faculty, and students during the fall semester, enabling event hosts and caterers to send out alerts for free food giveaways and thus combat both food insecurity and food waste on campus.
- 17 campus labs registered for [My Green Lab certification](#) for FY24. The [program](#) “provides scientists and the teams that support laboratories with actionable ways to make meaningful change.”
- Over 450 free energy- and water-savings kits were claimed by UW–Madison students, staff, and faculty living off-campus as part of the [Focus On Energy Higher Education Kit Challenge](#).
- Students, faculty, and staff are involved in expanding the university’s clean energy



6,100+
staff engaged
in [Green Office](#)
certification as of
fall 2023



Students sift through donated items at a campus-wide clothing swap during the 10th annual Sustain-A-Bash.



383,450
pounds of food
scraps collected
during FY23 as
part of a [campus
compost trial](#)
program

portfolio, from collaborative research at the [Kegonsa Research Campus solar array](#) to analyses of opportunities for on-campus solar as well as renewable energy on outlying lands.

- UW–Madison launched the [Sustainability Research Hub](#), a service to campus that seeks to make the university a preeminent destination for environmental sustainability research and education by supporting innovative, large-scale, cross-cutting sustainability research.

Research and Education

- The second annual [Sustainability Symposium](#) boasted 400 attendees, 18 lightning talks, 31 posters, a keynote address from Dr. Weslynn Ashton, and remarks from Provost Isbell and Nelson Institute dean Paul Robbins.
- UW–Madison engineers [are supporting](#) an energy storage system that would be the first to demonstrate – at a commercial scale – a closed-loop, carbon dioxide-based energy storage system and could validate the technology for wide-scale deployment in the United States.
- The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies established a new [graduate certificate in sustainability](#) that incorporates environmental, economic, and social elements of the field, enabling sustainability training to be added to any graduate degree program at UW–Madison.



Students gather to network and learn about the Green Fund at the fall kick-off event held at the Observatory Drive Scenic Overlook in September.



Student Involvement

- [Campus sustainability interns](#) working for the Office of Sustainability co-hosted several major events, including:
 - The 10th annual [Sustain-A-Bash](#), now a week-long celebration of sustainability and campus life
 - Sustainability Roundtable, a student-led and -focused networking event
 - [Perspectives on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements](#), co-hosted with student org Wunk Sheek
 - [Access to the Environment](#), co-hosted with the Disability Cultural Center and featuring panelists from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Facilities Planning & Management, Transportation Services, ASM, and the McBurney Center
- Three UW-Madison students were chosen as winners of the 2023 [Sustainability Writing Awards](#), an annual contest that seeks to inspire conversations about how writing can bring together people with different experiences to reflect and act within the context of the global climate crisis.



50+
environment- and
sustainability-
related [student
organizations on
the UW-Madison
campus](#)

success, University Dining invested in a second system at the Four Lakes Market kitchen in fall 2023.

- Students from Engineers for a Sustainable World have nearly completed the construction of an [aquaponics system](#) in the D.C. Smith Greenhouse. CALS and Engineering faculty will integrate this system, which grows plants and fish together, into courses on indoor growing techniques and lifecycle assessment.

Awards and Accolades

- Travis Blomberg, campus resources coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, [received](#) a 2023 Nelson Institute Rising Star Alumni Award.
- UW-Madison was [recertified as Platinum Bicycle Friendly University](#), making it only one of nine universities in the nation to achieve this designation.
- Office of Sustainability project assistant and Nelson Institute graduate student Audrey Stanton was named an Emerging Leader in Sustainability at the annual [UMACS](#) conference.

Green Fund

The Green Fund offers support for student projects that make campus more sustainable.

- A Green Fund proposal introduced a [food waste tracking system](#) at Rheta's Market kitchen in fall 2022 that has reduced waste by 40% over the last year. Thanks to this

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