

Comprehensive Sustainability Plan Progress Report 2025



University
of Vermont



PROGRESS TRACKING

-  = ACHIEVED
-  = ON TRACK
-  = CAN IMPROVE

Decarbonization

ENERGY & CLIMATE

GOAL: Carbon neutral by 2030.

 **PROGRESS:** Completed 37% of planned energy studies that will inform the campus energy plan.

BUILDINGS

GOAL: Reduce GHG emissions in major University buildings.

 **PROGRESS:** Completed boiler reprogramming at Main District Energy Plant to reduce thermal emissions. Ongoing steam meter upgrades help improve energy monitoring. Energy Revolving Fund criteria expanded to enable investment in projects with longer payback periods.

GOAL: Increase energy efficiency in laboratory buildings.

 **PROGRESS:** Stafford Hall was connected to the Main District Energy Plant's chilled water system, replacing inefficient refrigerant coils and reducing annual electricity use.

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: Implement the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Campus Plan.

 **PROGRESS:** Installed 56 additional ports, more than doubling our EV charging infrastructure and totaling 92 charging ports on campus, including 20 fleet-specific ports.

GOAL: Reduce GHG emissions associated with the UVM fleet.

 **PROGRESS:** Electrified 35 fleet vehicles. EVs now make up 21% of UVM's light-duty fleet. Introduced fleet permit fee to encourage EV adoption and downsizing.

GOAL: Reduce conventional single-occupancy vehicle commutes.

 **PROGRESS:** Increased affiliate housing close to campus and expanded commuter proximate zone to encourage sustainable commute modes.

Research & Learning



The Planetary Health Initiative harnesses UVM's existing strength in the health of human societies and the natural environment across the areas of education, research, policy, outreach, and service.

GOAL: Launch Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) and cultivate research that uses campus as a "living lab."

 **PROGRESS:** Carbon Pricing intern presented their research at two national conferences. New internship sponsored by Planetary Health Initiative.

GOAL: Strengthen and support transdisciplinary sustainability research across the University.

 **PROGRESS:** The Sustainable Campus Fund's Innovative Research Track award for graduate students was relaunched.

Operations

FOOD & DINING

GOAL: Increase spending on Vermont-grown food to 25% by 2030.

➔ **PROGRESS:** UVM Dining sourced: 20.9% local food, a 5.4% increase from the previous academic year.

UVM Dining's Farm Fest connected students with over 20 local food vendors, showcasing the fresh products available on campus.



WASTE

GOAL: Reduce total pounds of waste generated per campus user 10% by 2035 from FY19 baseline.

↻ **PROGRESS:** A comprehensive waste characterization study was completed which will provide recommendations for programmatic changes to further support minimization and diversion efforts.



A new mobile app for UVM Dining's reusable to-go container program increased participation by 63%, saving 48,000 single use containers from entering the landfill.

LANDSCAPE

Students, staff, and faculty volunteers came together to plant a vibrant, low-maintenance naturalistic garden at Votey Hall, advancing UVM's sustainability and Planetary Health goals.



GOAL: Prioritize the purchase of electric grounds management equipment.

➔ **PROGRESS:** In 2024, UVM Grounds purchased 2 electric mowers and 29 units of electric handheld equipment, including trimmers, blowers, saws, and shears.

GOAL: Increase the square feet of sustainable and native plantings on campus.

➔ **PROGRESS:** In 2024, UVM planted approximately 3,000 square-feet of naturalistic gardens on main campus.

Governance and People

PURCHASING

GOAL: Improve purchasing practices to increase sustainable purchases across the University.

➔ **PROGRESS:** Improved tracking systems to determine baseline utilization of sustainable suppliers and sustainability criteria for evaluation of RFPs.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Create partnerships with other training and educational institutions to support the development and training of the green workforce in Vermont.

➔ **PROGRESS:** Physical Plant successfully introduced entry level roles for high demand trades positions where employees receive on the job training.

