

The Catholic University of America

Sustainability Plan

FY 2021–2025





Catholic University of America **Mission Statement**

As the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, founded and sponsored by the bishops of the country with the approval of the Holy See, The Catholic University of America is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church.

Dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason, The Catholic University of America seeks to discover and impart the truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church, the nation, and the world.



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At a Glance

Fiscal Years 2021–2025

Sustainability Plan

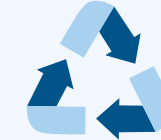
Impact



Water
14,500 KGals



Energy
50,000 MMBTU



Waste
700 Tons



Carbon
5,850 Tons CO₂

\$0.53/SF in Savings

Pillar Living Laudato SI'

Pillar Leadership and Recognition

Pillar Facilities and The 3 P's

Pillar Engagement

Establish sustainability focus groups

Promote sustainability through communication channels

Promote alternative transportation

Deepen community engagement through environmental leadership

Update sustainability plans and procedures

Pursue opportunities with trade associations and peer groups

Encourage health and wellness initiatives

Plan events for student engagement

Encourage campus-wide dialogue on faith and the environment

Increase LEED certifications

Conduct solar feasibility study

Educate faculty and staff on sustainability best practices

Benchmark GHG emissions, energy, water and waste

Certify Catholic University under at least four additional green rating systems

Incorporate zero waste best practices

Create alumni networking opportunities for sustainability professionals

Stretch Goal

20% reduction in carbon

Two buildings are certified LEED Gold or higher

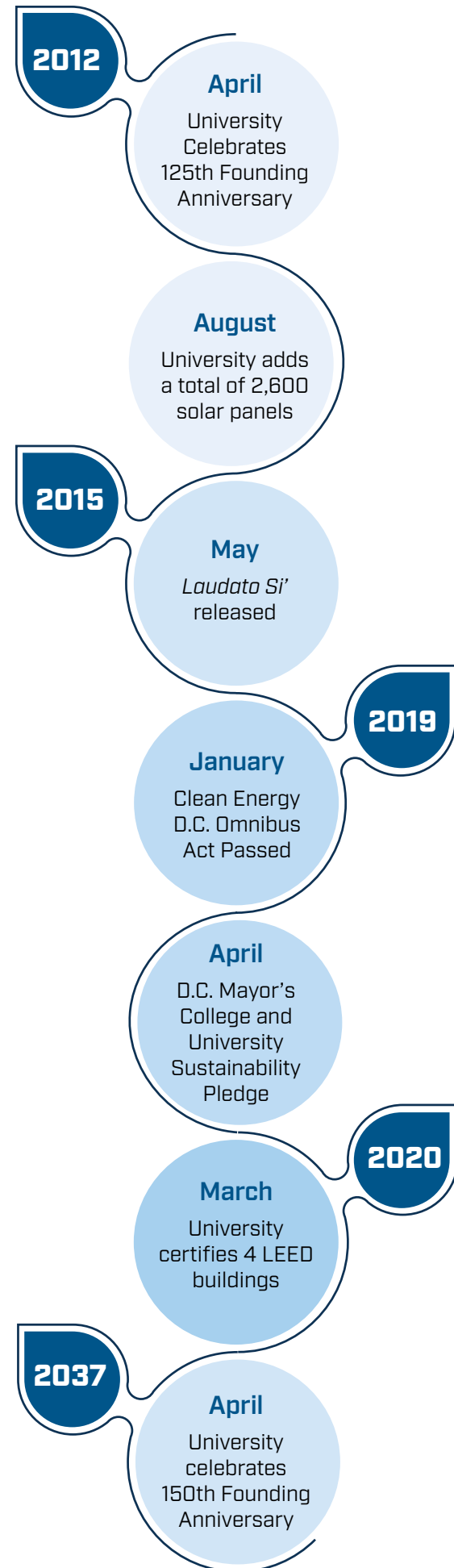
20% + reduction in energy, water and waste
Design building to be zero net energy

Implement student green fund



02

Background



Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for the coming generations.

—Pope Francis,
On Care for Our Common Home — *Laudato Si'*

Inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, the Catholic University of America is committed to safeguarding a sustainable environment on campus. As "a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning", the University offers a distinctive contribution to the entire nation with an important opportunity to address the national conversation on environmental stewardship within the context of the University's Catholic mission and identity.

Historically, sustainability was defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."² In 2005, the United Nations' World Summit Outcome³ refined this understanding to incorporate three principles of economic development, social development, and environmental protection, also sometimes referred to as the triple bottom line or the 3 Ps (people, planet, and prosperity). The following Sustainability Plan (the Plan) will follow the Catholic Climate Covenant's four principles of Catholic identity, environment, society, and economy. In this conceptualization, "Catholic identity is not a footnote to the general concept of sustainability but rather imbues every aspect of it."⁴

¹ The Catholic University of America. 2018 Strategic Plan. <https://www.catholic.edu/media/documents/strategic-plan-2018.pdf>

² World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). "Our Common Future, Brundtland Report". 1987. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

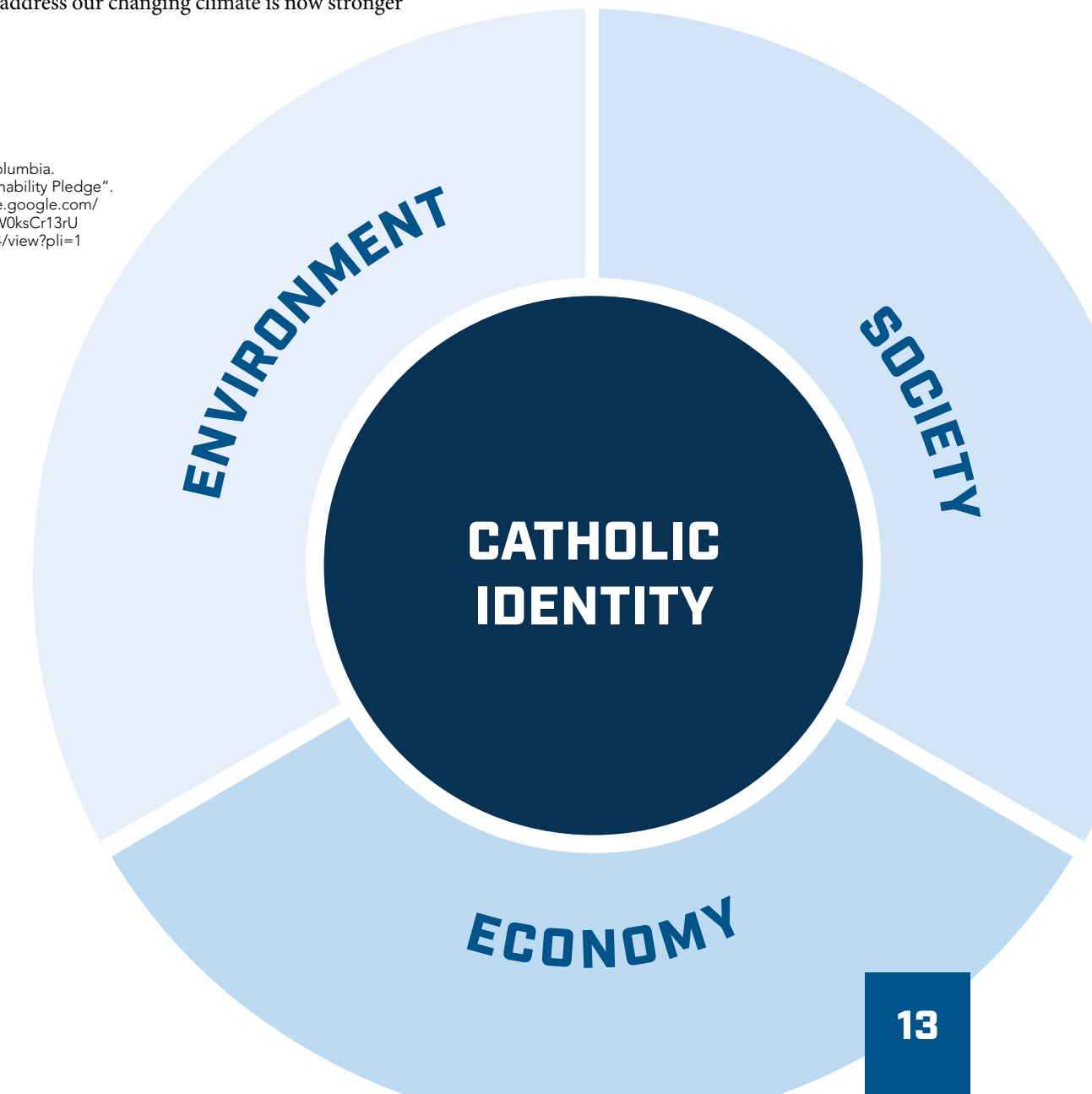
³ United Nations. 2005 World Summit Outcome. https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_60_1.pdf

⁴ Catholic Climate Covenant. "Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration." 2011. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/sustainability-catholic-higher-ed-toolkit.pdf>

⁵ The District of Columbia. "University Sustainability Pledge". 2019. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oFAIhx7XW0ksCr13rU2J46gN_zhTTmY4/view?pli=1

At every level, internationally, nationally, and locally, concern for the environment is gaining momentum. There are widespread conversations and united efforts to take dramatic action to reduce harmful climate impacts on the human population. In 2019, the District of Columbia's own Sustainable D.C. 2.0 further advances the conversation and urgency to address the harmful, costly, and dangerous impacts of weather extremes. In April 2019, University President John Garvey was one of eight local university heads to sign an updated College and University Sustainability Pledge (CUSP II) with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. The updated pledge — which was based on a proposal first signed by higher education institutions in the District in 2012 — commits signatories to meet the city's goal of becoming the "healthiest, greenest, most livable city in America by 2032 through leadership in sustainability."⁵ Based on recent events, the imperative to address our changing climate is now stronger than ever.

⁵The District of Columbia. "University Sustainability Pledge". 2019. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oFAIhx7XW0ksCr13rU2J46gN_zhTTmY4/view?pli=1



Environmental Stewardship Efforts on Campus

Currently, there are numerous curricular offerings at the University that address sustainability, most notably in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, the School of Architecture and Planning, the Busch School of Business, the School of Engineering, and the School of Arts and Sciences. The only current curricular initiative that ties these offerings together, however, is the Environment, Energy, and Policy (HSEV) track in the University Honors Program. The Sustainability Track within the Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Studies Minor/Sustainability Minor opens up similar opportunities to the entire undergraduate student body. The curriculum for the minor seeks to combine the liberal arts (ethics, social sciences, science, and technology) with courses that focus on the practice of sustainability (mostly housed in the professional schools). The goal is to combine a strong foundation in Catholic teaching with an understanding of current scholarship and practical skills that students can take with them when they venture out into the workforce.

From the beautiful trees, flowers, and lawns of its park-like campus, to its green roofs, the landscape of Catholic University, which sits on 176 acres, features many sustainable best practices. Since 2002, the University has pursued many sustainability initiatives. In 2010, Catholic U installed 1,100 solar panels, which was at the time the largest solar installation in the D.C. Metro area at 677 kW of installed capacity. An additional 500 solar panels were installed in January 2011. In April 2012, the University released a Campus Master Plan which re-affirmed the commitment to sustainability. In August 2012, Catholic University added 1,000 panels, now possessing 2,600 solar panels on seven different buildings and a solar panel canopy installed over 70 parking spaces at the O'Boyle Hall parking lot. The parking structure also allows for charging electric-powered vehicles. Catholic University offsets 100% of its electricity usage through renewable energy certificates (RECs) with its purchased electricity. Catholic University has green roofs on Father O'Connell Hall, Aquinas Hall, and the University Garage. Additionally, Maloney Hall, Father O'Connell Hall, Opus Hall, and the Edward M. Crough Center have achieved Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications for their sustainability efforts. The Crough Center is the world's first LEED-Certified for Operations & Maintenance architecture school in the world. For its alternative transportation efforts, the University was awarded as a Bronze-level Bike Friendly University by the American League of Bicyclists in 2019.

These previous efforts have established a foundation for environmental stewardship at Catholic University. The Plan establishes a new sustainability baseline that responds to recent turning-point events and science-based targets, which makes it imperative that Catholic University takes action now. The following Plan challenges all stakeholders — students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and the community — to take on bolder, inclusive and equitable initiatives in line with contemporary best practices to preserve the University's legacy for future generations. Stakeholders are invited to join in the greater sustainability conversation happening at the neighborhood, local, national, and international levels. Please see the diagram for how stakeholders and the greater community are to interact.

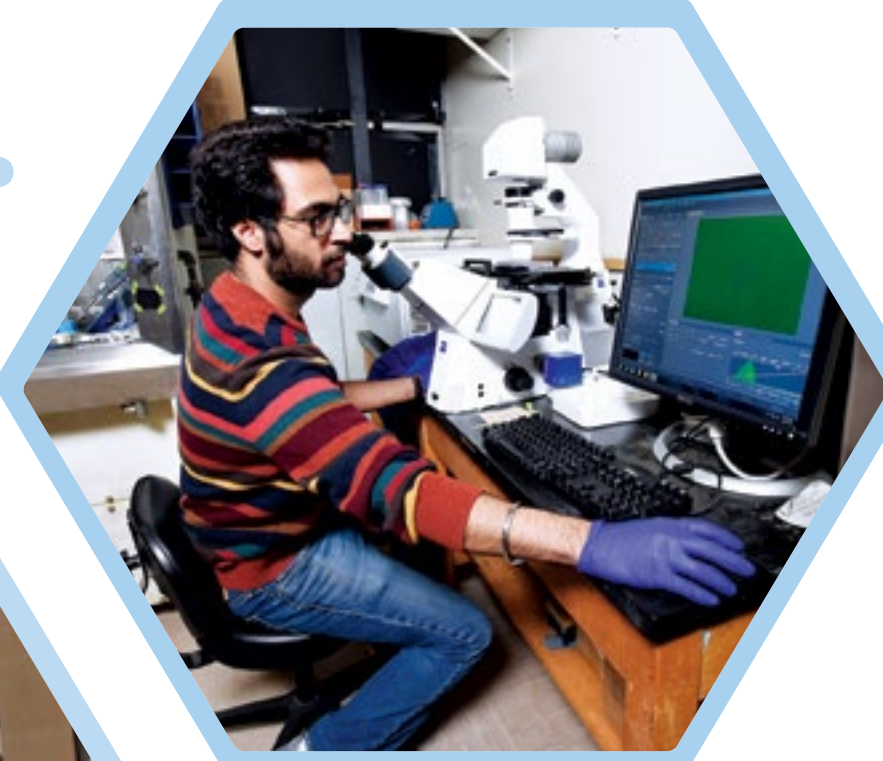
Inspired by sustainability programs implemented at similar higher-education institutions, the initiatives and actions listed in the Plan are intended to generate positive environmental change, promote education and research, preserve resources, raise awareness, reduce expenditures, generate exciting dialogue, and create new Catholic University community engagement touchpoints. This Plan will have a beneficial impact on the University and the world.



Catholic University Sustainability

Research and Education

Academic Deans, Faculty



Neighborhood Connections

Brookland, The Archdiocese of Washington, Washington, DC



University Leadership

Senior Administrators



Operations

Facilities Planning and Management Division, Resident Life, Dining Services, Finance



University Family

Students, Parents, Alumni





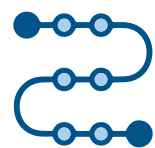
Sustainability Mission Statement

As stewards charged with advancing the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, The Catholic University of America is committed to improving the environmental well-being of the campus and the greater community.



Sustainability Vision Statement

All Catholic University community members are encouraged, engaged, inspired, and motivated to take steps, where they are, to reduce their carbon footprints and improve environmental quality.



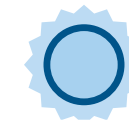
Timeline

Industry practice suggests sustainability plans should forecast goals and milestones every five years. At the end of every fiscal year, progress will be evaluated and milestones will be re-forecasted if needed. This Sustainability Plan runs from fiscal years 2021-2025.

Four Pillars

The four pillars below will govern the initiatives and actions of the Plan.

01



Catholic Identity – Living *Laudato Si'*

Goals and milestones: grounded in the University's mission and identity as the Catholic University in America, will establish sustainability focus groups; sustainable procedures; reporting; encourage environmental stewardship; and create lasting dialogue aligning environmental stewardship with a Catholic identity.

02



Sustainability Leadership and Recognition

Goals and milestones: focus on a communications plan to celebrate progress, accomplishments, and emphasize transparency, which will benefit Catholic University's overall profile and visibility both locally and nationally.

03



Campus Facilities and People, Planet, and Prosperity

The "triple bottom line" objectives of people, planet, and prosperity will drive goals and objectives related to campus facility management and high-performance best practices.

04



Engagement

Aligning with the Sustainability Plan's Vision Statement, activities will engage all Catholic University stakeholders including, but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, and the greater community, set realistic and attainable outcomes, and empower all to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint.



How to Use this Plan

Each of the four pillars is guided by a series of initiatives. Initiatives follow a general theme such as achieving recognition or reducing carbon (CO₂) emissions. Actions are the building blocks of initiatives and are concrete steps with target dates and listed collaborator(s). Some actions directly inform others such as alternative transportation and energy efficiency actions benefit the initiatives related to carbon emissions.

This Plan also includes stretch goals, which are ambitious strategies meant to challenge the University to explore newer concepts for implementation in the mid- to long-term (i.e. 5+ years). Stretch goals are highlighted in blue.

Costs

Costs are broken down into three categories to conceptualize the cost of integrating sustainability:

Category I:

Current Initiatives and Planned Costs

At a glance, many sustainability costs are in place or anticipated. For example, the Conway School of Nursing is part of the 2012 Campus Master Plan and, due to local ordinances, it is anticipated to be built sustainably. Examples of current initiatives in place include e-waste recycling and stormwater maintenance. Costs in this category are noted with this symbol, □.

Category II:

Transformational Management Costs

These costs are incurred to maintain a college campus that is to the benefit of the community. Many of these costs come from HVAC equipment replacements or incorporating best practices to maintain campus facilities. Policy-making is a core part of Category II costs. Costs in this category are noted with this symbol, ◇.

Category III:

Engagement and Leadership Costs

These are costs that are either new to Catholic University and/or engage the campus community. Engagement costs may be related to hosting a sustainability conference, planning events for Earth Month, or educating staff and students on sustainability. These new initiatives are meant to inspire the campus community through environmental leadership. Costs in this category are noted with this symbol, ▣.

Category IV:

Aspirational Reduction Goal Costs

This Plan includes the stretch goals related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water, and waste reduction. This category also includes costs related to net zero energy and water costs. Costs in this category are noted with this symbol, Δ.

The Plan includes a cost to implement for each Action.

Costs per action are labeled:

- \$: Low to no cost; less than \$5,000.
- \$\$: Medium cost; \$5,000-\$24,999.
- \$\$\$: High cost; \$25,000-\$100,000
- \$\$\$\$: Capital Cost; \$100,000+

Costs are expressed in price per square foot (\$/SF). The square footage reflects the average size of the campus between FY 2021-2025. Below is a chart estimating the costs to implement:

Cost Category	FY 21 \$/SF	FY 22 \$/SF	FY 23 \$/SF	FY 24 \$/SF	FY 25 \$/SF	FY 21 - FY 25 \$/SF
Category I: Current Initiatives and Planned Costs	\$0.95	\$0.39	\$0.10	\$0.03	\$0.05	\$1.52
Category II: Transformational Management Costs	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.15
Category III: Engagement and Leadership Costs	\$0.03	\$0.05	\$0.15	\$0.03	\$0.05	\$0.31
Category IV: Aspirational Reduction Goal Costs	\$2.03	\$2.03	\$2.11	\$2.04	\$5.05	\$13.26
Total	\$3.04	\$2.50	\$2.39	\$2.13	\$5.18	\$15.24

Impact

With a renewed campus-wide focus on sustainability, Catholic University can achieve these 5-year outcomes. The fiscal year 2016 is the baseline as this was the last full year of data before the University began construction on the Energy Project⁶. Metrics will be tracked on at least a quarterly basis through utility bill analysis, sub-metering platforms, and other data outputs.



Carbon Emissions Reduction

- Baseline: 29,234 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCDE), FY 2016
- 20% reduction is equal to 5,847 MtCDE averted...which could charge 746 million smartphones or power 700 homes⁷.



Energy Reduction

- Baseline: 249,713 million British Thermal Units (MBTU), FY 2016.
- 20% reduction is equal to 49,943 MBTUs saved...which is equal to the CO₂ emissions from 760,932 gallons of gasoline consumed or the greenhouse gas emissions from 1,436 vehicles, or \$0.46/SF.



Ongoing Consumables*⁸ Reduction and Diversion

- Baseline: 37.96% of 1400.72 tons of waste diverted from the landfill, FY 2016.
- 50% diversion is equal to 700.36 tons removed from the landfill...which could save 143,048 hours of electricity or 25,871 gallons of oil⁹, or \$0.02/SF.



Water Efficiency

- Baseline: 73,217 thousand gallons (kGals), FY 2016.
- 20% reduction is equal to 14,643 kGals saved...which is enough water to fill 22 Olympic-sized swimming pools, or \$0.04/SF.

To achieve these goals and make long-lasting impactful changes, the Plan needs coordinated action from all students, faculty, and staff. The Plan is meant to challenge all Catholic University community members to take any action, whether big or small, to transform the University into an environmentally-conscious campus.

⁶ A campus-wide upgrade of the utility system, which includes replacement of the heating and cooling plant and construct of new underground piping that will distribute utilities to campus buildings. The upgrade will improve the efficiency and reliability of utility distribution and will reduce overall energy consumption.

⁷ U.S. Protection Agency. Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator.

⁸ Ongoing consumables include everyday discarded items such as paper, cardboard, food waste, disposable containers and cutlery, etc.

⁹ Montgomery County, Md., Department of Environmental Protection. Environmental Footprint Calculator.



DEB

Initiatives and Actions



Catholic Identity – Living *Laudato Si'*

Goals and milestones: grounded in the University’s mission and identity as The Catholic University in America, will establish sustainability focus groups; sustainability-focused plans; reporting; encourage environmental stewardship; and create lasting dialogue aligning environmental stewardship with a Catholic identity.

Initiative 1.1:

Solidify a Sustainability Vision via Focus Groups.

The success of this Plan will rely on broad consensus, encouragement, and support from various Catholic University departments and stakeholders. At a minimum, the focus groups will be comprised of students, faculty, and staff. With support from University Leadership, including the Office of the President, creating an inclusive focus group is the first step in establishing a unified Catholic University’s sustainability direction.

Action 1.1.a. Convene Focus Groups to Socialize and Finalize the Sustainability Plan. ☐; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Assistant Director, Campus Facilities & Sustainability Initiatives (Asst. Dir., Sustainability); Associate Vice President for Facilities (AVP), Planning and Management (FPM); University Leadership; relevant deans and departments; student leadership and clubs.

Action 1.1.b. Maintain a Sustainability Peer Group with Student, Faculty, and Staff Representatives. ☐; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; AVP, FPM; University Leadership; relevant deans and departments; Student Leadership and Clubs.

Initiative 1.2:

Develop Appropriate Sustainable Procedures.

Creating a suite of policies and procedures informed by sustainability best practices will establish a governing framework for activities.

Action 1.2.a. Execute Catholic University-specific Sustainability Procedures. ☐; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM; Compliance and Ethics Department.

Action 1.2.b. Annually Re-evaluate Catholic University-specific Sustainability Plans Based on Collaborator Feedback. ☐; \$.

- Target Dates: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM; Compliance and Ethics Department.

Initiative 1.3:

Establish Annual Sustainability Progress Report.

An annual, public-facing sustainability report will allow Catholic University to benchmark progress and course-correct missed targets.

Action 1.3.a. Monitor and Track Sustainability Progress Annually. ☐; \$.

- Target Dates: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Office of Marketing and Communications.

Initiative 1.4:

Reduce Carbon Emissions.

Improve the performance of existing buildings and grounds by reducing carbon emissions by waste, energy, and water use reduction; thereby, advancing health and increasing livability.

Action 1.4.a. Release Data on University Carbon Emissions Annually. ☐; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Collaborators: FPM.

Action 1.4.b. Reduce Carbon Emissions By 20% Based On FY 2016 Levels. Δ; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 1.4.c. Reduce Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 50%. Δ; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Facilities Maintenance and Operations (FMO); FPM.

Action 1.4.d. Benchmark Carbon Emissions, Energy, Water, Transportation, and Waste Annually. ☐; \$.

- Target Date: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Collaborator(s): FPM.

Action 1.4.e. Offset 100% of Electricity Use Annually. ☐; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Finance Division; FPM.

Action 1.4.f. Track Nitrogen Emissions Levels and Set a 10-Year Reduction Target. ☐; \$.\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Initiative 1.5:

Align Environmental Stewardship with the University’s Catholic Mission.

Using Pope Francis 2015 encyclical on the environment for inspiration, Catholic University will create a lasting dialogue on caring for our common home.

Key

Symbol	Description
\$	Low to no cost; less than \$5,000
\$\$	Medium cost; \$5,001-\$24,999
\$\$\$	High cost; \$25,000-\$100,000
\$\$\$\$	Capital Cost; \$100,000+
☐	Category I: Current Initiatives and Planned Costs
◇	Category II: Transformational Management Costs
☐	Category III: Engagement and Leadership Costs
Δ	Category IV: Aspirational Reduction Goal Costs

Action 1.5.a. Host an Annual Convening of University Faculty that would Assess the Need for More Courses related to the Environment. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Relevant Academic Departments.

Action 1.5.b. Create an Annual Forum for Exploration and Discussion of the Church's Teachings on Environmental Stewardship. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; School of Theology and Religious Studies; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; student leadership and clubs.

Action 1.5.c. Promote Interdisciplinary Collaboration among Faculty and Students on Issues of Sustainability in Relation to the University's Mission and Catholic Identity. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Provost, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Provost for Research, AVP Institutional Research, LEED Lab; Student Leadership and Clubs.

Action 1.5.d. Create Events to Coincide with the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi¹⁰ (October 4th). ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; School of Theology and Religious Studies; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Student Leadership and Clubs.

Action 1.5.e. Organize an Environmental Stewardship Retreat. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Leadership & Recognition

Goals and milestones focus on a communications plan to celebrate progress, accomplishments, and emphasize transparency, which will benefit Catholic University's overall profile and visibility both locally and nationally.

Initiative 2.1:

Execute a Communications Plan for Sustainability.

A communications plan will inform both the Catholic University community and the greater public on the campus efforts to advance environmental stewardship.

Action 2.1.a. Create a Cohesive Communications Plan that Integrates Sustainability into Mainstream Communications. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Office of Marketing and Communications.

¹⁰ St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and ecology.



Action 2.1.b. Collect and Broadcast Campus Updates on the Catholic University Sustainability Website. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Office of Marketing and Communications.

Action 2.1.c. Connect with Students and the Greater Catholic University Community through Social Media. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Office of Marketing and Communications.

Initiative 2.2:

Seek Opportunities to Link Students, Faculty, and Staff to Join in Local and National Conversations around Sustainability.

By pursuing engagement opportunities with trade associations, higher education peer groups, and other industry-related groups, Catholic University will benefit from peer learning, adopt new best practices, deepen networks, and participate in spaces designed to highlight and broadcast the University's sustainability successes.

Action 2.2.a. Participate in Local and National Organizations with a Strong Focus on Sustainability. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Students, Faculty, Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 2.2.b. Present Catholic University's Sustainability Successes Publicly at Conferences and Other Public Events. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Students, Faculty, Asst. Dir., Sustainability, Office of Communications and Marketing.

Action 2.2.c. Seek Opportunities to Collaborate or Partner with Other Higher-Education Institutions. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Faculty, Students, Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Initiative 2.3:

Achieve Recognition.

Currently, there are numerous green, or high-performance certifications available for universities, individual buildings, landscapes, and beyond. Moreover, there are multiple occasions to pursue these certifications to gain recognition for Catholic University, keep up with higher education peers, and demonstrate sustainable leadership to influential stakeholders.

Action 2.3.a. 100% of Newly Constructed Buildings Achieve a Minimum of LEED Silver-certified Rating. □; \$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 2.3.b. At Least 20% of Catholic University's Building's Portfolio is LEED Certified¹¹. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 2.3.c. Achieve Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Certification. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 2.3.d. Certify Catholic University Campus and/or Buildings under at Least 4 Additional Green or High-Performance Rating Systems. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 2.3.e. Two Buildings Achieve LEED Gold or Higher. ₪; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

¹¹University campus, buildings, and/or spaces can be certified under any applicable LEED certification including, but not limited to Campus, Operations and Maintenance (O+M), New Construction and Renovations (NC), or Commercial Interiors (CI).



Campus Facilities and People, Planet, and Prosperity

Provide a vibrant, challenging, and uplifting collegiate experience for students and the greater Catholic University community. The triple bottom line objectives of people, planet, and prosperity will drive goals and objectives related to high-performance standards, campus facility management, and maintenance.

Initiative 3.1:

Promote Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Energy will prove central to Catholic University's efforts to reach its carbon reduction goals covered in Initiative 1.4. Fossil fuels remain the dominant source of energy for electricity, for heating buildings through natural gas or fuel oils, and for motor vehicles.

Action 3.1.a. Reduce Energy Usage by 20% Based On FY 2016 Levels. Δ; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FMO.

Action 3.1.b. Create a Comprehensive 5-year Energy Efficiency Action Plan. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 3.1.c. Convert 80% of Lighting Capacity to LEDs. Δ; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): FPM.

Action 3.1.d. Analyze Increased Capacity for Solar with a Feasibility Study. □; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Finance Division; FPM.

Initiative 3.2:

Reduce Water Usage and Increase Water Quality.

Conserve water resources and improve water quality by implementing industry best practices.

Action 3.2.a. Reduce Water Usage by 20% Based on FY 2016 Levels. Δ; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FMO.

Action 3.2.b. Increase On-campus Filtered Water Stations by 50%. ⌘; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): FMO.

Action 3.2.c. Maintain Stormwater Management Devices and Assess Opportunities for Stormwater Management Credits. Δ; \$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect; FMO; FPM.

Action 3.2.d. Replace Failed Plumbing Fixtures with EPA Water Sense-labeled Products. ◇; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): FMO; FPM.

Initiative 3.3:

Reduce Waste Streams.

Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and incineration, conserve natural resources, and save energy¹².

Action 3.3.a. Achieve an Ongoing-Consumables Diversion Rate of 50%. Δ; \$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Facilities Administration and Services (FAS).

Action 3.3.b. Achieve a Compost Rate of 15%. Δ; \$.

- Target Date: 2025+
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FAS.

Action 3.3.c. Incorporate Strategies from the True Zero Waste Rating System to Create a Zero Waste Protocol. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FAS.

Action 3.3.d. Recycle 100% of Electronics and Batteries. □; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Environmental Health and Safety (EHS); FAS.

Action 3.3.e. Reduce Paper Usage by 30%. Δ; \$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Human Resources, Technology Services.

Action 3.3.f. Procure Common Office Supplies and Other Consumables with Green Features. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Dining Services.

Action 3.3.g. Complete Feasibility Analysis for Compost Re-Use in Landscaping. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect; FAS.

Action 3.3.h. Launch a Food Waste Awareness Campaign. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Dining Services, Campus Ministry, Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 3.3.i. Conduct a Waste Stream Audit of One Building with Students, Staff, and Faculty. ⌘; \$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): LEED Lab; Students; FAS.

Action 3.3.j. Achieve Net-Zero Waste Status for at Least One Campus Building. ⌘; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Initiative 3.4:

Promote Health and Wellness.

Provide the Catholic University community with resources and facilities to achieve healthy, active lifestyles. Actions will maintain high-quality, safe, and sustainable places to gather and socialize. More importantly, these enhanced spaces can reduce harmful viruses and pathogens in shared spaces, which is critical to maintaining University continuity.

Action 3.4.a. Establish a Comprehensive Indoor Air Quality Protocol. ◇; \$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): FPM; Housing, Recreational Sports and Fitness, Transportation and Parking.

¹²U.S. EPA. [Recycling Basics](#).

Action 3.4.b. Improve Open Spaces and the Pedestrian Environment on Campus in Alignment with the 2012 Campus Master Plan. □; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Landscape Architect; FPM; Housing, Recreational Sports and Fitness, Transportation and Parking.

Action 3.4.c. Promote Fitness Options for All Catholic University Community Members. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2024.
- Collaborator(s): Student Health; Campus Activities, Human Resources, Housing, Recreational Sports and Fitness, Transportation and Parking and other relevant departments.

Action 3.4.d. Certify a Building under the WELL Certification or Fitwel Certification Standards. ▣; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability, FPM, Housing, Recreational Sports and Fitness, Transportation and Parking.

Initiative 3.5:

Increase Access to Healthy Foods.

These actions will encourage nutritional options that are healthy, easily accessible, and equitable for all Catholic University community members.

Action 3.5.a. Execute a Healthy Foods Campaign. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Dining Services; Human Resources, Campus Activities, Events & Conference Services; and other relevant departments.

Action 3.5.b. Achieve Green Restaurant Certification. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Dining Services, Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 3.5.c. Maintain a Year-Round Food Pantry with an Average Visitor Rate of 200 Patrons per Month. □; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry, Dining Services.

Initiative 3.6:

Reduce Single-Vehicle Ridership.

Alternative transportation has many benefits, which include reducing carbon emissions, promoting healthier transportation options in the case of walking and biking, and increasing community connections through carpools and vanpools.

Action 3.6.a. Re-visit On-Campus Parking Plans in Alignment with the 2012 Campus Master Plan Transportation Study □; \$.

- Target Date: 2025.
- Collaborator(s): FPM; Transportation & Parking; PCM.

Action 3.6.b. Implement Scooter and Bicycle Safety & Adoption Plan. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Transportation & Parking.

Action 3.6.c. Encourage Carpooling, Vanpooling, and Rideshare Opportunities. □; \$

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Transportation & Parking; Human Resources.

Action 3.6.d. Create a Long-term Low-emissions Vehicle Purchasing Plan. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): FMO; Finance.

Action 3.6.e. Add 4 or More Electric Car Charging Stations. ▣; \$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Transportation & Parking; FMO.

Action 3.6.f. Do a Feasibility Analysis on Additional Transit Benefits for the Catholic University Community. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): University Trustees; Human Resources; Transportation & Parking.

Action 3.6.g. Achieve a 55%¹³ Alternative Transportation Rate for Students and Employees. □; \$\$.

- Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Transportation & Parking.

Initiative 3.7:

Maintain Landscapes and Hardscapes.

These actions will preserve the University's open spaces, tree canopies, flower beds, sidewalks, and other landscaping features; thereby, creating a welcoming environment for the Catholic University community to enjoy the outdoors.

¹³ 55% is the target rate established by the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation.

Action 3.7.a. Implement Soil Erosion and Control Sediment Action Plan. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): FMO; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect.

Action 3.7.b. Implement Hardscape Management Best Practices. ◊; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): FMO; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect.

Action 3.7.c. Reduce Irrigation Needs with Native and Adaptive Plants. ◊; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): FMO; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect.

Action 3.7.d. Re-certify the University under the Tree Campus USA certification with Student, Faculty, and Staff Involvement. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): FMO, Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect; Campus Activities, Campus Ministry.

Action 3.7.e. Create a Student-led Tree Tour. ▣; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Landscape Architect; Campus Activities, FMO.

Action 3.7.f. Build Upon the Picturesque, Pastoral, and Formal Landscape Qualities Mentioned in the 2012 Campus Master Plan with Additional Tree Plantings. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Landscape Architect; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FMO; FPM.

Action 3.7.g. Students, Faculty, and Staff Research the Carbon Sequestration of Catholic University's Trees. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): School of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering, FMO.

Initiative 3.8:

Incorporate Best Practices in Facilities Management.

As the saying goes, "the greenest building is the one already built." Maintaining and managing Catholic University facilities to perform as optimally as possible will set the critical framework for the University to achieve its sustainability goals.

Action 3.8.a. Optimize Property Maintenance Checklist Processes. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): FMO.

Action 3.8.b. Optimize Stakeholder Communications Protocols. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): FMO.

Action 3.8.c. Implement an Optimized Summer Residence Hall Turnover Program. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): FMO, FAS.

Action 3.8.d. Re-evaluate the Integrated Pest Management Plan. ◊; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): EHS, FAS.

Initiative 3.9:

Optimize Capital Projects.

These actions will incorporate high-performance building standards and best practices into new construction and capital projects.

Action 3.9.a. Establish a Catholic University Design Standard and Specifications with Sustainability In Mind. ▣; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): FPM.

Action 3.9.b. Create a Green Analysis Protocol for Proposed Capital Projects. ▣; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): FPM.

Action 3.9.c. Fund Sustainability Initiatives through a Green Financing Mechanism. ▣; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Finance Division; Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FMO.

Action 3.9.d. Design a building to be Zero-Net Energy. ▣; \$\$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): FPM.

Action 3.9.e. Adopt a Holistic Approach to Design that Incorporates Principles such as Embodied Carbon and Life Cycle Assessment. ▣; \$\$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.



Engagement

Aligning with the Sustainability Plan's Vision Statement, activities will engage all Catholic University stakeholders and the surrounding community, set realistic and attainable outcomes, and empower all to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Pillar 4, Initiatives and Actions, will zero in on community good and societal benefit for all peoples within the conceptual framework of sustainability noted in the introduction. The Engagement Pillar looks to share environmental benefits both on campus and off with key community stakeholders.

Initiative 4.1:

Deepen Community Engagement through Environmental Leadership.

Catholic University will undertake efforts to connect University members to service opportunities with an emphasis on caring for creation. Through neighborhood engagement, environmental gains within the University can be shared equitably with its neighbors.

Action 4.1.a. Optimize Current Service Schedule for Additional Sustainability-minded Events. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.1.b. Foster Partnerships with Local Organizations with an Emphasis on Environmental Stewardship. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.1.c. Adopt a Neighborhood Block. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.1.d. Host an Environmental Justice Week. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry, Student Activities, CUA Environmental Club, Asst. Dir., Sustainability, Center for Cultural Engagement.

Initiative 4.2:

Raise Awareness with Visitors and Prospective Students.

Visitors, especially prospective students and parents, will learn about the University's environmental stewardship through informational tours and wayfinding.

Action 4.2.a. Include Sustainable Attributes on Campus Admission Tours. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Admission; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.2.b. Add Sustainability Language to Wayfinding. ₪; \$\$\$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): FPM; Asst. Dir., Sustainability

Initiative 4.3:

Engaging the Student Body.

Moving the needle on Catholic University's sustainability goals is not complete without occupant engagement. The student body makes up more than 50% of the on-campus community. Transforming the student body into environmental stewards requires inclusive interaction, innovative messaging, fine-tuned communication methods, and learning opportunities within and beyond the traditional classroom.

Action 4.3.a. Develop a Schedule of Environmental Programing. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Campus Ministry; Campus Activities; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.3.b. Plan Events during Earth Week (Week of April 22). ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Campus Activities; Residence Life; Campus Ministry; FAS.

Action 4.3.c. Collaborate with the CUA Environmental Club and Student Government Association. ₪; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): CUA Environmental Club, Student Government Association, Campus Activities; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.3.d. Plan a Dormitory Sustainability Challenge Competition. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): A Director, Sustainability; Residence Life; FAS.

Action 4.3.e. Create a Green Student Ambassador Program. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Campus Activities.

Action 4.3.f. Continue LEED Lab and Pursue New Opportunities to Activate the University as a Living Classroom through Sustainability. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): School of Architecture and Planning; other schools; Asst. Dir., Sustainability.

Action 4.3.g. Incorporate Material Recovery-Reuse during Student Move-In/Move-Out. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FAS; Residence Life; Housing Services; Campus Ministry.

Action 4.3.h. Create sustainability-focused internship opportunities within FPM. □; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; FPM.

Action 4.3.i. Create a Green Fund for Student-led Initiatives. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2025+.
- Collaborator(s): Office of the Dean of Students.

Initiative 4.4:**Motivate Staff and Faculty.**

These strategies will motivate staff and faculty to take an interest in the University's sustainability initiatives through interactive challenges, informational presentations, and national environmental awareness days.

Action 4.4.a. Create a Green Office Certification. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Human Resources; FPM.

Action 4.4.b. Include Sustainability Practices in Employee Orientation. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Human Resources.

Action 4.4.c. Educate Staff to Make Sustainable Decisions. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Human Resources; Office of Marketing and Communications.

Action 4.4.d. Promote Bike-to-Work Day (May 15). ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Asst. Dir., Sustainability; Human Resources; Office of Marketing and Communications.

Action 4.4.e. Explore Opportunities for Additional Environmentally-aligned Courses. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2024.
- Collaborator(s): Appropriate School Deans.

Action 4.4.f. Faculty Leads a Sustainability Research Project with Coordination from Facilities Planning and Management Division. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2023.
- Collaborator(s): Appropriate Departments; FPM.

Initiative 4.5:**Energizing the Alumni Network**

Green jobs are on the rise. Engaging alumni in these in-demand fields and connecting them through mentoring with interested students will prepare Catholic University students to be environmental leaders.

Action 4.5.a. Collect Data on Catholic University Sustainability Professionals. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Office of Alumni Relations; Center for Academic and Career Success.

Action 4.5.b. Create a LinkedIn Group for Sustainability Professionals. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2021.
- Collaborator(s): Office of Alumni Relations; Center for Academic and Career Success.

Action 4.5.c. Create Mentorship Opportunities Between Students and Alumni. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Center for Academic and Career Success; relevant school deans.

Action 4.5.d. Host In-person Networking Events. ₳; \$.

- Target Date: 2022.
- Collaborator(s): Office of Alumni Relations; Center for Academic and Career Success.





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Glossary

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Trade association focused on sustainability in higher education.

Carbon Emissions

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas. There are both natural and human sources of carbon dioxide emissions. Natural sources include decomposition, ocean release, and respiration. Human sources come from activities like cement production, deforestation as well as the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. See greenhouse gas.

Carbon Offsets

Carbon offsets help entities offset their generated carbon emissions. Entities purchase carbon offsets to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity, and other sources.

Carbon Sequestration

The process involved in carbon capture and the long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

Chemicals that are commonly found in refrigerants and aerosol applications. These chemicals are known as contributors to ozone depletion.

Climate Change

Any significant long-term change in the expected patterns of average weather of a region or Earth over a significant period of time.

Climate Equity

A concept that ensures that all people have the opportunity to benefit equally from climate solutions, while not taking on an unequal burden of climate impacts.

College and University Sustainability Pledge (CUSP)

In 2012 and again 2019, District of Columbia colleges and universities signed onto the Mayor's sustainability pledge to make the District the greenest college town in America.

Compost

Organic matter that has been decomposed in a process called composting. The process recycles various discarded organic material that can be used as a fertilizer.

Durable Goods

Goods like electronics or furniture that generally do not wear out quickly.

Embodied Carbon

Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, that is emitted during the manufacture, transport, and construction and demolishment of a building.

Environmental Justice

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of policies.

Fitwel Certification

Fitwel is a green building certification system committed to building health for all.

Food Pantry

Sometimes called a food bank, it distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger.

Global Warming

The long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system.

Green Building

A building that implements environmentally-conscious best practices into its design, construction, maintenance, operations, and/or demolition.

Green Financing

Financial mechanisms such as equity, debt, grants, etc. which are used to finance sustainable improvements.

Green Restaurant Certification

A certification managed by the Green Restaurant Association which recognizes restaurants and other dining facilities for their sustainability efforts.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Gases trap heat and make the planet warmer. The primary greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Integrated Pest Management

A best practice for reducing pests that favors monitoring, prevention, and little to no pesticides.

Laudato Si'

(English: Praise Be to You), Pope Francis' second encyclical which calls for unified global action by all people to be better stewards of the planet.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

One of the most widely used green building certifications worldwide.

Life Cycle Assessment

Also known as life-cycle analysis, eco-balance, and cradle-to-grave analysis); a process to assess the environmental impacts associated with the stages of a product's life from extraction, manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal.

Net Zero Waste

Or zero waste, a process encourages the redesign of a project that encourages reuse and zero waste entering landfill or incinerators.

Net Zero Water

Through water conservation, water recycling, and rainfall harvesting, some buildings can be self-sufficient from the local water utility.

Nitrogen Oxide Emissions

These emissions are emitted through combustion through transportation, manufacturing, and agricultural uses. These emissions can contribute to acid rain.

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Or renewable energy certificates, help offset fossil fuel-based energy generated onsite while promoting clean energy generation.

Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating (STARS)

A reporting framework for colleges and universities to track their sustainability efforts.

Sustainability Plan

A sustainability-focused action plan that outlines goals and objectives for an organization.

Sustainable DC 2.0

The District of Columbia's 2019 sustainability plan.

Triple Bottom Line

A framework to evaluate the financial performance to not only include profit but also impacts on people and the planet.

Turnover Program

Turnover is the transition from when space (i.e. dormitory room) is occupied to when it is vacant. The turnover phase can be used to implement many environmentally friendly best practices without disrupting occupants.

Vanpool

Similar to carpools but with higher occupancy vehicles (i.e. a van).

WaterSense

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)'s list of products that have been deemed water-efficient.

Wayfinding

Signage helping people orient and navigate a space, building, and/or campus.

WELL Building Certification

A green building certification standard that emphasizes health and wellness in the built environment.

Zero-Net Energy

Also called net-zero energy, whereby a building's total energy consumption is equal to the amount of renewable energy create on or off-site.





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Further Reading



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- Residence Life
- Student Government Association
- The Office of Budget and Financial Planning
- Office of Marketing and Communications
- Office of the Controller
- Office of Housing, Recreational Sports and Fitness, Transportation and Parking
- Office of Human Resources
- Office of the President and Senior Administrators
- School of Architecture and Planning, including LEED Lab
- School of Engineering
- School of Theology and Religious Studies
- U.S. Green Buildings Council

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