**JAN 2021** FY20 SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET **Climate Action:** Greenhouse Gas Reduction **GOAL: REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 25% BY 2025 STATUS: 13% REDUCTION Greenhouse Gas Emissions** emissions (metric tons) 800k 700K GOAL 500K das 300K Greenhouse 2001 1004 **FY06 FY07 EV08** FV09 **FY10 FY1**1 **FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17 FY18 FY19** FY20

GHG emissions have decreased 13% despite a 33% increase in building area since FY06.

Greenhouse gas emissions

## **COVID-19 IMPACT**

Reductions in campus operations in the fourth quarter significantly reduced energy use.

**Note:** DTE's shift toward cleaner fuels also contributed a 3% drop in U-M's overall GHG emissions.



### **KEY INITIATIVES**

- Energy conservation: Since 2006, U-M has reduced energy use in general fund buildings by 25% while increasing building space by 2.1 million square feet.
- Central Power Plant expansion: Construction is ongoing with estimated completion in FY22. A cumulative reduction of more than 400,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is expected within the first 10 years of operation.
- **President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality (PCCN):** The PCCN, charged with recommending scalable and transferable pathways for U-M to achieve net zero emissions, released draft recommendations pertaining to heating and cooling infrastructure, renewable energy, vehicle electrification, campus culture and communication, and more for public comment in December 2020.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- **PCCN:** Plans to submit its final recommendations to President Schlissel in February 2021, exploring emission reduction efforts beyond achieving the 2025 GHG goal.
- Wind power purchase agreement: Wind farm construction is expected to be complete in spring 2021, reducing annual emissions by 100,000 metric tons.
- Renewable energy demonstration projects: After pandemic spending restrictions are lifted, determine outcome of 1 additional project (5 approved so far).





# FY20 SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET

### **Climate Action:** Fuel Efficiency

**GOAL:** DECREASE CARBON INTENSITY OF PASSENGER TRIPS ON U-M TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS BY 30% BY 2025. STATUS: 4% REDUCTION



## COVID-19 IMPACT

Goal is measured as vehicle carbon output per passenger trip. Bus ridership was down 28% and buses ran with fewer passengers to promote social distancing, so goal progress was out of reach.

## **KEY INITIATIVES**

- Logistics, Transportation and Parking promotes alternative transportation options such as vanpools, e-scooters, and the MRide partnership with AAATA.
- Launched improved Magic Bus live tracking to promote ease of ridership.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Investigating potential for fleet and bus electrification.



**FY20** SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET

### **Waste Reduction**

GOAL: REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS 40% BY 2025

**STATUS:** 17% REDUCTION



DIVERSION RATE WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL BY COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

Landfill waste has decreased by 17% despite a 31% increase in campus population since FY06.

## **COVID-19 IMPACT**

Reductions in campus operations in the fourth quarter significantly reduced waste collected. Also, due to pandemic limitations, the U-M Health System paused compost collection and recycling of construction and demolition waste for two months.

### **KEY INITIATIVES**

- Completed bin standardization
- Launched Where to Throw search tool and accompanying education campaign.
- Compost service expansion
  - Added nearly 50 buildings, bringing the total to 150 buildings.
  - Staff kitchens with compost now total 650.
  - Added 300+ compost bins to the waste closets of each residential hall, which appears to be unprecedented among peer institutions of U-M's size.
- Zero waste events
  - Supported over 1,200 staff and student zero waste events-a 100% increase over the prior year despite ending 3 months early due to COVID.

- In the 2019 season, Michigan Stadium composted 30.2 tons and recycled 43.9 tons.
- University of Michigan Health System (UMHS)
  - Began the unique process of collecting post-consumer compost (leftover food from patient trays).
  - Partnered with a new recycling vendor, to expand into single-stream recycling on the medical campus.
  - Began recycling construction and demolition waste from the main medical campus.
  - Blue wrap (a polypropylene-based sterilization wrap used in operating rooms) recycling began in C.S. Mott Children's and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital and the Cardioavascular Center Hospital.

## **NEXT STEPS**

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- Continue to expand compost service to new spaces and remaining staff kitchens. Work with staff and students to pilot additional public-facing compost bins.
- Strengthen feedback mechanisms about contamination to ensure continued high-quality recyclables and compost.

#### UMHS

- Look for other recycling opportunities with their new recycling vendor.
- Planning to expand existing recycling efforts, including expanding blue wrap recycling into University Hospital operating rooms by the end of 2021.





# FY20 SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET

### **Healthy Environments**

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

**GOAL:** PURCHASE 20% OF U-M FOOD FROM LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE SOURCES BY 2025

**STATUS: 19% PURCHASED** 

#### **PROTECTING THE HURON RIVER**

**GOAL:** PROTECT THE HURON RIVER THROUGH STORMWATER CONTROL STRATEGIES AND REDUCE CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS TO CAMPUS LANDSCAPES BY 40% BY 2025

**STATUS: 54% REDUCTION** 





### **KEY INITIATIVES**

- The student-run Campus Farm sold over \$90,000 of produce for use on campus.
- Continued to expand naturalized areas (prairies, woodlots, and lower maintenance areas) and pollinator habitat.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Staff and faculty are reviewing the carbon impact of food to inform potential changes to campus food offerings.
- Review and update the U-M Sustainable Food guidelines.
- Circumstances allowing, pilot fully organic treatment on the Diag to assess feasibility of broadening this approach.
- Continue planning campus pollinator corridors and the pursuit of Bee Campus certification.

## COVID-19 IMPACT

- The typical process for verifying the sustainable attributes of products from Gordon Food Service was unavailable due to pandemic staffing limitations. GFS used information available to them to determine which products met U-M's definition of sustainable. This resulted in a likely overcount of sustainable items.
- Dining hall and hospital spending was focused on providing safe meals for students and patients.
- Due to reduced staffing, funding, and use of some areas of campus, many lower-priority lawns were not fertilized or otherwise treated to the usual extent. While it has been common in recent years to reach the goal, this degree of reduction is thought to be partially COVID-driven.
- Chemical applications

Chemical applications have decreased 54% despite a 47% increase in maintained green space since FY06.



**JAN 2021** 

# FY20 SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET

## **Community Engagement**

	Purpose	Key Initiatives	Next Steps
Planet Blue Ambassadors	Encourage all faculty, staff, and students to become engaged in sustainability on campus and lead by personal action. Ambassadors form a network to advance U-M's sustainability commitments and move toward a campus- wide ethic of sustainability.	<ul> <li>Currently there are 7,100 Ambassadors.</li> <li>Migrated PBA training modules onto Canvas and incorporated basic sustainability training into New Student Orientation.</li> <li>Planned to pilot a new engagement dashboard to measure sustainable actions, but this was postponed due to COVID.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to engage the breadth of our campus community in sustainability.</li> <li>Monitor the COVID situation for when piloting the new engagement dashboard might be possible.</li> </ul>
Student Sustainability Coalition	Promote a sustainable campus culture by bringing people together to achieve social change. SSC uses the Collective Impact Framework to create a mutually defined common agenda and shared vision that unifies campus-wide student sustainability efforts.	<ul> <li>Students from the Student Sustainability Initiative, President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality, Central Student Government, Planet Blue Student Leaders, U-M Sustainable Food Program, Climate Action Movement, and Students for Clean Energy, facilitated by staff, developed a formal proposal outlining the purpose of SSC and advocating for ongoing institutional support.</li> <li>Hired 10 student staff for the 2020-21 academic year.</li> <li>Awarded \$50,000 in Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund grants to an e-waste drive and a demonstration block M solar panel (both delayed due to COVID) and a project to divert medical waste at Michigan Medicine.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Engage in professional development opportunities in DEI and sustainability.</li> <li>Conduct outreach, establish relationships, and host listening sessions with the numerous student groups involved in sustainability and social justice to create a common agenda.</li> <li>Continue to promote PBSIF grants and award funding to innovative projects.</li> </ul>
Planet Blue Student Leaders	Work with staff to implement sustainability projects, collaborate with student organizations and university departments, and engage their peers (on and off campus) in sustainability programming.	<ul> <li>Restructured PBSL into smaller leadership teams with specific focus areas, such as Energy, Off-Campus, Housing, etc.</li> <li>Overarching project was to support compost roll-out in all residence halls by performing visual waste audits and peer-to-peer behavior campaigns.</li> </ul>	Adjust for a predominantly remote environment by adapting marketing strategies to more universal and home- based behaviors, such as thermostat adjustments or home energy reduction.
U-M Sustainable Food Program	Student-led coalition that works across campus to support all of the sustainable food student group efforts. Started the Campus Farm as a flagship project. Hosts Harvest Fest and other events annually.	<ul> <li>Held Harvest Fest, engaged student orgs across campus, and hired new staff coordinator to support UMSFP and PBSL.</li> <li>Launched virtual Tiny Talks for Food Justice for Earth Day at 50 while transitioning off campus during COVID shutdown in March.</li> <li>Restructured leadership team for more programming and experiential learning opportunities for students. Also formed working groups for general students to get involved in Farm Stand leadership and DEI/food justice initiatives.</li> </ul>	Launch an on-campus farm stand selling items grown by students at the Campus Farm to assist with food access issues.
Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program (SCIP)	Measure and track the culture of sustainability at U-M. Survey results are shared with the campus community and used to inform campus sustainability programming, research, and teaching.	More than 25,000 students, faculty, and staff have responded since 2012 launch. SCIP is the leading sustainability cultural indicators survey, promoted as an exemplar by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Ed and the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations. 171 institutions in 30 countries have accessed SCIP materials to inform their own campus efforts.	<ul> <li>Conduct student survey (postponed from fall 2020) and faculty/staff survey in fall 2021.</li> <li>Incorporate carbon neutrality plans into surveys.</li> </ul>
Earthfest	Celebrate sustainability initiatives across U-M and the surrounding communities, while providing an inclusive platform to educate and engage the campus commnunity on opportunities to support sustainability on campus and in our daily lives.	Transformed Sept. 2020 event into a weeklong virtual series, including an environmental justice speaker, Green Teams webinar, chef demo, skillshare videos, and videos showcasing student and community organizations.	Determine which virtual aspects to keep for broader engagement after returning to an in-person event on the Diag.

