

# SUSTAINABILITY GOAL FACT SHEET

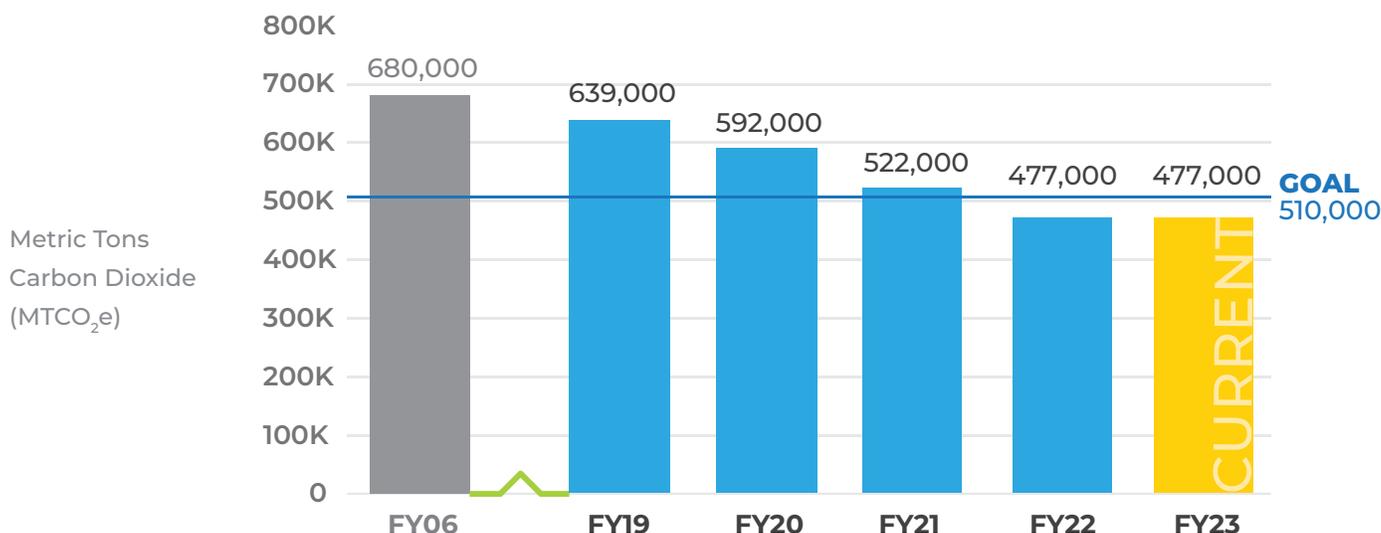
## CLIMATE ACTION: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Goal (Set in 2011): Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2025.



FY23

Status: Achieved 30% reduction



Having achieved its greenhouse gas reduction goal for the Ann Arbor campus in FY22, U-M currently continues to progress toward universitywide carbon neutrality goals, established in 2021.

More about universitywide carbon neutrality commitments: [planetblue.umich.edu/carbonneutrality](https://planetblue.umich.edu/carbonneutrality)

## KEY INITIATIVES

### GREEN PURCHASED POWER

Plans are in development for an additional purchase of Michigan-based renewable electricity to complement the ongoing purchase of 150,000 megawatt hours of Michigan-based wind power. Ultimately, U-M is committed to procuring 100% renewable purchased power by 2025.

### REVOLVING ENERGY FUND

Completed 35 LED retrofit projects in general fund, Student Life, NCRC, Flint, and Dearborn buildings. An additional 40 projects are underway, as is the development of future projects.

### ONSITE SOLAR

Plans to install 25MW of onsite solar across the Flint, Dearborn and Ann Arbor campuses are advancing. The total amount of electricity that would be generated by the installations is estimated to equal the power consumed by approximately 3,000 homes annually.

### GREEN ANESTHESIA

To reduce use of anesthetic gases with high global warming potential, U-M Health decreased point-of-care nitrous oxide use by 88% and shut down the bulk nitrous oxide pipeline serving all buildings on the main medical campus.

### GEO-EXCHANGE HEATING AND COOLING

Three geo-exchange projects are under construction: the Hayward Street Geothermal Facility on North Campus and systems to serve the Central Campus residential complex and the Edward and Rosalie Ginsberg Building.

### VISIONING AND PLANNING

Long-term planning efforts, [Vision 2034](#) and [Campus Plan 2050](#), each emphasize carbon neutrality as a primary focus.

### SUSTAINABLE INVESTING

\$420 million of university portfolio was invested in sustainable energy over the past two years. Avoided emissions from U-M investments in 2023 exceeded total emissions produced by the Ann Arbor campus.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy conservation measures, building tune-ups, and other efforts have produced a 25% reduction in energy consumption in Ann Arbor general fund buildings despite a 20% increase in building area since FY06.

U-M IS ON PACE TO REDUCE CAMPUS EMISSIONS BY 50% BY 2025, PRIMARILY VIA PURCHASE OF MICHIGAN-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CAMPUS ENERGY CONSERVATION WORK

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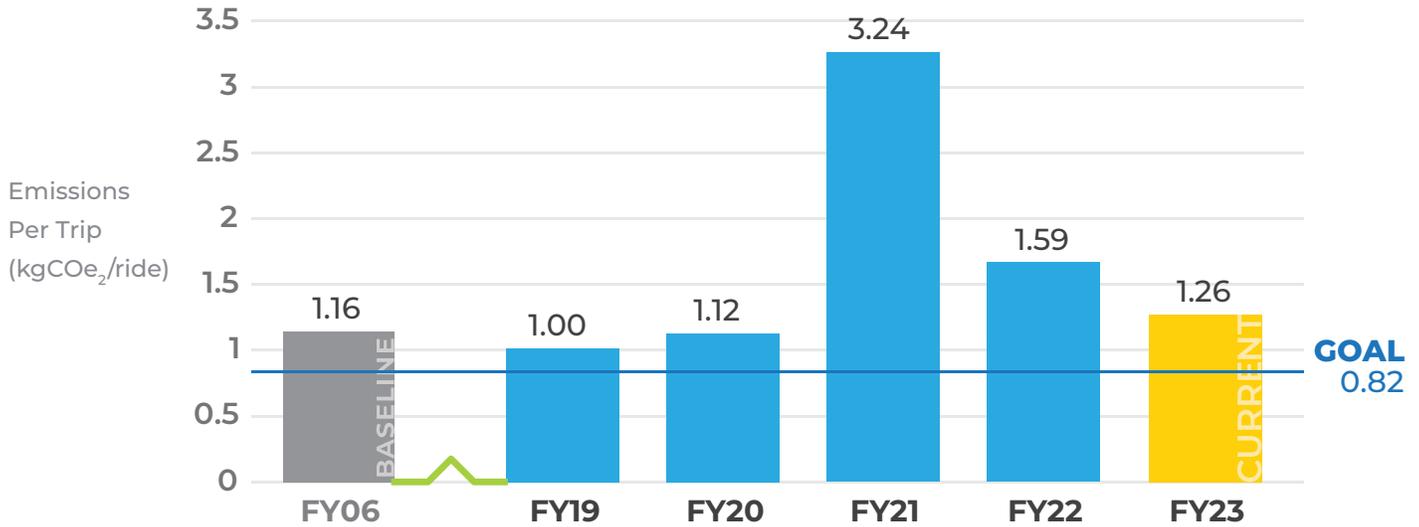
## CLIMATE ACTION: Fuel Efficiency

**Goal:** Decrease carbon intensity of passenger trips on U-M transportation options by 30% by 2025.



**FY23**

**Status:** 0% reduction



Goal is measured as vehicle carbon output per passenger trip. The post-pandemic trajectory has improved, but meeting this goal will require additional emissions reductions.

## KEY INITIATIVES

Four electric buses began operating on the Ann Arbor campus. Eight more will be delivered over the next two years, for a total of 12 electric buses by 2025.

47 battery electric vehicles began operating on the Ann Arbor campus; 11 more EVs have been ordered.

Installed 88 EV charger ports to date, with plans to install 65 more charger ports by end of FY24.

## NEXT STEPS

Continue to work with fleet customers to identify additional opportunities to replace vehicles with EVs.

Install 27 charger ports in FY25 and 12 level-3 charger ports in FY26. Project funding has been identified to begin schematic design for 120 more charger ports in 2025.

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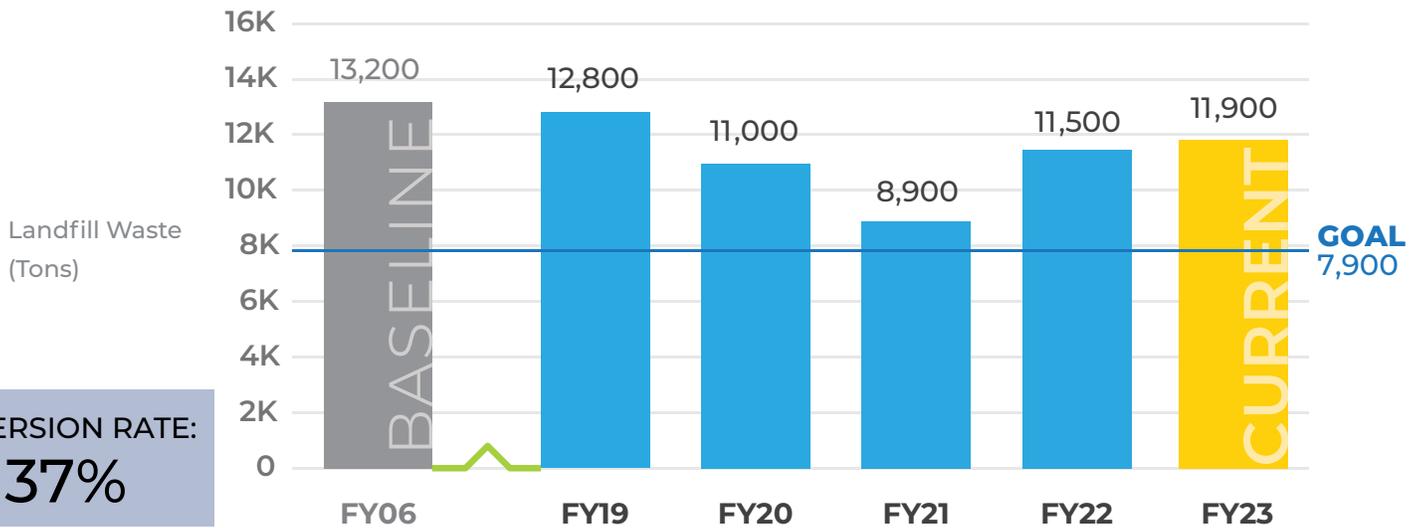
## WASTE REDUCTION

**Goal:** Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills 40% by 2025.



**FY23**

**Status:** 10% reduction



## KEY INITIATIVES

### OFFICE OF CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

Expanded compost collection to include 158 buildings and more than 1,100 bins, including dozens of new public-facing bins to increase accessibility to students.

Led a workstream of campus partners to inform future waste targets, objectives, and supporting strategies.

Launched a desk-side bin reduction initiative to increase diversion rates.

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Earned three honors (more than received previously) from Practice Greenhealth, a leader in health care sustainability: the Emerald, Greening the OR, and Energy awards.

Launched new reusable sharps container program estimated to eliminate more than 100,000 disposable containers and 258,000 lbs of plastic waste per year.

Started a new medical plastics recycling program in the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital operating rooms.

## NEXT STEPS

### OFFICE OF CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

Conduct a comprehensive, campus-wide waste audit to update baseline data and inform new metrics and targets for waste reduction.

Pilot composting material from Michigan Stadium at the Campus Farm and incorporate this initiative into farm operations and living-learning lab efforts.

Build process to establish baseline reuse and construction and demolition waste metrics.

### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Expand the medical plastics recycling program to other buildings on Medical Center Campus.

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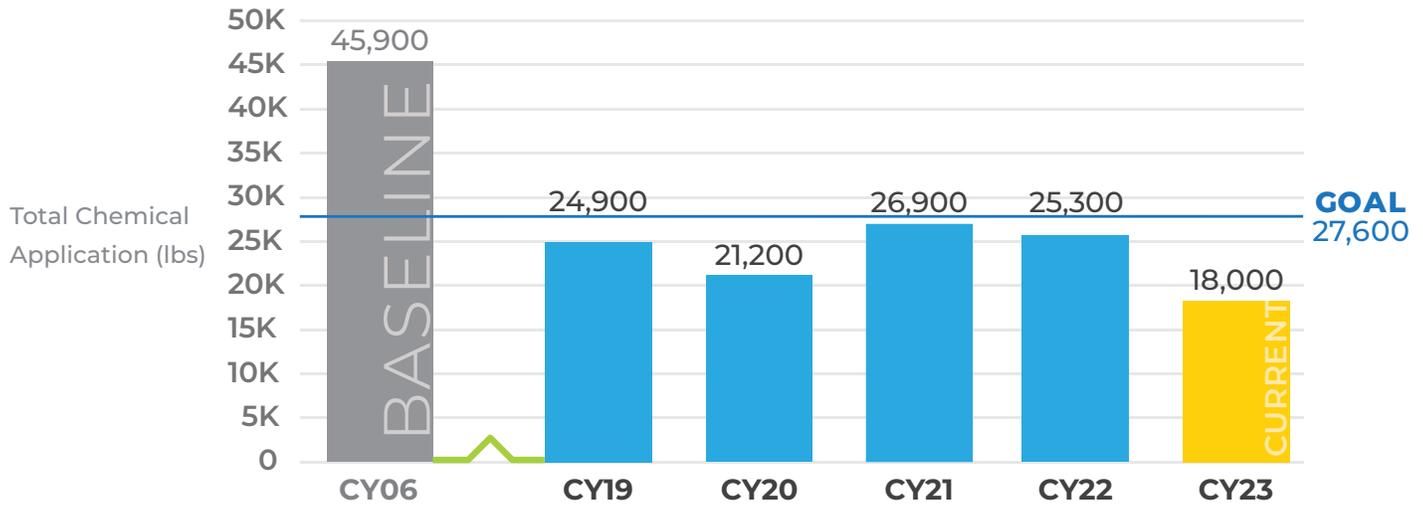
## HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS: Huron River



**Goal:** Protect the Huron River through stormwater control strategies and reduce chemical applications to campus landscapes by 40% by 2025.

**FY23**

**Status:** Achieved 61% reduction



## KEY INITIATIVES

Continued efforts that have achieved this goal the past five years, such as:

- Grounds Services uses organic fertilizers, expands natural areas, and pursues other best practices.
- The golf courses transitioned dozens of acres of turf to more natural landscape, requiring less chemical input.
- An additional boost this year from Athletics converting ball fields to organic fertilizer and Rec Sports reducing chemical use.

Identified additional metrics and strategies to increase resiliency of campus land.

Increased pollinator awareness via tours and podcasts, expanded collaboration between students and operational staff, and maintained Bee Campus USA certification.

## NEXT STEPS

Pilot chemical-free maintenance of the Diag.

Map native planting beds across campus.

Develop a steering committee to continue pursuit of sustainable lands best practices.

## HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS: Sustainable Food

A workgroup is developing a new approach to sustainable food purchases. The 2025 goal measures local food, whereas the future goal will prioritize reducing carbon impact.

While this work progresses, U-M has discontinued the time-intensive tracking process for the 2025 goal to dedicate more time and resources to establish new targets and accounting methodologies.

Although annual metrics will not be added to this goal, U-M's commitment to purchasing sustainable food remains strong. All of the systems in place to attain the current goal will continue for the foreseeable future.





FY23

## EARTHVEST

### PURPOSE

Celebrate sustainability initiatives across U-M and the surrounding communities, while providing an inclusive platform to educate and engage the campus community on opportunities to support sustainability on campus and in our daily lives.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Welcomed groups representing a broad view of sustainability.  
Refined engagement mechanisms to promote meaningful interaction.

### NEXT STEPS

Continue adapting Earthfest to U-M's sustainability priorities and structure.

## PLANET BLUE AMBASSADORS

### PURPOSE

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.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Certified 9,200 Ambassadors across all three U-M campuses.  
Established a sustainability resource toolkit.  
Launched a specialized PBA training for laboratory-based staff.  
Hosted tours of new geo-exchange installations.

### NEXT STEPS

Continue to communicate to U-M community members across all three campuses about efforts underway and encourage them to get involved.  
Continue to create new resources to help individuals take sustainable actions regardless of their role on campus or field of study.

## PLANET BLUE STUDENT LEADERS

### PURPOSE

Work with staff to implement creative multimedia storytelling that contributes to sustainability culture through awareness building and behavior change.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Partnered with Dining, Housing, Beyond the Diag, and Center for Campus

Involvement to develop mutually beneficial behavior change campaigns.  
Hosted hands-on workshops on tangible skills to live more sustainably, including food preservation, soapmaking, making reusable beeswax food wraps, and upcycling clothes.

Produced a podcast, blog posts, social media campaigns, and other forms of creative multimedia storytelling.

### NEXT STEPS

Explore additional mediums for multimedia storytelling.  
Continue to support the creation of the podcast, blog posts, and social media campaigns.

## SUSTAINABILITY CULTURAL INDICATORS PROGRAM (SCIP)

### PURPOSE

SCIP measures the culture of sustainability at U-M. The program launched in 2012 at the Ann Arbor campus and was extended to the Dearborn and Flint campuses in 2021.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Met with constituents to discuss results and prepare additional analyses.

Prepared datasets to be available to all via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Developed a survey partnership with Rutgers University and explored opportunities for additional collaboration through University Climate Change Coalition and Ivy Plus Sustainability Consortium.

Proposed a new Program in the Environment sustainability and quantitative analysis course using SCIP datasets.

### NEXT STEPS

Update questionnaires in early 2024 and collect data in fall 2024.



FY23

## SUSTAINABILITY CULTURAL ORGANIZERS

### PURPOSE

Leverage the power of the arts to envision a more just, equitable, and sustainable world

### KEY INITIATIVES:

Launched by Student Life Sustainability in FY23 to connect members of the arts and sustainability communities.

Organized The Future Is With Our People: Stories of Strength and Creativity in a Changing Climate, an art exhibition in Michigan Union featuring visual art and performances by 19 students

### NEXT STEPS

Through the Arts Initiative's Creators on Campus program, Student Life Sustainability will host an artist-in-residence who will work with the Cultural Organizers on a project about resiliency in the climate crisis.

## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COALITION

### PURPOSE

Promote 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.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Granted \$98,000 in Planet Blue Student Innovation Funds (PBSIF) to five student-centered initiatives: an electric vehicle and solar charging infrastructure for the Campus Farm, a mobile farm stand built

from fallen timber, a mushroom farm for the Sustainable Living Experience, a prototype for microbial carbon capture, and a bat house.

Social and Environmental Sustainability (SES) program funded nine student-led justice-oriented projects.

Hosted the second annual Sustainability Summit.

Expanded and provided backbone support to Student Carbon Neutrality Network (SCANN).

Met with Vice President Kamala Harris

twice to offer perspectives on youth-led climate change solutions.

### NEXT STEPS

Continue to strengthen SCANN and other decentralized student organizing focused on advancing carbon neutrality and sustainability on campus.

Expand depth and breadth of PBSIF and SES grant programs.

Continue to build and maintain relationships with senior leadership.

## U-M SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAM

### PURPOSE

Organize and amplify student voices calling for a more just and sustainable campus food system. Collaborate with food, environmental, and social justice-oriented groups across campus.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Weekly Farm Stand, jointly operated with the Campus Farm, engaged 2,000+ students in hands-on food systems education and sold more than \$10,000 worth of produce to students. Received

a grant to build a Farm Stand-on-Wheels, allowing for expanded hours and locations.

10th Annual Harvest Festival brought 800+ visitors to the Campus Farm. They learned about student food production, activism, and sustainability at U-M.

Rooting for Change: Student Food Summit engaged 250+ students during the three-day event, which included a food-themed variety hour at the Blue Llama Jazz Club, a panel discussion, and

a day of student-facilitated "learnshops" about food sovereignty.

### NEXT STEPS

Construct mobile Farm Stand and begin operating it in 2024.

Continue to grow network of collaborators for student-led educational events.

## ZERO WASTE STADIUM

### PURPOSE

Reduce waste and build a culture of sustainability by making football games zero waste.

### KEY INITIATIVES

Diverted 78 tons of waste from the landfill, with a 75% diversion rate.

Piloted new post-game compost process.

- 56 tons of recycling
- 19 tons of compost
- 3.5 tons of food donated to Food Gatherers

### NEXT STEPS

Continue zero waste collection process improvements and staff and volunteer training program. Explore additional waste diversion opportunities.