



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Goucher College

GOUCHER
— college —

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Higher Education
Member since August 2009

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Goucher has a sustainability component in its Strategic Plan, which states that the college has met or exceeded several significant goals in the area of environmental sustainability in recent years and still plans to vigorously approach other environmental ambitions, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing a progressive, forward-looking climate action plan. The component is available at <http://meyerhoff.goucher.edu/strategicplan/>.

Additionally, the college's liberal education curriculum stipulates that students are required to explore the ecological and/or policy dimensions of environmental sustainability through their coursework.

Environmental Team

The Goucher Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council (GESAC) is an environmental advisory council consisting of students, faculty, and staff members. The council meets on a monthly basis during the school year and advises the president and administration on environmental issues and policies. The council researches and explores solutions to environmental issues raised by members of the Goucher community and reports its findings to the president and pertinent parties. It also helps implement campus environmental programs and monitors the college's progress in fulfilling the requirements of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). For more information about the council, its members, and its most recent activities go to www.goucher.edu/about/environmental-sustainability

Annual Goals

Goucher is contracted with Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E), Inc., a Massachusetts-based environmental and engineering consulting firm. In 2009 the college completed a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, as required by the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. It has steadily been implementing recommendations outlined by the subsequent climate action plan and in 2018 already surpassed their goal of reducing Goucher's greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020. Goucher is in the process of setting new targets.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Bon Appétit Management Company, Goucher's food services provider, works with the college to help bring principles of environmental sustainability and social responsibility to our dining halls. Bon Appétit is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers who provide organic fruits and vegetables, hormone-free dairy products, and free-range meats to Goucher's dining facilities. The company also has initiated the use of eco-friendly food containers on campus, has initiated a composting program, and holds "low carbon diet" days.

Staff are encouraged to participate in a community supported agriculture (CSA) program with on-campus pickup during the summer and fall.

Additionally, throughout campus the college uses paper with a content of 10 percent to 20 percent recycled materials. All of the paper towel, toilet paper, and tissue products used on campus are 100 percent recycled-content and EcoLogo certified. EcoLogo is a third-party certified eco-labelling program approved by the Global EcoLabelling Network.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Student Leaders for Civic Action (SLCAs) from Goucher's Community-Based Learning (CBL) Program lead community environmental projects, such as pulling invasive species, planting trees, and volunteering in urban agriculture in Baltimore with our community partners.

The Goucher Beekeepers Club has cared for several bee hives on campus and advocates for pollinator-friendly landscaping practices.

In 2019, the Goucher Agriculture Co-operative participated in a Permaculture Workshop series to incorporate permaculture principles into the design of the community garden.

The college brings distinguished scholars, teachers, and practitioners to Goucher's campus to advance local and national dialogues on pressing issues of our time. Under the theme of environmentalism, the college has recently presented public lectures, film screenings, community service activities, workshops, and events, including student-ran Earth Day celebrations.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

Goucher has implemented a "Print Wisely" program to discourage wasteful printing, conserve environmental resources and control printing costs. Additionally, most student network printers are set up to print double-sided.

In 2019, students expanded the "Free Store", which is a space for students to donate/exchange lightly used clothing, school supplies, furniture, and other items for students/faculty/staff to take for free. The Free Store gives items a second life and diverts waste, especially during the end-of-year move out.

Students are encouraged to use reusable travel coffee mugs and are able to get a 10 cent discount at the retail dining locations on campus.

Recycling

Goucher has been working to recycle and compost waste from campus for more than two decades. Efforts that started with teams of students that managed recycling in the residence halls now have grown into campus-wide enterprises that include centralized trash rooms and containers around campus, educational initiatives, and a system to track campus waste.

All the buildings on campus contain sets of clearly labeled recycling containers for waste, paper, and cans/bottles. Bon Appétit, Goucher's food management company, gives its kitchen grease to a local biodiesel fuel company for processing into biodiesel. Additionally, when Goucher upgrades its electronics, an eCycler buys back the old equipment and refurbishes it or disposed of it in an environmentally responsible manner.

Composting

Since 2015, the college has contracted with Waste Neutral to haul compostable waste from the dining hall to a commercial composting facility.

The on-campus community garden also has two compost tumblers for small-scale, backyard composting that enriches the garden and agricultural activities.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

The Chemistry Department used a grant to purchase a solvent recycling unit. The unit reduces environmental waste by as much as 90 percent in some cases. The recovered solvent has excellent purity and is immediately put to use in the same labs from which it came. The unit will also lead to a reduction in the college's purchasing and disposal costs.

Goucher College also recycles: compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, motor oil, tires, paints/solvents/cleaning agents, and scrap metals. The college hosts an electronics recycling collection annually around Earth Day.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Goucher has implemented the following programs and/or technologies to improve energy efficiency:

- 1. Campus-wide Siemens DDC energy management system.*
- 2. Central Chiller Plant 1 and 2 have had high-efficiency (.55 kw/ton) chillers with variable frequency drives installed.*
- 3. Variable-frequency drives have been installed on 150 motors and pumps.*
- 4. Temperature setbacks are scheduled daily campus-wide.*
- 5. Thermal ice storage system with 6,000 ton hour capacity has been installed at two central plants.*
- 6. Several solar street lights have been installed along campus walkways.*
- 7. Three-way valves on heating and cooling systems have been replaced with two-way valves for variable flow.*
- 8. Occupancy sensors in classrooms that turn off lights and set back the HVAC system have been installed.*
- 9. Domestic water heaters that are 82 percent efficient are being replaced with condensing models that are 95 percent efficient.*
- 10. Compact fluorescent bulbs are being used to replace incandescent wherever possible.*
- 11. T5 Bulbs 10 percent and T8 Bulbs 90 percent were installed campus-wide.*
- 12. Vending Miser occupancy sensors have been installed on vending machines campus-wide.*
- 13. High-efficiency motors are being installed campus-wide.*
- 14. Since 2016, Goucher has purchased 100% wind Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to cover their annual electricity usage.*

By 2013, Goucher reported that there had been an overall 3.8 percent reduction in greenhouse gases since 2009, while in the same time frame the campus building footprint has increased by 13 percent. Even with the additional challenge of compensating for an increase of spaces on campus to heat, cool, and power since the initial GHG assessment in 2009, there had been a 16 percent reduction in natural gas and oil consumption for heating per square foot and a 19 percent reduction in electricity consumption for cooling per square foot.

By 2018, Goucher reported a 25% reduction in carbon emissions compared to the 2009 baseline (ahead of the 20% by 2020 goal).

To achieve this, in recent years the college has instituted such initiatives as: ensuring all new buildings or major renovations to existing buildings are planned with the goal of achieving at least a Silver rating according to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System; partnering with a sustainable waste management company; purchasing green power to meet 100 percent of the college's electricity use; installing water and energy meters on all campus buildings to monitor usage; implementing more energy-efficient lighting; and updating building controls for the heating and cooling systems, among other things.

Renewable Energy

Goucher is now purchasing more than 11 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually, which is enough to meet 100 percent of the college's electricity use. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Goucher's green power purchase of more than 11 million kWh is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from nearly 2,000 passenger vehicles per year, or the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of more than 960 average American homes annually. The college is buying this green power in the form of renewable energy certificates (RECs) from Clean Currents, a wind power supplier to residential and commercial customers in Maryland, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Transportation

Employee Commute

Goucher has partnered with the Baltimore Collegetown Network, which provides a free shuttle service to local colleges and attractions, and the Zipcar Program, an environmentally friendly car-share program. The college also has Gopher-A-Ride Together, a campus-wide carpooling program. The college offers

designated carpool parking. In addition, discounted monthly MTA bus passes are available for faculty, staff, and students.

Water

Water Conservation

All the low-flow showerheads in the residence halls were replaced with ultra-low-flow showerheads. The new shower heads provide a better quality shower while saving 4,400 gallons of hot water a day.

Stormwater Management and Site Design

In 1997, Goucher College prepared a plan that divided the college into several stormwater management quadrants that each have facilities that act as filtration devices for water quality and for controlling water quantity runoff. The college has also initiated defined areas as forest buffers that also act as water quality structures for the campus. There are several discharge controls that capture water runoff from parking lots.

Goucher has begun researching and planting trees and plants that are grown locally and are native to the region. The college seeks out plants that are drought tolerant and resistant to disease and insects, that do not require pruning or maintenance on a yearly basis, and that are unpalatable to deer.

The 287-acre campus is also maintained 100 percent organically.

Green Building

LEED Silver

The recently renovated 65,762-square-foot Academic Center at Julia Rogers is an LEED silver rated in the U.S. Green Building Council's Rating System. A new policy passed in 2009 ensures all new buildings or major renovations on campus are planned with the goal of achieving at least a Silver rating according to the US. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green-Building Rating System. Goucher College has recognized the benefits of incorporating sustainable design principles into its facilities planning and is building and renovating in a more environmentally conscious way.

LEED Gold

The Athenaeum, completed in September 2009, is Goucher's first Gold-certified new building. The building employs energy-saving features, such as high-performance insulated glass that admits daylight while reducing heat gain, solar water heating, light-activated motorized window shades, motion sensors for lighting, and displacement ventilation. The building incorporates recycled building materials, low volatile organic compound adhesives and sealants, a system zoning control of the HVAC and lighting systems for maximum efficiency, and two "green" roofs that reduce heat gain and alleviate stormwater runoff. The building's water conservation features include dual-flush toilets, waterless urinals, water-efficient landscaping, and motion-activated faucets.

Other

Memberships / Affiliations

- Member, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partnership (EPA GPP)
- Member, National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
- Member, American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)
- Member, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- Member, Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network
 - President of Goucher is on the Climate Leadership Steering Committee

Awards / Honors

- [2018 Marks of Distinction](#) (from Second Nature)
 - "On Track"
 - "25% Carbon Reduction"
 - "100% Renewable Energy Purchaser"
 - [We Are Still In](#)

Profile Updated April 2019



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

