



## 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.

# St. Mary's College of Maryland



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Higher Education  
Member since October 2009

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Policy Statement

*"Our beautiful residential campus on the banks of the St. Mary's River inspires our work, our play, and our commitment to the environment." – from St. Mary's Mission Statement.*

*When we think about sustainability, it is important to remember that it is not only about the environment. Sustainability involves the economy, society, and the environment. It means finding a balance between these 3 things in order to provide solutions that meet everyone's needs now while also anticipating future needs.*

*Environmental sustainability has long been an important aspect of planning, operations, and day-to-day life at St. Mary's. While our commitment to the environment is included in our mission statement, it is part of our recent history as stated in our 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, and the guiding influence behind our Climate Action Plan to achieve climate neutrality by 2020. This plan presented a series of targets and strategies to help us realize our pledge, including energy efficiency upgrades, installing renewable energy systems on campus, operational and behavioral improvements, and the purchasing of renewable energy credits and carbon offsets. We have achieved our Scope 1 and 2 emissions targets and have plans to create a new Sustainability Plan to encompass more green initiatives on campus.*

**Environmental Team**

*St. Mary's paid environmental team members include Thomas Brewer, Manager of Environmental Health Safety and Sustainability Programs, Madeleine Beller, Sustainability Fellow (a one year position offered to recently graduated alumnus/a) 2 part-time student interns, 4 Federal Work Study students, and the Student Government Environmental Protection Committee.*

**Environmentally Preferable Procurement**

*All coffee sold in the College coffee shops and dining hall is certified organic and Fair Trade. All cleaning supplies and bathroom paper products are Green Seal certified, and we also offer reusable to-go boxes in our primary dining facility in an effort to reduce waste stemming from disposable containers. We use Bon Appetit as our campus dining manager which touts sustainability in the form of things like local buying requirements and sustainable seafood procurement guidelines.*

**Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

*As an institution of higher education, we believe in the prescience of environmental education and sustainability as an element of a modern liberal arts experience. Our environmental studies program includes environmental science, policy and social sciences, and humanities tracks. We offer classes from Environmental Ethics to Sustainable Agriculture to Environmental Policy. It is one of our fastest growing and biggest majors since its inception in 2015.*

*Our Office of Sustainability is focused on creating opportunities for student's faculty, and staff to make more sustainable choices. We connect with numerous on and off-campus groups such as the SGA, Student Support Services, Bon Appetit, Sustainable Maryland, and the MaryPIRG MSCAC group in order to look for new ways to lessen our negative environmental impact and improve our positive social impact.*

**Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*The College actively participates in community environmental projects by working closely with local community groups and on-campus student organizations.*

*The St. Mary's River Project works to educate local children about the Chesapeake's ecosystem and the environmental challenges facing it through an outreach program that puts St. Mary's students in local classrooms.*

*In the fall of 2015, the environmental studies and art departments paired up with the Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown to build two Tiny Houses (one for St. Mary's College and another for the Greenwell Foundation, a local non-profit) to teach high school and college students, as well as the surrounding community, about sustainable design and community arts education.*

*The biology department works closely with a local non-profit, St. Mary's River Watershed Association, to obtain grants to research and implement oyster restoration in the St. Mary's River. In the summer of 2010, the College collaborated with the SMRWA to plant more than 500,000 oysters and oyster spat on the College's waterfront and neighboring properties. Other community engagement includes our participation in events like the St. Mary's River Watershed Association's Riverfest, securing grants and partnerships with Historic St. Mary's City, opening the Kate Chandler Campus Community Farm for plot rentals, and using our Arboretum as a Tree Campus to provide the public with opportunities to engage with our campus community.*

## **Waste**



### **Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse**

*The implementation of a tray-less dining policy at St. Mary's in January 2009 has reduced food waste by 23% and eliminated the consumption of the water and energy previously used to wash trays. The campus now has a Free Store where the campus community may donate and shop our wares (for free). With the exception of the Covid-19 pandemic and Health Department Regulations, our dining halls implement a reusable to-go box program to reduce the amount of waste caused by the use of disposable take-out containers. We work with local St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen to donate excess food from our dining halls to those in need.*



### **Recycling**

*St. Mary's College uses a single stream recycling system. Recycling bins are available for every classroom, office and residence on campus. St. Mary's county provides a single-stream recycling system, making recycling very easy and efficient. According to the College's most recent estimates, our recycling rate is 35%.*



### **Composting**

*The College has developed a composting program for on-campus residence food waste, leaves and grass clippings, which reduces solid waste by an*

*estimated 4 tons annually while creating fertilizer to use on the campus grounds and the Campus Community Farm. We are working towards securing funds for an industrial in-vessel composter, which will be the only such facility in St. Mary's County.*

## **Energy**

### **Energy Efficiency**

*In 2007, a \$2.8 million dollar Energy Performance Contract managed by the Department of General Services was completed that is reducing the College's energy consumption: 2,100,000 KWh (16.5% reduction) and 73,000 gallons of oil (23% reduction) are saved every year. This reduction derives from a variety of energy efficiency projects that included upgraded lighting and occupancy sensors, boiler replacements and energy management system upgrades. In 2008, the Sustainability Committee compiled scores of ideas from the campus community to save energy. Listed in the Energy Conservation Initiative draft report, many of these initiatives are currently being explored. Many energy efficiency programs have and will be funded by the Green St. Mary's Revolving Fund, which was created in the spring of 2010 with \$80,000 in seed money from the Student Government Association.*

*Energy conservation is a primary goal of many renovation and equipment replacement projects including replacement of older heat pumps with high EER heat pumps at the existing Crescent town houses, installation of new VRF air conditioning systems at Dorchester residence hall and planned for Queen Anne residence hall, and proposed window and door replacements at historic Calvert Hall and 1970's era Montgomery Hall. HVAC controls systems upgrades and mechanical component replacements which occur as part of regular maintenance also improve energy efficiency. And efforts continue to retrofit many light fixtures with LED light sources which are more efficient and do not contain mercury.*

### **Renewable Energy**

*In a 2007 referendum, 96% of student voters chose to increase student fees to enable the College to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset 100% of annual electrical consumption. By purchasing RECs to offset electricity, we effectively reduce our carbon footprint by more than 50%, or by more than 12,000 metric tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>. The college also sports a 3KW photovoltaic demonstrational array atop the Library, and through a partnership with the Student Government Association was able to install a geothermal heat pump HVAC system in the new James P. Muldoon River Center that prevents the emission of 270 metric tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> each year.*

*SMCM purchases approximately \$22,000 worth of RECs annually to offset our emissions from off-campus non renewable sources*

## Water

### **Water Conservation**

*We've installed on-campus water saving technologies including gray water systems, waterless urinals and dual flush toilets help to save over 9,000,000 gallons of water each year.*

### **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*The College implements stringent storm water management programs to protect water quality. In each of its capital projects, the College seeks to achieve optimum conservation solutions, often exceeding the regulatory requirements of the State's Critical Areas Commission and the Maryland Department of Environment. This commitment has resulted in the implementation of "best management practices" that intend to achieve an overall net improvement in the quality of storm water reaching tidal waters by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution. The College has achieved a 50% reduction in storm water pollution from a 1986 baseline even though the campus infrastructure has nearly doubled.*

## Green Building

### **LEED Silver**

*St. Mary's College adheres to Maryland High Performance Building Code - State requirement for new buildings, which mandates LEED, Green Globes or conformance with the International Green Building Code.*

*Goodpaster Hall is certified LEED Silver using the New Construction Rating System. Muldoon River Center is certified LEED Silver.*

*Glendening Hall was built to LEED standards, but was never submitted for certification.*

### **LEED Gold**

*Anne Arundel Hall was built to LEED Gold standards, but was never submitted for certification*

*Profile Updated December 2020*



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

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

