



WINTER '24

LSA YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

STORIES, RESOURCES, AND ACTIONS

Part of the LSA Year of Sustainability

Authored by the Year of Sustainability Committee & LSA Sustainability Staff

March 22, 2024

In partnership with



This report is best viewed digitally to take advantage of links and resources throughout. Please message sustainable-lsa@umich.edu if you have any questions regarding this update. Thank you!

PLANET BLUE

Planet Blue is what we call U-M's commitment to sustainability. The University of Michigan measures its collective sustainability progress through emissions reduction, waste diversion, ecosystem protection, campus and community engagement, and more. Learn more about the university's climate action journey in the 2023 [Climate Action Report](#), or by becoming a [Planet Blue Ambassador](#).



LSA PARTNERSHIP

The university and LSA work together on opportunities to advance carbon neutrality commitments across the college. A non-comprehensive list of collective actions towards these shared goals includes:

ELIMINATE EMISSIONS FROM DIRECT, ON-CAMPUS SOURCES (SCOPE 1) BY 2040

Key University Actions:

Onsite renewable and recoverable energy projects, geothermal exchange, electrification of vehicles and other infrastructure.

Key LSA Actions:

Building renovations, strategic commitments for specific carbon neutrality projects in LSA facilities including the U-M Biostation.

REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM PURCHASED ELECTRICITY (SCOPE 2) TO NET ZERO BY 2025

Key University Actions:

Power Purchase Agreements to enable increase the percentage of U-M's purchase power provided through renewable sources, including wind and solar.

Key LSA Actions:

Responsive building scheduling, LED lighting standards, Revolving Energy Fund partnerships, building tuneups, and energy conservation work.

ESTABLISH GOALS FOR INDIRECT EMISSIONS (SCOPE 3) BY 2025.

Key University Actions:

The work to establish baseline data and set strategies in key areas is ongoing, especially in the procurement category.

Key LSA Actions:

Evaluating policies specific to our procurement and business travel emissions, partnering with individual units and departments.

FOSTER A UNIVERSITY-WIDE CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY WITH JUSTICE AS A CORE PRINCIPLE.

Key University Actions:

Carbon neutrality language and possible intersections with diversity, equity, and inclusion are embedded in the D.E.I. 2.0 plan.

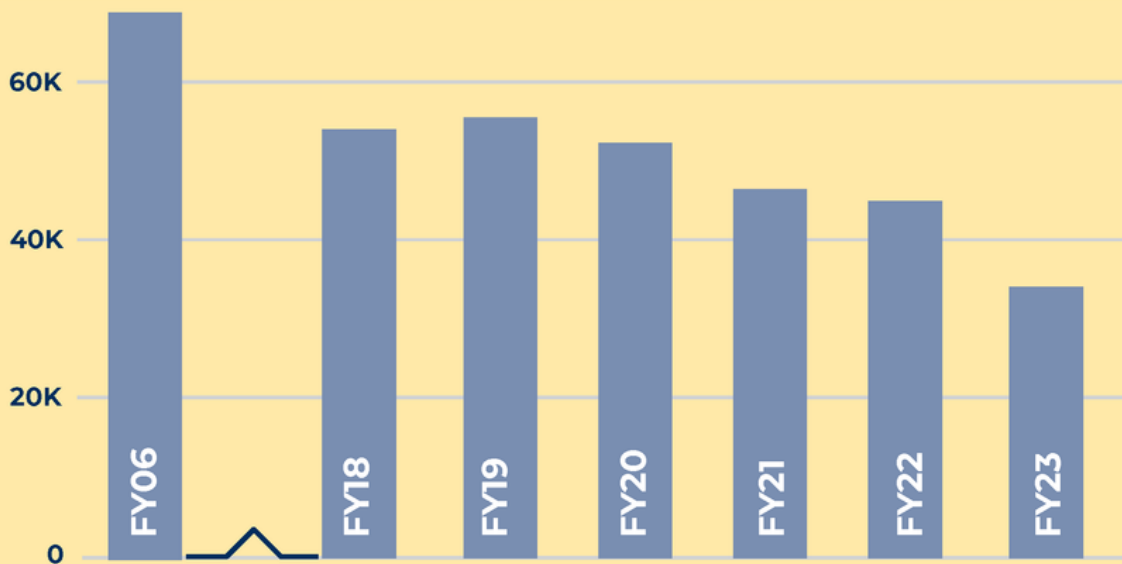
Key LSA Actions:

LSA is in the early stages of planning a DEI x Sustainability summit for October of 2024.

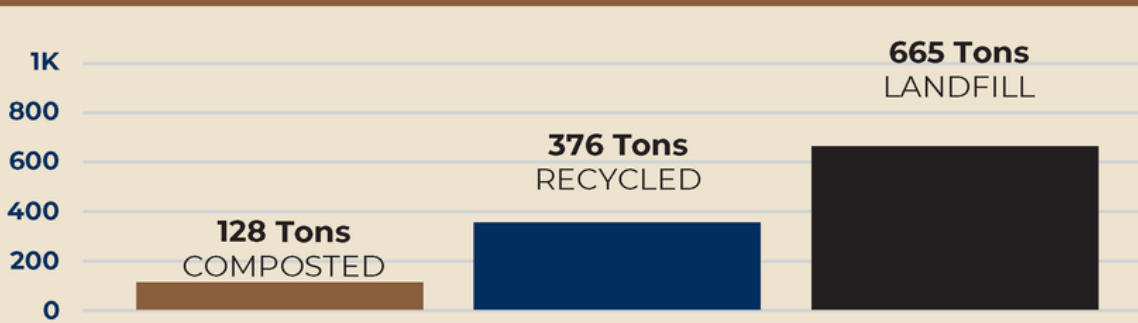
LSA BUILDINGS

Building Sustainability Report | FY23

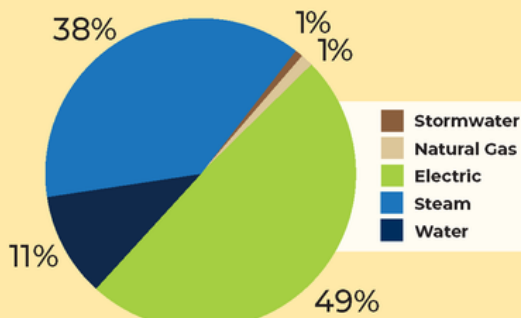
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MTCO₂)



Waste Streams



Utility Costs By Type



Total Utility Costs = \$12,661,384

Waste Diverted From Landfill

43% (FY22) 44%

Sustainable Workplaces

55

GET INVOLVED: ocs.umich.edu

M | PLANET BLUE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

M | OFFICE OF CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

Annual sustainability reports from the Office of Campus Sustainability help us monitor our overall impact across all LSA buildings and partner on opportunities to further reduce our footprint. "Sustainable Workplaces" includes certified labs and offices. Facility-level [energy and waste data](#) is also available.

LSA OPERATIONS IN WINTER 2024

As the University of Michigan's largest college, LSA plays a key role in enacting the university's goal to minimize its environmental impact. While much work remains, outcomes in key Winter 2024 workstreams include:

FACILITIES



LSA F&O embedded sustainability in the project processes, hired sustainability staff, implemented carpet recycling and furniture reuse, and partnered centrally on carbon neutrality efforts.

ENERGY CONSERVATION



LSA avoided \$100,000 in energy costs and reduced our January carbon footprint by 6% through building adjustments over season days, replaced non-LED lighting, and proposed new energy recovery systems.

SUSTAINABLE LABS



LSA streamlined cold storage as part of the Freezer Challenge, increased the number of certified Sustainable Labs, and partnered with OCS on a new Lab Reuse storefront in the North University Building.

...and more!

UP NEXT IN SUMMER 2024:

- Optimize building schedules using Wi-Fi connectivity patterns and other data.
- Design policies to reduce college-wide transportation and procurement emissions.
- Pilot [SmartLab](#) program to save energy in the Undergraduate Science Building.
- Complete compost bin implementation in all LSA kitchen spaces (we are almost there!)
- Expand water bottle refill station access across LSA in recognition of [World Water Day 2024](#).
- Implementation of funded Year of Sustainability projects with first-round recipients.

Become a certified
[Sustainable Office or Lab](#)

YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY: FUNDED PROJECTS TO DATE

The Incentives & Innovations Fund enables student groups, departments, and units to implement sustainable actions. All projects are monitored for possible future expansion in LSA. Here are some of our early winners, which will be implemented in the coming weeks.

New Power Center Pollinator Patch - LSA Student Government TREES



*Increases
campus
biodiversity*

Bottle-Free Filling Stations for Events - LSA@Play



*Decreases
plastic waste*

Closed-Loop Water Condensers - Chemistry



*Reduces
water waste*



Apply for funding [here!](#)

COURSES & CURRICULUM

The LSA Curriculum is a key opportunity for college-level sustainability work. Led by LSA Undergraduate Education, the college is currently working in the following areas to grow our academic culture of sustainability.

Embed

sustainability principles, overlaps, and opportunities in existing courses.

Track

number and key sustainability themes in LSA courses across departments.

110+ sustainability courses tagged by LSA faculty for Fall 2024

30% of [U-M Sustainability Experts](#) are LSA-affiliated faculty

Create

new courses which address the grand challenges of sustainability and intersectional topics.

Propose

a framework which integrates sustainability into the curriculum, balanced with other college priorities.



Read about Dr. Karin Martin's new environmental sociology class [here](#)

GET INVOLVED

If you teach...

Join the [Make Climate a Class Initiative](#) in April by dedicating 10 - 30 minutes of classroom time to discussing climate change and sustainability topics.

April 1 - 5, 2024

Apply for the [Embedding Climate Change in Courses Retreat \(EC3\)](#), co-sponsored by LSA UGED, LSA Sustainability, PitE, and CRLT.

May 31 and June 4, 2024

Tag your eligible courses with the "Sustainability" course tag.

Ongoing

If you are a student...

If you are just starting your academic sustainability journey, check out [this overview document](#) with resources for studying sustainability on campus.

Ongoing

If you are already involved in academic or programmatic sustainability, apply for the [Sustainability Honors Cord Program](#).

Apply by April 7, 2024 for spring Commencement

Find courses using the Special Offers - Sustainability tag in the [LSA Course Guide](#) or the [LSA Year of Sustainability Course Spotlight](#) in Atlas AI.

Ongoing

DEPARTMENT-LEVEL ACTION

LSA Units & Departments leverage their unique expertise, insights, and interests to lead change across their operations and programming. Here are a few examples of new efforts that have been launched in response to the Year of Sustainability.

[Chairs & Directors Playbook](#)

ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY + EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: PLANT-FORWARD CATERING POLICIES



EEB fully eliminated meat from departmental events, while EES eliminated all red meat. Choosing plant-based catering options can drastically reduce your personal and collective carbon footprint. MDining offers [carbon labeling](#) and many local caterers can accommodate plant-based requests. For more information on impact-per-food type, please see [this link](#).

Each meatless meal you choose reduces your carbon footprint by at least 8 pounds.

CHEMISTRY: COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE LAB SUSTAINABILITY

Chemistry launched a new “Sustainability Team” with over 20 representatives from groups throughout the department to address shared challenges in laboratory spaces. Members work together to share best practices, create resources, and make a measurable impact across research and operations. To learn more about Sustainable Lab certification, [please see this link](#).

Many members of the Chemistry Department also advance sustainability through their research. Read more about the McNeil group’s [work here](#).



LSA@PLAY: SUSTAINABILITY IN EVENTS

LSA@Play has transitioned to branded giveaway (Swag) items that incorporate sustainable materials, prioritizing those that are useful and durable. The team is dedicated to long-term planning to reduce the impact of events over time. The team hosted a Book Wall in March that celebrated Women’s History Month and subsequent Sustainability Book Clubs to advance environmental conversations. All LSA community members are welcome to join the Book Club at [this link](#).



Add your favorite sustainability-related books to this virtual [bookshelf](#).

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

LSA is full of individuals with personal and professional commitments to the environment. Here are a few folks whose actions helped to advance LSA's climate goals and sustainability culture.



Gail Chapman

designed a reuse and recycling center at the Research Museum Complex for hard to recycle plastics and other materials.



Brandon Bond

is embedding environmental wellbeing and tools for facing climate anxiety in LSA's overall mental health programming.



Kathryn Beaton

organized a thrift swap for the Dean's Office second floor team. Donations went to the Clothes Closet and Spectrum Center.



Sara Rivera

champions sustainability opportunities in teaching, research, operations, and culture across the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department.



Tim McKay

is a leader in LSA's climate action response - and recently took the train from Ann Arbor to Lincoln and back to reduce his travel impact.

Are you a sustainability champion, too? Join our team!

The LSA Sustainability Champions cohort plays a key role in identifying opportunities, advancing culture, and proposing next steps for the college.

More information [here](#)



SUSTAINABLE LSA

LOOKING AHEAD

Up Next

Earth Month programming kicks off in late March and runs through April. Join us for an event with Secretary Deb Haaland, Make Climate a Class, Science Cafe, book club, the Advancing Climate Education Summit, Swag Swap, a seed library kickoff, and more.



Link to many more U-M Earth Month events [here](#)

Summer 2024

The Year of Sustainability will continue throughout the summer and fall. Summer work will include further departmental collaborations, implementation of new LSA-wide policies, and curricular work. Fall will include major summits on topics of community interest, launching new resources, and collaborative planning sessions for future LSA climate action.

LSA CARBON NEUTRALITY TASKFORCE

Initial strategy framework, recommendations, and resource allocation

2022

YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY

Implementing operational, academic, and cultural sustainability opportunities

2024

LSA SUSTAINABILITY

Everything that comes next - our community's priorities, commitments, leadership, and collective impact

Ongoing



Credit: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

Thank you to the LSA community members who serve on committees, offer their feedback and ideas, lend their expertise and enthusiasm, volunteer as Champions, and support sustainability and climate action in so many different ways on campus and beyond.

RESOURCES

- [LSA Sustainability](#)
- [Planet Blue](#)
- [Graham Sustainability Institute](#)
- [Office of Campus Sustainability](#)