

# SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS AT UMBC

## Accomplishments:

- Since 2007 – enrollment ↑ 18%, building SF ↑ 19% and greenhouse gas emissions ↓ 20%
- We are Lean & Green - Using less energy and getting more from renewable energy sources.
- Electricity use ↓ 12 million kWh and 33% of our electricity is renewable
- Invested \$12M in energy-efficiency upgrades to HVAC systems and lighting. These performance contracts will pay for themselves within ten years.
- Five living green roofs installed on Patapsco Hall Addition, Administration Building, Apartment Community Center, Event Center and ILSB.
- Campus landscape redesigned to clean water and support wildlife – i.e., stormwater retention, pervious paver installations, no-mow zones, student built community garden, food forest and pollinator gardens. In 2019 the National Wildlife Foundation certified UMBC as a wildlife habitat.
- Facilities Management & Environmental Task Force awarded a 2019 Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant to plant native shrubs and understory trees.
- Transportation emissions reduced through biodiesel Transit shuttles, rideshare (Zimride), carpooling program, electric vehicle charging stations, Zipcars, and bike share.
- Recycling program updated to collect all recyclables together in 'single stream' bins.
- Compostable items now collected in the main dining areas to compost into fertile soil.
- The campus community is being engaged through targeted programs:
  - Students - Eco-Ambassadors, Student Leadership Programs.
  - Faculty – Sustainability Across the Disciplines workshops, Faculty Learning Community
  - Staff – Green Office Certification
- UMBC dining contract sources 25% of food from local, sustainable, and ethical sources. Dining Hall contains a hydroponic garden to grow greens and herbs, is trayless, strawless, and has a reusable container system to replace styrofoam.

## Goals:

Future increased focus on sustainability.

- Rewriting Climate Action Plan, achieve neutrality sooner
- Establishing formal sustainability office, charged with expanding sustainability efforts. Hiring an Assistant Director of Sustainability to provide leadership.
- Continue to search out business improvements that also improve sustainability – example – DocuSign saves 7,136 lb wood, 19,087 gal water, 16,054 lb CO<sub>2</sub>, 1,053 lb waste.

Learn More: [www.sustainability.umbc.edu](http://www.sustainability.umbc.edu)