

SP13

TRINITY COLLEGE

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013

Establishing Key Priorities for a Sustainable Trinity

Prepared by the Sustainability Task Force

January 2013



Photo: Gates Quad, Trinity College

The Sustainability Strategic Plan 2013 (SP13) is an overview of sustainability projects to be implemented during 2013 at Trinity College. SP13 was prepared by the [Sustainability Task Force](#) (STF)¹, which formed in 2007 to help develop and oversee a Climate Action Plan. SP13 goals are meaningful short-term projects within the scope of the Trinity community and outside of existing effort by Facilities. SP13 also identifies longer-term sustainability solutions the college can and should pursue in the years to come.

SP13 is designed to focus the widespread support and work for sustainability that already exists among Trinity College students, staff, and faculty. Creating a more sustainable Trinity requires collaboration across the entire campus, in different academic departments, administrative offices, facilities, and residence halls.

SP13 is organized by sustainability goals and the projects necessary to achieve them. A summary of the goals is listed below, and projects for each goal are outlined through SP13. The STF developed these goals and projects during committee meetings based on the 2009 Key Performance Indicator Report², current campus initiatives, and the Climate Action Plan³.

CATEGORY	SSP13 GOAL
Green Building	Adopt an official Green building policy to guide major construction projects on campus.
Education	Track, publicize, and expand current research and courses in sustainability.
Community Engagement	Empower the campus community involves advertising existing efforts, educating about and incentivizing sustainable behaviors in classrooms, dorm rooms, and offices.
Dining Services	Goal: Increase the amount of sustainable food products offered at dining venues, reduce waste associated with serving it, and increase recycling and composting in dining halls.
CAP Support	Support Trinity College’s existing Climate Action Plan through publicity and advocacy.
Transportation	Increase the use of alternative fuel vehicles within the campus fleet and encourage commuting alternatives to single-rider car trips.
Purchasing	Prioritize the purchase of recycled content, reusable, and recyclable products on campus. Simultaneously promote the reduction of consumption to help offset sustainable product costs.
Water	Begin keeping a record of water usage and explore opportunities to reduce consumption.
Recycling and Solid Waste	Double the campus diversion rate and reduce the overall amount of municipal waste produced.

¹ See [Appendix 1](#) for a list of members of the Sustainability Task Force.

² Trinity College Key Performance Indicators toward Sustainability was prepared by Nexus Environmental in 2009.

³ The Climate Action Plan was prepared in 2008 for the Sustainability Task Force and signed by President Jones. The CAP identifies a general target for greenhouse gas reduction, which is being addressed by the Facilities Department through energy reduction strategies.

GREEN BUILDING

Sustainable building practices will reduce the demand that Trinity College's buildings place on the environment.

Goal: Adopt an official Green building policy to guide major construction projects on campus.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights	
1	Revise Green Building Policy and submit to Director of Facilities, CFO and President for official adoption. Include specifications for designing major construction and renovation projects to LEED Silver standards and the use of Energy Star appliances.	Sustainability Task Force (STF)	Draft policy previously developed and available on www.Tricoll.edu .

Long term Goal:

- Attain high-level administrative Support for Green Building and STF representation at future planning meetings.

EDUCATION

Pursuant to the educational mission of Trinity College, sustainability should be promoted through teaching and research.

Goal: Track, publicize, and expand current research and courses in sustainability.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights	
1	Track the number of courses that are sustainability related and sustainability focused. Update environmental curriculum list available on Trinity's Sustainability website.	STF	Aligns to Climate Actions Plan <i>Education</i> strategy.
2	Develop an active list of student and faculty projects and post publicly on the Trinity Sustainability website.	STF	Aligns to Climate Actions Plan <i>Education</i> strategy.

Long term Goal:

- Advocate for an increase of courses environmentally themed courses up to 10% of the curriculum.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Trinity College staff, faculty, and student should serve as the driving force behind campus sustainability. The SSP works to maximize current and future efforts and to create a strong environmentalist culture on campus.

Goal: Empower the campus community involves advertising existing efforts, educating about and incentivizing sustainable behaviors in classrooms, dorm rooms, and offices.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Progress Update
1 Develop a Green Office certification program.	STF	
2 Expand student-powered environmental building-inspections to dormitories and increase programming.	EH&S	
3 Use sub-meters to conduct an energy reduction competition.	Facilities, ConnPIRG	Noveda Systems has been contracted to develop monitoring system.
4 Participate in Recyclemania.	Facilities, Green Campus	Competition runs February 3 rd through March 30 th , 2013.

Long term Goal:

- Increase higher-level support for environmental efforts by demonstrating their value to the campus community.

DINING SERVICES

From the choice of more sustainable food products and how food is served to dealing with waste, on campus dining presents many opportunities to reduce Trinity College's impact on the environment.

Goal: Support Trinity College's existing Climate Action Plan through publicity and advocacy.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights
1 Create a baseline of the following food types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic (USDA Certified) • Local (Connecticut Grown and within 100 mile radius) • Sustainably Grown (Certified Fair Trade, Sea Food Watch, Antibiotic and Hormone Free, etc.) 	Chartwells	Chartwells currently purchases cage free shell eggs, hormone and antibiotic-free chicken, turkey, pork, and grass-fed beef and rBGH free milk, and seafood in accordance with the Seafood Watch Guidelines.
2 Increase the amount of organic, local, and sustainably grown food by 10%.	Chartwells	
3 Collect baseline and growth data for trash, recycling, and composting.	Chartwells, Facilities	
4 Reinvigorate a composting program for all eligible pre-consumer food waste.	Chartwells	
5 Expand and publicize discount "bring your own cup/mug" programs in dining areas.	Chartwells, Underground Café, Peter B's Café	All three sites currently offer a program. Each is different and not well known.

Long term Goal:

- Develop a carbon calculator for specific meal choices to help educate students on the environmental impact of their food choices.
- Increase amount of organic, local, and sustainably grown food to 20% of purchases.
- Begin post-consumer waste composting in dining halls.

TRANSPORTATION

Changes in campus member behavior and purchasing could lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the campus.

Goal: Increase the use of alternative fuel vehicles within the campus fleet and encourage commuting alternatives to single-rider car trips.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights	
1	Develop a plan to phase in lower emissions vehicles into the campus fleet, including hybrids or electric vehicles.	STF	Aligns to Climate Action Plan <i>Transportation</i> strategy.
2	Update commuting data.	Information Technology	
3	Increase zip car member by 5%.	STF, EH&S/Sustainability	Aligns to Climate Action Plan <i>Transportation</i> strategy.
4	Continue Compliance with air regulations.	EH&S/Sustainability	

Long term Goal:

- Promote Renewable Energy Credits for up to 5% of the College's Energy Usage.
- Secure more or permanent funding for the UPASS program, allowing for a 5% increase. Aligns to Climate Action Plan *Transportation* strategy.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUPPORT

Trinity College's President approved a Climate Action Plan in 2008 that outlines the steps that will be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the college for several decades to come. The CAP needs continuous support and promotion to continue to serve as a guide to the university.

Goal: Support Trinity College's existing Climate Action Plan through publicity and advocacy.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights	
1	Create and display information in the dining hall during the Spring 2013 energy efficiency updates to fume hoods and lighting.	EH&S/Sustainability, Facilities	Implementation of this Climate Action Plan <i>Energy Conservation and Efficiency</i> strategy is underway and directed by Facilities.
2	Publish a summary of the progress made toward Climate Action Plan mitigation strategies.	STF	Several Strategies are underway or completed.

Long term Goal:

- Incorporate remaining shorter-term Climate Action Plan mitigation strategies into the Sustainability Strategic Plan for 2014.

PURCHASING

Through small changes to commonly used products, Trinity could support recycled content products, and reusable or recyclable products.

Goal: Prioritize the purchase of recycled content, reusable, and recyclable products on campus. Simultaneously promote the reduction of consumption to help offset sustainable product costs.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights
1 Identify environmentally preferred products sold by W.B. mason and have them prioritized for Trinity purchasers, including Energy Star Appliances.	STF, Purchasing Director	Development of a Green Purchasing priority list began in 2012. Energy Star products are routinely, though not exclusively purchased.
2 Develop and implement a strategy to purchase 30% recycled content paper for at least 50% of all paper purchases on campus.	STF, Purchasing Director	The economics and logistics involved in purchasing recycled content paper require special consideration outside of general office products.
3 Increase recycled content in toilet paper and paper towels to 100%.	Facilities	
4 Identify cleaning supplies currently used and create a preferred green cleaning list.	Facilities	
5 Track use of organic fertilizer and composted materials.	EH&S/Sustainability	
Long term Goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce use of inorganic fertilizer by 10%. Use exclusively 30% or more recycled-content paper on campus . 		

WATER

Although New English typically has an abundant supply of fresh water, it remains a precious and scarce resource at the global level. Trinity must make every effort to monitor and reduce campus water.

Goal: Begin keeping a record of water usage and explore opportunities to reduce consumption.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights
1 Track water usage to develop a historical baseline.	EH&S/Sustainability	A record for the past year has been created.
2 Research best practices at other colleges for reducing water use.	STF	
3 Focus on an education campaign in dorm bathrooms about water conservation tips.	EH&S, Green Campus	A pilot project in Little Dorm showed improved attitudes towards tap water after a small education campaign.
4 Develop a list of where low-flow technologies have been installed and where they could be installed.	Facilities	
Long term Goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement measures to reduce water consumption by 5%. 		

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

Trinity College currently produces a significant amount of waste, the vast majority of which is sent to the CRRA waste-to-energy plant. By reducing the amount of stuff used on campus and strengthening the College's recycling (and composting) plan, we can reduce the impact our waste has on Connecticut's air and land.

Goal: Double the campus diversion rate and reduce the overall amount of municipal waste produced.

Projects	Key Groups and Data	Highlights
1 Research and implement three best practices for reducing solid waste.	STF EH&S/Sustainability	The College currently uses single-stream recycling, a best practice for increasing rates.
2 Reach 25% diversion rate through cardboard, single-stream recycling, shredded paper, and composting.	EH&S/Sustainability	Composting program with Knox Park is set to begin in February.
3 Educate the campus about electronics and universal waste recycling.	EH&S, ConnPIRG	
4 Pilot a dorm room recycling bin rental program. Revise program for first-year student orientation training.	EH&S/Sustainability	
5 Set up designated inkjet and laser cartridge recycling centers and publicize them along with universal waste recycling.	EH&S/Sustainability	A partnership with Hartford Toner was established in January, 2013 and multiple collection sites, including the existing Community Service Office site, were set up.
6 Reduce or eliminate bottled water vending on campus. Increase water fountains and coordinate a tap water/reusable bottle campaign.	EH&S, GreenCampus	
7 Switch towel dispensers for high efficiency hand dryers in 10 high traffic bathrooms.	EH&S/Sustainability	
8 Continued compliance with Hazardous Waste regulation.	EH&S/Sustainability	

Long term Goal:

- Create a more streamlined collection system for recyclables, reducing the need for clear plastic bags.

Appendix 1: Sustainability Task Force Members Active in the Production of SP13

- Joe Barber, *Director of The Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement*
- Toby Chenette, *Director of Chartwells Dining Service*
- Amy DeBaun, *Director of The Office of Campus Life*
- Zach Erickson, *Chartwells Dining Service*
- Michele Jacklin, *Director of Media Relations*
- Karen Misbach, *EH&S Manager and Sustainability Coordinator*
- Joan Morrison, *Charles A. Dana Research Professor of Biology*
- Lucille St. Germain, *Special Events & Calendar Office*
- Kira Sargent, *EH&S and Sustainability Assistant*
- Angie Wolf, *Director of Planning and Operations, Information Technology*