

# **New Mexico State University Facilities and Services**

## **Climate Action Plan Update**



### **Las Cruces Campus**

June 17, 2017

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# I. OVERVIEW

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) is a high-visibility effort to address global climate disruption undertaken by a network of colleges and universities that have made institutional commitments to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions from specified campus operations, and to promote the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

A growing scientific consensus has emerged that increasing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and other Greenhouse Gasses (GHG) are affecting the Earth's climate. The efforts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) characterize this consensus. According to the IPCC, human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum, have added measurably to the natural background levels of GHGs in the atmosphere, which in turn has contributed to rising global temperatures.



Future increases in global temperature are projected to occur with increased atmospheric GHG concentrations unless action is taken to reduce total annual GHG emissions. According to the IPCC, worldwide consequences of increased temperatures due to increased GHGs in the atmosphere are expected to include increased warming of the earth, enhanced heat stress, natural and human water system needs, melting glaciers and ice caps, sea level rise, increased severe weather events, flooded

coastal and lowland communities, more frequent and intense tropical storms and hurricanes, expanded drought, expansion of tropical disease risk, and other grave occurrences.

ACUPCC provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to implement comprehensive plans in pursuit of climate neutrality. Its mission is to accelerate progress towards climate neutrality and sustainability by empowering the higher education sector to educate students, create solutions, and provide leadership-by-example for the rest of society. The Commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in educating the people who will develop the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming and help create a thriving, civil and sustainable society.

## A. ACUPCC signatory

ACUPCC institutions like NMSU have agreed to:

- Complete an emissions inventory
- Within two years, set a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral
- Take immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions
- Integrate sustainability into the curriculum and make it part of the educational experience
- Make the action plan, inventory and progress reports publicly available



The signing of the ACUPCC has helped NMSU recognize the over-riding problem of global climate change and guiding us to make an institutional commitment to exercise leadership by responding to it. In this updated report we hope to show our commitment and future plans to meet these goals.

## B. 2009 – Year of Sustainability

2009 was “The Year of Sustainability” – proclaimed by interim president Waded Cruzado. The university promised we would do the following things:

- Urge administration, faculty, staff, and students to work together to implement practices that will make NMSU environmentally friendly and sustainable
- Develop and assess the creation of new knowledge and skill sets through advanced research and curriculum that expands understanding in the areas of energy and sustainability
- Develop appropriate vocational training in green collar jobs that will enhance the economic development of the region and the state.
- Encourage the incorporation of the principles to the extent possible in all future university development plans and projects and work with our local communities to develop comprehensive environmental plans
- Provide an annual update regarding the progress made toward meeting the above-stated goals in establishing NMSU as a living example of sustainable principles

All were accomplished by Dec. 31, 2009 in thanks to the students, faculty, and staff at NMSU and the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force.

## C. Board of Regents “Sustainability Resolution”

New Mexico State University  
Board of Regents  
Resolution

Whereas, the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University recognized the particular relevance and ability of Higher Education to address the values and critical challenges of sustainability through research, educational curriculum, understanding, and appreciation of the environment, and

Whereas, as a shining example of Higher Education meeting this need, the Board commends the administration for joining the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) with the goal of making NMSU climate neutral through the work of the Sustainability & Climate Change Task Force; and

Whereas, the Board sees the mitigation and prevention of society’s possible impacts on the environment as one of the fundamental challenges our students and future generations will face and urge the administration, faculty, staff, and students to work together to implement the commitment made in the ACUPCC to make NMSU environmentally friendly and sustainable; and

Whereas, the Board recognizes this challenge will be such that the creation of new knowledge and skill sets must be developed through advanced research and curriculum to expand understanding in the areas of energy and sustainability. To this end administration is further asked to assess this need and encouraged to develop appropriate vocational training in green collar jobs that will enhance the economic development of the region and State; and

Whereas, the administration is encouraged to incorporate these principles to the extent possible in all future University development plans and projects and encouraged to work with our local communities to develop comprehensive plans in the areas including but not limited to transportation, drainage, and waste management, and

Furthermore, the Board requests an annual update regarding the progress made toward meeting the above stated goals in establishing NMSU as a living example of sustainability principles.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED in official session that the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University hereby recognize the importance of making environmental sustainability a priority of New Mexico State University and commend the Administration for its commitment and continued efforts in this area.

RESOLVED, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009, at Las Cruces, New Mexico

### Board of Regents Signatories

Robert Gallagher, Chair  
Blake Curtis, Vice Chair  
M. Steven Anaya, Secy/Treasurer  
Laura Conniff, Member  
Ed Kellum, Member

## II. Greening NMSU

The NMSU Office of Sustainability is responsible for developing policies and guidelines for protecting natural resources, reducing the University's ecological footprint and ensuring accountability for green building and low-impact development in NMSU's ongoing capital improvement program.

The Administration and Finance Division at NMSU created the Office of Sustainability in July 2011. In October 2012 the Environmental Education Center was opened. These two events furthered awareness of the principles of the original 2009 Climate Action Plan. Some of the goals of the Office of Sustainability are to lower energy use and costs, public outreach, develop metrics for energy reduction, manage resources, interface with students, faculty, and staff, and manage the construction of green buildings.

The Environmental Education Center is a place to learn about the many ways to be a Green Aggie. We have numerous examples of ways we can change our behavior to take better care of our environment not just at work, but in our personal lives.

In 2008 the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force was formed. Realizing that the task of managing climate change was going to be with us for a long time, a business plan was written to transform the task force into the Sustainability Council in 2010. Monthly meetings of the all-volunteer council have brought together like-minded people across campus and the community to achieve goals to better our environment. Some of the Council's accomplishments are as follows: creating a Teaching Academy workshop on greening across the curriculum, obtaining a Gold rating on the STARS report, assisting in planning the annual Campus Sustainability Day, and volunteering for Earth Day activities.

### A. Green Buildings

A common objective of green buildings is that they are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment.



After Executive Order #2006-001, stating we would build to LEED Silver minimum, was signed by then-Governor Bill Richardson, we have been building LEED certified buildings ever since. As of January 14, 2014 we have built six silver and nine gold certified buildings, for a total of 449,221 square feet, on four of five campuses.

If a building doesn't meet the criteria of the Executive Order, we have pledged to build and remodel buildings to match US Green Building Council LEED guidelines as closely as possible. We are successfully commissioning buildings to assure that construction follows the drawings and specifications. The Facility and Services department has six LEED Accredited Professionals.

Through webinars, workshops, and conferences we continue to educate our employees on green building practices.

## **B. Wellbeing at Work**

One of the Office of Sustainability's initiatives is [Food and Health](#). As a university we are dedicated to providing academic programs that address issues affecting the quality of life in a rapidly changing society. The College of Health and Social Services gives graduates the knowledge they need to make an impact in their communities. Available programs focus on improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities with majors in nursing, public health/community health education, and social work.

The university has a 2-acre certified organic garden on our agriculture west-end campus and this food is sold in our student run store "Crimson Creations" as well as prepared and served in our Café 100, the restaurant run by Hotel Retail Tourism Management (HRTM) division in the College of ACES.

Aggie Fit invites students, faculty and staff to take the "Healthy U Challenge" that measures weight and body fat in a seven week competition. We have a meditation class during the lunch hour that encourages everyone on campus to learn the importance of quieting the mind.

## **C. Waste Reduction**

NMSU Custodial and Solid Waste department in conjunction with NMSU Aggie Recycling makes a daily effort to reduce waste on campus. Since the signing of the ACUPCC we have reduced our waste to increase our diversion rate from 25% in 2008 to a current 2013 diversion rate of 52%. We have accomplished this by:

- Creating recycling collection points in all of our buildings
- Instituting recycling in all offices with the use of deskside recycling bins
- Establishing single stream recycling in all student dormitories and free-standing housing

## **D. Facilities and Services Operations**

A large part of maintaining a university is put on the back of the Facilities and Services (FS) department. Our Operations Shops have been asked to take an important role in greening NMSU and they have taken this directive to task! Following are many of our successes in the Shops. Some of these have become policy or purchasing agreements and some are now standard procedures. All show our commitment to address global climate change.

### **Access Control**

- Recycle all old keys
- All new handicap operators are low energy devices



### Custodial

- Green Cleaning Policy in 2010 utilizing Green Seal certified products
- “Custodial Sustainability Initiatives” that include use of environmentally preferred products, conservation, reuse of materials, and reduction of waste
- “Custodial Low Impact Equipment” policy

### Electricians

- Replace all old fluorescent fixtures with either upgraded T8 fixtures or LED fixtures
- Replace old parking lot lights with high-efficiency LED street lights
- Replaced old 150 watt exterior wall packs in many buildings across campus with new 50-120 watt LED lights
- Recycle old wires from all remodel projects



### Grounds

- Xeriscape approximately 20% of our campus grounds, thus saving water and creating a beautiful natural desert environment
- Create compost from turf and plant clippings that goes back on our campus landscaping
- Install flow meters on all water pumps
- Install Variable Frequency Drive irrigation systems

### Mechanical

- Standard procedure to replace failed motors with high-efficient motors and install high-efficiency rooftop mechanical units when old ones fail
- Recycle metal from remodels such as drinking fountains and AC units
- Refrigerants from failed cooling units are recovered and recycled by the FS Environmental Health & Safety office
- Regularly maintain building interior temps between 74° - 76° in summer and between 68° - 70° in winter, thus lowering energy use and costs

### Mechanics

- Air conditioning recycling station to capture liquids and used refrigerants
- Recycle used oils, tires, and coolants
- Preventive Maintenance Plan for upkeep of all vehicles for maximum efficiency lowering emissions from the atmosphere

### Movers

- Movers partner with Office of Sustainability on *Toner Recycling Program* for all pickups of toner boxes in partnership with Office Max
- *No-idling policy* for all trucks except when necessary to use lifts

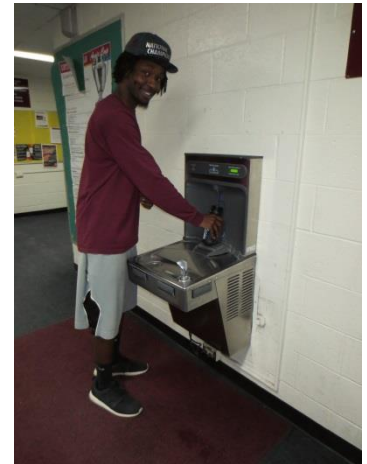


### Paint

- Standardized use of zero VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint
- Restricted use of enamel paint

### Plumbing

- Installed first bottle filling station at Activity Center in 2012; standard procedure to replace old or broken drinking fountains with bottle filling stations
- Standard procedure to use low flow toilets and faucets when replacing failed units
- When remodeling, wall heaters and piping are recycled



### Signs

- Reuse and/or recycling of materials when possible

### Recycling

- Curbside single stream recycling program at all housing units
- Old mattresses and furniture from dorm remodels are recycled



### Structural Maintenance

- Recycle metal poles and bollards from replacement of outdoor lights
- Recycle construction materials
- Built temporary washout pit for recycling concrete from old construction sites; some concrete is reused at Las Cruces Foothills Landfill as ground fill
- Window tinting for energy efficiency as well as rebates from El Paso Electric
- When re-roofing, white reflective roof materials will be used when possible

## Waste

Office of Sustainability Initiative #3 is Waste Reduction. It includes the following ideals:

- Prevention: don't purchase the item in the first place
- Minimization: use products that use minimal construction or packaging
- Reuse: when you're done with an item, find it a new home, give it away, or take it to a reuse store like Habitat for Humanity, Savers, or our own program on campus ["Re-Pete"](#)
- Recycle: even though about 35% of items purchased in the US are recycled, recycling is still a great option if you can't manage the first three above
- NMSU "Aggie Recycling" has a contract with Friedman Recycling to pick up the large dumpsters for single stream recycling at our housing neighborhoods, Garcia Hall, Piñon Hall, and Rhodes-Garrett-Hammil Hall
- The Environmental Education Center Toner Recycling Program was started in November 2012. The Office of Sustainability provides boxes for free. NMSU departments request a box, fill it with used toner cartridges, then calls us for a pick up. We then deliver a new empty box. FS Movers partner with the EEC by picking up the full boxes and delivering them to the FS Warehouse for UPS pickup. We keep plastic and other materials from the landfill by using this program. Our goal is to have every department recycle their used cartridges. However, don't forget that the main goal is to reduce the use of paper and toner by not printing!

## Water

- Update landscaping irrigation systems to save water
- Through our utilities operators, save water through the program to re-insulate piping in our utilities system
- Through our 2014 Energy Service Agreement upgrade mechanical systems to lower our water usage.
- In our research department, save water with a project that is developing a saline-resistant turf that uses less water. the measurable outcome is to decrease our water usage by 3% each year through more xeriscaping and better irrigation.
- ACES' programs positively impact water usage and conservation, food and fiber production, environmental stewardship, and the health of New Mexicans.
- Through our College of Engineering, undergraduate engineering students will learn modern engineering problems and techniques in diverse areas including aerospace technology, information and security technology, bridge and infrastructure systems, water and energy, environment and waste management, computer engineering, and laser technology.
- Aggie Development Inc. was created under the University Research Park and Economic Development Act and is tasked with real estate development, effective management of NMSU's real estate and water assets, and the creation of new public-private partnerships to benefit the University and the surrounding community.

## **E. Purchasing**

As part of our 2017-2027 Master Plan, p. 28, “Sustainable Purchasing” declares that Sustainable purchasing contains information on materials sourcing, care and repair, upcycling, and end of use programs. The [Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines](#), from the NMSU Business Procedures Manual, contains items in relation to how NMSU strives to purchase green products.

## **F. Social Justice, Diversity and Affordability**

Social responsibility is an ethical theory that one has an obligation to act to benefit society at large. Social responsibility is a duty every individual or organization has to perform so as to maintain a balance between the economy and the ecosystem. Equilibrium between economic development, in the material sense, and the welfare of the society and environment must be achieved. It pertains not only to business organizations but also to everyone whose actions impact the environment. This responsibility can be passive, by avoiding engaging in socially harmful acts, or active, by performing activities that directly advance social goals. NMSU works to address discrimination and promote equality. We take pride in our diverse student body, faculty, and staff provide rich resources for learning and collaboration affordable for all.

The Office of Sustainability has social justice and responsibility as an initiative to remind people that *sustainability isn't just about lowering our energy bills or recycling*. We can take it a step further to taking care of our fellow citizens to sustain us on many levels. We become caring people, we work lovingly with others, we share, we volunteer, and we purchase things from companies that take care of their employees. It's a continuous circle of care.

The layers of social responsibility are deep and varied. We are a very diverse campus and we have the obligation to treat everyone equally, to be ethical members of our campus culture and the greater society. As an institution of higher education we have promised to teach students and send them out into the world with knowledge. Let's make sure that the knowledge we imbue includes kindness and opening our hearts to others.

### III. STARS Report



STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS was developed by Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with broad participation from the higher education community. The mission of STARS is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation.

#### What is STARS?

- A guide for advancing sustainability in all sectors of higher education
- A common standard of measurement for sustainability in higher education that creates incentives for continual improvement toward sustainability
- A tool that promotes a comprehensive understanding of sustainability that includes its social, economic and environmental dimensions
- Provides a venue to share best practices and learn from other institutions
- Builds a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community

In 2011 we were very proud to get a bronze rating. The following year we wanted to improve our rating and more accurately show how green we were. With the help of many more volunteers we achieved a gold rating in 2012! We continue to use the STARS report to guide our way to green NMSU in three divisions:

- Education and Research
- Operations
- Planning, Administration, and Engagement

We have modeled the committee structure of our Sustainability Council after these three divisions.

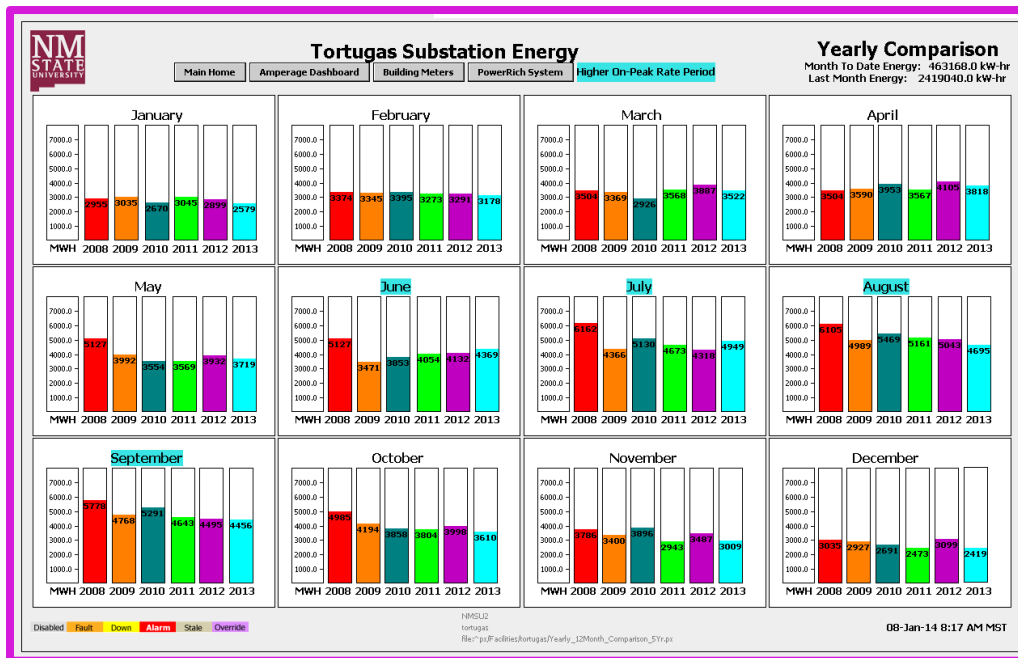


Volunteers that got us to STARS Gold!

# IV. Energy

## A. ESCO

Our energy services contractor has set us on a new path of energy savings on campus. NMSU has partnered with Ameresco to conduct an investment grade audit of all our facilities, with an eye toward making substantial improvements in energy and resource efficiency and student and employee wellbeing. In 2014 we start construction work on remodels and upgrades.



## B. Energy Management

- Constructed the new energy and water efficient Chiller Satellite Plant
- Operators at the Central Utility Plant (CUP) continue to utilize the Niagara system to monitor energy usage to stay below the set electrical use peak, consequently saving the university energy costs
- Converted the turbine inlet air chilled water system to variable flow, saving electricity and chilled water production
- Energy Management department continues to install electric meters across campus so energy use can be monitored to increase energy efficiency.
- Installed utility meters for domestic water at CUP to track all water consumption utilized during production of campus chilled water and steam
- Thermally insulating all steam and chilled water pipes in the utility tunnel system
- Preventive maintenance keeps water and steam leaks to a minimum
- Converting mechanical systems from pneumatic controls to digital controls allowing better monitoring and greater energy efficiency



### C. Southwest Technology Development Institute – an “Excellency Renewable Energy Facility”

The SWTDI is a non-profit, university-based organization that provides applied research and development services to private and public sector clients. SWTDI was established in 1977 as the New Mexico Solar Energy Institute, and has active research programs in energy and related systems. Located on campus and housed in the College of Engineering, SWTDI's goal is to promote technology-based development nationally and internationally.

SWTDI provides training and contract engineering services for systems analysis, hardware development and evaluation, and feasibility studies, and computer modeling, and informational kiosks. SWTDI performs contract engineering for a wide variety of private and public sector clients, including research organizations, utility companies, and local, state, and federal government agencies. Ever changing and developing as needs for research and outreach change, in 2011 SWTDI became part of the Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.



Solar panels at SWTDI test facility



Faculty teaching grade school students about solar

The Institute for Energy and the Environment includes WERC, a consortium for environmental education and technology development, Southwest Technology Development Institute, a renewable energy research and development group, and Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, a nuclear waste-management and monitoring center.

## V. Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation has stated the impact that transportation has to “reduce greenhouse gas emissions, diminish our dependence on foreign oil, create clean energy jobs, build livable communities, and protect us all from dangerous climate change.” NMSU focuses on low carbon transportation options such as public transportation, walking, biking, and skate boarding. We are well aware how these actions improve quality of life, lower household transportation budgets, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A full range of strategies can be brought to bear to reduce transportation's greenhouse gas emissions, such as improving fuel efficiency, expanding the use of low-carbon fuels, improving the efficiency of the transportation system (such as Aggie Shuttle), and reducing the volume of travel to and on campus.

### A. Facilities and Services and Transportation & Parking Services

Facilities and Services (FS) partners closely with Transportation & Parking Services (TPS) on transportation issues and will continue to find ways to modify our transportation services and purchases to lower our greenhouse gas emissions in the future.

- The TPS office is currently infusing sustainability initiatives into the Parking Master Plan
- The TPS office will continue to reduce the vehicle fleet and rental fleet and as a result on-campus fuel usage will continue to decrease
- The University has a goal of purchasing more sustainable vehicles in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. In 2011, main campus NMSU fleet had 90 electric vehicles, 12 B-20 biofuel vehicles, 8 vehicles using E85 ethanol, 2 hybrids, and 27 flex fuel vehicles
- We have adopted a comprehensive Vehicle Policy to more efficiently manage fleet operations, with sustainability and fuel efficiency as major goals

### B. Aggie Shuttle

The NMSU Aggie Transit shuttle is managed by the Associated Students of NMSU (ASNMSU) in partnership with NMSU Transportation & Parking Services and NMSU Information and Communication Technologies, and the City of Las Cruces Roadrunner Transit System. Rides are free when you show your student or faculty ID.

Aggie Transit system experienced a 16% increase in riders from 2010 to 2011. This reduces emissions from vehicles idling and driving around looking for parking spaces on campus. Parking Lot #30, at the far east end of campus, is free and we encourage people to park here and catch the shuttle to campus.

A goal in the next five years is to shut down Stewart Street to passenger cars and make it a more pedestrian friendly campus, requiring cars to park on the perimeter of campus.



### **C. Bicycle Friendly University**

On April 16, 2013 NMSU won Bronze certification for “Bicycle Friendly University” a designation granted by the League of American Bicyclists. The Bicycle Friendly University Taskforce, composed of representatives from the Teaching Academy, NMSU Police Dept., Recreational Sports, Environmental Health & Safety and NMSU faculty, in support of the goals of the Sustainability Council and Bicycle Safety Committee, worked diligently to submit the application. We took many steps to increase safe-bicycling practices on campus, including increasing bicycle traffic law enforcement, educating motorists and cyclists alike about the rules of the road and working to prevent bicycle thefts on campus.

We are working on our second BFU designation, with a goal of bettering our bronze certification to the next level, with the goal of completing that in 2018.

We will continue the physical improvements, made over the last few years, to include painting more bike lanes, painting sharrows on major roadways, adding and upgrading bicycle racks, and installing more bicycle Fix-It stations.



"It's important to focus more on cycling as an element of sustainability for our environment, our budget and our health," said Jean Conway, cyclist and associate director of the NMSU Teaching Academy. "Bicyclists produce vastly less greenhouse gases than cars do. And, cycling just to get around gets your transportation and exercise rolled all into one activity - it improves your health and saves time. Having healthier and more productive employees saves NMSU money."

### **D. Utility Tricycle**

Facilities & Services purchased four utility tricycles to get around campus creating zero-emissions. The trikes, complete with locking utility cabinet and many safety features (safety bell and rechargeable safety lights), will be used by employees under their own power to get to sites on campus and not have to take a car or truck. We are increasing the health of employees and lowering our greenhouse gas emissions at the same time!

### **E. Future Bike Share program**

NMSU is working on creating a bike share program on campus. Currently we are planning for bike infrastructure such as bike paths, signage, increased locations of bike racks, and bicycle education programs.

## VI. Housing & Residential Life

NMSU is very fortunate to have a very sustainability-oriented Associate Director in our Housing and Residential Life (HRL) department. He's said of himself that "he's not a 'green freak' – he does it because 'it's the right thing to do'". Following is a list of the things that he's done, along with a lot of dedicated Housing & Residential Life employees, to green the NMSU campus. HRL has even greater plans for the future with a remodel of the student union meeting LEED guidelines as closely as possible without going for certification.

1. Installed three bottle filling stations in the student union, one on each floor with future refilling stations in each residence halls
2. New roof on Garcia Hall that reflects sunlight; as a result the need for less cooling in the summer has created a 40% drop in energy use and a roof-temperature drop from 150° to 80°. We are adding new similar roofs at other housing units
3. Changed out all AC units in Student Family Housing to install more energy efficient models; funded significantly by El Paso Electric rebates
4. Eliminated all incandescent lamps, replacing them using over 10,000 CFLs in all spaces
5. Installed new exterior lights in 200 townhouses with light sensors to turn off automatically in the daylight; 300 more houses to be upgraded as funding allows
6. Recycled a total of 550 mattresses equaling 34,000 lbs kept from the landfill
7. Recycled nearly all recent furniture change-out at Garcia, Cervantes and Greek Housing
8. Installed new monitors in the residence halls so that when windows and doors are open the HVAC will shut off
9. Reused or recycled pumps and other mechanical items from Monagle Hall during its deconstruction
10. Cut fleet in recent years by 25%; exploring reducing fleet even more and adding more fuel-friendly Gators
11. Chamisa II certified LEED Gold in 2012
12. Creating program to hold contests between dorms to reduce energy usage
13. Adding single stream totes and dumpsters in individual rooms and public areas
14. Collecting and recycling cardboard during Move-in Day; recycling and reusing old items left on Move-out Day
15. Tripled quantity of bicycle racks and installed two skateboard racks
16. Stewards of limited NM resources meeting the new demands of students
17. Embodying the state role model of sustainable living

We will continue to do the things noted above as well as looking for further ways to be Green Aggies. The students in the housing units also get involved in green programs taught by the Manager of the Office of Sustainability.

## VII. Education and Research, Programs, and Public Engagement

### A. Education and Research

Funding from a new Presidents' Performance Fund will allow us to establish an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in sustainability, implement a marketing campaign for sustainability, establish a graduate certificate in sustainability, and ask the Operations Committee of the Sustainability Council to oversee and assist in development of sustainability projects and energy-saving projects in classwork and research projects.

### B. Programs

The manager of the Office of Sustainability is regularly invited to teach in classes throughout the university as well as at Doña Ana Community College and special programs throughout the area. The Manager also does special interactive and educational programs with ASNMSU, PanHellenic Council, housing and residential life, and special groups like Chicano Programs and International Student Studies.



### C. Community Engagement

There are many environmentally-related programs occurring during the year in the area. Many NMSU students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend and speak at these events.

We will continue outreach to the City of Las Cruces on Town and Gown events as we remodel our common street, University Avenue. Campus Planning Committee is involved in this planning with the environment and green buildings taken into account in the planning. Our university [Community Engagement Committee](#) is under the Chancellor.

## VIII. Strategies for the Future

We have accomplished a great deal in the years since the original signing of the ACUPCC and creating our original Climate Action Plan in 2009. Our future incorporates furthering the things noted in this report as well continuing the work on the environmental items listed below.

**A. Campus Planning Committee** – The Sustainability Manager is a member of this committee and continues to make certain that environmental details are discussed in the future planning of the campus.

**B. Campus Sustainability Day** – This annual event focuses on sustainability in higher education. Each year our CSD celebration has early morning tabling outside the student union, then a lunchtime webinar sponsored by Second Nature and AASHE, ending in an evening forum with speakers on environmental topics. It is a hugely successful event and a great way to educate the community about climate change.

**C. Earth Week** – Each year the OASIS student organization puts on the Earth Day celebration in a city park, partially sponsored by the City of Las Cruces. The Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability creates a tremendously successful event. A partnership between the Associated Students of NMSU and the Office of Sustainability plans events for the entire week surrounding Earth Day. This spring event brings a focus to environmental projects that take place at NMSU, finds wonderful volunteers, and educates campus faculty, staff, students and visitors about the importance of taking care of Mother Earth.

**D. RecycleMania and America Recycles Day** – Aggie Recycling manages these two important recycling events. Although we focus on waste reduction first, as well as the reuse of items, recycling is hugely important. For the six years that NMSU has participated in RecycleMania we have been in the top ten winners in the Grand Champion category.

**E. Sustainability Council** – The all-volunteer council has a group of dedicated individuals that keep the university moving forward on environmental topics. Some of our new goals for 2014 and beyond are to make green meetings a university-wide policy, create the infrastructure for a future bike share program, add a green leaf icon to our class catalogue noting sustainability focused and related classes as well as adding a minor in sustainability. We also anticipate active support from the new university President and Provost through the council.

### **F. Energy Manager**

NMSU created a new position, Energy Manager, in 2013. This new position will allow NMSU to better manage our use of energy on campus in our utility plants as well as working with HVAC shops, and outside consultants like our energy services company. In the future this will allow us to do building automation system development, project analysis, project system and controller software design, system performance verification, as well as commissioning of consulting engineers and contractors.

## **G. How Sustainability Aligns with NMSU's "Seven Goals for Success"**

### **1. Graduation is Goal #1**

Sustainability efforts at NMSU will help students graduate with knowledge that will help them manage a planet that has an ever-changing environment.

### **2. Diversity**

Climate change does not discriminate. We teach everyone about their effects on the climate. Many faculty, staff, and students come from different locations around the US and the globe – we educate them as well as try to learn from them on how they manage environmental topics.

### **3. International Reach**

Students will be graduating and working in a world that is different than it was five years ago. By teaching students about sustainability principles in classes that either focus on or relate to sustainability we are giving our students the tools to be successful in a changing world around the globe.

### **4. Economic Engine**

Every time we meet with faculty, staff, and particularly students, we focus on energy savings in both cost and use. We teach the faculty and staff the importance of saving money so that money can go toward either hiring new employees, or providing a salary increase for them through utility savings. The students are taught that energy savings could lower their tuition costs and we make it very clear to them that they are living in a world where they, as they graduate and start paying their own bills, need to be conscious of their impact on the economics of living on this planet and how Climate Change will affect them.

### **5. Effectiveness and Efficiency**

Effectiveness can be measured in many ways. One way we measure it is by how well we are getting the word out about sustainability at NMSU. We now have "Green Teams" in three buildings across campus and the Sustainability Council continues to grow and become better known. Students are forming organizations that focus on sustainability and they work closely with us; paper use has dropped across campus; energy consumption has dropped even though we have increased our square footage. So, in a word, we are becoming more efficient.

### **6. Alumni and Friends**

The Office of Sustainability has its own Sustainability Fund through the NMSU Foundation. Anyone can donate to it. Faculty and staff can donate to the fund using payroll deduction. We do quite a bit of outreach to the community with is the "friends" part of Goal #6. Making good connections with the community is important and we accomplish that on a regular basis. Sustainably-minded faculty, staff, and students regularly do public speaking about environmental topics.

### **7. Culture of Pride**

The Office of Sustainability is very proud of their efforts on campus. We proudly connect with many different organizations campus wide to "talk green". Our logo is "Go Aggies! Go Green!" We wear pride on our sleeve (and recycled plastic cups, organic locally made lip balm, bamboo pens...).



The future is green at NMSU. **Go Aggies! Go Green!**

<b>New Mexico State University</b>				
Las Cruces Campus				
<b>Climate Action Plan – Update Log</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reason</b>
01/15/2014	Entire	Dr. joni newcomer	CAP update	Required by ACUPCC
06/17/2017	Various	Dr. joni newcomer	Goals updates	AASHE STARS updates