

## Sustainability Action Plan

**Mission:** To reduce our ecological footprint, provide innovative sustainability education and be a catalyst for sustainability awareness and engagement for the College and surrounding community.

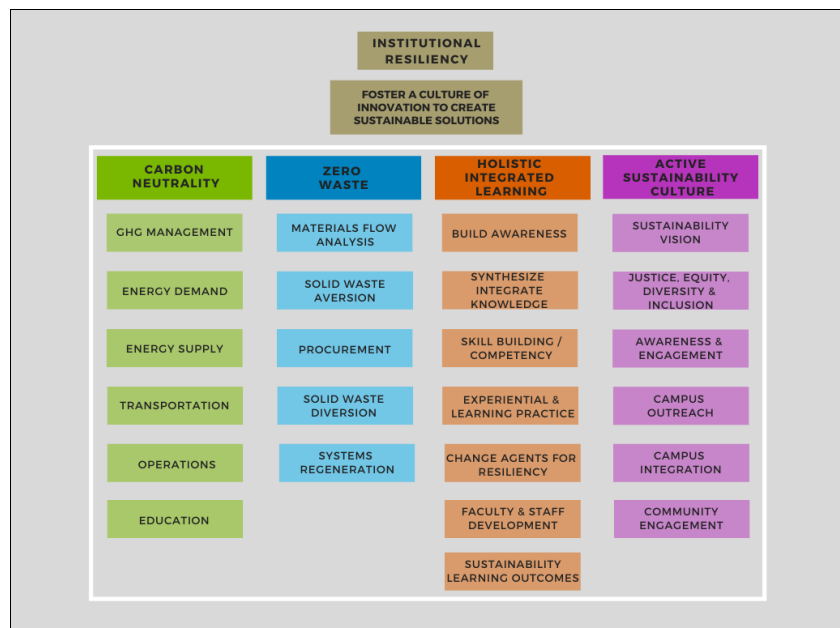
**Vision:** We envision an active community of students, faculty, staff and alumni developing and implementing innovative solutions to mitigate, adapt to and resolve the immense challenges that threaten the sustainability of our global society.

**Overview:** The Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is rooted in a holistic approach to sustainability defined as the creation of a just and equitable **society** and **economy** and the fostering of **ecological** health and human well-being. This approach embraces the interconnections that exist between each facet of the **triple bottom line** of sustainability to ensure an inclusive and vibrant future for all generations.

The SAP drives progress towards strategies that will:

- significantly reduce the College’s ecological footprint;
- grow “high impact” learning opportunities around sustainability;
- nurture a culture of sustainability; and
- generate individual, institutional, community and regional resilience.

The SAP centers four pillars upon which to build sustainability at CofC: carbon neutrality, zero waste, holistic integrated learning, and an active sustainability culture. Each pillar includes short and long-range objectives and strategies. These objectives and strategies form a pathway to achieve our stated goals while also meeting the College’s strategic commitment to foster a culture of innovation to create sustainable solutions to 21st century problems.



**GOAL ONE: CARBON NEUTRALITY**  
**UN SDG Goals 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15**

The College will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 through reducing energy demand, investing in zero emissions energy supply, and implementing new initiatives to offset our remaining carbon footprint.

STRATEGY	OBJECTIVE
<i>GHG Management</i>	Calculating and analyzing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as well as, documenting and managing GHG emissions generated by the day-to-day operations of the College, its employees, and its students.
<i>Energy Demand</i>	Reducing on-campus demand through increasing energy efficiency, eliminating wasted energy consumption, and incorporating energy-saving behavioral change techniques.
<i>Energy Supply</i>	Invest in on-site and off-site renewables with a strong push to switch our purchased energy to less carbon-intensive methods.
<i>Transportation</i>	Mitigating the impact of all College-related travel on annual emissions, including commuting, study abroad, and directly financed ground and air travel.
<i>Operations</i>	Mitigating the impact of other College operations on annual emissions; including waste and water production, College-owned vehicle emissions, fertilizer/refrigerant usage, and how and where we spend our dollars.
<i>Education</i>	Growing a culture of climate engagement on campus through education.

**GOAL TWO: ZERO WASTE**  
**UN SDG Goals 6, 12, 14**

The College will achieve zero waste (≥90% diversion from the landfill) by 2035 through data collection and analysis, waste aversion and diversion programming, and redefining the traditional take-make-waste linear model of consumption.

<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>
<i>Materials Flow Analysis</i>	Establish goals to track and manage all waste streams at the College.
<i>Solid Waste Aversion</i>	Avert materials from waste streams all together by avoiding the initial consumption (i.e. eliminating single-use items).
<i>Procurement</i>	Prioritizing the purchase of materials that are recyclable, reusable, refillable, and/ or eliminated to reduce our landfill-bound waste.
<i>Solid Waste Diversion</i>	Diverting waste to other outlets including recycling, reuse programs, or upcycling processes.
<i>Systems Regeneration</i>	Eliminating the concept of waste through closed loop, circular design processes, such as composting.

### **GOAL THREE: HOLISTIC INTEGRATED LEARNING**

#### **UN SDG Goals: 4**

The College will enhance opportunities for students to gain a deeper understanding of sustainability through building awareness, providing experiential learning and research opportunities, and through faculty and staff development. This goal builds on the learning gains developed from 2016 onwards with the College's Quality Enhancement Plan, "Sustainability Literacy as a Bridge to Addressing 21st Century Problems." Here it is noted that holistic integrated learning implies moving beyond disciplinary silos, and helping students re-integrate themselves into their local biosocial communities.

<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>
<i>Build Awareness</i>	Students can identify elements of sustainability, relationships between the elements and ways to be more sustainable in their personal life and on campus.
<i>Synthesize / Integrate Knowledge</i>	Students can identify policies/practices that have led to unsustainability and synthesize knowledge from two or more systems to address a sustainability problem.
<i>Skill Building / Competency Learning</i>	Students can demonstrate positive / negative impacts on social, economic and ecological systems.
<i>Experiential / Learning Practice</i>	Students can design a solution to a given sustainability problem through research and real-world experiences.
<i>Change Agents for Resiliency</i>	Students can advocate for resiliency at the individual, institutional, community, national or international level.
<i>Faculty / Staff Development</i>	Faculty and staff are trained and provided with ongoing professional development and research opportunities to support sustainability literacy on campus.
<i>Sustainability Learning Outcomes</i>	Each School will be invited to create a sustainability learning outcome that will impact how departments and programs embed sustainability into the curricula. Future hires should be conversant in sustainability in higher education issues and be able to offer sustainability related or focused courses to build the curricular offerings of sustainability across campus.

**GOAL FOUR: ACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE**  
**UN SDG Goals 2, 3, 5, 10**

The College will embed the values of sustainability into the campus culture through educational resources, awareness and engagement campaigns, and by fostering sustainable behavior and decision making in all facets of the organization.

<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>
<i>Sustainability Vision</i>	Co-create a common vision of sustainability that includes objectives and aspirations for the campus community.
<i>Justice, Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</i>	Foster equality and social justice, diversity, and inclusiveness through sustainability initiatives within the community.
<i>Awareness &amp; Engagement</i>	Cultivate members of the campus and local community as active citizens and practitioners of sustainability.
<i>Campus Outreach</i>	Provide peer-to-peer and other forms of sustainability outreach to yield measurable, positive impacts towards the advancement of our goals.
<i>Campus Integration</i>	Integrate core sustainability values into the College's living, learning and working environments. Encourage accountability for upholding these values from our students, faculty, staff, alumni, Foundation and other related associations.
<i>Community Engagement</i>	Be an active, engaged and participatory member of our local and regional sustainability community.