

Preface

As one of the largest universities in the United States, the University of South Florida (USF) is committed to a formal and ongoing planning process in which the 2010 Master Plan Update reflects the next step. Since the 2005 Master Plan Update, the challenges facing the University have accelerated and grown more acute as energy alternatives, transportation limitations, constrained budgets, increasing regulation, and an aging infrastructure combine to present complex and interrelated challenges.

The 2010 Master Plan Update builds upon the work USF completed for the 2005 Master Plan Update, with a greater emphasis on incorporating sustainable design strategies ranging from energy system improvements to transportation demand management. USF is committed to maintaining the long-term sustainability of the campus, as demonstrated through President Judy Genshaft's signing of the American College and University Presidents Climate Change Commitment (ACUPCC) in April, 2008, through the University's earning AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) Gold rating credit in December 2010, and through the adoption of a "green building" policy for the campus.

The 2010 Master Plan Update incorporates sustainability by applying a "sustainability framework" to the master planning process prescribed by the Florida Board of Governors (FL BOG) Chapter 21 regulations. This framework, established through review and comment by the Master Plan Committee Work Groups, consists of the following Planning Principles:

Energy

Energy-related enhancements focus primarily on increasing use of renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting USF's Climate Action Plan commitments.

- Increase use of renewable energy.
- Increase energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- Support energy research and smart grid demonstration projects.
- Create energy efficiency standards for building types.
- Reduce overall campus temperature by reducing heat-island effect with increased shade trees.

Transportation

By offering a more efficient and pedestrian-focused transportation system, USF will enhance campus air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enable the creation of more community connection.

- Campus transportation focus is transit, bicycle, and pedestrian.
- Provide shade and shaded seating along bike lanes and walkways.
- Reduce parking in the campus core and relocate parking to the campus periphery while maintaining delivery and service access.
- Improve on campus public transportation options.
- Support mobility within the host region.

Land and Water Resource Management

Land and water resource management strategies primarily seek to maximize the presence, use and benefits of natural areas, enhance water quality by reducing loads, and enhancing efficiency of stormwater systems.

- Establish permanent protection of the USF “Greenway”.
- Conserve and protect natural areas.
- Plant as many trees as possible in the next five years, located for maximum benefit of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Turn the USF campus into an exemplary Florida-friendly garden.
- Maximize all opportunities to reduce the consumption of water.

Buildings / Materials and Waste Management

Sustainability improvements to the campus built environment focus on increasing a sense of place and enhancing the long-term sustainability of infrastructure systems.

- Increase efficiency of utility infrastructure for electricity, water, building materials, etc. and ensure these systems can support future growth.
- Improve campus density by maximizing building heights as appropriate to type and scope of project.
- Improve use of common interior and exterior areas.
- Expand and diversify campus-wide recycling.
- Establish a LEED Silver standard for New Buildings and Existing Buildings as funds allow.

Social Equity

Strategies that address social equity focus on enhancing the quality of life of university students, faculty, and staff, as well as the local community.

- Encourage neighborhood economic development and transit to neighboring retail and services.
- Increase available and affordable on-campus housing.

A complete description of the Chapter 21 Sustainability Assessment Framework and Planning Principles is provided in the 2010 USF Campus Master Plan Update Data Collection and Analysis Report, Appendix A.