



Tennessee
TECH

The Office of Sustainability **Strategic Plan 2018**

www.tntech.edu/sustainability





This is a guiding document to provide a framework for expanding sustainability across campus and to establish goals and objectives to guide and monitor progress.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is the practice of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Mission Statement

Tennessee Tech University's Office of Sustainability strives to create a more environmentally friendly campus that provides mentoring and support through the integration of research and engagement for a sustainable campus.



Tennessee Tech's Strategic Plan Core Principles:

- Student Success
- Value Creation
- Meaningful Innovation
- Academic Excellence

Strategic Goals:

- Education for Life
- Innovation in All We Do



ACADEMIC

Priority Action A-1

Infuse sustainability throughout campus curriculum

Tactic 1: Coordinate with department heads and instructors to include sustainability in learning outcomes

Tactic 2: Update learning outcomes to include topics of sustainability currently taught in classes

Tactic 3: Develop courses in environmental and sustainability studies

Tactic 4: Create subcommittee to focus on sustainability curriculum

Priority Action A-2

Expand sustainability research

Tactic 1: Expand work with capstone groups

Tactic 2: Increase research projects focused on sustainability

Tactic 3: Increase student project proposals for sustainability fund

Priority Action A-3

Have a sustainability presence in all academic departments on campus

College of Agriculture and Human Ecology

School of Agriculture ✓
School of Human Ecology

College of Arts and Sciences

Biology ✓
Chemistry ✓
Communication ✓
Earth Sciences ✓
English
Foreign Languages
History ✓
Mathematics ✓
Physics
Sociology and Political Science ✓

College of Business

College of Education

Counseling & Psychology
Curriculum & Instruction
Exercise Science

College of Engineering

Chemical Engineering ✓
Civil & Environmental Engineering ✓
Computer Science
Electrical & Computer Engineering ✓
Manufacturing & Engineering Technology ✓
Mechanical Engineering ✓

College of Fine Arts

School of Art, Craft & Design ✓
School of Music

College of Interdisciplinary Studies

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
School of Environmental Studies ✓

✓ indicates already in place



ENGAGEMENT

AASHE: Campus Engagement, Public Engagement

Tennessee Tech's Strategic Plan Core Principles:

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- Meaningful Innovation
- Community Engagement

Strategic Goals:

- Education for Life
- Innovation in All We Do
- Exceptional Stewardship
- Engagement for Impact

Priority Action E-1 Create a campus culture of sustainable and inclusive behavior

Tactic 1: Enhance social media efforts

Tactic 2: Create monthly surveys to gauge interest and awareness

Tactic 3: Expand presence at SOAR

Tactic 4: Increase inclusion in campus publications

Tactic 5: Coordinate with more departments across campus

Tactic 6: Attend and participate in conferences

Priority Action E-2 Cultivate a culture of sustainability in the community

Tactic 1: Engage in partnerships to promote sustainability outside Tennessee Tech

Tactic 2: Increase student involvement in community organizations and events

Tactic 3: Contribute to a just and sustainable future for Cookeville and the

Upper Cumberland region





OPERATIONS

AASHE: Air & Climate, Buildings, Energy, Food & Dining, Grounds, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste, Water

Priority Action O-1 Reduce Carbon Footprint by 50% by the year 2025

Tactic 1: LEED Certification of new Lab Science building

Tactic 2: Complete development of campus-wide composting program

Tactic 3: Use electric lawn mower within Grounds Department

Tactic 4: Launch Green Labs Program

Tactic 5: Develop sustainability initiatives within Dining Services

Priority Action O-2 Reduce utility usage per square foot by 25% by 2025

Tactic 1: Install regenerative pool filtration system in new fitness center

Tactic 2: Launch water conservation sticker campaign in resident hall bathrooms

Tactic 3: Reduce electricity usage per square foot

Priority Action Increase recycling to 25% of total waste generated by the year 2025

Tactic 1: Install new and improved recycling stations on campus

Tactic 2: Promote zero waste events and meetings

Tactic 3: Launch campaign on recycling education funded by TDEC Grant

Priority Action Improve sustainability performance reporting

Tactic 1: Assign student worker to focus on continual update of annual report

Tactic 2: Increase proficiency of data tracking with STARS

Priority Action Reduce single-occupancy vehicles on campus

Tactic 1: Implement automated bike system

Tactic 2: Enhance shuttle service as parking moves off campus

Tactic 3: Encourage use of electric vehicles with installation of charging stations and EV-specific parking spots

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Strategic Goals:

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- Engagement for Impact





Planning & Administration

*AASHE: Coordination & Planning, Diversity & Affordability,
Investment & Finance, Wellbeing & Work*

Priority Action P-1 Gain more support from campus administration

Tactic 1: Increase consideration for sustainability within

Tennessee Tech's mission, planning and accreditation

Tactic 2: Incorporate sustainability into the university strategic plan

Tennessee Tech's Strategic Plan Core Principles:

- Student Success

Strategic Goals:

- Education for Life



Appendix A



AASHE-STARs 2017 REPORT RESULTS

	ACHIEVEMENTS	GOALS
ACADEMICS 23.1/58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few courses across the following departments incorporate a sustainability theme as listed in course descriptions: Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Environmental and Sustainability Studies, Geography, Geology, History, Sociology, Wildlife and Fisheries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include sustainability theme across all departments Update learning outcomes to include topics of sustainability as taught in classes
ENGAGEMENT 19.18/41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence at SOAR Multiple successful campus events Surveys Growing social media presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with more departments for events Promote monthly themes
OPERATIONS 17.88/68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded recycling program Funded LEED Certification of Lab Science Building Developing composting initiative Continue to install LED lighting and occupancy sensors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to reduce utility usage and waste
PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION 8.4/32		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support from campus administration

Appendix B

Projects

Articles and Interviews: Communications & Marketing,
Department of Communication

Composting: School of Agriculture, Grounds, TDEC

Craft Center Project: Environmental Studies,
School of Art, Craft & Design

Eclipse: Mathematics

Film Screenings: History, Student Organizations

Food Pantry Garden: Sociology, School of Agriculture,
Grounds

Fueling Station: Athletics

Green Cardio Room: Campus Recreation & Fitness Center

Native Plant Garden: Biology, Grounds

Plants Rock Activity: Biology, Earth Sciences,
Environmental & Sustainability Studies

Project Re grind: Mechanical Engineering,
Manufacturing & Engineering Technology

Recycle Competition: Residential Life, Communications
& Marketing

Solar Powered Vehicles: Mechanical Engineering

Stormwater Monitoring and Permeable Pavement at
Intramural Building: Civil & Environmental Engineering



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

220 W. 10TH STREET | COOKEVILLE, TN 38505

MAILING ADDRESS:

1000 N. DIXIE AVENUE | CAMPUS BOX 5041

COOKEVILLE TN 38505-0001

P: (931) 372-3021

E: TTUGREEN@TNTECH.EDU

WWW.TNTECH.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY

