

# **AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

## ***Sustainability Policy***

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Auburn University is committed to integrating sustainability into all aspects of the University including: operations, instruction, research, and outreach activities. Auburn University considers sustainability a core value and strives for excellence in sustainability through continuous assessment and improvement.

Sustainability is defined as meeting human needs in a fair, just, and equitable way that enables future generations to meet their own needs, while protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems in perpetuity.

### **SUSTAINABILITY GOALS**

Auburn University's goal is to be acknowledged as a national leader in sustainability teaching, research, outreach, and practice.

To achieve this goal, Auburn University's sustainability policy is guidance for efforts to:

- Provide students, faculty, and staff with learning, development, and engagement opportunities to understand the ethics, principles, and practices of sustainability. These incorporate ecological, social, and economic systems and their complex interdependence.
- Enable and support students, faculty, and staff to generate new knowledge and foster continuous learning and improvement in the understanding and practice of sustainability.
- Conduct our campus operations so that we use resources conservatively, efficiently, and sustainably.
- Utilize best practices to avoid, minimize or eliminate adverse environmental impacts.
- Ensure compliance with applicable local, state, and federal environmental regulations as a minimum standard of performance, and utilize Auburn University sustainability and environmental management policies, procedures, and guidelines to improve performance.
- Respect and protect the land, water, and other natural resources under the stewardship of the university.
- Design, construct, operate, and maintain campus facilities in a sustainable manner.
- Achieve commitments made in Auburn's Climate Action Plan.
- Nurture the social, economic, and ecological fabric of our local community and help expand sustainable practices in the region.

## POLICY PROCEDURES

[Office of Sustainability](#), in conjunction with the Sustainability Operations Advisory Council (comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators), will annually assess the status, condition, and trends of sustainability-related activities, and progress toward reaching our sustainability goals. All university units shall support this effort.

Auburn University will use a nationally recognized system to track, assess, and report sustainability performance.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Auburn University Climate Action Plan](#)
- Auburn University Digest of Equity Policies
- [Auburn University Environmental Management System](#)
- [Auburn University Office of Sustainability](#)
- Auburn University Risk Management and Safety Program Manual
- [Auburn University Strategic Plan](#)
- Auburn University Sustainability Goals\*
- [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#)
- [American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment \(ACUPCC\)](#)
- [Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\)](#)

*\* This policy provides guidance for achieving Auburn University's long term commitment to and movement toward sustainability. At present, compliance with this policy means taking progressive steps to move toward sustainability rather than immediately achieving an ultimately desired level of performance. What it means specifically for each unit at any given time will be determined as each unit explores opportunities for progress. An initial assessment of sustainability performance campus-wide will be completed in 2012. As set forth in the Auburn University Strategic Plan, Auburn will develop long-term sustainability goals, with a target date for completion as of December, 2012. Having a performance assessment and long-term goals in hand, Auburn will craft goal and unit-specific roadmaps for moving from current levels of sustainability performance toward achieving long-term sustainability goals.*