

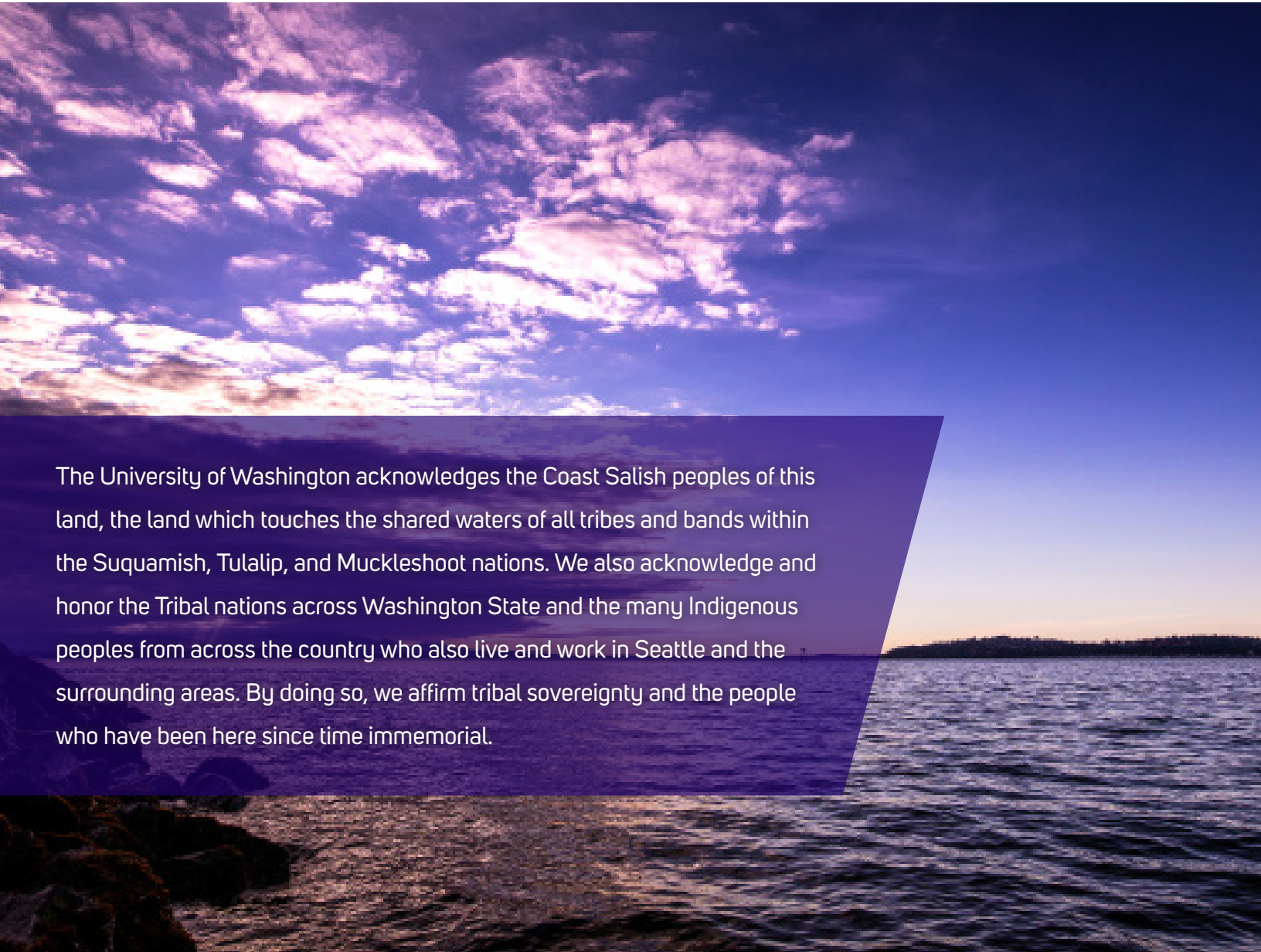
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2024 (1 JULY 2023 - 30 JUNE 2024)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations. We also acknowledge and honor the Tribal nations across Washington State and the many Indigenous peoples from across the country who also live and work in Seattle and the surrounding areas. By doing so, we affirm tribal sovereignty and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION** iii
- THE FY 2023 ACTION PLAN**
- I. DOUBLE STUDENT, STAFF, AND FACULTY SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT BY 2024** 2
- II. ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK BY 2022** 6
- III. DOUBLE SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH PROJECTS BY 2025** 8
- IV. COMPREHENSIVE EQUITABLE PURCHASING TARGETS BY 2022** 10
- V. 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025** 12
- VI. 35% OF FOOD IS FROM LOCAL SOURCES BY 2025** 14
- VII. 12% OR LESS OF COMMUTES ARE SINGLE-OCCUPANCY BY 2028** 16
- VIII. 15% LOWER ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY BY 2025** 18
- IX. 10% LESS SOLID WASTE BY 2025** 20
- X. 45% REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030** 24



Hundreds of individuals and organizations have contributed to this effort. View the complete list online at: sustainability.uw.edu/plan/acknowledgements



INTRODUCTION

FY24 UPDATE TO THE UW SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

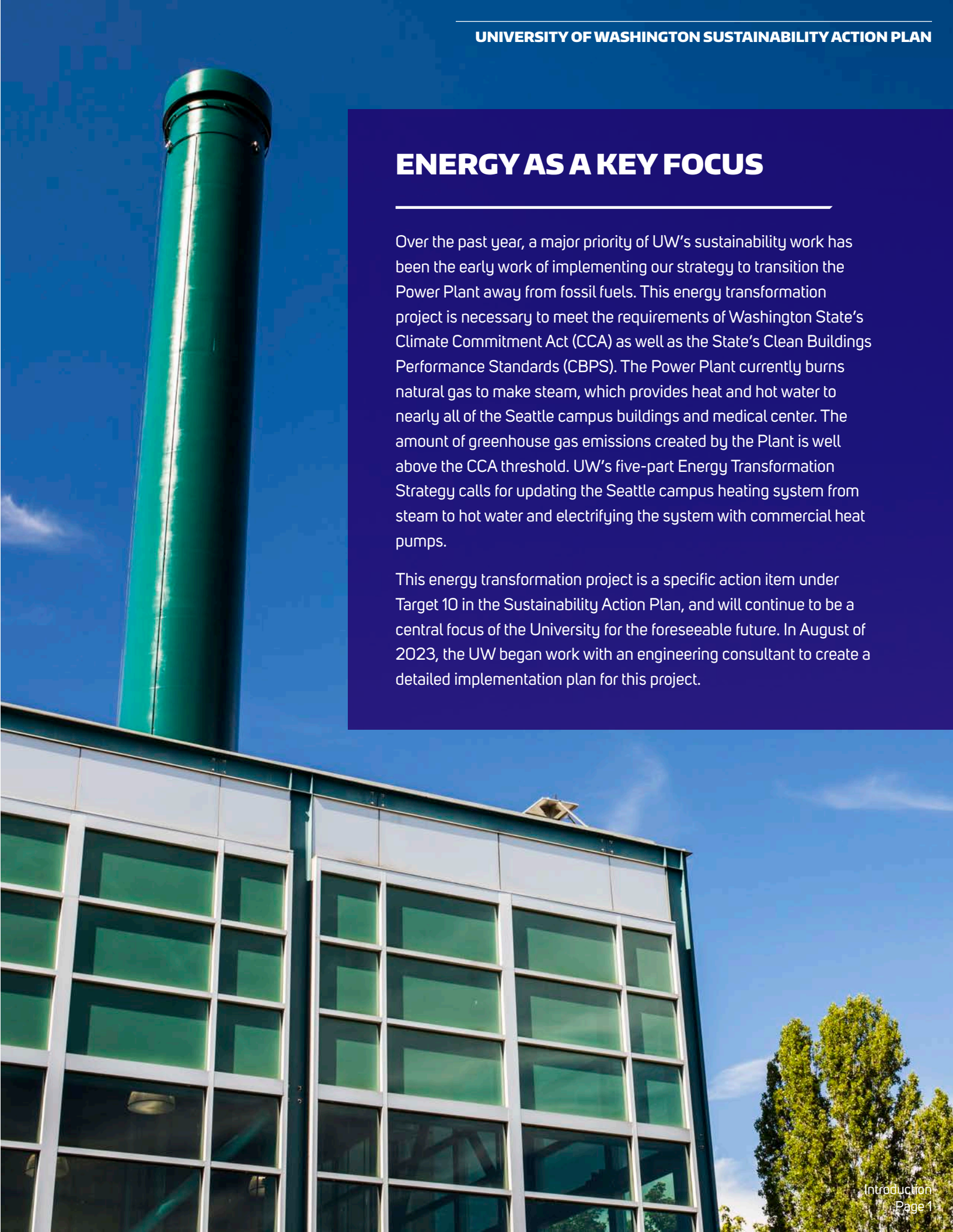
The University of Washington adopted its first Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) in July 2020, identifying 10 measurable targets, generally with a five-year window. The intent of the Plan was to annually determine the actions to be taken toward those targets.

Over the first three years of SAP implementation, UW has made significant progress toward these targets, while also recognizing there are opportunities for improvement. Over the past year, the UW Sustainability office has begun the strategic process of looking toward a revamped update of the Plan, which will drive the UW’s sustainability efforts after the existing Plan’s end date of 2025.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023), UW Sustainability led the process of creating a shared vision and mission for sustainability at UW. These statements, created through collaboration with the Plan’s Executive Committee, the Environmental Stewardship Committee, faculty, staff and students, build on the previous work of creating a common definition of sustainability. Together the mission, vision and definition of sustainability provide a clear, shared foundation for our sustainability work.

Also in FY2023, the UW started work with Cascadia Consulting Group to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory and analysis report, with an expected delivery and publication in Fall 2023. This will mark the first time UW has conducted a consumption-based inventory as part of its Scope 3 emissions (i.e. indirect emissions), along with a comprehensive look at Scope 1 and 2 (i.e. direct emissions from electricity, and the combustion of fossil fuels). The report will provide a holistic analysis of GHG reduction progress over a 2005 baseline, as well as GHG composition at the three campuses, self-sustaining units, sectors and subsectors. A key element of the final report will be a ‘contribution analysis’ of key changes in operations-based emissions, and a wedge analysis of pathways to meet near and long-term organizational GHG reduction targets. This level of analysis is necessary to better identify opportunities and inform decision-making for UW emission reduction efforts, as well as providing solid data to help set priorities and targets for the future version of our Sustainability Action Plan.

As we look toward the next iteration of our Sustainability Action Plan, we haven’t lost sight of the work already in-progress towards UW’s sustainability commitments. This report aims to capture the work done under the existing Plan in the Fiscal Year 2023 and the new actions for Fiscal Year 2024 which started on July 1, 2023.



ENERGY AS A KEY FOCUS

Over the past year, a major priority of UW’s sustainability work has been the early work of implementing our strategy to transition the Power Plant away from fossil fuels. This energy transformation project is necessary to meet the requirements of Washington State’s Climate Commitment Act (CCA) as well as the State’s Clean Buildings Performance Standards (CBPS). The Power Plant currently burns natural gas to make steam, which provides heat and hot water to nearly all of the Seattle campus buildings and medical center. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions created by the Plant is well above the CCA threshold. UW’s five-part Energy Transformation Strategy calls for updating the Seattle campus heating system from steam to hot water and electrifying the system with commercial heat pumps.

This energy transformation project is a specific action item under Target 10 in the Sustainability Action Plan, and will continue to be a central focus of the University for the foreseeable future. In August of 2023, the UW began work with an engineering consultant to create a detailed implementation plan for this project.



2023 PROGRESS



TARGET I. DOUBLE STUDENT, STAFF, AND FACULTY SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT BY 2024

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Expand University-wide communication on sustainability
- Enhance community engagement opportunities

Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Choose our research conscientiously



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



AASHE STARS categories

EN 2

Student Orientation

EN 9

Professional Staff Development & Training

EN 12

Continuing Education

EN 13

Community Service

This Target is about increasing the visibility of, and access to, sustainability in campus life. Implementing actions include a wide range of education programs, collaborations, and volunteerism that touch the lives of nearly every student, staff and faculty member, as well as community members in the neighborhoods surrounding UW campuses.

Target actions for FY 2023

- *Expand University-wide communication on sustainability*
- *Enhance community engagement opportunities*

Expand University-wide Communication on Sustainability

UW Sustainability revised its website to provide better access to information and resources on sustainability across the UW. This past year the UW Sustainability team underwent a content audit, identifying the existing topics available on the website and updated the website navigation to make it easier for users to find relevant information. The main URL was also updated from green.uw.edu to sustainability.uw.edu to better reflect our mission and the current definition of sustainability.

UW Sustainability also worked with the UW Facilities communications team on a homepage redesign for sustainability.uw.edu, determining how to present the most important information on the homepage to facilitate the user experience. The new homepage design and content work was completed, and the actual process of building and launching the design will occur in late summer 2023.

Enhance Community Engagement Opportunities

UW Sustainability, UW Facilities Energy, Utilities & Operations, and the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) partnered to organize a student task force related to the UW's decarbonization effort. This taskforce provided an opportunity to share information and updates with students, as well as giving students an avenue to voice suggestions, concerns and other feedback regarding the project. The student group met quarterly with Director of Energy, Utilities & Operations David Woodson, and the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) facilitated meetings of the group every other week throughout the school year.

In addition, UW Sustainability and the CSF developed a structure and framework for a student sustainability advisory committee, which will help foster collaboration

and coordination among student groups as well as creating a more direct connection to students for sustainability engagement. The sustainability committee is also intended to serve in an advisory role, supporting UW sustainability efforts and cross-disciplinary efforts across the organization.

FY 2024 ACTIONS



Target actions for FY 2024

- **Expand University-wide communication on sustainability**
- **Create a structured student sustainability advisory group**

For fiscal year 2023, UW Sustainability will develop strategies to enhance engagement, with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Equitable and diverse engagement across the entire organization will be a priority for the Sustainability Action Plan Update, with UW students, faculty, staff, and extended community playing a critical and central role in providing input. Re-evaluating our goals, strategies, and subsequent actions will be developed through a robust community engagement process.

Until then, UW Sustainability will continue to work toward the spirit and intent of this target. In particular, the office will focus on supporting sustainability efforts happening across the UW, increasing awareness of these existing actions while also providing resources and information around sustainability for the UW community.

Expand University-wide communication on sustainability

UW Sustainability will have added staff resources in FY24, including revising the job description for a vacant position. This role is expected to be hired in Fall 2024, and the duties will include enhancing engagement with students and faculty, including identifying and promoting Living Lab opportunities and overseeing the lab and office certification programs.

Steps we will take in FY 2024

- **Update the UW Sustainability website to better present sustainability information**
- **Revamp the Green Office and Lab Certification programs**

Update the UW Sustainability website to better present sustainability information

Continuing the work of updating the sustainability. uw.edu website, UW Sustainability will be launching a

new homepage design intended to modernize the look and feel of the website, while also improving the ability of users to discover information about the UW's sustainability performance and resources.

In addition, this year UW Sustainability will focus on auditing and updating the content on the site, with an initial focus on the topic pages in the "campus" section. The intent is to expand these pages to provide a more complete overview of UW's sustainability work around topics such as energy, water, buildings, etc.

Revamp the Green Office and Lab Certification programs

The Green Office and Green Laboratory Certification programs run by UW Sustainability have served as an outreach program to encourage and recognize sustainability practices in workspaces across the UW. These programs were put on hold during the pandemic response when most work was being done remotely. Now that instruction and many staff have returned to in-person or hybrid schedules, UW Sustainability is evaluating these programs to determine programmatic changes to help us meet our goals. This work started in FY23, however, staff turnover put the work on hold. We expect to resume the work in FY24.

Create a structured student sustainability advisory group

While there are many student organizations and individual students working on and advocating for sustainability at the UW, there is no structured way for students to consistently make their voices heard in sustainability discussions.

Over the past year, UW Sustainability and the Campus Sustainability Fund developed a structure and framework for a student sustainability advisory committee, which will help foster collaboration and coordination among student groups as well as creating a more direct connection to students for sustainability engagement.

In the upcoming year, UW Sustainability and the CSF plan to launch this committee, identifying student representatives and holding regular meetings. This first year will serve both as the start of the committee and a learning opportunity to determine what changes might be needed to make the committee serve as an even better method for communication with students and providing a method for student voices to inform sustainability actions.





2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS



TARGET II.

ONE UW-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Develop a sustainability mission and vision statement for UW as an organization
- Collaborate with academic departments to refine course list
- Develop a Student Sustainability Hub strategic plan

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Ensure students achieve sustainability literacy



Keep equity and inclusion at the center



AASHE STARS categories

AC 1

Academic Courses

AC 2

Learning Outcomes

2023 Progress

UW Sustainability worked with faculty, staff and student stakeholders to craft vision and mission statements for the University of Washington regarding sustainability. These statements went through several iterations and were approved by the UW Environmental Stewardship Committee.

The final statements:

Vision Statement:

We envision a UW where sustainability is interwoven in everything we do - including scholarship, service, operations, public health, and community. With sustainability deeply embedded in our culture, we will take bold action and lead with urgency for a just, resilient, and healthy planet.

Mission Statement:

We consistently acknowledge environmental harm and inequity, both past and present, in order to make meaningful progress. We develop leaders and innovative solutions to address our global climate crisis and urgent sustainability challenges. We do this by using teaching, research, service and operations as a foundation to translate learning into action, by creating living labs, and by dedicating resources to follow through on our commitments.

The work to collaborate with academic departments to refine the course list was put on hold by UW Sustainability due to a lack of staff resources. We will explore renewing this work, especially through collaboration with the Program on the Environment's Sustainability Minor.

The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) has continued work to develop a Student Sustainability Hub, which would be a resource dedicated to supporting students around sustainability.

FY 2024 Actions

This target called for a standard sustainability framework by 2022, which was achieved through the adoption of UW's definition of sustainability, as well as the university sustainability mission and vision statements.

In fiscal year 2024, the work toward a physical Student Sustainability Hub will be re-directed toward the establishment of a Student Sustainability Committee to serve as an advisory arm for the UW Sustainability Office. Continued work of the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) will expand CSF's role beyond grant-making to intersectional sustainability community building with students.





2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS



TARGET III.

DOUBLE SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH PROJECTS BY 2025

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Expand living lab opportunities while centering equity, diversity and inclusion

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Choose our research conscientiously

AASHE STARS categories



Sustainability evolves at the intersection between society and the environment. Much of scientific research is aligned along this same interface, so a more refined attention to sustainability illuminates our thinking about how we engage in research.

We aim to expand our work beyond the walls of academia, making our campuses and surrounding communities living laboratories that provide rich collaborations and shared positive outcomes.

2023 Progress

This target has presented challenges, including the difficulty of defining “research” at an institution with many different scales and kinds of research, ranging from large grant-funded projects to student-driven independent efforts. This target lacked clarity on the desired outcome(s) for doubling sustainability research projects. The UW Sustainability team also realized that increasing the number of research projects may not be the most effective and impactful way to reach UW’s sustainability goals.

In the upcoming year as we undergo the process of creating a new Sustainability Action Plan for UW, we will work with faculty, researchers and academic departments to re-examine goals around academic research for sustainability, determining how to best work toward the ultimate goal of expanding sustainability work and ensuring students and researchers have the opportunity and tools to work on sustainability topics across all disciplines.

Under the current target, UW Sustainability has had conversations with stakeholders regarding how to support and expand campus as a Living Lab efforts at the UW and will continue this work. For example, the Energy Transformation project is actively working with Student and Faculty Task Forces to determine how they can connect with the decarbonization work and identifying areas where the project can be used for living lab projects, such as increased access to energy data through new and upgraded metering.

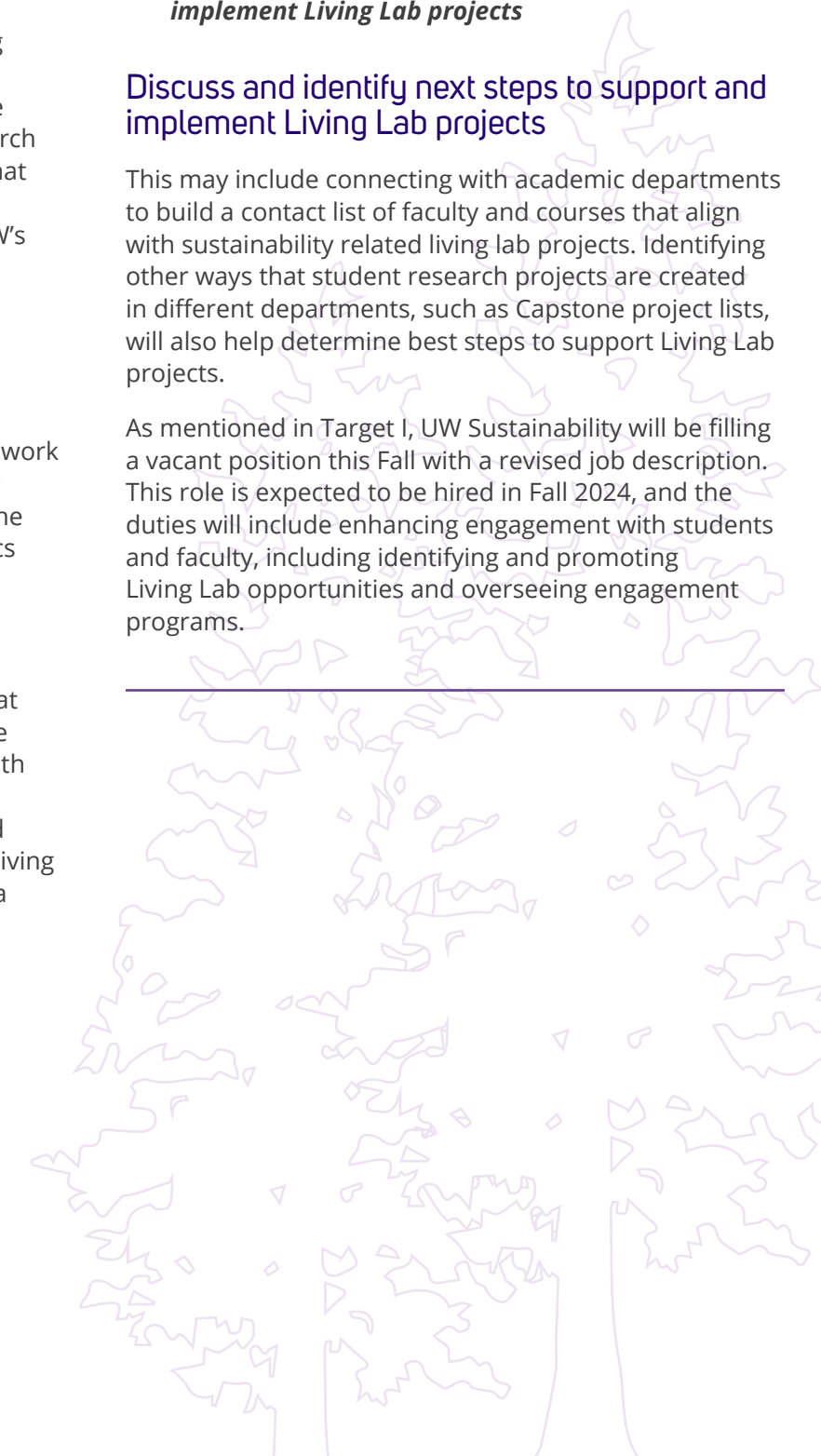
FY 2024 Actions

- *Discuss and identify next steps to support and implement Living Lab projects*

Discuss and identify next steps to support and implement Living Lab projects

This may include connecting with academic departments to build a contact list of faculty and courses that align with sustainability related living lab projects. Identifying other ways that student research projects are created in different departments, such as Capstone project lists, will also help determine best steps to support Living Lab projects.

As mentioned in Target I, UW Sustainability will be filling a vacant position this Fall with a revised job description. This role is expected to be hired in Fall 2024, and the duties will include enhancing engagement with students and faculty, including identifying and promoting Living Lab opportunities and overseeing engagement programs.





2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS



TARGET IV. PURCHASING

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Increase share of overall spending toward diverse and historically disadvantaged businesses
- Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation
- Identifying opportunities with GHG inventory data

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

AASHE STARS category

OP 11

Sustainable Procurement

2023 Progress

Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation

The Financial Transformation process was a major multi-year undertaking for the University of Washington, and leading up to the official launch in July 2023 there was a lot of last-minute testing and work to ensure a relatively smooth transition. As part of that, the main focus regarding sustainability was to ensure continuity for users and ensure features available in Ariba continued to be available in Workday. The main focus was making sure users would be able to search for sustainable products and suppliers, as well as showing sustainable catalog suppliers.

There remain continued challenges around the procurement process in Workday after the Financial Transformation, and many UW procurement systems remain in transition. As these challenges are worked out, UW will continue to look for opportunities to better integrate sustainability into the procurement process.

Create UW supplier diversity training and roll out to campus

As a response to the Washington State Executive Order for Equity in Public Contracting signed in early 2022, the state of Washington created an online training and toolkit for employees. All UW employees in a procurement or contracting role are required to complete the training. This effort is complete, and the training will support supplier diversity efforts in Washington State and potentially increase spending with small, veteran and minority-and women-owned businesses.

In addition, Business Diversity & Equity has been working with finance and procurement leaders across the University to discuss setting department-level spending goals to align with the UW's Diversity Blueprint. Department purchasing and finance leads were identified, and meetings held with 100% of UW departments. These meetings informed the department contacts about UW's diversity spending goals, what information is presented annually to the Board of Regents, and broke down the departments' specific spending numbers to show their level of purchasing (as both a total dollar amount and percentage of total spend) with small and minority-owned businesses.

FY 2024 Actions

- *Increase share of overall spending toward diverse and historically disadvantaged businesses*
- *Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation*
- *Identifying opportunities with GHG inventory data*

Increase share of overall spending toward diverse and historically disadvantaged businesses

Sustainable purchasing principles shall consider economic impact and social equity in support of relevant UW goals and policies, including the utilization of minority-, woman-, veteran-owned, and other disadvantaged businesses for university purchases and contracts. Business Diversity & Equity will continue to work with UW departments to encourage each of them to set specific spending goals to align with the UW's Diversity Blueprint and the Regent Policy No. 60 Statement of Business Equity, along with identifying the best process to reach those goals.

In addition, UW will continue outreach and technical support to vendors and suppliers, and track these interactions and successes. Metrics will include the number of suppliers who have attended orientation and received business with the University or other public agencies or participated in a program offered by the Foster School Consulting and Business Development Center (CBDC).

Explore integration of sustainability goals into Workday as part of Financial Transformation

As the Financial Transformation work continues after the Workday launch, UW will explore implementation of a streamlined order process, which will allow users to easily select sustainable products or identify diverse suppliers. The complexity of the Financial Transformation work means enhancements will likely be a long-term process.

Identifying opportunities with GHG inventory data

UW Sustainability will use the upcoming Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis report to identify opportunities to reduce Scope 3 emissions related to goods and services purchased. This will include discussions with stakeholders across the University and collaboration with Procurement teams to determine impactful and achievable measures.

¹ The UW Procurement Services office does not serve UW Medicine purchasing.





TARGET V. PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Draft policy for Professional Travel Reduction

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



AASHE STARS category

N/A

Collaboration is a central activity of academic research, and UW faculty travel for networking, researching, learning and reporting. Until sustainable aviation fuels are widely deployed there are no meaningful low-emissions alternatives to jet travel.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic response kick-started rapid and successful deployment of videoconferencing technologies that UW staff and faculty can leverage by being aggressive adopters and by taking initiative to organize events online. Simultaneously, we will explore high-quality greenhouse gas (GHG) offsets that travelers may use when there is no viable alternative to air travel.

2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS

2023 Progress

Target Actions for 2023

- *Continue work on programs to offset travel emissions*

The Professional Travel Working Group created a joint ad-hoc committee with the Faculty Council on Campus Planning and Stewardship to explore possible strategies to reduce air travel across the UW. This group presented a package of recommendations to the Sustainability Action Plan Executive Committee and Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), and continued discussions with UW stakeholders. The ad-hoc committee's work has gained endorsement from the ESC and Faculty Senate, showing broad consensus to continue toward a draft policy.

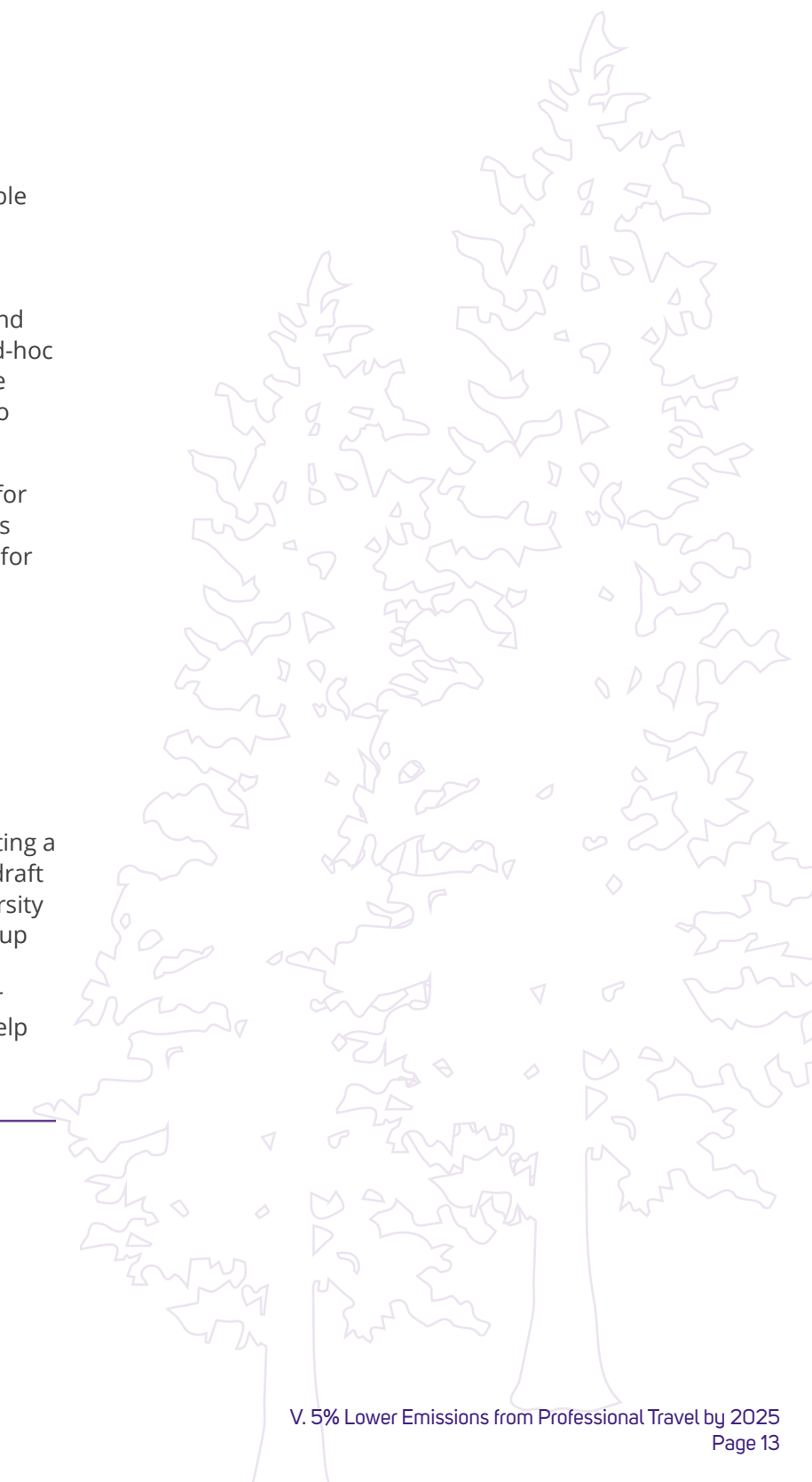
UW Sustainability also worked with the consultants for the Greenhouse Gas inventory report to look at ways to automate data processing and create a database for UW's professional travel.

FY 2024 Actions

Steps we will take in FY 2023

- *Draft policy for Professional Travel Reduction*

The ad hoc committee will continue to work on drafting a policy for air travel reduction, with a goal to have a draft ready for consideration and discussion by the university in the winter. In the upcoming year, the working group will facilitate focus groups with staff and faculty to better understand perceptions of air travel from our UW community. These focus groups are critical to help inform the draft policy.





2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTION



TARGET VI.

35% OF FOOD IS FROM LOCAL SOURCES BY 2025

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Create Balanced Plate Initiative
- Expand outreach to students

Sustainability Plan guiding principles



Keep equity and inclusion at the center

Use resources responsibly

AASHE STARS category

OP7

Food and Beverage Purchasing

2023 Progress

Housing & Food Services was able to renew its efforts toward sustainability in the past year. The COVID-19 pandemic response had required HFS to respond to changes in campus occupancy, supply chain issues and other unforeseen challenges. In FY23, HFS reinvigorated its Sustainability Committee, increasing membership to 11 representatives from a variety of departments and dining units, which will help drive solutions and collaborative efforts across the department. HFS Dining also expanded contact with student groups, campus leadership, sustainability organizations, and professors and instructors over the past year.

HFS purchasing data shows that 32% of food purchased is currently from local sources as of 2022 and the UW is on track to achieve the goal of 35% by 2025. In addition, the current target was chosen due in part to align with the national Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). However, in recent years STARS has shifted its focus to emphasizing the importance of plant-based items, as academic studies have shown increasing the proportion of plant-based food has a greater impact on embodied emissions than solely reducing transportation distance. HFS is also trending well in that measurement, as more than 38% of menu items are plant-based. HFS has made an intentional shift in purchasing a reduced percentage of animal-based meat analogs with an increased focus on nuts, seeds, beans, legumes, and other whole food plant-based proteins.

Our food is particularly emblematic of sustainability, a personal and literal symbol of the connection between the social and the environmental. The physically closer we are to the original sources of our food, the greater our ability is to affect positive change.

At all three campuses, focusing on local food sources means we are engaging with, investing in, and providing support to our local food systems while reducing the carbon footprint of our community.

FY24 Action

Target Actions for 2024

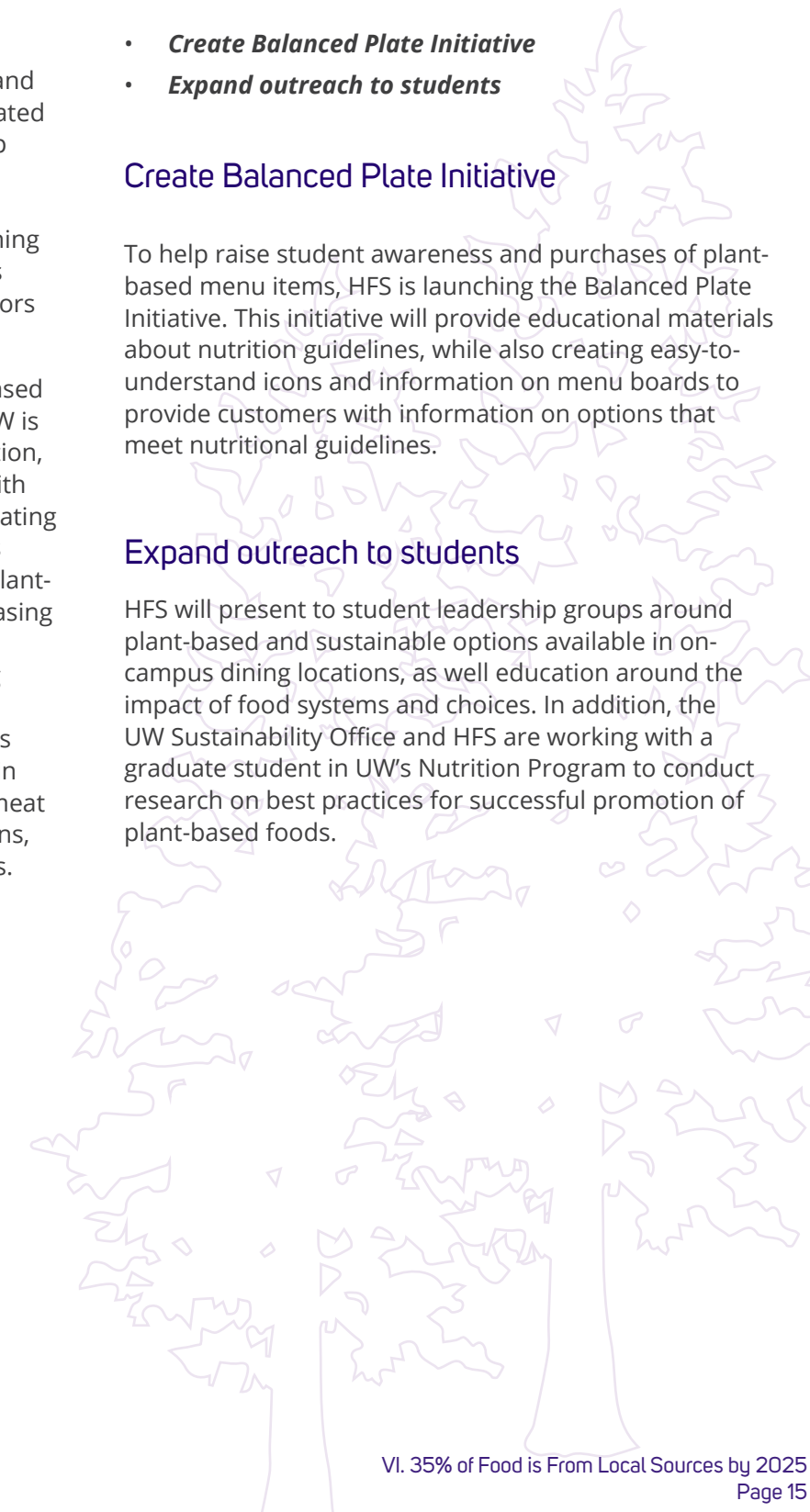
- *Create Balanced Plate Initiative*
- *Expand outreach to students*

Create Balanced Plate Initiative

To help raise student awareness and purchases of plant-based menu items, HFS is launching the Balanced Plate Initiative. This initiative will provide educational materials about nutrition guidelines, while also creating easy-to-understand icons and information on menu boards to provide customers with information on options that meet nutritional guidelines.

Expand outreach to students

HFS will present to student leadership groups around plant-based and sustainable options available in on-campus dining locations, as well education around the impact of food systems and choices. In addition, the UW Sustainability Office and HFS are working with a graduate student in UW's Nutrition Program to conduct research on best practices for successful promotion of plant-based foods.





2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS



TARGET VII.

6% DECREASE IN SINGLE-OCCUPANCY COMMUTING RATE PER CAMPUS BY 2028

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Advocate for increased transit beyond peak commute times
- Adopt a Bicycle Parking Plan
- Update the Burke-Gilman Trail

Sustainability Plan guiding principles



AASHE STARS category

OP 16

Commute Modal Split

2023 Progress

Target Actions for FY 2023

- *Encouraging sustainable transportation options*
- *Improve active transportation infrastructure and access*
- *Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel*

Encouraging sustainable transportation options

The fully subsidized U-PASS for all employees was approved in the Spring and was effective July 1, 2022. This expansion covers an additional 22,000 employees across all campuses and medical centers, giving them subsidized access to most public transit options in our region. The 2022 campus commute trip reduction survey, published in May 2023, shows that UW reached a 13% drive alone rate, one of the lowest in the nation.

Transportation Services implemented free transit fares for students and staff 19 years old and younger, in accordance with new state legislation. Students 19 and under had their U-PASS fee refunded or waived starting in Fall and continuing through the year.

Transportation Services has continued to advocate for increased transit service levels from regional transit providers to provide commuting options for all employees and students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Improve active transportation infrastructure and access

Transportation Services opened three new bike houses on the Seattle campus, increasing secure bike parking by over 150 spots.

Promote U-CAR and UW Shuttle service for mid-day travel

Transportation Services continues to improve the visibility and marketing of our Shuttles and U-CAR services by marketing these programs on campus in UW newsletters and publications. UW Transportation

puts a special emphasis on marketing the Nightride shuttle service at the end of each quarter. This is an especially relevant time to raise awareness of the Nightride service, as students are regularly on campus in later evening hours as they prepare for finals week.

FY 2024 Actions

Target Actions for FY 2024

- *Advocate for increased transit hours beyond peak commute times*
- *Adopt a Bicycle Parking Plan*
- *Update the Burke-Gilman Trail*

Advocate for increased transit hours beyond peak commute times

Transportation Services will work with our partners in regional transit organizations to expand transportation options and availability in off-peak hours to and from campus, allowing students, staff and faculty greater ability to utilize transit throughout the day, especially in earlier and later hours which may not currently be well-served.

In addition, Transportation Services will increase promotion and support of area Vanpool programs. These programs are offered by most of the surrounding counties and are covered by the fully subsidized U-PASS program, making them a viable option for many commuters. Vanpools may offer staff a more convenient option in the times when public transit is limited.

Adopt a Bicycle Parking Plan

Transportation Services and Campus Architecture & Planning are working to complete a Bicycle Parking Plan, which is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2023. The Bicycle Parking Plan will provide operational recommendations to reduce parking waitlists and provide more secure parking in needed areas, with the overall goal of increasing the number of bicycle commutes to campus.

The Bike Parking Plan will address safe, secure and

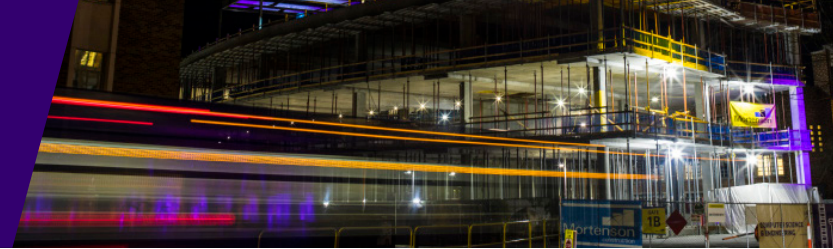
convenient parking by creating criteria for identifying sites and the types of parking to be added; and increasing and optimizing the locations of long-term secure parking (such as bicycle houses and lockers) as well as short-term racks. The Plan will also provide recommendations for replacing existing outdated racks with higher-quality bike racks and prioritizing specific places with high demand, and develop a process to integrate bicycle parking with future development projects being planned on campus.

Update the Burke-Gilman Trail

The University of Washington Project Delivery Group is examining possible improvements to the Burke-Gilman Trail through campus. Two sections have been identified where there trail will be widened and lane separation added for cyclists and pedestrians, similar to existing sections along NE Pacific St. Upgrades for these sections are both currently in the design process.



2023 PROGRESS & FY 2024 ACTIONS



TARGET VIII.

15% LOWER ENERGY USAGE INTENSITY BY 2025

TARGET ACTIONS:

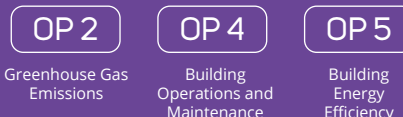
- Continue energy conservation and metering work
- Update campus vending machines
- Complete updated UW Green Building Standards

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Use resources responsibly

AASHE STARS categories



2023 Progress

Target Actions for FY 2023

- **Create a process to reinvest in energy savings into new efficiency projects.**
- **Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program**

Create a process to reinvest in energy savings into new efficiency projects.

In FY23 the UW allocated about \$3 million in seed funding for energy conservation projects from prior utility rebates and a small influx from the Treasury. This is a “pilot year” to track the cost savings from these projects, with an eye toward possible creation of a Green Revolving Fund that could utilize savings from conservation projects to fund future projects. Such reinvestment helps to lower energy and utility costs, and allows Facilities to take on more and larger conservation projects.

Expand campus Meter Monitor O&M program

The UW’s meter program has been fully funded, and over the past year work has been happening to install additional meters across campus for more granular energy data information, as well as upgrading building automation systems and digital controls and analyzing the data gained.

FY 2024 Actions

Target Actions for FY 2024

- **Continue energy conservation and metering work**
- **Update campus vending machines**
- **Complete updated UW Green Building Standards**

Continue energy conservation and metering work

The UW has increased the amount of money allocated for energy efficiency work at the Seattle campus starting in FY23, and will continue to work on energy conservation projects identified as having the most impact and return on investment. The energy conservation work includes updating HVAC and other infrastructure in buildings across the Seattle campus, namely: installing additional energy meters and digital controls, upgrading existing control systems, and analyzing energy data to better identify and track energy conservation opportunities. The State of Washington’s Climate Commitment Act has been identified as a new source of funding for on-going energy conservation work across UW.

UW Tacoma is also working to upgrade some campus control systems, and will be upgrading the Joy Building to LED lights, including motion and daylight sensors.

Update campus vending machines

The UW selected a new beverage partner in 2023, signing a contract with Pepsi after the expiration of the previous 10-year contract with Coca-Cola. This new beverage contact also provided an opportunity to upgrade vending machines on campus. Working with Pepsi, Housing & Food Services is overseeing installation of 177 new vending machines, replacing older machines that consumed more electricity than newer machines. These new machines have greatly reduced energy consumption and comply with updated industry standards for refrigeration.

Complete updated UW Green Building Standard

A committee of staff and faculty from a variety of departments and disciplines has been working on crafting updated Green Building Standard for the UW. These standards will set out specific requirements for construction projects at the UW that look at energy, water and embodied carbon. Whereas the current standard only addresses new construction, the updated

standard will include a variety of project types, including new construction and major renovations, minor renovations and partial fit-outs, and HVAC system replacements.

The draft standard is expected to be complete in late Fall 2023, with a goal to get UW Facilities leadership approval to incorporate it in the Facilities Design Standard in the spring of 2024. UW Sustainability, in partnership with other units in Facilities, will provide education and training across the university to help ensure successful implementation.





2024 PROGRESS



TARGET IX.

10% LESS SOLID WASTE

TARGET ACTIONS:

- Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill
- Reduce single-use disposable items

Sustainability Plan guiding principles



AASHE STARS category

N/A

Everything we throw away is something that we don't need. That may seem self-evident, but combined with life-cycle thinking it means an opportunity to reduce manufacturing emissions, energy consumption, transportation, and even raw materials extraction associated with whatever object we didn't need. "Reduce, reuse, recycle" remains a powerful hierarchy of solid waste management, but there are even more details of product and materials management, economics, and urban ecology that can receive both our research attention and our operational attention.

Target Actions for FY 2024

- *Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill*
- *Reduce single-use disposable items*
- *Evaluate University contracts and sponsorships as opportunities to reduce waste*

Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill

One of the main opportunities for improving waste stream sorting and reducing contamination is in the residence halls. The student population in the residence halls is largely new to campus and often has less experience with the waste infrastructure of Seattle or the UW. By educating students in the residence halls, they are also able to use that knowledge throughout their time at UW and also help encourage peers to properly dispose of items.

UW Recycling worked with Housing and Food Services to expand outreach in residence halls, including creating and distributing door hangers with waste sorting guidance to every residence hall room at the beginning of Fall quarter. Every apartment unit received a "Sorting Sustainability" brochure with similar information. UW Recycling also held eight outreach events in housing locations and on-campus dining areas, providing information on proper recycling and composting and promoting the OZZI program which offers reusable takeout containers.

UW Recycling continued to promote the "Intro to Recycling" course for all staff and faculty on the bridge learning platform, and also created an alternative training open to students using Google forms.

Beyond residence halls, UW Recycling worked to expand the number of compost bins in buildings, including updating William Gates and Guthrie Halls to ensure adequate access to compost bins in common areas and kitchens, while also converted the building's containers to single-stream recycling. Waste containers were also installed in two newly-constructed buildings, Health Sciences Education Building and Founders Hall.

In addition, over the past year Housing and Food Services has increased the use of compostable containers and products to reduce the amount of material in the recycling and landfill waste streams.

Reduce single-use disposable items

UW Recycling continued conversations with UW Sustainability, HFS and Procurement about creating a Zero-Waste Task Force for the University. No specific resources to create and ensure the success of such a task force have yet been identified.

Evaluate University contracts and sponsorships as opportunities to reduce waste

Over the last year, UW initiated a competitive process for the University's 10-year beverage contract. UW Sustainability was invited to participate in the selection process to help ensure sustainability was central to the process and subsequent contract, including opportunities to reduce plastics and single-use plastic packaging, providing energy efficient vending machines, and much more. UW Sustainability hopes to identify other large-scale contract opportunities and work with the UW's procurement and marketing team to ensure sustainability is integral to the selection process and contracts.



FY 2024 Actions

Divert compostable waste from recycling and landfill

UW Recycling plans to expand the number of compost bins in 15 buildings on the Seattle campus as they update the buildings' waste infrastructure to support single-stream recycling. This will include improved signage and ensuring compost bins are available in common areas and other areas where food will regularly be consumed or prepared.

In addition, UW Recycling will focus outreach efforts in high-traffic dining areas, including tabling during the Fall quarter at campus dining halls, and updating signage in District Market and the Suzzallo Starbucks. Other outreach initiatives will include Dawg Daze events targeted to new students, and promoting tours of Recology's materials recovery facility (MRF) which sorts single-stream recycling.

A major opportunity to reduce contamination rates is the UW Medical Center - Montlake. UW Recycling will partner with UW Medicine Environmental Services to implement new strategies aimed at addressing sources of contamination in the UWMC recycling.

Focus on residence halls

Student residence halls remain a source of high contamination rates. UW Recycling and Housing & Food Services will again distribute door hangers with waste sorting guidance to every residence hall, apartment and family housing unit early in Fall quarter, as well as providing waste sorting training to RAs who can share the information with the residents on their floors.

Reduce single-use disposable items

Housing & Food Services is expanding the Ozzi container program to provide reusable containers for students. HFS has worked with student groups to pilot the Ozzi program with a small population of students for several years. Starting in Fall 2023, all incoming students on a dining plan (about 9,000 students) will be provided with a complementary Ozzi container to use for takeout

items. These Ozzi containers can be turned back in at collection machines in dining locations on campus for a fresh container. The used containers are then cleaned and reused. The expansion also includes adding a third collection machine to the two existing collection points on campus.

Waste Diversion Through Donation

Besides reducing our kitchen waste, we also have a plan for better handling the waste that we do have. Some high-quality food waste can avoid either landfilling or composting, and instead be donated to other organizations. 2019 food recovery for donation was 15,000 pounds (9,000 pounds from Housing & Food Services/Dining, and 6,000 pounds from UW Recycling's student moveout collection program). Our goal is to reach 16,000 pounds collected for donation by 2022.





2023 PROGRESS



TARGET X.

45% REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030

TARGET ACTIONS:

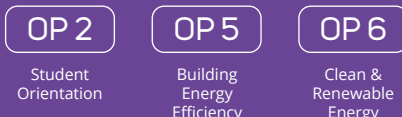
- Plan to repower the Seattle campus
- Electrify UW Transportation Services
- Identify opportunities and implement recommendations from GHG inventory

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



Decarbonize

AASHE STARS categories



Target Actions for FY 2023

- *Plan to repower the Seattle campus*
- *Electrify UW Transportation Services*
- *Implement campus solar plan*
- *Develop a UW Carbon Roadmap*

In 2023, the UW started work with Cascadia Consulting Group to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and analysis report, with an expected delivery and publication in Fall 2023. This will mark the first time UW has conducted a consumption-based inventory as part of its Scope 3 emissions (i.e. indirect emissions), along with a comprehensive look at Scope 1 and 2 (i.e. direct emissions from electricity and fossil fuel combustion). The report will provide a holistic and granular analysis of GHG reduction progress over a 2005 baseline, as well as GHG composition at the three campuses, self-sustaining units, sectors and subsectors. A key element of the final report will be a ‘contribution analysis’ of key changes in operations-based emissions, and a wedge analysis of pathways to meet near and long-term organizational GHG reduction targets. This level of analysis is necessary to better identify opportunities and inform decision-making for UW emission reduction efforts, as well as providing solid data to help set priorities and targets for the future version of our Sustainability Action Plan.

Plan to repower the Seattle campus

The UW’s Energy Transformation Strategy lays out a blueprint for the UW to transition away from fossil fuels, largely by converting the campus heating system from steam to hot water. This will also allow the Power Plant to electrify, switching from natural gas boilers to district-scale heat pumps which can take advantage of various waste heat sources. Over the past year, the UW has concentrated on Phase one of the strategy, which calls for energy conservation measures to reduce our electrical load in existing buildings.

In the past fiscal year, the UW spent about \$3 million on energy and water conservation efforts, which marks

a 400% increase from the previous year. This money went to replacing aging equipment, updating lighting and installing new monitoring systems which will allow the UW to take informed steps to reduce the university’s carbon footprint.

In addition, over the past year work started to raise awareness of the project across the UW community, especially with stakeholders and decision makers. UW Sustainability and UW Facilities facilitated tours of the Power Plant to show first-hand the operations and needs of the current plant. Tour attendees included UW leadership, faculty, staff and students, along with local and state government representatives.

UW Sustainability has also worked with UW Facilities and UW Marketing and Communications to publish stories in various UW sites on the Energy Transformation Strategy, including an article on the UW Today site in conjunction with Earth Day.

Electrify UW Transportation Services

In the past year, UW Transportation Services has taken delivery of 21 Ford E-Transit vans and 12 Chevrolet Bolts to increase the number of fully-electric vehicles in the UW fleet to 76, or about 10% of the total fleet. There are also 42 plug-in hybrid vehicles in the UW fleet, and more electric vehicles have been ordered. In 2023, more than 12% of the total miles traveled by UW fleet vehicles were electric-powered, up from 1.5% in 2018. The UW is also committed to continuing to add electric vehicles to the fleet.

There are three projects currently underway which will add EV charging capacity to existing UW parking lots. The largest of these is looking at the E-2 parking lot, which will provide 74 new Level 2 chargers and six new Level 3 fast chargers, along with other security upgrades. The total cost of the project is expected to be about \$1.48 million. Transportation Services is also moving forward with a Solar Canopy Project for E-18, which will provide a 100 kW solar canopy to power future EV charging stations. This project also falls under the “Implement Seattle campus solar plan” action for this target. about Woodson and the effort was published on the UW Facilities blog and publicized along with an event with Woodson and UW Sustainability discussing the effort.

Develop a UW Carbon Roadmap

The UW is developing a Carbon Reduction Roadmap to determine how the institution will meet our carbon reduction goals. Washington State has set mandatory requirements for state agencies to reduce GHG emissions by 45% by 2030, 75% by 2040 and 95% by 2050 (based on a 2005 baseline). The Carbon Roadmap is intended to serve as a planning tool to facilitate reaching these goals by the deadlines or sooner.

Over the last year, UW has been developing a draft Carbon Reduction Roadmap to identify what actions are needed to reach net zero carbon by 2050. The Carbon Reduction Roadmap is, in a sense, a comprehensive to-do list with actions across different categories of emissions, including the energy transformation of our central steam plant, building metering and energy efficiency, to electrifying our fleet and landscaping equipment, and reducing our plastic waste by increasing to-go container reuse programs. In 2023, a working group met with key stakeholders across the UW system including the Bothell and Tacoma campuses to gather information on existing emission reduction actions. The Carbon Roadmap will identify unit actions to reach a 2050 net zero goal.





FY 2024 Actions

Target Actions for FY 2024

- *Plan to repower the Seattle campus*
- *Electrify UW Transportation Services*
- *Identify opportunities and implement recommendations from GHG inventory*

Plan to repower the Seattle campus

The UW issued an RFQ in Spring 2023 for a firm to provide engineering consulting services and develop a detailed plan for decarbonization of the campus and Power Plant. The firm was selected in Summer 2023 and will begin work immediately to develop an implementation plan by August of 2024. Under state legislation, the UW must have begun development of a decarbonization plan for the Power Plant by June 2024. This implementation plan is critical to identify the capital resources needed to convert the Seattle campus district energy system off fossil fuels. Work will also continue on energy conservation measures across the UW, as well as communicating information about the Energy Transformation to the UW community.

Electrify UW Transportation Services

UW Transportation Services will continue to prioritize electric vehicles when replacing vehicles in the fleet, as well as continuing to move forward with the parking lot projects to add charging stations and solar canopies (see the FY23 progress section for details).

Identify opportunities and implement recommendations from GHG inventory

The greenhouse gas comprehensive inventory and analysis conducted by Cascadia Consulting Group will be delivered in Fall 2023. UW Sustainability will then work with campus stakeholders to identify and prioritize actions which will have a measurable impact in reducing our associated emissions, especially Scope 3 emissions.

SUSTAINABILITY IS IN OUR NATURE

Sustainability efforts are ongoing at the UW. **UW Sustainability** is a central resource office for information regarding activities, projects, initiatives, campus engagements and programs.

Visit **sustainability.uw.edu** to stay up to date.

We welcome your comments and feedback on the Sustainability Action Plan.

Please send inquiries to:

sustainability@uw.edu

The online version of this and future Sustainability Action Plan documents, as well as any updates to elements of this plan will be posted at **sustainability.uw.edu/plan**.

