

# UCCS SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

2030



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR .....



We are in an era requiring leadership and innovative approaches to prepare our graduates for a rapidly changing global environment. UCCS seeks to play a pivotal role in creating a culture of sustainability, providing both the knowledge and practices that students will carry with them into their lives after college.

Sustainability at UCCS started as a grass roots effort by a group of dedicated and passionate students, faculty, and staff. These individuals advocated for the university to provide leadership, academic instruction, and a model built environment, in order to prepare our future leaders to approach the sustainability challenges the world currently faces.

Innovation, retention, cost savings, and career skills development continue to be valuable outcomes from our adoption of sustainability as a formal goal for the university. To highlight a few sustainability successes to date:

- A General Education requirement that all students at UCCS must complete a sustainability class before graduation to better prepare them to be global citizens.
- An integrated approach to sustainability represented by meaningful inclusion in the CU Strategic Plan, UCCS Strategic Plan, Facilities Master Plan, and other planning documents.
- The creation of Sustainability Wellness and Learning, SWELL, a collaborative effort to increase local and organic food procurement on campus, incorporate a campus greenhouse and farm, and support academic work in food, health, and sustainability.
- A successful student-led Green Action Fund that has approved and invested over \$1.3M in funding for 140+ innovative sustainability projects on campus since 2012.
- 15 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, Gold certified, high performance buildings, which serve as living learning laboratories for our campus and extended community.
- A robust zero waste program including compost, electronics, and many other items to achieve a 50% diversion rate for the campus.

As an original signatory to the Second Nature's Carbon Commitment (formerly American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment), UCCS continues to decrease greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy implementation, retrofit projects, and conservation. I am committed to a sustainability vision that builds on our early successes and utilizes all of our talents to create a legacy for future generations.



Dr. Venkat Reddy  
UCCS Chancellor

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# UCCS SUSTAINABILITY VISION & MISSION



## Vision

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will be a recognized leader in sustainability, integrating social justice, economic, and ecological values into institutional policies, programs and practices.



## Mission

Recognizing that institutions of higher learning have a responsibility to exercise leadership and create the future, UCCS actively pursues sustainability as a way to address the University's focus on increased student recruitment and retention through courses which address contemporary and global issues, effective and efficient resource usage, and fiscal responsibility. UCCS seeks to be a campus where: Committed campus administrators, in partnership with a dedicated faculty, staff, and student body, provide leadership and expertise to local, regional, and global sustainability efforts; We recognize our obligation to educate the University community about the importance of individual and institutional environmental and social responsibility, and prepare our students by integrating sustainability literacy into academic learning and research across the curriculum and between the colleges; Sustainability is integrated into all aspects of University functioning, including buildings, operations, planning, and purchasing, in a way that we minimize the impact of our growing, dynamic campus upon the earth.

In accomplishing this vision and mission, we will foster a culture of sustainability throughout our campus and also our extended community.



# SUSTAINABILITY AT UCCS . . . . . > 2002-2022

The current global situation is one that requires all institutions of higher education to take a leadership role in encouraging and implementing solutions to lessen ecological impact, pioneer restorative practices and contribute to increasing equity and justice in both our local and global communities. The University of Colorado Colorado Springs envisions becoming a recognized leader in integrating social, economic and ecological values into institutional policies, programs and practices.

Sustainability initiatives for UCCS began in 2002 with the creation of the faculty and staff Campus Sustainability Committee and the student organization, Students for Environmental Awareness and Sustainability (SEAS). In 2005, UCCS hired the first sustainability officer in the University of Colorado System and created the Office of Sustainability. This office managed a \$1.3 million Energy Performance Bond to pursue energy conservation projects, coordinated LEED and high performance building efforts, and worked with students, faculty and staff to coordinate campus sustainability initiatives. In the first seven years of the office, savings from sustainability provided over \$1M in savings for the University.

Since UCCS drafted their second Sustainability Strategic Plan in 2012, UCCS has

- Earned Gold three consecutive submissions (2015, 2018, 2021) for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- Committed to a Gold standard for new buildings through Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification with 15 LEED Gold buildings on campus since 2007 with one more in the planning process
- A successful student-led Green Action Fund that has approved and invested over \$1.3M in funding for 140+ innovative sustainability projects on campus since 2012
- A General Education requirement that all students at UCCS must complete a sustainability class before graduation to better prepare them to be global citizens
- Hired a contracted firm to complete an Energy Performance Contract to reduce UCCS Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG)

The goals set in the 2007 and 2012–2020 Sustainability Strategic Plans provided a framework to make UCCS more sustainable through innovation and the collective community support in changing our campus culture. Even with our successes, we still have a ways to go to reduce our impact and carbon emissions. The 2030 plan will be a guiding document, but our campus community needs to provide continued hope paired with action.

Through the past two years (and through a global pandemic), a team of dedicated faculty, staff, and students invested many hours to develop and engage our campus community to produce this new eight-year plan that will take UCCS to new levels of sustainability, justice and resiliency. We look forward to building on our current successes and utilizing our talents to create a legacy for future generations.

# ALIGNMENT + INTENTIONALITY.....>

The intent of the UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan 2030 is not to replace or compete with the UCCS Strategic Plan 2030. As stated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 Climate Change 2021 Report in August 2021, "Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes." Due to the urgency and global impact, these identified goals will address climate change, sustainability, and resiliency at an institutional level with the intent of leading the Pikes Peak Region in best practices.



## **ALIGNED WITH THE CU SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026**

As stated in the UCCS Strategic Plan 2030, "our strategic planning doesn't happen in a vacuum." The four core strategies of the UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan align with the system plan's four strategic pillars - access, affordability, student success; discovery and impact; fiscal strength; and diversity, inclusion, and equity.

## **ALIGNED WITH UCCS STRATEGIC PLAN 2030**

Along with the intentionality of aligning the four core strategies to the CU System Strategic Plan, these goals are also directly aligned with the seven core strategies of the UCCS Strategic Plan - learning, engagement, and belonging; retention and graduation; research and creative excellence; financial strength; deliberate investment; distinctive programs; and partnership and outreach. Although at the time this plan was adopted there was not a current CU or UCCS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan, this plan has intentionally aligned with CU + UCCS DEI values.

## **ALIGNED WITH STARS - SUSTAINABILITY, TRACKING, RATING, AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

STARS is the standard for higher education sustainability tracking, rating and assessment. As stated on their website, "STARS is the product of an extensive stakeholder engagement process that began in 2006 and continues to this day." Through the input of subject matter experts, STARS continues to push the envelope of what it means for an institution of higher education to be sustainable and resilient.

## **ALIGNED WITH UN SDGS - UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

As stated on the UN SDGs website, "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future." STARS already aligns its assessment tool with all seventeen of the UN SDGs, therefore, the UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan four core strategies are also aligned with these global goals.

# TIMELINE OF REVIEW

2022-2030



This timeline of review is to ensure our 2030 plan will not sit on the shelf and that our campus community is engaged and has opportunity to provide feedback on the University's commitments and priorities in terms of sustainability, justice and resiliency.

Throughout the entirety of the timeline, the UCCS community will strive to achieve goals set by the plan. Upon adoption of the plan in Spring 2022, the Office of Sustainability along with the Sustainability Committee will plan an awareness campaign Fall 2022.

From May 2023–February 2024, the Office of Sustainability will compile data and submit STARS. From May–June 2024, the Office of Sustainability will complete a comparative analysis with STARS 2021 submission and provide a gap analysis for the 2030 Sustainability Strategic Plan. This comparative and gap analysis will be shared in the Fall 2024 awareness campaign.

This cycle will continue through Spring 2030 with the anticipated drafting of a 2040 Sustainability Strategic Plan.





# 4 CORE STRATEGIES

As a response to the global climate crisis, UCCS has committed to reducing the University's carbon footprint through innovative practices, collaborative partnerships, and strategic investments.



**Foster a culture of sustainability at UCCS and beyond.**



**Cultivate excellence in research and teaching related to sustainability, climate change, energy, and environmental justice and equity.**



**Model sustainability, efficiency, and innovation in our campus operations, infrastructure, and facilities management.**



**Engage UCCS students, faculty, staff, and members of the Colorado Springs community with events and programming related to sustainability.**



# FOSTER A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY AT UCCS AND BEYOND.

## LEADERSHIP



### This core strategy will...

- Encourage the use of a sustainability, justice, and resiliency lens – ecological, equitable, and economic impacts – in all decision making.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Consistent increased scores on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).
2. Developed and implemented a new campus Climate Justice Plan.
3. Sustainability projects and programs that support the University and System Mission and increase efficient use of resources are funded.
4. Chancellor appointed Sustainability Council to manage the implementation of the 2030 UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan with no term end. Council to include representatives from administration, faculty, staff and students

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Institutionalize data collection to conduct triennial submission of STARS with a published progress, produce a comparative analysis update and present to administration and campus.
2. Create a Cabinet and Chancellor appointed, formal committee that will identify key areas for improvement and develop strategies to address and achieve.
3. Create a Cabinet and Chancellor-led awareness campaign to educate and train our campus community on sustainability, climate change, energy, environmental justice and equity.
4. Increase collaboration with System and CU campuses to achieve system sustainability goals through planning efforts to identify sustainability goals beyond operational and identifying opportunities for collaboration, leveraging of size, and sharing of information to achieve goals.
5. Expand our sustainability leadership expertise and partnerships to Colorado Springs and Southern Colorado that is mutually beneficial through the establishment of the Southern Colorado Center for Sustainability, Wellness, and Justice at UCCS.
6. Explore adding sustainability goals in employee and student employee performance goals and review along with sustainability-related understanding to all job descriptions as a preferred and/or interview questions.



Students support sustainability at UCCS because it allows them to be an active participant in their future and helps current UCCS students connect to future Mountain Lions.

– Emily G. | UCCS Undergraduate Student

# CULTIVATE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND EQUITY.



## TEACHING

### This core strategy will...

- Support faculty in integrating principles of sustainability, climate change, energy, and environmental justice into new and existing courses.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Increased the number of students who participate in applied, experiential, and community-engaged learning and research broadly related to sustainability
2. Increased opportunities for visible, high-impact educational experiences that prepare students to utilize sustainability as a decision-making lens and integrate practices into their professional and personal lives.
3. Increased the number of approved courses for the Compass Curriculum Sustainability requirement
4. Increased the number of students pursuing the Sustainability Minor, as well as the number of majors and Colleges represented by students in the Minor

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Integrate sustainability into the Faculty Resource Center's supported topics and suggested resources, and achieve consistent representation in the UCCS Teaching and Learning Conference.
2. Implement consistent evaluation and assessment of sustainability literacy for the entire student body.
3. Foster relationships with Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak Region businesses and organizations to provide consistent internship opportunities, in partnership with UCCS departments and colleges.
4. Strengthen and/or develop partnerships with community and junior colleges to provide direct pathways for transfer students into the interdisciplinary Sustainability Minor and other sustainability-related degree programs.
5. Implement awareness campaigns to various target audiences.
6. Conduct trainings for academic advisors and admissions staff to communicate these opportunities to students.
7. Explore integrating teaching affiliates through the Office of Sustainability

# CULTIVATE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY.

## RESEARCH

### This core strategy will...

- Foster and showcase research and creative works that address issues related to sustainability, climate change, energy, and environmental justice.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Increase the number of faculty involved in sustainability-related research; set metrics through number of publications, grants, etc.
2. Increase the number of faculty and students presenting sustainability-related research at Mountain Lion Research Day, the Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum (CSURF), and at other regional, national, or international conferences.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Develop new platforms, events, workshops, or working groups around the nexus of sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
2. Explore annual incentive opportunities to award faculty conducting sustainability-related research.
3. Explore integrating research affiliates through the Office of Sustainability.
4. Work closely with the Office of Research to develop panel to showcase sustainability-related research.



The interdisciplinary nature of sustainability encourages our faculty and students to explore complex concepts that are integrated into courses and innovative research.

- Kelli K. | UCCS Faculty & Administration



# MODEL SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND INNOVATION IN OUR CAMPUS OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

## BUILDINGS

### This core strategy will...

- Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, Energy Use Intensity (EUI), and Water Use Intensity (WUI)

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Designed, built, and maintained buildings that provide a healthy indoor environment and mitigate the building's impact on the outdoor environment.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Continue utilizing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold as the minimum standard for all new-builds.
2. Explore opportunities to complete large, entire-building retrofit projects to LEED standards.
3. Explore opportunities to maintain buildings to LEED standards.
4. Ensure new campus infrastructure supports inclusivity, diversity, and well-being including access to gender neutral bathrooms and accessibility for disabled individuals.
5. Conduct building occupant meetings to train and communicate best practices to create a comfortable working environment utilizing the integrated technology.

## GROUNDS

### This core strategy will...

- Plan and maintain our campus grounds through integrated sustainable practices

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Minimize toxic chemical use.
2. Increase protection of wildlife habitat, and conserving resources.
3. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Improve effectiveness of irrigation systems through upgrading existing infrastructure overtime by investing in emerging water efficiency technologies and investing in water-conserving irrigation systems for future infrastructure.
2. In accordance with campus design guidelines and where appropriate, use native vegetation and plants and implement plans to retrofit areas of campus with low-water plantings.
3. Increase total acres that are managed organically and through integrated pest management practices.
4. Continue implementation of sustainable development goals for staff (including, EVs, electric equipment, reduce impacts of ice/snow removal, Tree Campus USA application, on-site mulching, organic soils management, etc.)
5. Explore hiring position within Outdoor Services to manage all aspects of stormwater management.



# MODEL SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND INNOVATION IN OUR CAMPUS OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

## ENERGY

### This core strategy will...

- Pursue Net Zero Energy through conservation, energy efficient technologies, and producing or purchasing renewable energy

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

- 1.Reduced our energy use.
- 2.Reduced utility bills.
- 3.Increased onsite renewable energy production and storage.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

- 1.Expand renewable energy production on campus and explore battery storage opportunities.
- 2.Increase the quantity and scope of energy efficiency and retrofit projects.
- 3.Explore departmental green revolving funds to secure funding for future projects.
- 4.Implement behavioral energy conservation programs, campaigns, and metrics.
- 5.Continue implementing campus setpoint standards of 74° in summer months and 68° in winter months.



Our infrastructure plays a significant role in our overall carbon footprint; we strive to integrate sustainable practices into our operations and management of campus.

- Jeff R. | UCCS Staff

## WATER

### This core strategy will...

- Integrate efficiency practices that ensure both technology and behavior change are utilized to their fullest extent.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

- 1.Reduced our water use.
- 2.Reduced utility bills.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

- 1.Continue innovating and applying for the Colorado Springs Utilities water conservation rebates that are tailored to each business.
- 2.Work with departments to identify water reductions in their buildings.
- 3.Implement behavioral water conservation programs, campaigns, and metrics.

# MODEL SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND INNOVATION IN OUR CAMPUS OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### This core strategy will...

- Integrate and support Transportation Demand Management principles with the goal of reducing the number of vehicles, vehicle trips, and vehicle miles driven.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

- 1.Reduced the number of single occupancy vehicle (SOV) commuting to/from campus and inter-campus commuting
- 2.Reduced the use of fossil fuels in university owned, leased and contracted vehicles, including the use of all-electric busses, implementing vehicle purchasing plan to target fuel types, etc.
- 3.Decreased emissions from university sponsored travel as reported through the Procurement Service Center (PSC)

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

- 1.Create physical and cultural support for working and learning remotely.
- 2.Create and implement a campus transportation master plan.
- 3.Administer annual transportation survey aligned with STARS, CU System, and higher education institutions in Colorado
- 4.Advocate for improved mass transit in the Colorado Springs region and seek out partnerships with regionally based transit authorities
- 5.Invest and increase infrastructure for walking, biking, skateboarding, electric vehicles (EVs) and other forms of alternative transportation and implement behavioral change programs, campaigns, and metrics.

## FOOD & DINING

### This core strategy will...

- Increase and support our campus and community sustainable food systems

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

- 1.Increased seasonally, locally, and organically grown or raised produce, fish, meat, chicken, milk, eggs, and dairy products and reduce overall percentage of foods of animal origin (meat, dairy, eggs) per student.
- 2.Continued practices for sustainable dining

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

- 1.Publish annual report of food purchased and served; identify each category stated above
- 2.Re-institutionalize elimination of non-flavored bottled water served in vending machines, all dining service locations, and catering.
- 3.Support the institutionalized practices of tray-less dining, pre/post-consumer composting, recycled content napkins, reusable mug discount, food donations, elimination of Styrofoam, etc.
- 4.Explore hiring position within dining and hospitality services that focuses on sustainability education and promotion.

# MODEL SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND INNOVATION IN OUR CAMPUS OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

## PURCHASING

### This core strategy will...

- Integrate a cradle-to-cradle understanding of what we are purchasing and what waste stream is available for increased diversion from the landfill.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Utilized the purchasing power of the institution and system to help build a sustainable economy.
2. Increased the published sustainability criteria for all commodity categories institution-wide.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Train campus purchasers to apply a sustainable purchasing framework through CU PSC's sustainable purchasing guide.
2. Continue collaboration with CU PSC to identify, promote, and effectively communicate products and contracts that meet sustainable purchasing guidelines.
3. Explore sustainable guidelines that are effectively communicated for purchasing furniture and electrical equipment (desktops, laptops, etc.)

## WASTE MINIMIZATION & DIVERSION

### This core strategy will...

- Pursue Zero Waste in all functions throughout the campus.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Increased the campus diversion rate.
2. Reduced the pounds of trash, recycle, compost per campus community member.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Implement behavioral zero waste programs, campaigns, and metrics.
2. Focus efforts on refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing on campus, before reselling, recycling or composting off-campus.
3. Continue high standards for electronic waste disposal policy.
4. Institutionalize online, auction platform to sell state-funded, gently used items
5. Explore feasibility for in-house hauling department (landfill trash, recycling, and composting) and potential for on-campus composting facilities.
6. Institutionalize zero waste as integrated components of events, including move-in, move-out, all campus events, etc.
7. Reduce single-use plastics including giveaway swag; potential to coordinate items to reduce duplication and increase collaboration and quality of items.
8. Reduce, where possible, hazardous, universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and ensure a safe disposal.
9. Explore additional waste stream opportunities including management of collection.



# ENGAGE UCCS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF & THE COLORADO SPRINGS COMMUNITY WITH EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE.

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY

### This core strategy will...

- Provide students with co-curricular sustainability learning experiences outside the formal curriculum allowing students to deepen and apply their understanding of sustainability and justice principles.
- Support employee engagement, training, and development programs to model sustainable behavior for the campus community.



### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Increased student and employee educators programs
2. Increased professional development and training opportunities
3. Consistent representation at orientations and campus programming

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Continue inclusion of sustainability in new student orientations and employee orientations, and increase involvement in new student employment orientations.
2. Increase student, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteer opportunities both on and off campus through partnerships that include context to historical significance, sense of place, and learning outcomes.
3. Create and become known for hub of sustainability internships, jobs, volunteer opportunities, research – on and off campus.
4. Create a culture of collaboration among diverse clubs, committees, and organizations to institute impactful, sustainable projects.
5. Highlight programs/projects that are influencing sustainability initiatives.
6. Identify departmental champions and how they engage with populations and provide tools, content for outreach to create an institutionalized process for communication and marketing.
7. Institutionalize continued training opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to expand on sustainability and justice topics.
8. Increase consistent awareness campaigns to educate and enhance knowledge on all topics of sustainability including climate change, social and environmental justice, energy, conservation, best practices, etc.

# ENGAGE UCCS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF & THE COLORADO SPRINGS COMMUNITY WITH EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE.

## COLORADO SPRINGS, PIKES PEAK REGION, & SOUTHERN COLORADO

### This core strategy will...

- Provide our community with sustainability learning experiences to deepen and apply their understanding of sustainability and justice principles.
- Strengthen community relationships as a known resource for sustainability best practices and as a preferred partner for exceptional interns and volunteers.

### How will we know we're successful? We will have...

1. Increased formal internship and volunteer opportunities with community organizations and businesses.
2. Increased participation from community members in campus sustainability and justice programming.

### How will we accomplish this? We will...

1. Partner with local institutions of higher education to strengthen and increase awareness in broader community.
2. Encourage campus departments to engage with community events, organizations, businesses, etc.
3. Increase alumni involvement.
4. Be recognized as a resource, leader, and role model in sustainability and justice for the Colorado Springs community and Pikes Peak Region.
5. Encourage commuter student engagement and create UCCS affiliated pockets of community engagement.
6. Increase engagement with City of Colorado Springs Sustainability & Innovation Office, Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado College, United States Air Force Academy, and K-12 schools.
7. Identify community-facing communication channels (KRCC, CPR, Gazette, Independent, etc.) to share sustainability-related news and announcements.



We take pride in engaging and educating our community about our sustainable initiatives; collaborating with our greater community is essential to further our sustainable impacts.

- Skyler R. | UCCS Staff

# QUICK REFERENCE



This is an abbreviated version of the four strategies that can be easily referenced and used as a decision tool.

## UCCS 2030 Sustainability Strategic Plan

As a response to the global climate crisis, UCCS has committed to reducing the University's carbon footprint through innovative practices, collaborative partnerships, and strategic investments with a focus on sustainability, justice, and resiliency.

### LEADERSHIP



- Consistent increase in scores on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).
- Develop and implement a new campus Climate Justice Plan.
- Fund sustainability projects and programs that support the University and System Mission and increase efficient use of resources.
- Chancellor appointed Sustainability Council to manage the implementation of the 2030 UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan with no term end. Council to include representatives from administration, faculty, staff and students

### RESEARCH + TEACHING



- Increase number of students who participate in applied, experiential, and community-engaged learning and research
- Increase opportunities that prepare students to utilize sustainability as a decision-making lens.
- Increase number of approved courses for the Compass Curriculum Sustainability requirement
- Increase number of students in the Sustainability Minor
- Increase number of faculty involved in sustainability
- Increase number of faculty and students presenting sustainability-related research local, regional, national, and international conferences.

### OPERATIONS



- Design, build, and maintain buildings that provide a healthy indoor environment and mitigate the building's impact on the outdoor environment.
- Minimize toxic chemical use.
- Increase protection of wildlife habitat, and conserving resources.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program
- Reduce energy use and utility bills.
- Increase onsite renewable energy production and storage.
- Reduce water use.
- Reduce utility bills.
- Reduce fossil fuels in university owned, leased and contracted vehicles
- Decrease emissions from university sponsored travel
- Increase seasonally, locally, and organically grown or raised food per student.
- Reduce overall percentage of foods of animal original (meet, dairy, eggs) per student
- Continue practices for sustainable dining
- Reduce SOV commuting to/from campus and inter-campus commuting
- Build a sustainable economy.
- Increase the published sustainability criteria for all commodity categories institution-wide.
- Increased the campus diversion rate.
- Reduce lbs of trash, recycle, compost per campus community member.

### ENGAGEMENT



- Increase student and employee educator programs
- Increase professional development and training opportunities
- Consistent representation at orientations and campus programming
- Increase formal internship and volunteer opportunities with community organizations.
- Increase participation from community members in campus sustainability and justice programming.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We could not have drafted and adopted the UCCS 2030 Sustainability Strategic Plan without the help of our UCCS community of students, faculty, and staff.

A special thank you to our **UCCS Sustainability Committee members**, led by **Joel Tonyan** and **Dr. Christine Biermann**, for sharing their expertise, patience, and support to revise our sustainability strategic plan during a pandemic.



And appreciation and gratitude to our Sustainability Coordinator, **Jaymee Collins, BA '22**, for all his work compiling drafts, researching peer institutions, ensuring our goals aligned with guiding frameworks, and for hosting an awareness and feedback campaign Fall 2021 that strengthened our final goals.

We appreciate your support and continued efforts to make UCCS more sustainable.

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