



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# Washington College



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Higher Education  
Member since February 2010

## Management and Leadership



### Environmental Team

*In February 2018, Washington College hired its first-ever Director of Sustainability. The Director has a broad mandate to reduce energy use and water use on campus, reduce the campus carbon footprint, reform waste-management practices, engage students, faculty, and staff with sustainability, align the College with other institutions of higher education, and generally help the campus to follow the practices that it teaches in its curriculum.*

*The new Office of Sustainability counts among its collaborators faculty from multiple disciplines, staff from across the campus, alumni, and neighbors. A group of student interns works under the supervision of the Office of Sustainability on a range of issues.*

*A President's Climate Action Committee, formed in 2007, consisted of senior staff, faculty, employees, students, and town residents. The committee's mission was to assist the College with its obligation to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, by which Washington College anticipated becoming carbon-neutral by 2050. Given new research in climate change, we now understand that date to be too late, and the Director of Sustainability is tasked with modernizing both the Commitment and the Committee.*

**Annual Environmental Goals**

*The Climate Action Committee undertook a review of the College's greenhouse gas emissions beginning in 2006, and biennially since. From that baseline, the committee produced a climate action plan in order to bring down the College's Scope 1 (emissions coming from sources owned or controlled by the college) and Scope 2 (indirect emissions generated in the production of electricity consumed by the college) to net zero by 2050. Emissions inventories are conducted every other year in order to chart the College's progress.*

**Environmentally Preferable Procurement**

*In 2007, the College officially adopted the following purchasing policy:*

*Washington College will purchase Energy Star equipment for both single and mass purchasing actions whenever financially possible and where such purchases are consistent with the needs of research and teaching. Budget managers must analyze the short- and long-term savings of an Energy Star appliance over a less energy efficient model before every purchase. Budget managers deciding not to purchase energy star products must provide a rationale for alternative purchases to the College's Controller, clearly indicating the circumstances and reasons for not following this policy. Random audits will be used to verify compliance with this policy.*

*This policy will generate significant savings for the individual departments, programs and offices, as well as for the College as a whole. The Energy Star website has a calculator tool for most appliances that can be used to calculate the long-term energy savings from a particular Energy Star appliance: [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bulk\\_purchasing.bus\\_purchasing](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bulk_purchasing.bus_purchasing) . The appliances listed on the website are abundant and diverse, ranging from computers and photocopiers to light bulbs, water heaters, and dishwashers.*

**Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

*Washington College offers numerous courses in its curriculum that explore how the issue of sustainability relates to a given topic. The College also has degree programs in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science, which, along with the innovative Chesapeake Semester and the developing Eastern Shore Food Lab, provide students with a diverse and extensive education in environmental issues.*

*The campus hosts 6 Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, including 3 Tesla stations and 3 stations that can charge any electric vehicle.*



## **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*Washington College is an active partner with the Town of Chestertown on community environmental planning. Our new Hodson Boathouse, and the soon-to-be-built Semans-Griswold Environment Hall, will be part of a Town/College pathway along the Chester River waterfront that will unite the new Town Marina, the existing Hynson Pavilion and Wilmer Park, and new greenspace. That park/walkway complex offers views of the Chester River, provides an opportunity to engage with the built and natural environments, and will help provide important buffer space during high-water events.*

*The College has also collaborated with the Town of Chestertown and Shore Rivers on a planning grant to examine stormwater management on the campus and in the Town, with the goal of better stormwater remediation before rainfall enters the Chester River.*

*Through its Center for Environment & Society, Washington College participates in numerous community environmental projects, such as: tree canopy research, tree plantings, community forest master planning, oyster gardening, shoreline restoration, Eastern Neck Island clean-up, symposia on environmental issues (such as the recent one on zero waste communities), as well as the popular Waterfront Festival and Earth Day programs.*

*CES works closely with the town of Chestertown on environmental projects. With assistance from CES, the Town was recently awarded the Maryland Municipal League's Green Award for medium sized towns, and is a Sustainable Certified Maryland community. Some of CES's staff members helped convince the Historic District Commission to promote energy efficiency in historic buildings, and the Town was a recipient of an Energy Efficiency Grant as part of the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative.*

*CES also hosts the newly minted River and Field Campus (RAFC), which includes parts of the Chino Farm property and the Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. Parts of the RAFC are managed grasslands that promote quail conservation; other parts are in active agricultural use. The property is equipped with numerous stormwater BMPs and serves as a showcase for conservation.*

*In addition, the Geographical Information Systems lab at Washington College has assisted local municipalities with analysis of green infrastructure, as well as visioning tools to help evaluate development proposals and comprehensive plans.*

## Waste

### **Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse**

*The Dining Hall employs many sustainable practices: no disposable implements are used at all; take-out containers are reusable; and the Dining staff, in collaboration with the Student Environmental Alliance, participates in the Food Recovery Network, ensuring that unclaimed food is distributed to persons in need in Chestertown and Kent County.*

*Elsewhere on campus, plastic straws have been replaced with paper straws, and in an effort to reduce the need for plastic bottles on campus, the Student Government Association has installed water-bottle filling stations in all academic buildings and public spaces. That project continues to plan for filling stations in residence halls.*

### **Recycling**

*The College's recycling program is a partnership with Kent County and Creafill Fibers. In 2017, the campus recycled 18.8 tons of corrugated cardboard, and 4.7 tons of plastic and glass drink containers.*

*For the first-year student move-in day in August, 2018, the Office of Sustainability hosted a "green move-in," diverting 2 tons of corrugated cardboard, approximately 500 cubic feet of styrofoam packaging, and over 50 pounds of plastic bags, wrap, and film.*

*The College's Dining Hall composts waste food scraps and is exploring both composting and anaerobic biodigestion technologies.*

## Energy

### **Energy Efficiency**

*The College has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement for solar energy, to be developed at an off-campus location. Operation is anticipated by June, 2019. When complete, the solar PV should generate enough power to meet almost half of the campus's annual use.*

*Campus lighting, both indoor and outdoor, has been retrofitted with LED fixtures in most spaces.*

*The College continues to renovate buildings and include in-ground geothermal HVAC systems.*

*The College is also exploring upgrades to building equipment and controls, and is examining a relationship with an energy-services contractor (ESCO) firm.*

## **Transportation**

### **Employee Commute**

*Washington College offers a weekend shuttle service from campus with stops at the Annapolis Mall and New Carrollton Metro Station once each day on Friday and Sunday, twice on Saturday. The shuttle is available to all members of the College community.*

*EV charging is available on campus.*

### **Efficient Business Travel**

*In the College's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) lab, courses are taught through remote systems using Adobe Connect Pro software. Up to 100 students can be using the teleconferencing program at a time, saving the College the cost of sending 5 instructors a minimum of 75 miles one way to conduct the training in person, twice a week for 15 weeks. In addition, through the GIS lab's crime mapping program, roughly 25 tech support calls come through the Adobe software per month, which allows the College to save the cost of traveling to remote sites around Maryland to handle support issues.*

### **Fleet Vehicles**

*The College purchased a hybrid car for the Director of the Center for Environment & Society.*

## **Water**

### **Water Conservation**

*Low-flow showerheads are installed in the new residence halls; sprinkler systems installed around the new residence halls are fitted with rain sensors.*

**Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*Rain gardens are installed at the new residence halls; stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are included with all new building and renovation projects. The campus continues to plant trees when possible.*

*As noted above, the College has also collaborated with the Town of Chestertown and Shore Rivers on a stormwater planning grant.*

**Green Building**

*Although Washington College doesn't participate in the certification process, it has an official policy that requires all new or renovated building construction to meet LEED Silver requirements.*

*The new Semans-Griswold Environment Hall, which anticipates opening in Fall, 2019, will pursue Living Building Certification, denoting energy neutrality, energy storage capacity, high efficiency, and attractive, functional, and healthy classroom, laboratory, office, and function spaces.*

**Profile Updated October 2018**



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

