

Center for Sustainable Communities

Strategic Plan 2019–22



Our Mission

To promote sustainability and be a catalyst for change on campus and in the region through education, outreach, and collaboration.

Our Vision

All students experience an inclusive community and a model of living and learning that challenges the dominant paradigm.

Our carbon-neutral, zero-waste campus and intentional culture connect people to place and campus to community through transformative, experiential education.

**Place • Resilience • Stewardship
Relationships • Community
Integrity • Equity • Hope**

LUTHER COLLEGE

luther.edu/sustainability



Top 10 in the nation

The Sustainable Campus Index ranks Luther College as the ninth best baccalaureate college in the U.S.

“Both on campus and in collaboration with the communities around us, the CSC is a platform for **active learning, purposeful living, and courageous leadership in the area of sustainability.** It is a prime example of Luther College’s mission made manifest.”

—Jenifer K. Ward, president



Goals and Strategies

Operational Sustainability

- Achieve 70% greenhouse gas reduction goal and develop strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
- Increase the consumption of sustainably produced food and expand food education for the campus community
- Advocate for sustainability in all building projects, including Main and the Regents Center
- Integrate sustainable practices in grounds management, including enhanced opportunities for learning, recreation, and connection to place

Applied and Integrated Learning

- Work with faculty to integrate sustainability into the curriculum
- Expand sustainability opportunities via co-curricular activities and organizations
- Strengthen sustainability education for pre K–12 students and attract more sustainability-focused students to attend Luther
- Leverage campus operations as an opportunity for learning, research, and innovation

Campus Culture

- Design a multidimensional sustainability education initiative
- Engage in joint programming with other centers, including speakers, events, and workshops
- Focus on positive and inclusive messaging that reflects and promotes the center's core values

Community Resilience

- Develop a timeline and process to sign and implement the Second Nature Resilience Commitment
- Help communities engage in resilience planning and implementation
- Foster a regional approach to sustainability

Leadership, Capacity, and Visibility

- Secure funding needed for the long-term health of the center and implementation of this plan
- Create or renew structures to support the center and sustainability on campus
- Increase Luther's national and regional visibility





Our Achievements

- 112 students live in Baker Village (above), the first part of campus that has achieved carbon neutrality through geothermal and solar energy systems
- 42% of Luther's total electricity consumption is generated or offset by renewables
- A quarter of the food in the dining hall is grown by local farmers
- Over 40% of Luther's classes include sustainability in their curriculum
- 150+ students are involved in work-study, internships, and initiatives related to sustainability
- Student-led waste reduction programs have decreased move-out waste by 60% in five years
- The bike share program has helped over 12,000 riders travel more sustainably in the last decade

Support Us

Funding for the Center for Sustainable Communities comes from private donations, endowment earnings, and grants. For information on making a donation, please contact the director of the Center for Sustainable Communities.

Connect with Us

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Luther College achieved a STARS Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability In Higher Education.

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