

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2024



**SUSTAINABILITY
ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE**



MAKE WAVES.

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Executive Summary

The Sustainability Engagement Institute has assembled this 2024 progress report for Western Washington University's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). This report covers progress made during fiscal year (FY) 2024 (July 2023 – June 2024) with some hints on what is to come in FY 2025.

The purpose of the annual progress reports is to provide transparency on the degree to which all SAP objectives have been addressed. This reporting is both a celebration of the incredible work many students, staff, and faculty are engaged in that advances sustainability and climate change work, but also a place to acknowledge and reflect on opportunities for continued improvement. Engaging in sustainability work in ways that meet the needs of our time is an extraordinarily challenging and important endeavor. This work requires all of us to experiment in collaborative, creative, and hope-filled ways and find guidance and expertise from many angles. As is illuminated in the following pages, our campus community is actively working towards making Western a more sustainable campus at all levels, and both in terms of systems change and individual action, and there is still much more work needed. In assembling content for this report, it is clear that individuals within the Western community care deeply about this place and one another, but also that we are a community that has hope for a future that is brighter, more just, and more sustainable. As David Orr writes, we are a community that believes "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up." Read on for stories of people collaborating with their sleeves rolled up to solve complex sustainability challenges, and find opportunities to join this work in whichever way you're inspired to.

This report outlines progress provided by contributors to the SEI. To learn more, ask a question, or get engaged, visit the SEI website at <https://sustain.wvu.edu/>, or send us an email at sustain@wvu.edu.

Highlights

This report includes significant progress made in many aspects of Western's SAP. A few of these points of progress are highlighted below:

- The Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund (SEJF) funded 20 grants amounting to \$213,909.32. More than half of these proposals were led by students.
- Western continued to support student, staff, and faculty community learning opportunities through the Sustainability Pathways fellowship program, the Climate Leadership Certificate program, Community Engagement Fellows, the Students in Community program, and Community Learning forums.
- Western hosted the Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) in March 2024. This effort included offering SEJF-funded WOHESC scholarships to 50 students, hosting plenary/keynote speakers from Western and across the region, and hosting a campus sustainability tour.
- Western's largest source of carbon emissions is from natural gas consumption in its central Steam Plant. The Heating Conversion Project will replace the central Steam Plant with low carbon heating and cooling for all of campus. It will replace steam distribution with hot water and utilize heat pump technology to improve plant efficiency and drastically reduce GHG emissions. In FY2024, a consultant team

updated planning from the 2022 Feasibility Study and will assist with hiring a firm to start design work in FY2025. Western has requested funding for this project in its 2025-27 Capital Budget request seeking legislative appropriations from the Climate Commitment Act to fund design and the first phase of construction.

- The Recycling Center was transferred to Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) administration at the end of FY2024, streamlining management of the campus waste disposal system. FDO has collaborated with SEI, University Residences, and other departments on campus involved with waste management and will continue to collaborate to improve waste diversion.
- Western continued construction on Kaiser Borsari Hall, the university's new electrical and computer engineering, energy science, and computer science building. Construction will be completed in FY2025. The new building is designed to exceed LEED standards for energy use, carbon, and other environmental indicators, and will pursue Living Building Challenge Energy Petal Certification through the International Living Future Institute.
- Western began construction of Western's House of Healing in FY2024. The new building, a Coast Salish style longhouse, will serve as an educational center to promote healing, cultural exchange, and supportive understanding for the communities served by the university. The design will prioritize locally sourced materials and products, high efficiency mechanical systems, and outer construction that will lower energy costs and reduce the footprint over the building's lifespan. The longhouse is anticipated to be completed in summer 2025.

Common themes

In collecting feedback from those working on implementing the SAP, we heard some common themes.

- **Food insecurity and basic needs:** numerous groups mentioned food insecurity and access to basic needs as a significant, persistent sustainability issue that Western students are facing and that groups on campus are working to address. However, food security and basic needs are not a part of Western's SAP, so progress on food insecurity and basic needs work has been included in the Campus and Community Engagement, Student Life, and Dining sections. This is a topic that should be included in an update to the SAP. This was a common theme in FY2023, as well.
- **SAP updates are needed:** many individuals noted that some of the SAP objectives being reported on have already been completed or are no longer relevant to their work. The President's Sustainability Council has been working on an update to the 2017 SAP that aims to update objectives that are no longer relevant.
- **Western's financial situation:** many contributors noted the impacts of the challenging financial situation that Western is currently in. In many cases, budget and staffing reductions have made it more difficult for the Western community to focus on achieving our sustainability goals. Many offices mentioned that lack of funding and perceived lack of leadership support are the biggest barriers to progress on Western's SAP. Some offices reported that, due to cuts in funding and staffing, they needed to reprioritize their time and resources and could no longer

continue their sustainability work in FY2024. In some cases, the actions Western has taken to reduce its budget have had some unintended sustainability benefits. For example, the travel restrictions currently in place have limited the university's greenhouse gas emissions related to travel.

About this report

This report outlines known progress made in FY 2024 (July 2023 – June 2024) on Western's [20-year SAP](#), adopted in 2017. Western's SEI collects feedback on SAP progress from members of campus annually, as it has done in this report (previous annual reports can be found [here](#)).

This year's progress report includes contributions from 26 groups at Western. These contributors are among the many individuals and groups doing the on-the-ground work to make Western's commitments to social, environmental, and economic sustainability a reality. Contributors are included in parentheses following the narrative about progress that they have reported.

Objectives are marked based on the progress that was made in FY2024. The following markers note the current status of progress for each objective:

-  complete
-  in progress
-  on hold
-  no known progress
-  no longer applicable

Some of the objectives in this report are marked with the statement “no known progress in FY2024”. This statement does not necessarily mean that no progress on these objectives has been made. It simply means that, in the outreach that the SEI did, nothing was reported in these areas. If readers are aware of progress not included in this report, please reach out to sustain@wwu.edu to report on it.

Contributors

- The Basic Needs Hub
- The Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI)
- Business & Financial Affairs (BFA)
- The Center for Community Learning (CCL)
- Chartwells
- College of the Environment (CENV)
- Department of Computer Science (College of Science and Engineering)
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Facilities, Development & Operations (FDO)

- First Year Programs
- The Foundation for WWU & Alumni
- Institute for Energy Studies (IES)
- Library Services
- Office of Equity
- The Outback Farm
- Outreach and Continuing Education (OCE)
- President's Sustainability Council (PSC)
- Procurement and Contract Administration
- Salish Sea Institute
- Scientific Technical Services (SciTech)
- Sustainability Engagement Institute (SEI)
- Sustainability Pathways
- Transportation Services
- Travel Services
- University Residences
- University Relations and Marketing (URM)

Other key acronyms:

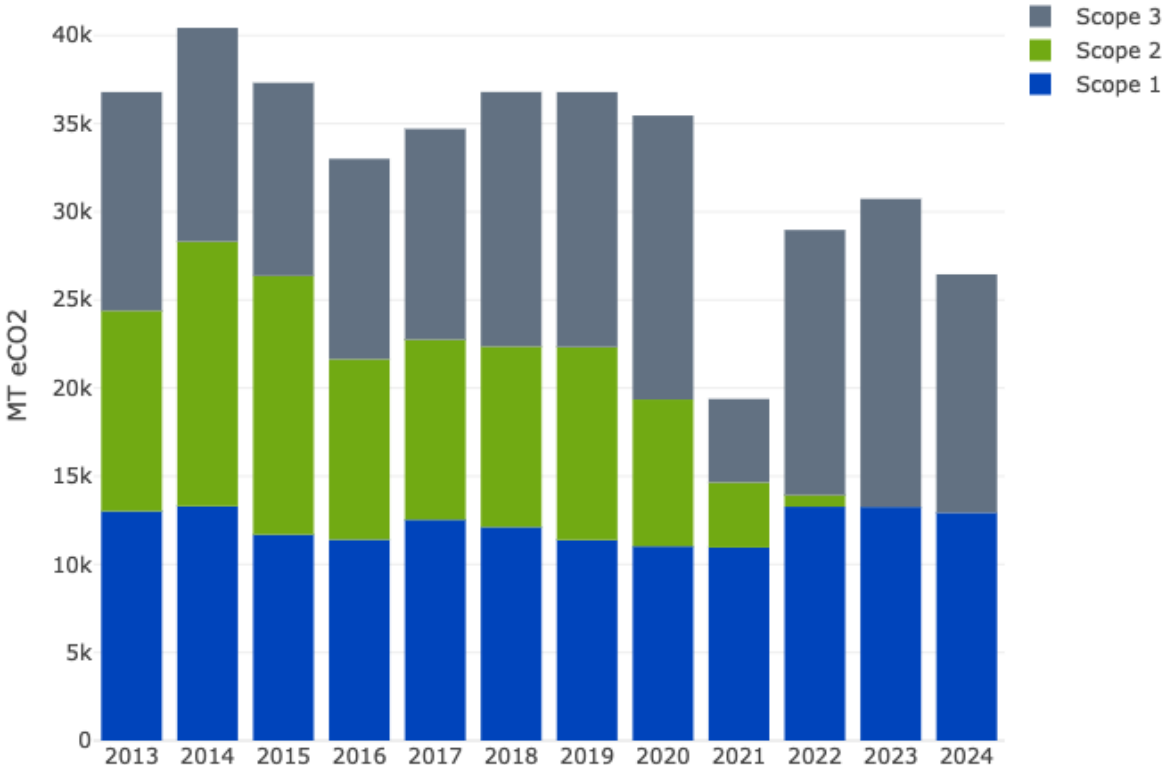
- GHG: Greenhouse gas emissions
- ISP: Independent study project
- SEJF: Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund; a student-funded grant program administered by the Sustainability Engagement Institute
- SIMAP: Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform
- WOHESC: Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference

Greenhouse Gas Reporting Results (Preliminary)

Western tracks its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP), an internationally used campus-specific greenhouse gas tracking platform. Although SIMAP methodologies and Western’s tracking methodologies have changed since Western began using the platform to track emissions in 2013, this data provides a general picture of how Western’s emissions compare over time. The FY2024 data provided in the current version of this report is preliminary, and may be updated in future versions of this report.

Western’s carbon emissions are broken down into scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Scope 1 emissions are direct GHG emissions that are released from sources that are owned by Western, for example, emissions associated with Western-owned furnaces or vehicles. Scope 2 emissions are GHG emissions associated with Western’s purchase of electricity, heat, or cooling. Scope 3 emissions are emissions released from assets that are not owned or controlled by Western, but that Western contributes to through other activities, such as purchasing, commuting, travel, or waste generation. Currently, Western tracks some, but not all, of its scope 3 emissions, so scope 3 emissions are likely significantly higher than shown below. Improvements to scope 3 emissions tracking are being considered.

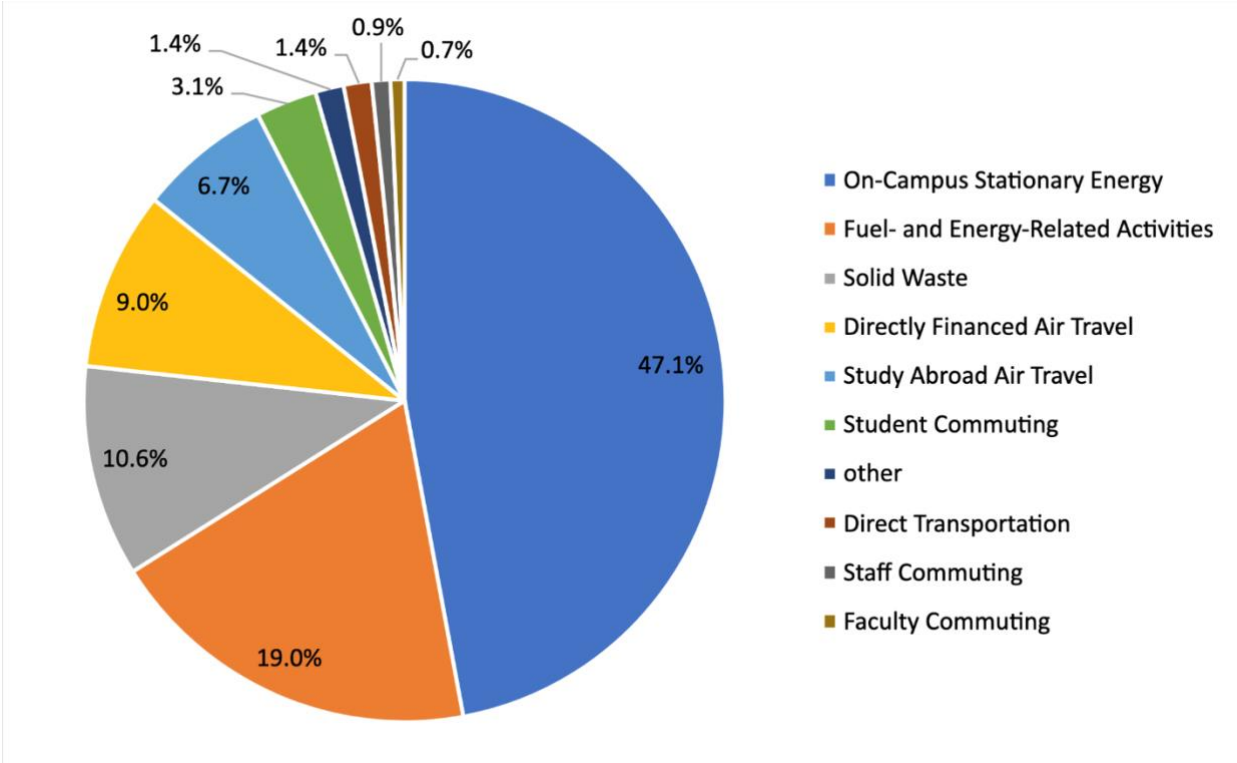
Western’s Carbon Emissions, FY2013-FY2024



Western’s main source of carbon emissions is from on-campus fuel use, which is mainly from the fuel used to heat buildings using Western’s steam plant. The next largest source of

carbon emissions come from fuel and energy-related activities, which are upstream emissions from the fuel and electricity that Western purchases. Upstream emissions occur before a product or raw material reaches Western, so the emissions related to extraction, production, transportation, waste disposal, etc.

Western’s Carbon Emissions by Source, FY2024



Curriculum and Research

Goal 1: Western's curricula provide all students opportunities to nurture and create the conditions for a thriving society, economy, and environment (SEE).



1.1: Increase enrollment to 50 students in the Sustainability Studies minor.¹

Intended completion date: fall 2021

- This objective is being reconsidered to include more sustainability-related programs of study available at Western. (SEI)



1.2: Every major has curricular options that include sustainability content.

Intended completion date: 2020

- All colleges and 73% of departments offer sustainability-focused or sustainability-inclusive courses. (SEI)
- In FY2024, The College of the Environment (CENV) continued to work on updating the Business and Sustainability degree. The Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy department added a Master's in Urban Planning and Environmental Sustainability, which will begin accepting students in fall 2025. (CENV)



1.3: Identify and promote opportunities for engaged learning in the area of sustainability.


Intended state date: 2020

- The Salish Sea Institute offered four Salish Sea-focused courses, (SALI 201, 202, 390 and 490), with 171 students participating. Topics in these courses include indigenous treaty rights, relations between US, Canada, /Tribal groups and First Nations, the differences in environmental sustainability between Western perspectives and Indigenous perspectives, and indigenous clam gardens and foraging for food. (Salish Sea Institute)
- Sustainability Pathways supports undergraduate students pursuing careers in the emerging green economy while advancing sustainability initiatives in the Methow and Okanogan Valleys of North Central Washington. The 11-week residential program pairs paid practicum work experiences in a wide range of sustainability fields with aligned coursework in community-based project management. Sustainability Pathways awarded over \$70,000 in FY2024, bringing capacity to 20 organizational partners in the Methow and Okanogan Valleys while providing immersive experiential learning for students. The students and program partners come from interdisciplinary fields connected to sustainability. This structure helps students develop and apply systems thinking skills. (Sustainability Pathways)
- The Climate Leadership program, a year and a half program in which a small cohort of students complete courses, a summer paid practicum, and a capstone project on climate science, sustainability, and leadership principles, graduated it's third cohort of students (13 students). These students completed practicums with local organizations in the Methow Valley and Whatcom County (see following bullet for

¹ Since the Sustainability Action Plan was adopted in 2017, new curricular options in sustainability have emerged and expanded.

more information) and completed senior projects on topics ranging from sustainable lab certification to climate storytelling and leftover food recovery. Graduates of the program have gained relevant professional skills, a holistic and regionally place-based understanding of sustainability work, and a community of like-minded peers. (SEI)

- Students participating in the Sustainability Pathways and Climate Leadership Certificate programs (24 total Summer 2023, and 23 total Summer 2024) completed 240-hour professional work practicums with organizational partners representing a wide range of sustainability sectors. Professional practicum topics included town planning, ecological restoration, public health, food systems, environmental education, circular economy, zero waste, and rare carnivore research, among others. Students also participated in weekly field trips to engage in learning about other sustainability work happening locally, and to provide service for hands-on projects. Most of these students (20 total Summer 2023, 20 total Summer 2024) also completed an additional 60 hours of service to fulfill 300-hour Civic Leadership and Engagement Corps AmeriCorps positions. (Sustainability Pathways)
- The College of the Environment continues to support LEAD (Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery), a student run restoration program, and has fostered a new Ecological Restoration student club. (CENV)
- The Center for Community Learning hosts the Community Engagement Fellows program, which convenes educators and community leaders to learn about ways to nurture community involvement, develop and sustain meaningful partnerships, and serve the public. In 2024, the Community Engagement Fellows program had 140 participants. (CCL)
- The Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI) continued research on a partnership grant with collaborators at Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, Canada, to conduct a two-year study on the equity impacts of the Canada – US pandemic border restrictions. To date, BPRI has interviewed over 90 participants for this project, and conducted an expansive media analysis in three languages to build a database aimed to examine the media’s role in public opinion and the pandemic. The research team has also built a living story map of border landers’ experiences of border closures during the pandemic. (BPRI)



1.4: Expand sustainability-related student research opportunities, Independent Study Projects (ISP), to all interested students.

Intended start date: 2020

- Students participating in the Sustainability Pathways fellowship complete the 3-credit Campus Sustainability Planning Studio Course, which is centered around a needed community-engaged project sponsored by an organization in the Methow or Okanogan Valleys. The project teams are interdisciplinary and develop project management skills while completing the necessary background research, analysis, and ability to generate recommendations and materials to advance their projects. Final reports and presentations are delivered for the course, sponsors, and interested community members. Students enrolled Summer 2024 completed 6 interdisciplinary

projects sponsored by local organizations and included solar energy system design, ecological restoration, comprehensive planning, public health, and food security. Examples of past projects can be viewed on the [Campus Sustainability Planning Studio website](#). (Sustainability Pathways)

- The Bellingham-based Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course (SUST/UEPP 471) was offered twice, which supported eight projects on topics ranging from universal waste signage to sustainable career fairs, electric mowers, and a sustainable lab certification. (SEI)
- Growing numbers of students engaged in faculty-led environmental research in the College of the Environment with increasing availability of summer funding. (CENV)
- City Sprouts Farm, an urban farm operated by the Center for Community Learning, regularly hosts work study students, an independent study project, internship positions, and volunteer positions. (CCL)



Pictured: Western students harvest fresh produce on a summer day at City Sprouts Farm in the Birchwood neighborhood of north Bellingham. Source: City Sprouts Farm

Goal 2: Western supports scholarship and teaching that contribute to the understanding and promotion of sustainability.

2.1: Commit resources to promote Washington Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WAHESC).²

Intended start date: 2020

- Western hosted the Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) in 2024, including supporting an SEJF-funded WOHESC scholarship, gathering financial contributions from across the university, working with conference services, setting up plenary/keynote speakers from Western, and hosting a campus tour. The SEJF team participated in a speaker session and the SEI Director served as panel moderator and emcee throughout the conference. Through an SEJF grant, 50 students were able to attend WOHESC free of charge. (SEI)



Pictured: Western students and SEI staff attending WOHESC at Western in March 2024. Photo source: SEI.

2.2: Provide funding for three faculty and staff across disciplines to attend conferences that promote sustainability.

Intended start date: 2018

- CENV supported three faculty to attend a sustainability-related conference in fall 2024. Western's professional travel and faculty development funds likely support others.. (CENV)

² <https://wohesc.org/>



2.3: Establish internal funding for sustainability research.

Intended state date: 2019

- No known progress in FY2024.

Goal 3: Western recruits and retains faculty and staff who focus on sustainability.



3.1: Maintain annual funding of a total of \$10K for up to ten Sustainability Fellows.

- SEI has continued to maintain funding for Sustainability Fellows, however the program has not been operational for the last few years. Work has begun to restart the program beginning in academic year 2024-25. (SEI)
- The Salish Sea Institute runs a Salish Sea Fellowship program with academics and practitioners in the field. The 2024 fellow cohort information can be found [here](#). (Salish Sea Institute)



3.2: Create a tenure-track faculty line devoted to sustainability.

Intended completion date: next biennium (2019-2021)

- Due to budgetary constraints, there is no progress on this objective. It is unlikely that there will be funding to achieve this objective in the next five years. (SEI)



3.3: Increase faculty capacity to offer sustainability-related curriculum

Intended start date: 2019

- The Sustainability Fellows program, which provides Western faculty with resources and support to develop sustainability-related curriculum, has not been operational for the last few years. It is being re-initiated in academic year 2024-25. (SEI)

Goal 4: Western is home to an institute for sustainability (the Sustainability Engagement Institute – SEI).



4.1: Develop a 5-year strategic plan for the SEI.

Intended completion date: 2019

- SEI staff facilitated an internal strategic planning session, but the plan document is still in progress. (SEI)




4.2: Begin fundraising campaign for the SEI.

Intended start date: 2019

- The SEI director was in contact with the Foundation staff regarding grant writing and fundraising. (SEI)


Campus and Community Engagement

Goal 1: Western is internally organized to support university and community engagement to advance sustainability.

 1.1: Complete a university-wide public engagement alignment process to enhance Western's structure and function for public engagement.


Intended completion date: Fall 2019

- No known progress in FY2024.

 1.2: Commit to a university-wide system for qualitative and quantitative assessment of public engagement efforts.

Intended completion date: fall 2019

- No known progress in FY2024.


 1.3: Follow recommendations of alignment process to incentivize community engagement for faculty, staff, and students throughout the university.

Intended start date: fall 2021

- No known progress in FY2024.


Other progress: with the reorganization of the President's Sustainability Council (PSC), improved public engagement in updating the SAP will be a priority in the upcoming year. (PSC)

Goal 2: Western's culture and community engagement efforts reflect a strong commitment to sustainability.

 2.1: Redevelop student, staff, faculty, and visitor orientation programs to emphasize Western's commitment to education for sustainability.

Intended start date: spring 2017


- In 2024, the Sustainability Engagement Institute (SEI) presented on Western's commitment to sustainability and ways for new staff and faculty to be involved at new staff and faculty orientations. (SEI)
- Although Western no longer offers an all-student orientation program, there are a number of new student offerings that focus on sustainability. For more details, see 2.2 below. (First Year Programs)

 2.2: Expand courses and co-curricular programs for first-year students that teach about local and regional sustainability issues through community engagement.

Intended start date: fall 2018


- In Fall 2023, several First-Year Interest Group clusters focused on sustainability issues including Clean Energy Transitions (open to transfer students), Climate Change Cognition, Environmental Communication, Global Citizenship, Leading for a Sustainable Future, Environmental Justice, and The Salish Sea. Two popular Viking

Launch programs, all of which were full for the early-start offering, included Digging into Bellingham and Mount Baker Geology and Volcanic Hazards. In planning for academic year 2024-25, the First-Year programs will offer a seminar series that focuses on building communities of practice through curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular practices that will include engagement in both off-campus and on-campus partnership work that explores sustainability practices among other things. (First Year Programs)

 2.3: Improve interpretation of Western-owned grounds to enhance understanding and appreciation of the unique cultural and environmental history of the area.


Intended start date: 2020

- As part of a project funded through the Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund (SEJF) grant program, a group of students and faculty in the music department are sound mapping the Sehome Hill Arboretum to develop a living, communal archive of sound to serve as ecological data, among other things. (SEI)

 2.4: Establish sustainability-related interactive experiences, cooperatively designed, and supported by WWU and community partners, to help build relationships among members of Western, and with the broader community.

Intended start date: 2019


- The [Day of Learning and Community Building event](#) was attended by 265 students, staff, and faculty. It was a day long program with nine workshops intended to bring members of the community together to build skills and think through the issues that challenge us. (Office of Equity)
- The Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI) utilized the first installment of grant funds (CAD \$20,000 out of \$35,000) from the University of Victoria, Canada, to support student research on US trade relationships and cross-border integration. (BPRI)
- The BPRI participated in several high-level engagements with national leaders, including hosting Deputy Ambassador Arun Alexander, Consul General Adam Barratt and Senior Trade Commissioner Akiko Onozuka at the Canada House to discuss the state of Canada-US relations. Additionally, Dr. Trautman was invited by Microsoft Vancouver to moderate a conversation with the US and Canadian Consul Generals on cross-border collaboration in Cascadia. (BPRI)
- The BPRI Director was invited as a keynote speaker for a number of events, including the US State Department's Foreign Service Institute, the Washington Institute for Democratic Leadership, the University of Strasbourg, and the Association of Canadian Studies in the US. (BPRI)
- SEI planned and hosted an Earth Week Fair in April 2024 that included 16 campus and community organizations and 10 art vendors. (SEI)
- The Viking Supported Agriculture program, a community supported agriculture program serving the campus community, began accepting SNAP/EBT for summer subscriptions. It is planning to accept SNAP/EBT for fall/winter farm subscriptions in FY2025. (SEI)



2.5: Create a system for continually learning about (listening and dialoguing) evolving local to global sustainability opportunities and challenges.

Intended completion date: 2020


- Western's Outreach and Continuing Education (OCE) unit offers numerous sustainability-related courses and experiential learning opportunities for community members, including adults and youth. These included place-based community learning classes, sustainability-related courses, and programs for professionals. (OCE)
- The Sustainability Pathways office is located in Twisp, WA, in the Methow Valley. The Methow Valley is a unique landscape, home to a dynamic rural mountain community. The valley offers [amazing opportunities](#) to learn, engage in community events and happenings, recreate, and participate in sustainability work. (Sustainability Pathways)
- The [Campus Sustainability Planning Studio](#) (CSPS) leads student research projects that support Western's transition to sustainability. The studio course provides hands-on, problem-based learning where student research teams help Western and the broader community achieve sustainability in energy conservation, waste reduction, transportation, local foods, green purchasing, green building, sustainability media, and more. (SEI)
- Western's Center for Community Learning (CCL) and the Sustainability Engagement Institute worked with the Bellingham Public Library to co-host intergenerational Learning Together Forums on four of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Reduced Inequalities). Each forum hosted about 40 people, including Western students and staff, as well as broader community members. (SEI)



2.6: Support the efforts of regional campuses to enhance their sustainability activities.

- Through monthly WAHESC (Washington Higher Education Sustainability Consortium) Zoom calls and regular WOHESC (Washington, Oregon, Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference) planning calls, SEI regularly meets with other universities in the region to discuss sustainability initiatives, share resources, and learn from one another. (SEI)
- SEI Director meets regularly with the *Climate Solutions Steering Committee*, convened by the Washington State Board on Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), as well as monthly calls with AASHE Centers for Sustainability Across the Curriculum to exchange pedagogical advances and share resources.

Goal 3: Western's sustainability resources are easily accessed by the public.



3.1: Enhance web materials that enable the public to access sustainability resources.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- SEI maintains [sustainability dashboards](#), which provide publicly accessible information about how Western is meeting its sustainability goals. In FY2024, SEI also began offering sustainability-focused webinars that are open to the public. (SEI)
- FDO maintains [campus energy dashboards](#) and is upgrading them in FY2025. (FDO)

- Western publishes publicly available research and data on sustainability-related issues. The Salish Sea Institute published two reports focusing on sustainability in the Salish Sea region; [Mega-Projects, Cumulative Impacts, & Indigenous Nationhood on the Multinational Salish Sea](#) (Natalie J.K. Baloy and Isabella Pipp), which has been downloaded 252 since June 2024, and [Why Evidence-Based Hope is Crucial to Salish Sea Recovery and Beyond](#) (Dr. Elin Kelsey and Ginny Broadhurst), which has been downloaded 273 since May 2024. (SEI, Salish Sea Institute)
- A student employee was paid for the duration of the academic year to update the SEI website such that events were posted regularly and information constantly updated to maintain relevance. (SEI)
- The Western Library has a [publicly accessible list](#) of sustainability-related books, as well as a physical resource shelf in the Wilson building. (Library Services)



*Pictured: the sustainability shelf in the Western library, located in Wilson across from the Tutoring Center.
Source: Library Services.*



3.2: Increase use of vibrant, visible, and accessible venues across the Salish Sea Region for community sustainability events

Intended start date: fall 2018

- Community Engagement Fellows, and Community forums, co-hosted with the Bellingham Public Library, host events in locations across Bellingham with the goal of offering opportunities for the campus community and the wider community to engage on sustainability-related topics. (CCL, SEI)

Goal 4: Western engages respectfully with Coast Salish Peoples in recognition that the university occupies traditional Coast Salish lands.



4.1: Create a university-wide tribal advisory committee to advise the President and University community on issues such as curriculum, campus life and gathering spaces, interactive facilities and operations, and engagement opportunities.

Intended start date: 2018

- No known progress in FY2024.



4.2: Establish a permanent tribal liaison position to build relationships between Western and the Coast Salish communities.

Intended completion date: 2018

- This objective was completed in January 2019, when Laural Ballew was named the tribal liaison and executive director of the Office of Tribal Relations.



4.3: Expand and enhance institutional partnerships and collaborations with tribal institutions.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- In partnership with Whiteswan Environmental, Institute for Multidisciplinary Ecological Research in the Salish Sea, The American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the Center for Community Learning hosted a Transboundary Gathering on Digital Ecocultural Mapping in the Salish Sea in August 2023. The event brought together tribal colleges and tribal members from the US and Canada, as well as Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, students, researchers, scholars, US National Park Service, Parks Canada, and other government officials. (CCL)
- The Center for Community Learning also partnered with Whiteswan Environmental to host the NXT Gen cohort of Community Engagement Fellows, from February-April 2024. This cohort was the largest Community Engagement Fellows cohort yet, with over 60 members. The cohort was co-facilitated by a group of Indigenous high school students from Whatcom Intergenerational High School. (see objective 1.3 for more information on Community Engagement Fellows). (CCL)

Related progress: In June 2024, construction of Western's House of Healing began. The new building, a Coast Salish style longhouse, will serve as an educational center to promote healing, cultural exchange, and supportive understanding for the communities served by the university. Visit the construction page for additional, up-to-date information about the longhouse: <https://fdo.wvu.edu/pw774-house-healing-pw825-south-campus-infrastructure>

Other progress: food insecurity

In FY2024, two SEJF projects focused on improving access to fresh and locally grown produce: The Sprout Stop (organized by the Students for Climate Action club) provided fresh produce to students during Earth Week, free of charge. The Urban Farm Project provided funding for City Sprouts Farm, which supplies fresh produce to students through a free community-supported agriculture (CSA) program, as well as through Western's food pantries. (SEI, CCL)

Additional information about how Western is addressing food insecurity is included in the Student Life and Dining sections.

Other progress: basic needs


The Basic Needs Hub expanded its work by successfully hiring a full-time resource navigator in November 2023 and providing additional services to students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs. The Basic Needs Hub completed a food insecurity plan and shared this plan with the Basic Needs Strategic Work Group for final input in May 2024. The Basic Needs Hub also continued to work with University Residences, developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline how short-term emergency housing can be strengthened in the coming years. The Basic Needs Hub also initiated better and more coordinated outreach efforts, including preparation for bringing student workers/employees on board to boost outreach. Existing services that the Basic Needs Hub offers include the following: eviction prevention services, emergency and short-term housing, food assistance, laundry, showers, and hygiene supplies, technology and internet access, case management, and referrals to other campus supports and community programs. (Basic Needs Hub)

Other progress: sustainable practices in campus units

The Sustainable Office Certification (SOC) is a comprehensive certification process open to all offices, departments, organizations, and colleges on Western's campus. It is a way for these entities to contribute directly to the sustainability goals outlined in Western's Strategic Plan and Sustainability Action Plan. As of the end of FY2024, there are seven certified offices on campus. (SEI)


Built Environment

Goal 1: Carbon Neutrality: Reduce the carbon intensity of university energy supply sources and achieve 100% net university carbon reduction.

 1.1: In the short term, identify and implement financially viable carbon reduction projects to reduce carbon emissions by 15%, per state requirements.

Intended completion date: 2020

- This objective has been met. According to state reporting, Western's 2005 baseline Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 19,539 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e). In 2023, Western reported emissions of 12,905.6 MT CO₂e, a 34% reduction from our baseline. Our next state-mandated carbon reduction goal is a 45% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. (FDO)

 1.2: In the mid-term, where reduction is not yet technologically feasible, seek and commit to credible carbon offsets for all continuing direct hydrocarbon.

Intended completion date: 2030

- Western is targeting carbon emission reductions on campus, rather than purchasing carbon offsets. Western does purchase renewable electricity through its energy supplier, Puget Sound Energy's (PSE's) Green Direct program. This program provides

off-site solar and wind power to cover all electric usage of Main Campus and Shannon Point Marine Center. (FDO)

1.3: In the long term, achieve carbon neutrality, first through reduction and secondly through offset.

Intended completion date: 2035

- Western's largest source of carbon emissions is from natural gas consumption in its central Steam Plant. The Heating Conversion Project will replace the central Steam Plant with low carbon heating and cooling for all of campus. It will replace steam distribution with hot water and utilize heat pump technology to improve plant efficiency and drastically reduce GHG emissions. In FY2024, a consultant team updated planning from the 2022 Feasibility Study and will assist with hiring a firm to start design work in FY2025. Western has requested funding for this project in its 2025-27 Capital Budget request seeking legislative appropriations from the Climate Commitment Act to fund design and the first phase of construction. (FDO)
- Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) regularly meets with the Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham on the conversion of the Steam Plant and a district utility improvement plan. (FDO)
- FDO continued to retrofit indoor campus spaces with more efficient and improved-visibility lighting. (FDO)



Pictured, left to right: Before and after FDO lighting retrofit. Source: FDO.

- University Residences' annual Go For The Green, a competition in which residence hall residents aim to reduce energy use and waste generated, reduced energy consumption by an average of 8% across all residential buildings during the two-month duration of the challenge (February-March 2024). Residents reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 58.8 metric tons (4,656 mBTUs) of carbon dioxide in two months. Data from February-March 2024 was compared to October-November 2023. (University Residences)



Pictured: Housing Facilities Assistants tabling in the Viking Commons, campaigning for pledges. Source: University Residences Sustainability Program.

- The Computer Science Department recently developed a program that automatically shuts down lab computers and nodes each evening in order to save energy. The program can potentially shut down 264 lab computers and 54 nodes each evening and on weekends. (Computer Science Department)

Goal 2: Maximize cost-effective energy efficiency investments in university buildings, while steadily improving building performance and occupant comfort and health.



2.1: Continue to reduce the need for new construction by prioritizing the use of current facilities.

- No known progress in FY2024.



2.2: Develop energy performance targets and sustainable design standards.
Intended completion date: 2018

- No known progress in FY2024.



2.3: Minimize light pollution while maximizing energy efficiency in exterior lighting.
Intended completion date: 2025

- 64 exterior fixtures in parking areas and other exterior locations were replaced in FY2024. Planning efforts are focused on analyzing retrofitting the existing sodium vapor lamp, globe-style post top lights in campus interior. (FDO)



2.4: Adopt policies or guidelines designed to minimize energy use and emissions from non-fixed assets such as refrigerators, freezers, custodial, and other mobile equipment.

Intended completion date: 2025

- No known progress in FY2024.



2.5: Employ clean, renewable energy sources on- or off-campus to offset existing and new demands.

Intended completion date: 2030

- Western has continued its efforts to replace its steam plant with a district heating system that will rely on low-carbon energy systems and operate more efficiently. See objective 1.3 for more detail. (FDO)



2.6: Design a university plan to support deep, holistic renovations and energy efficiency investments.

Intended completion date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.



2.7: Design, construct, renovate, and operate buildings using a closed-loop process involving minimal to no waste in all processes.

Intended completion date: 2035

- Construction on Kaiser Borsari Hall, Western's new electrical and computer engineering, energy science, and computer science building, continued in FY2024, with an aimed completion date in FY2025. The new building is designed to exceed LEED standards for energy use, carbon, and other environmental indicators, and will pursue Living Building Challenge Energy Petal Certification through the International Living Future Institute.

Goal 3: Green Building Certification: Acquire third party certification of the environmental performance of new and existing university buildings through the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification or equivalent process.



3.1: Complete the USGBC's LEED Gold certification or equivalent for all new and fully renovated university buildings.

Intended start date: 2018

- Construction on Kaiser Borsari Hall, Western's new electrical and computer engineering, energy science, and computer science building, continued in FY2024, with an aimed completion date in FY2025. The new building is designed to exceed LEED standards for energy use, carbon, and other environmental indicators, and will pursue Living Building Challenge Energy Petal Certification through the International Living Future Institute.

Goal 4: Utilize accepted Low Impact Development (LID) practices as standard to reduce rainwater/storm-water volume, improve outgoing water quality, and make on-campus use of collected rainwater.



4.1: Apply LID to all new construction, major renovation and other projects that increase paved surface area or otherwise significantly change university grounds.

Intended completion date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.

Goal 5: Build and maintain publicly accessible databases of energy use, water consumption, and carbon emissions for all university buildings.



5.1: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing energy consumption and emissions for all university buildings.

Intended completion date: 2018

- In FY2024, Western selected EnergyCAP to be the new utility database for tracking energy consumption and emissions. The process of migrating to the new platform is underway and expected to be completed by December 31st, 2024. (FDO)



5.2: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing water consumption for all university buildings.

Intended completion date: 2018

- EnergyCAP will be the new platform for viewing water consumption data for Western's buildings. (FDO)



5.3: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing carbon emissions for all university buildings.

Intended completion date: 2018

- EnergyCAP will have basic carbon emission accounting included. FDO is currently evaluating an add-on feature that would allow for more robust carbon accounting. (FDO)

Goal 6: Develop an active learning, living laboratory within Western's built environment.



6.1: Expand support for courses and co-curricular programs for students that teach about local and regional stewardship solutions through skill development and campus and community engagement.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- Institute for Energy Studies (IES) and FDO continue to support opportunities for students and recent graduates to gain hands-on experience in energy management and regional resource stewardship through the Campus as Energy Lab program, funded generously by McKinstry. The Energy Assessment Program, led by IES Prof. Nipun Goel, takes teams of students to local and regional small manufacturing facilities to identify cost-effective ways of saving energy in their operations. Finally, numerous IES faculty members continue to support student researchers and coauthors, ensuring that their classroom skills and knowledge find purchase in broader energy and climate discussions. (IES)

- Funded by the Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund (SEJF), the Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery (LEAD) program spearheaded a project in which Native Plant Showcase Gardens transformed two separate areas (near the Wade King Rec Center and by the Art Annex) from grass lawns and/or invasive species encroachments into native gardens to offer a space for rest and education for the campus community. (SEI, CENV)



Pictured: Western LEAD participants plant native species outside the Wade King Rec Center. Source: LEAD

Student Life

Goal 1: Students have a solid foundation for understanding cultural and global interdependence.

1.1: Increase participation in programs that connect students to sustainability in the local, regional, and global community beginning fall 2017.

- The Urban Farm Project, funded by the Sustainability, Equity, and Justice (SEJF) grant program, provides financial support for students to engage in work and education on the Western-managed City Sprouts Farm - students can grow their own food, work to increase food access, and demonstrate how community vitality can grow through our food system. (CCL, SEI)
- The Climate Leadership Certificate program supported a cohort of students (14 in summer of 2023, 10 in summer of 2024) to participate in 240-hour paid practicum experiences in local organizations focused on climate and sustainability work. (SEI)

- A class titled “International Business, Planning, and Environmental Sustainability: Mexico’s Cultures, Histories, Activism” will be offered by Dr. Gigi Berardi during spring 2025 of the Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy Department.



1.2: All first-year Western students, including transfers, will engage in co-curricular programs around social, economic, and environmental (SEE) justice as part of their first year of experience at Western.

Intended start date: fall 2020

- First-year students living in residence halls are invited to engage in a 9-month sustainability co-curriculum in the residence halls, with three quarterly themes: waste, energy, and water. Additional programming on food security is incorporated throughout the year.
 - Waste: Residents are each given a waste sorting guide upon move-in.
 - 312 residents participated in the Residence Hall Reuse Program, which offers students an alternative to buying new room essentials by allowing students to borrow used room essentials for free. The program lends over 380 items to students and prioritizes Pell Grant-eligible and first-generation students. In FY2024, 63% of students participating in the program were Pell Grant Recipients and 33% were first-generation students. 51% of the inventory was checked out to Pell Grant recipients. Residents are encouraged to donate unwanted items for use in the program as a way of diverting move-out waste from landfills.
 - University Residences hosted a Halloween event that focused on sustainable pumpkin carving. Pumpkins were sourced locally, and refuse was composted.
 - University Residences hosted a Plant-It-Forward event that focused on upcycling recyclables for crafting materials. 128 students attended the event.
 - 112 students attended University Residence’s annual Clothing Swap to practice conscious consumption. Students received takeaway fliers with tips for mending, repurposing, reusing, and more.
 - Energy:
 - 346 residents pledged to practice sustainable habits in University Residences Go For The Green competition. Students pledged to:
 - Turn off the lights when not in use,
 - Bundle up before turning on the heat,
 - Avoid heat escape from open windows,
 - Turn off the tap when scrubbing and brushing,
 - Unplug electronics when not in use, and
 - Limit food waste contamination.
 - Wash only full loads, wash on cold.
 - Residential communities competing in Go For The Green reduced average overall consumption in the residence halls by 8% in two months. (For more information on Go For The Green, please see objective 1.3 in the Built Environment section.)

- Water:
 - University Residence's Water Wise Week social media campaign featured: information on the current state of Washington drought, where our water comes from, why it is important to consume it consciously, and tips to conserve water. The campaign also included a scavenger hunt in which donated water bottles with prizes and resources inside were hidden around campus. University Residences partnered with Associated Students Lost & Found to distribute more than 100 unrecovered water bottles to students, promoting decreased use of single-use plastic.
- Food security:
 - Housing Sustainability redistributed over 5,000 items from WWU Dining surplus, offering free kitchen essentials to students, the Western community, and local organizations in Whatcom County.
 - This year, a Food Drive was incorporated in the annual move-out Recovery Drive to recover unopened food items for the WHOLE pantry, with more than 120 gallons of food recovered from the landfill. (University Residences)



1.3: Begin and/or enhance collaborations with other local education institutions in developing and supporting SEE justice co-curriculum: local schools, Whatcom Community College (WCC), Northwest Indian College (NWIC), and Bellingham Technical College (BTC).

Intended start date: 2020

- No known progress in FY2024.
- Goal for 2025 is to connect with these institutions to start a Whatcom County Higher Education Convening

Goal 2: Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and insight of sustainability in practice.




2.1: Enhance and increase co-curricular opportunities for student participation in campus-based sustainable practices.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- The Sustainability Engagement Institute, Center for Community Learning, and Bellingham Public Library co-hosted a series of Learning Together Forums. The group hosted four forums, each focusing on work being done locally and opportunities for involvement related to one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The forums covered the following Sustainable Development Goals: Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Reduced Inequalities. The forums were set up to be social learning spaces where participants could learn from each other. The forums also included "News from the Field" in which practitioners got to share about their work on the sustainable development goal the forum was focused on. (CCL, SEI)
- Through the Climate Leadership Certificate program, 10 students completed senior projects that were focused on campus-based sustainability/climate change initiatives. The topics ranged from the development of a sustainable lab certification

program to food systems mapping, climate storytelling for students, native plant learning, and addressing leftover food recovery. (SEI)

- University Residences' Housing Sustainability program is in its third year of having co-curriculum aligned with the SAP and University Residences Initiative for Student Engagement (URISE) goals. Housing Sustainability collaborates with campus partners to develop engaging events and resources for learning campus-based sustainability practices. Collaborations with WWU Dining, FDO, the SEI, Transportation Services, and the Associated Students (AS) Recycle Center include, but are not limited to:
 - Food security: Increasing promotion of and access to cooking essentials (free dining ware giveaway, WHOLE Food Pantry donations, access to rental appliances prioritizing Pell-grant eligible and first-generation residents).
 - Sustainable transportation: Recirculating abandoned bikes for free rentals with locks and helmets provided to participants.
 - Waste sorting: Collaborating with SEI, Sanitary Services Company, Green Earth Technologies, and Sustainable Connections to develop a Waste Sorting Guide and Canvas Training Course.

 2.2: Increase student participation in service learning and civic engagement that connects to SEE sustainability.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- Nine students serve on the SEJF Committee (both in voting and non-voting roles), engaging with sustainability-related grant proposals and conversations on a bi-weekly basis during the academic year. These student representatives help determine how funding is allocated to sustainability initiatives across campus, all while developing experience in civic engagement. (SEI)
- City Sprouts Farm and the Climate Leadership Certificate (CLC) program developed a partnership with one another, which included planning for City Sprouts Farm to host the Bellingham CLC cohort every other week to help foster group cohesion and have local food systems as a central focus of the program, and creating expanded internship opportunities for CLC cohort members in a farm assistant position and a collaborative position between City Sprouts Farm and Whatcom County Health Department. (CCL and SEI)
- City Sprouts Farm regularly hosts work-study students, an independent study project, internship positions, and volunteer positions. (CCL)
- CCL hosts the Students in Community program, which provides students with opportunities to be practitioners and mentors with community host organizations, while being paid for their time and expertise. In 2024, 11 students participated in the Students in Community program. (CCL)
- The Salish Sea Institute hosted Elin Kelsey, author and academic, for a series of student-focused discussions on fostering agency and empowerment to counter the emotional and climate justice consequences of environmental despair. (Salish Sea Institute)



Pictured: Dr. Elin Kelsey in discussion with a group of students at a Salish Sea Institute session. Source: Salish Sea Institute.

➤ 2.3: Improve sustainability literacy throughout co-curricular learning.

Intended start date: 2018


- See objective 2.1 for progress on this objective.

➤ 2.4: Increase the number and quality of opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in co-curricular SEE sustainability focused projects, research, and grants.

Intended start date: 2020

- In 2024, 20 SEJF projects were funded. Each project provided opportunities for students to engage in sustainability initiatives. More than half of these projects were led by students themselves. (SEI)
- City Sprouts Farm hosted a group of students from Kate Darby's Power Privilege and the Environment class. Students visited the farm every other week to learn about urban farming, then completed a research-based report on the benefits, obstacles and solutions in urban agriculture. (CCL)
- SEI offered the Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course in fall and spring quarters. As part of this course, students completed eight campus sustainability projects designed to address a real sustainability challenge on campus. (SEI)
- The Climate Leadership Certificate program offers students opportunities to complete summer practicums with organizations in the Bellingham area and in the Methow Valley. Students can focus their final projects on co-curricular, community-based topics. In 2024, Climate Leadership Certificate students completed final projects ranging from the development of a sustainable lab certification program to food


systems mapping, climate storytelling for students, native plant learning, and addressing leftover food recovery on campus. (SEI)

 2.5: Increase and further develop co-curricular education and outreach programs targeting sustainable living practices.

Intended start date: 2018

- The SEJF project The Sprout Stop (led by Students for Climate Action student club) helped educate students on healthy eating practices while distributing fresh and local produce for free during Earth Week in April 2024. Another SEJF project, Green Thumb Initiative (led by students from the Business & Sustainability program), helped educate students on how to grow their own vegetables and herbs at home to combat food insecurity.

Goal 3: Social, Economic, and Ecological (SEE) sustainability principles are integrated in student career and lifelong practices.

 3.1: Cultivate student capacity and efficacy in creating positive change in SEE sustainability.

Intended start date: 2025

- Two students served on Western's President's Sustainability Council. (SEI)
- The Climate Leadership Certificate graduated its third cohort of leaders who are well-poised to be change-makers for a more livable and just future. Twelve students completed the program in spring of 2024. (SEI)
- The Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course was offered fall 2023 and spring 2024, engaging students with real-world projects to address sustainability challenges. (eight projects were completed - more information can be found here: <https://sustain.wvu.edu/csps>). (SEI)

 3.2: Increase the number of pathways into SEE sustainability-based careers available to Western students.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- SEJF funded two projects in FY2024 that sent students to local/regional conferences, where they had an opportunity to network with professionals and improve their pathways into sustainability-related careers (The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference and the American Planning Association Washington Chapter conference). (SEI)
- The Climate Leadership Certificate program provided paid practicum placements in local organizations for students to engage in sustainability and climate work (14 in summer of 2023, 10 in summer of 2024). (SEI)

 3.3: Graduating students have a demonstrated commitment to lifelong SEE sustainability.

Intended start date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.

Dining Services

Goal 1: Research and explore new and emerging technologies, practices, and policies to increase sustainable performance in existing and new dining facilities.



1.1: Create a more efficient model to deliver food service to campus.

Intended completion date: 2019

- No known progress in FY2024.



1.2: Achieve sustainable maintenance and renovation practices, and equipment purchasing.

Intended completion date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.



1.3: Reduce resource consumption (such as water, energy) by 10% of current baseline.

Intended completion date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.

Goal 2: Increase environmental best practices for dining service providers and vendors.



2.1: Ensure 100% packaging of goods that University Dining Services (UDS) produces is compostable/recyclable.

Intended completion date: 2020

- All disposable service ware provided through Chartwells is now compostable. (Chartwells)
- Western Dining Services was able to remain Green Restaurant Certified through the transition of Aramark to Chartwells in all dining halls. The dining halls currently achieve three stars based on the Green Restaurant Certification. This certification goes beyond packaging and purchasing and includes many environmental impacts including energy, water, waste, and education. (Chartwells)



2.2: Increase local/regional food purchasing; WA, OR, ID, BC to 25%.

Intended completion date: 2020

- Chartwells currently sources 40% of its produce locally. This does not include meat or seafood. (Chartwells)




2.3: increase REAL food purchases to 25%.

Intended completion date: 2020


- In the 2023/2024 school year Chartwells met two REAL food objectives and made progress towards a few more:
 - 82% of eggs purchased were certified humane cage-free eggs (REAL food level 2).
 - 100% of coffee was Fair Trade Certified (REAL food level 1).
 - 40% of produce was sourced locally.
 - 96% of turkey and purchased was grown and raised without the routine use of human anti-biotics and 91% of chicken purchased was raised without the routine use of human antibiotics.
 - 60% of dairy food products were free or artificial growth hormones.
 - 100% of dairy beverage products were free of artificial growth hormones.

- 100% of seafood was purchased from sustainable sources.
- Chartwells also spent the following amounts on sustainable foods:
 - 5% of total spend was sustainably or ethically produced food and beverages.
 - 17% of total spend was plant-based food and beverages.
 - 15% of total spend was with social impact suppliers.


 2.4: Implement a vendor environmental practices survey.
Intended completion date: 2020

- No known progress in FY2024.

Goal 3: Provide resources and opportunities for the campus and community to increase understanding and engage in sustainable food practices.


 3.1: Continue educating campus and surrounding community about healthy and sustainable consumption practices.

- Chartwells employs informative signage within each dining hall to highlight local and regional farms they purchase from. (Chartwells)
- Chartwells employs signage on menus that encourages students to choose “climate friendly” options, as well as highlighting plant-based items. (Chartwells)

 3.2: Develop a mutually enhancing relationship between Outback and University Dining Services.


Intended start date: 2017

- No known progress in FY2024.

 3.3: Explore funding options for offsetting increased costs to students as UDS works to meet Real Food Challenge³ and other local, regional food commitments.

Intended start date: 2017

- No known progress in FY2024.

 3.4: Continue to engage with the local and regional community to develop a sustainable food system model that links local producers with larger consumer entities.

- The Outback Farm hosted work parties and two fun, successful spring events with live music, snacks, vendors, and fundraising for food justice. The highlight of the year for the Outback was its participation in a water resilience [project](#) through the Dry Farming Institute and American Farmland Trust. The project culminated in a community-focused Demo Day for Water Resilient Strategies. The farm crew welcomed neighbors and families who were interested in learning more about water conservation, folks from the Conservation District, and a Bellingham City Council member. The Outback is excited to continue its work, especially with the moisture sensors that allow the farm to track what's happening underneath the surface of the soil. (The Outback Farm)



Pictured: (L) installed moisture sensor and current reading; (M) tools for installing sensors; (R) Outback farmer Skye Schultz installing moisture sensors. Source: Outback Farm

- The City Sprouts Farm leadership team successfully wrote, presented and secured a SEJF grant for \$139,308 to provide 3 years of funding for the City Sprouts urban farm crew and farm assistant positions; City Sprouts Farm restarted its sliding scale CSA program with 26 CSA members for the 2024 season including two scholarship CSAs. City Sprouts Farm also frequently donates produce to Western's WHOLE food pantry. Tiny Farm, an independent-study project hosted at Western's City Sprouts Farm, created and distributed a free CSA program for students. (CCL)
- The Viking Supported Agriculture (VSA) program, a community supported agriculture program serving the campus community, began accepting SNAP/EBT for summer subscriptions. It is planning to accept SNAP/EBT for fall/winter farm subscriptions in FY2025. The VSA program also hosts a food insecurity fund, with donations used to purchase fresh organic produce for students in need. (SEI)



Pictured: A summer VSA share from Viva Farms. Source: SEI.

Goal 4: Become zero-waste in all campus dining locations.

4.1: Develop a recycling and compost program for all retail (dining) locations and their offices that results in zero waste.

Intended completion date: 2020

- All retail dining locations engage in recycling and compost and have appropriate bins on location. (Chartwells)

4.2: Develop a recycling and compost program for all residential dining halls and their offices that results in zero waste

Intended completion date: 2020

- All residential dining halls engage in recycling and compost and have appropriate bins and signage, and use a Compass Group program, Waste Not 2.0, to track all food waste to reduce it as much as possible. (Chartwells)

4.3: Develop a recycling and compost program for all catering sites and their offices that results in zero waste.

Intended completion date: 2020

- No known progress in FY2024.

4.4: Establish a monitoring system to identify base-line waste metrics.

Intended completion date: 2025


- Chartwells' Waste Not 2.0 waste tracking system is in place at all dining halls and select retail locations. Currently developing a baseline in 2025 for goal setting next year. (Chartwells)

Additional Progress: Addressing Food Insecurity on Campus

- Among other services, the Basic Needs Hub provides food assistance to students who are food insecure. For information on food assistance programs on and off of campus, visit the Basic Needs Hub's [Food Resources site](#). (The Basic Needs Hub)
- Western hosts seven food pantries on campus that are heavily used by students. Information on the food pantries can be found [here](#).


Grounds

Goal 1: Reduce the consumption of natural resources in grounds maintenance.

 1.1: Develop and implement the use of a preferred plant species list to reduce water consumption for each landscape type—formal, semi-formal, and native.


Intended start date: fall 2017

- Most of the plant materials sourced by the Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) Grounds Team this year were native to Western Washington. The Grounds Team sources from Storm Lake Growers out of Monroe who grow an array of high-quality native plants. The Grounds Team is continuing to propagate in its greenhouse as well as starting annuals from seed. (FDO)
- The Wade King Native Plant Showcase Garden (led by the LEAD program), funded by the Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund (SEJF), transformed an area severely impacted by invasive species encroachment into a native vegetation garden, which will reduce the need for regular watering once the garden is well-established. (SEI)

 1.2: Develop a dashboard of irrigation water consumption per irrigated area.


Intended completion date: fall 2017

- The Grounds Team is still pricing out smart irrigation systems in critical areas. Given budget cuts, this has proved difficult as these systems are expensive. (FDO)

 1.3: Evaluate the viability of rain and soil moisture sensors to reduce excess water consumption.

Intended start date: fall 2017

- This objective has been completed. (FDO)

 1.4: Increase and enhance the use of compost and yard debris used on campus for moisture retention and weed suppression.

Intended start date: 2018

- The Grounds Team continues to cold compost leaf and spent annual debris. They source wood chip mulch from Perry Pallet and Vista Materials, who recycles wood pallets. They use this as the primary top dressing to control moisture, suppress weeds, and give campus a uniform look throughout the main corridor of campus. The Grounds Team also uses a Western-owned woodchipper on arborist projects and collects the arbor chips at Western's compost yard from tree work on campus. These are utilized in all areas outside of the main campus corridor. The Grounds Team has

been working with Western's Capital Planning Team to implement a standard in contracts that requires contractors to use arbor chips as opposed to bark, which will allow for better grounds management once contractors have completed their work and Western's Grounds Team takes over management. (FDO)

Goal 2: Reduce air and noise pollution using sustainable landscape equipment.



2.1: Evaluate all equipment requests to determine whether a viable electric alternative exists.
Intended start date: 2017

- This objective has been implemented into current practices and remains ongoing. (FDO)



2.2: Reduce carbon impact of vehicles and equipment to the Outdoor Maintenance shop as budget allows.

- The Grounds Team is continuing these efforts. Battery powered push mowers will likely be implemented in 2025 as the Grounds Team invests in its last round of gas-powered push mowers, hoping that by the time they are ready to be cycled out, the technology on electric push mowers will be made at a commercial grade. (FDO)

Goal 3: Reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management.



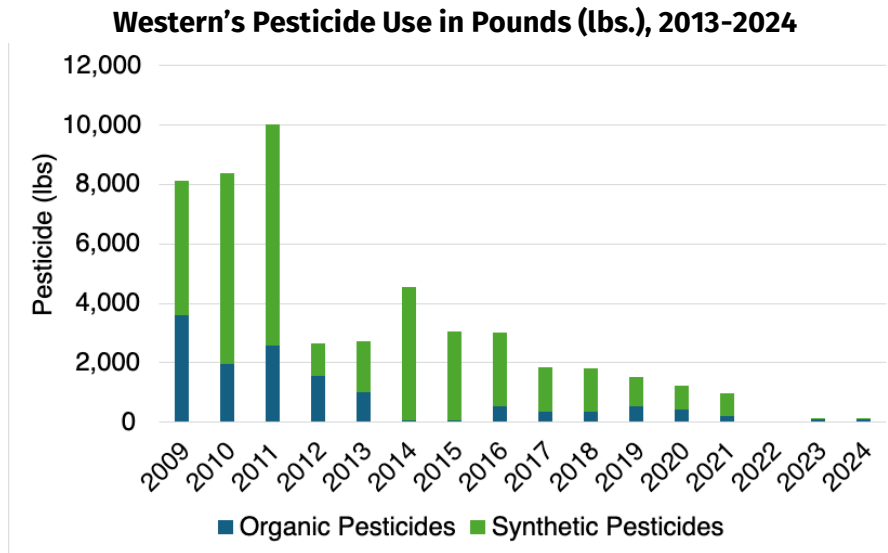
3.1: Continuing education classes in Integrated Pest Management for all gardeners, annually.

- This objective has been completed. Integrated Pest Management classes for all gardeners are offered every year. (FDO)



3.2: Establish baseline of pesticide reduction.
Intended completion date: 2018

- All pesticides and fertilizers are tracked through AiM for reporting and management purposes. The use of herbicides has greatly decreased in the past years. There are certain applications where using an herbicide is paramount in controlling aggressive noxious weeds. Besides treating Japanese Knotweed and Lesser Celendine with Glyphosate (as recommended by the Whatcom Noxious Weed Board), FDO does as much as possible to reduce weeds using mulching, planting beneficial plants to out compete weeds, and using horticultural vinegar and mechanical controls. (FDO)



Western's pesticide use over time. In FY2024, Western used 70 lbs. of organic pesticide and 14 lbs. of synthetic pesticide.

Goal 4: Enhance stormwater treatment and reduce pollutant runoff from impervious surfaces across campus.



4.1: Continue to protect water quality by complying with all DOE-required stormwater maintenance activities.

- The Grounds Team was able to secure outside funding to help manage and maintain south campus bioswale systems. The team put in many hours towards the Happy Valley water system and successfully removed many invasives out of the top cell. The team is introducing new native plants to remaining bioswales in C-Lots to help further bio filtration as well as to outcompete invasives. (FDO)



4.2: Establish regular street-sweeping contract to reduce potential pollution runoff to surface waters.

Intended completion date: 2020

- This objective has been completed. (FDO)

Goal 5: Provide education on sustainable practices and utilize campus grounds to foster environmental stewardship.



5.1: Continue goal of employing at least six (6) seasonal student employees in the Outdoor Maintenance shop.


- The Grounds Team has 60 hours of student work that it is funded for. On a quarter-to-quarter basis with each student allowed to work up to 19 hours per week, this allows the team to employ an average of four student gardeners per quarter. In summer 2024, the team employed four full time student gardeners. (FDO)

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5.2: Continue to improve the educational component of the student employee program.


- The Grounds Team continues to train and mentor grounds student workers to give them a strong foundation in landscape maintenance and horticulture. (FDO)

 5.3: Make available educational opportunities on and around Western-owned grounds to enhance understanding and appreciation of the unique environmental setting of Western and its relationship to other global ecosystems.

- The Grounds Team continues to work with the President's Sustainability Council, SEJF grant-funded projects, and the Student LEAD program to help promote sustainability grounds management practices, an appreciation for plants and trees, soil profiles, design practices, and bio retention. (FDO)
- The Wade King Native Plant Showcase Garden, led by the LEAD program and funded by the SEJF program, transformed an area severely impacted by invasive species encroachment into a native vegetation garden, which will create an opportunity for rest and education on campus. (SEI)

Procurement

Goal 1: Encourage the use of sustainable businesses.

 1.1: Develop “Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines” within Procurement processes, inclusive of lifecycle accountability, vendor information, embodied energy and emissions, and social equity practices.

- The Procurement Office continued its partnership with the Sustainability Engagement Institute (SEI) to collaborate on sustainable procurement processes. In lieu of recreating standards, the Procurement Office is leveraging the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing guidelines from the State of Washington’s centralized procurement authority, the Department of Enterprise Services. The Procurement Office has contracted for, and is in the beginning stage of implementing, a Supplier/Vendor Onboarding and Management System that will increase efficiency of the supplier registration process, including the ability to capture supplier certifications, and other helpful information related to supplier/vendor diversity classifications, company sustainability statements, and eco-certifications or ecolabels that apply to goods and services supplier/vendors provided to Western. The new system is scalable for Western to incorporate industry data about suppliers to document associated attributes, such as sustainability characteristics. At a future phase, based on budget availability, the Procurement Office intends to contract for these industry data sets to add objective clarity to the relevant sustainability and social equity practices and associated certifications. (Procurement and Contract Administration)

1.2: Acknowledge the importance of purchases from local and regional business.

- The Procurement Office has continued to build Western’s Local Vendor website as a means of highlighting local and regional businesses, and their importance to Western and our local economy. There are presently 31 local vendors that are showcased. In addition, as a means of supporting efficient purchasing from these local vendors, they

are included in the Western Marketplace, which is Western's eProcurement solution, and are available to engage directly up to our full direct buy limit of \$10,000. This work further promotes work with our local business partners. (Procurement and Contract Administration)

Goal 2: Increase the percentage of use of sustainable products and natural resources throughout our supply chain.



2.1: Increase the use of recycled and reclaimed products.

- No known progress in FY2024. (Procurement and Contract Administration)

Goal 3: Increase the number of sustainable materials and supplies available in the bookstore for students and greater campus.



3.1: Increase percentage of purchases from local and regional businesses by 10%.

Intended completion date: fiscal year 2018

- The Book Store has not made progress on this objective; however, Western's Procurement Office has made progress on this objective for Western as a whole: Western has continued to grow its local and regional business website as a resource for purchasers to efficiently engage our local business partners (see objective 1.2 for more details). Western has continued the transition to the new dining services company, Chartwells, which includes an ongoing review by the company of local food vendors and sources that they can partner with in serving Western. Washington State's Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) tracks agency, including public university, spending with certified firms. Western's most recently published metrics show \$767,175 in applicable spend, with Western preliminarily reporting more current metrics of \$1,010,795, which is an approximately 32% increase. Official spend metrics are expected to be published by OMBWE in February 2025. Please note that, while OMWBE certification does not always equate to local or regional businesses, there is often a large cross section of applicability of common characteristics. (Procurement and Contract Administration)



3.2: Increase sustainable textbook options by 10%.

Intended completion date: fiscal year 2018

- No known progress in FY2024. (WWU Bookstore)



3.3: Develop key criteria to evaluate suppliers when we consider the introduction of new products and the replenishing of existing ones.

Intended completion date: fiscal year 2018

- The Book Store has not made progress on this objective.
- Related progress: Western's Procurement Office has made progress on this objective for Western as a whole. The Procurement Office is leveraging the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing guidelines from the State of Washington's centralized procurement authority, the Department of Enterprise Services. The insights gained from these Environmentally Preferable Purchasing guidelines for the specific good or service are incorporated into formal Request for Proposals (RFPs) that Western

publishes. In addition, as described in our response to Objective 1.1, Western is in the process of implementing a new front end supplier registration tool that will allow us to better receive, track, and understand criteria represented by our vendor pool. This system is highly scalable with planned future additions of industry data sets and other modules to modernize Western’s procurement and contracting functions, including aspects such as evaluation, risk management, and reporting. (Procurement and Contract Administration)



3.4: Continue to improve the visibility of the bookstore’s sustainable offerings.

- No known progress in FY2024. (Procurement and Contract Administration)

Goal 4: Prioritize methods of accessing library materials that have a smaller carbon footprint.

Library Services is currently restructuring their sustainability goals to better align with borrowing and acquisition practices that have the lowest carbon footprint and are the most ethical, therefore, the objectives below are on hold for FY2024. Other progress Library Services has made on sustainability goals is outlined below.



4.1: Encourage faculty to request and use materials purchase in e-form rather than paper.

- This objective is no longer relevant. (Library Services)



4.2: Encourage faculty to use resource sharing opportunities like document delivery and Inter-Library Loan (ILL), rather than ordering materials.

- This objective is no longer relevant. (Library Services)



4.3: Encourage publishers to use more sustainable materials in their publications.

- This objective is no longer relevant. (Library Services)

Other progress: Western Libraries

Library Services developed a sustainability shelf that provides reading recommendations that focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The shelf provides physical and virtual recommendations. Library Services has an annual subscription review process that includes creating a subscription “scorecard” for resources. Part of that scorecard is an “X factor” that is described as: “This criterion represents the extent to which the resource or vendor operates for the greater good in a marketplace that has increasingly seen the intrusion of corporate market values. Does the resource or provider actively advance—or is it in conflict with—the Libraries’ missions and goals of social justice and equitable access to knowledge? Does the provider demonstrate positive engagement with library values, beyond performative statements?” This criterion is not applied across all formats or resources, but rather if and as relevant circumstances emerge. The criterion has the potential to add or remove up to 10 points from any resource’s total score. For more information about the kinds of things that influence the X Factor score, contact one of our subject teams. You can read about the rest of the scorecard factors (and the process) [here](#). (Library Services)

Goal 5: Designate the Facilities Management Fleet Services as the institutional office responsible for coordinating and supporting all university vehicle (specialized, departmental, and fleet) purchase and life-cycle decisions.

5.1: Consolidate the coordination of university vehicle purchases and life cycle management.

- Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) considers sustainable vehicle purchasing and fleet management, as described in the Transportation section and in the Grounds section. Fleet charging stations at FDO have been installed to help support the continued growth of Western’s electric fleet. Fleet Services remains the first contact point for any university vehicle purchase, ensuring incoming vehicles align with the university’s sustainability goals. Vehicle life cycle recommendations are made within FDO and to the campus at large based on a few factors including, age of vehicle, use type, and overall condition/efficiency. (FDO)

5.2: Develop a vehicle procurement guide as part of the greater university e-procurement process.

- A formal guide is not currently available; however, it is in the process of being developed. (FDO)

Other progress: Sustainable Lab Certification


The SEJF grant program funded the Sustainable Lab Certification (led by Climate Leadership Certificate students completing their senior projects in partnership with SciTech), which provided resources and tools for campus labs to improve their sustainability practices. Among other things, the grant provided sustainable options for purchasing lab supplies and materials. In 2024, the Sustainable Lab Certification included 15 labs with 410 students and 30 staff and faculty. (SEI, SciTech)



Pictured: Members of certified sustainable labs pose with the project team members at the Sustainable Lab Certification launch party. Source: Sustainable Lab Certification.


Transportation

Goal 1: Western recognizes its role as a member of the larger transportation community and engages in local, regional, and state transportation issues and solutions.

 1.1: Develop an integrated University Transportation Plan, including all components of campus transportation.


Intended completion date: fall 2018.

- Transportation Services is currently working with Facilities Development & Operations on a University Transportation Plan as a piece of the Capital Development and Strategic Vision Plan. (Transportation Services)

 1.2: Pursue Western representation on the City of Bellingham Transportation Commission for sharing data, providing input on planning processes, and cooperation on shared goals.


Intended start date: 2017

- This objective was deemed to currently not be an appropriate objective by Transportation Services. Transportation Services has quarterly meetings with City of Bellingham Public Works to share data, provide input on planning processes, and work on shared goals. (Transportation Services)

 1.3: Pursue an integrated relationship between Western and Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) executive and planning staff, and the WTA Board, establishing a framework for collaboration on current and future goals.


Intended completion date: 2017

- Quarterly meetings with Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) occurred in FY2024. Andrea Reiter, Commute Options Program Manager, has been attending WTA's Rapid Transit Phase 2 Steering Committee meetings. (Transportation Services)

 1.4: Include Western employee and student transportation options in community resilience and disaster preparedness planning, and in communication to the broader campus community.


Intended completion date: 2020.

- Transportation Services is currently working on completing this objective with Western's Director of Emergency Preparedness. (Transportation Services)

 1.5: Identify and measure the current efficacy of transportation options for equitable access to local institutions of higher education, including Western's extension campuses.

Intended completion date: 2025

- Student and employee transportation surveys were conducted in FY2024. (Transportation Services)

 1.6: Begin advocacy at the state level for regional connectivity that supports reduced student reliance on automobile travel.

Intended completion date: fall, 2017

- This objective was deemed to currently not be an appropriate objective by Transportation Services. (Transportation Services)

Goal 2: Improve safety for users of all transportation modes through education and infrastructure improvements, prioritizing by vulnerability.



2.1: Adopt Vision Zero for campus.

Intended completion date: fall, 2018

- This objective has been determined to be invalid for Western’s campus. However, Transportation Services has been working on bike theft reduction by developing a parking plan for residence halls, trading in cable locks for u-locks at no cost and registering bikes. During Bike Fest and Bike Month, Learn to Ride and Confidence City Cycling courses were offered. (Transportation Services)



2.2: Identify and develop a list of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety improvements to campus infrastructure, including service roads.

Intended completion date: June 2018

- Transportation Services continued work on the bike counter installation and continued to work with the City of Bellingham Public Works Department on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Updates, which has identified two pedestrian crossings on Garden Street in need of pedestrian upgrades. (Transportation Services)
- In partnership with Transportation Services and FDO, three bike counters, funded by the SEJF grant program, will be installed to collect data about micromobility usage on campus (funding was awarded in FY2023, but counters have not yet been installed due to facilities delays). (SEI)

Goal 3: Reduce climate impacts of employee and student Western-related ground travel.



3.1: Reduce employee drive alone commute rates by 10% annually over the next five years improving bus, bicycle, walking, and carpooling options.

- Western continues to offer employees free bus passes on their Western Cards, which can be used for all fixed routes on WTA and Skagit transit and WTA paratransit trips. Western has priority carpool parking. Employees can purchase pay-by-day permits to encourage alternative transportation one or more days per week. Western employees in some units can work hybrid, remotely, or flexed schedules (4-10 weeks or 9-80 weeks) to reduce commutes. In FY2024, employees had the opportunity to participate in Smart Trips and Love to Ride (Love to Ride ended March 2024) programs, which encourage alternative transportation through incentives. Every new employee receives a personal email encouraging alternative transportation. (Transportation Services)



3.2: Reduce commuter student-driving rates by 10% annually for the next five years improving bus, bicycle, walking, rideshare and car-share, and carpooling options.

- Students taking one or more credits on campus are automatically charged the Active Transportation Fee and provided a WTA bus pass, Skagit Bus pass, and access to the

Starlight Shuttle. All other students can opt in to this fee and can be granted access to these services. Western-supported bike events have encouraged biking to and from campus (Bike Month, Biketober, Bike Fest, Bike to Work and School Day, bike classes, and group rides). (Transportation Services)



3.3: Reduce impacts of regional university-related ground travel 10% annually over the next five years.

- Western adopted stricter requirements for campus-related travel that significantly limits university-related travel. State rules and university procedures specifically encourage travelers to carpool and consider alternatives to travel, such as online meetings instead of in-person meetings, whenever possible. (Travel Services)

Goal 4: Reduce climate impacts of Western-related air travel.



4.1: Collect and make publicly available data on all air travel.

Intended completion date: fall, 2018

- Air travel data is now made publicly available through [SAP progress reports](#) and the [Sustainability Dashboard](#). (SEI)

University-Associated Air Travel by Miles, 2013-2024

year	University-Paid Air Travel (Faculty, staff, athletics)	Student Study Abroad Air Travel	Total
2024	5,495,856	4,077,257	9,573,113
2023	6,748,281	6,953,954	13,702,235
2022	4,740,235	2,946,578	7,686,813
2021	246,415	not reported	N/A
2020	5,382,892	4,215,008	9,597,900
2019	6,116,205	7,755,498	13,871,703
2018	5,469,721	9,025,878	14,495,599
2017	2,697,748	7,373,046	10,070,794
2016	3,372,166	6,131,972	9,504,138
2015	2,465,844	5,521,168	7,987,012
2014	2,929,372	5,051,364	7,980,736
2013	3,969,671	5,415,982	9,385,653



4.2: Provide options to travelers for off-setting carbon.

Intended completion date: 2020

- No known progress in FY2024. (Transportation Services)



4.3: Pursue a carbon off-setting system that benefits the local community.
Intended start date: 2020

- No known progress in FY2024. (Transportation Services)

Goal 5: Annually decrease impacts of university fleet vehicles.



5.1: Reduce the GHG emissions of the university fleet [by 10%].
Intended completion date: fall, 2018

- FDO installed six electric vehicle ports for Western fleet electric vehicles (EVs). (FDO)



Pictured: new electric charging stations in the Physical Plant parking lot. Source: FDO



5.2: All Western-owned vehicles continually meet WA State requirements for greenhouse gas emissions.

- This objective is complete on an ongoing basis. Western-owned vehicles continue to meet Washington State requirements for greenhouse gas emissions. (FDO)



5.3: Collect information for all university fleet vehicle usage and energy consumption.

Intended completion date: 2018

- This objective is complete on an ongoing basis. All information for Western fleet vehicle usage and energy consumption is tracked by FDO. (FDO)



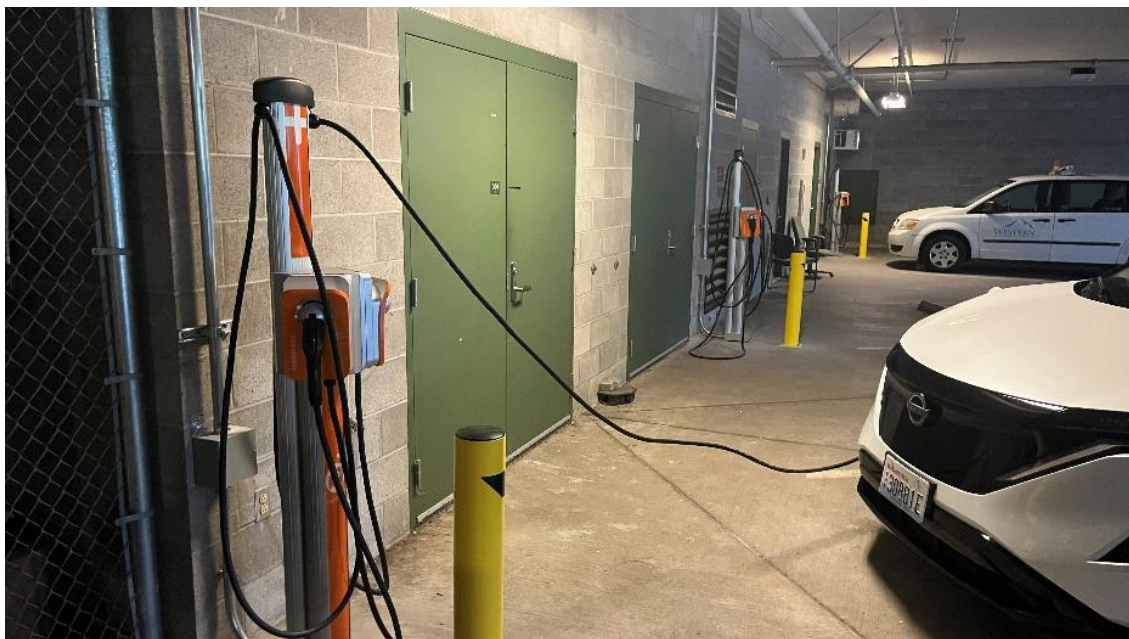
5.4: Carbon neutrality for every university-owned vehicle.

Intended completion date: 2035

- No known progress in FY2024.

Other progress: EV charging

FDO installed six new EV charging ports available to all campus EV users. (FDO)



Pictured: new all-university EV chargers. Source: FDO.

Waste

Goal 1: Create uniform waste collection receptacle standards across Western, providing compost, recycling, and landfill bins.



1.1: Provide portable recycling and composting receptacles with appropriate signage for all events hosted on Western property and by Western-affiliated groups.

Intended start date: fall, 2018

- Two Campus Sustainability Planning Studio projects focusing on [improving waste signage](#) and developing a [sustainable event guide for career fairs](#) on campus researched methods for developing waste signage standards around campus and during events.



1.2: Eliminate paper towel waste.

Intended completion date: 2020

- No known progress.



1.3: Expand and improve collection of non-traditional recyclable materials.

Intended start date: fall, 2020


- Western recycles some non-traditional materials including pallets, furniture, and batteries. (FDO)
- Through the annual Recovery Drive hosted in the residence halls, the AS Recycle Center and Housing Sustainability offer an opportunity for residents to donate unwanted items during residential move-out. These donations go to various community resource hubs and free rentals for future students. In FY2024, 136 items were recovered for free rentals through the Residence Hall Reuse Program and Over 120 gallons of food were recovered for the WHOLE Pantry. (University Residences)



Pictured: Reuse items on display in a dorm room. Source: University Residences Sustainability Program.

- Leveraging Western Surplus created opportunities for emerging sustainability initiatives.
 - The University Residences Sustainability Program piloted the Bike Reuse Program to increase the affordability and accessibility of sustainable transportation for residents. Bikes abandoned within University Residences are reclaimed and repaired to working condition for little to no cost, then rented to residents at no cost. In FY2024, 17 bikes abandoned on University Residences' property were reclaimed for the program.

- The inaugural Dining Ware Fest diverts waste from landfills and increases food security on campus by redistributing over 5,000 items from the WWU Dining surplus. Free kitchen essentials were offered to students, the Western community, and local organizations in Whatcom County. (University Residences)

 1.4: Divert waste from the landfill by providing opportunities for campus to recycle and compost effectively and efficiently.

Intended completion date: 2025


- Every building on Main Campus has recycling pickup provided by the AS Recycle Center. Western has compost collection on 29 of 40 waste accounts with its waste service provider, Sanitary Services Company (SSC). (FDO)
- Housing Sustainability collaborated with Western's Sustainability Engagement Institute, Sanitary Services Company, Green Earth Technologies, and Sustainable Connections to develop a Waste Sorting Guide and Canvas Training Course. Materials are updated annually, or as needed.
 - The Waste Sorting Guide was distributed to each resident, encouraging them to post the guide in their room. (University Residences)

 1.5: Identify funding sources to expand Big Belly recycling program.

Intended completion date: 2017-2019 biennium


- Big Belly recycling receptacles have been installed at several outdoor locations on campus. Further expansion is possible in the future. (FDO)

Goal 2: Institutionalize management practices and policies for waste collection.

 2.1: Create mechanisms to connect the different departments that manage waste.

Intended completion date: fall 2020

- The AS Recycle Center was transferred under Facilities Development & Operations (FDO) administration at the end of FY2024. FDO also manages solid waste accounts with SSC and custodial services on campus. FDO has collaborated with SEI, University Residences, and other departments on campus involved with waste management and will continue to collaborate to improve waste diversion. (FDO)

 2.2: Institute quarterly waste management meetings across stakeholders to address issues and propose improvements to waste reduction systems.

Intended start date: fall 2017.

- With the transfer of the Recycling Center under FDO administration, FDO, University Residences, and other departments on campus plan to collaborate more directly on waste diversion systems. (FDO)



2.3: Formalize, with Facility Design and Capital Budget staff, Big Belly recycling stations as a university standard for outdoor bins.

Intended start date: 2018

- This has not been incorporated into Western's design standards yet. Part of the challenge is that Western's design standards have been generally applied towards new buildings and major remodels. Big Belly recycle bins are more of a general outdoor improvement that serves a group of buildings or section of campus. (FDO)



2.4: Formalize Western's Ban on Single-Use water bottle sales.

Intended start date: fall, 2017

- No known progress in FY2024. (FDO)



2.5: Create an engaged citizenry, consistent expectations, and student buy-in to waste reduction.

Intended start date: fall, 2020

- As part of the Residence Hall Reuse Program, participating residents understand how circular borrowing can impact their consumption habits and the diversion of unwanted items from waste streams. Participation in the program increased from 225 to 312 residents, with a growing inventory from 354 to 386 items for the 2023-24 academic year. 136 room essentials were donated at the end of the 2023-24 academic year. The consistent growth of the Residence Hall Reuse Program exemplifies the value of such a program and encourages the institutionalization of similar programs. See the additional verbiage in Objective 1.3 of Waste Objectives relating to the Residence Hall Reuse Program. (University Residences)
- Reducing compost contamination in University Residences was a segment of the Go For The Green 2024 competition. Residential communities earned points and were rewarded for the greatest reduction in compost contamination. Residents learned how to utilize the opt-in composting offered and why diverting compost from the landfill is important.
- University Residences and SEI provided students with interactive waste sorting resources and education through outreach tabling. (University Residences, SEI)
- The Sustainability Engagement Institute (SEI) developed a waste reduction sign campaign in response to a request from Viking Union staff that there be additional waste-reduction communication in the building. A set of signs about waste reduction and environmental justice are displayed in the Viking Union, rotating once per quarter. (SEI)



Pictured: SEI staff leading an interactive waste-sorting game with students and providing information about waste disposal on campus. Source: SEI.



Pictured: one of the waste reduction signs displayed in the Viking Union. Source: SEI.



2.6: Manage waste wisely at all events hosted on Western property and by Western-affiliated groups by fall 2020.

- No known progress in FY2024.



2.7: Initiate systematic waste data-collection.

Intended start date: winter, 2019

- In 2024, SEI developed a waste data collection tool that compiles estimated garbage and compost totals based on receipts from Western's waste collection service provider, SSC. However, Western's waste data measurement systems are antiquated and are likely providing inaccurate waste amounts. Updates to these systems are being considered. (SEI)

Western's Amounts of Waste Sent to the Landfill and Composted (on and off Campus), 2019-2024

Year	Landfill (yds)	Compost (yds)
2019	inaccurate data reported	317
2020	inaccurate data reported	150
2021	not reported	not reported
2022	8,797	464
2023	8,881	579
2024	6,549	594



2.8: Implement a Zero Waste Certification program.

Intended start date: winter, 2020

- No known progress in FY2024.

Goal 3: Provide opportunities for waste reduction education to Western faculty, staff, students, and visitors on accepted waste reduction practices.



3.1: Continue to create and improve opportunities for students to be directly involved with Zero Waste Western.

- No known progress in FY2024.



3.2: Provide waste reduction training to all staff and faculty.

Intended start date: 2020

- Waste training materials were developed as part of a student's senior project within the Climate Leadership Certificate. There are opportunities for finalizing and distributing this resource in the future. (SEI)

Goal 4: Reduce electronic and hazardous waste.

4.1: Develop a framework for a university-wide centralized chemical purchasing system.

Intended completion date: 2022

- No known progress in FY2024. (Environmental Health and Safety)

4.2: Reduce quantity of hazardous academic lab waste per student.

Intended completion date: 2030

- No known progress in FY2024. (Environmental Health and Safety)

4.3: Improve university-wide usage and replacement of computers, especially in general use computer labs.

Intended completion date: 2022

- No known progress in FY2024. (Environmental Health and Safety)

Other progress: Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund (SEJF) projects

- The Green Thumb Initiative (led by students from the Business and Sustainability program) helped educate students on how to grow their own veggies and herbs at home using recyclable items such as milk cartons; this effectively provided students with education on how to divert waste from the landfill and use it for good. (SEI)



Pictured: The Green Thumb Initiative handing out produce starts in Red Square.

- The Western Worn Community Closet (led by students from the Business & Sustainability program, including one student who was also completing the Climate Leadership Certificate) created a space on campus where the Western community can donate and redistribute worn clothing, effectively creating a circular system for clothing distribution so that it doesn't end up in landfills. (SEI)



Pictured: A student looks through items at the mobile community closet during the Earth Week fair. Source: SEI.

Investments

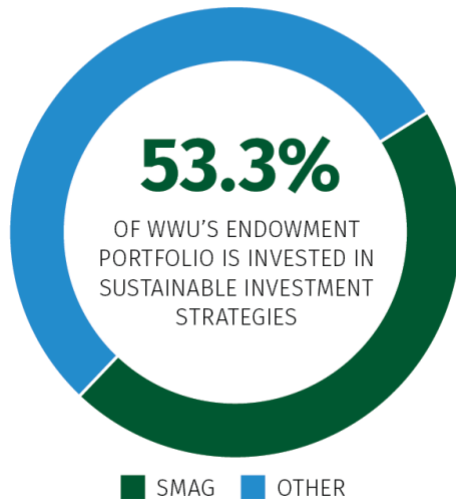
Goal 1: Increase awareness and adoption of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in the selection of WWU investments.

1.1: Give due consideration to ESG criteria exercised by the companies and/or funds in which University investments are made.

- In 2019, The Foundation committed over half of the endowment portfolio to a Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth Fund (SMAG), managed by Russell Investments, based

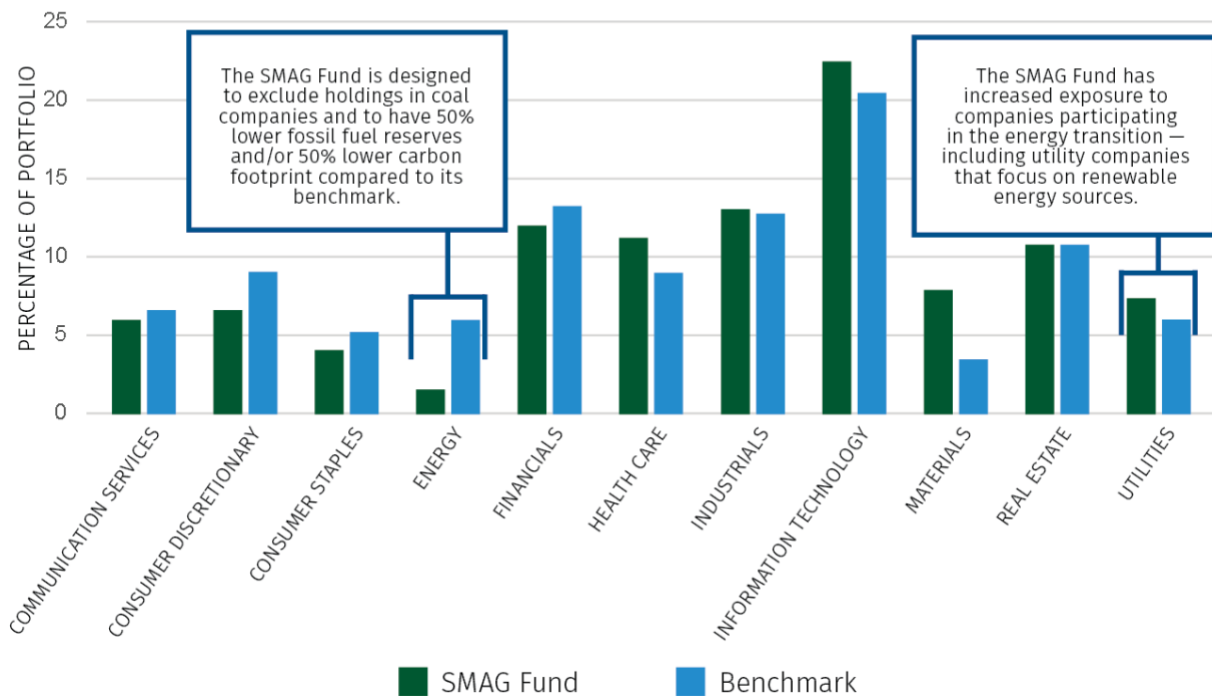
out of Seattle. Western is proud to have been the inaugural client for this fund. The development of this fund has led to over \$400 million in investment from various institutions. As of June 30, 2024, the Foundation continues to maintain over half the portfolio (53.3% or \$76.9 million) in SMAG. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)

ENDOWMENT FUND BY INVESTMENT TYPE



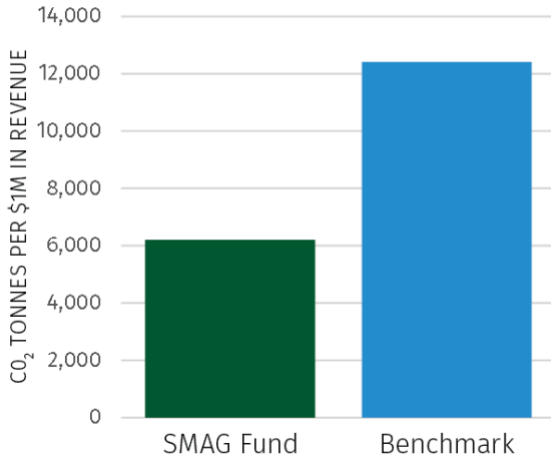
A breakdown of the Endowment Fund by investments in the Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth (SMAG) Fund and other funds. Source: <https://foundation.wwu.edu/sustainability-performance-report-fy24>

SMAG FUND PORTFOLIO BY INDUSTRY COMPARED TO BENCHMARK

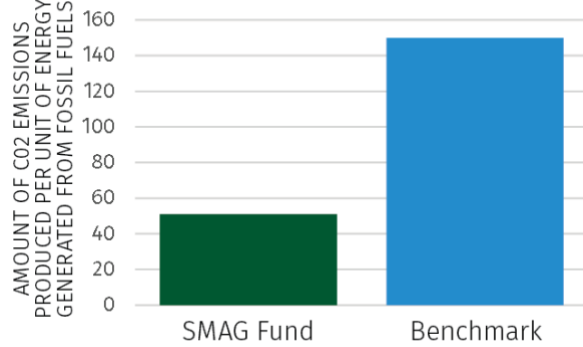


A comparison of the industries represented in the SMAG fund portfolio compared to a benchmark, which is a composite most heavily weighted by MSCI All Country World Index Investible Market Index. Source: <https://foundation.wwu.edu/sustainability-performance-report-fy24>

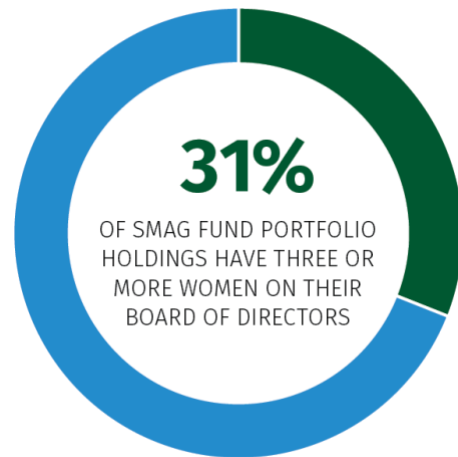
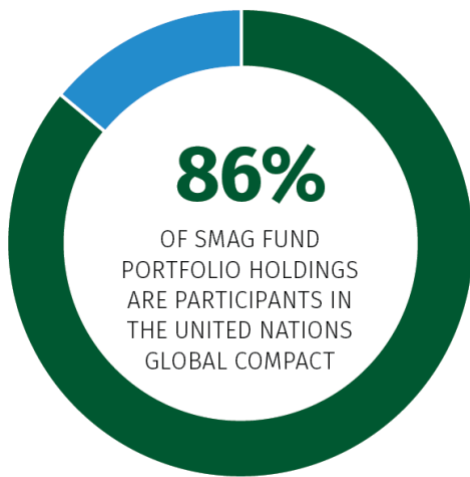
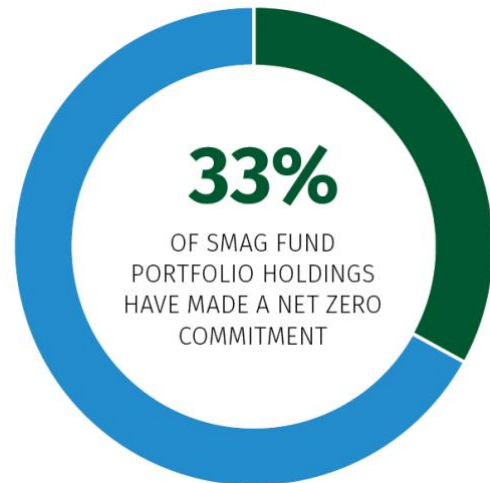
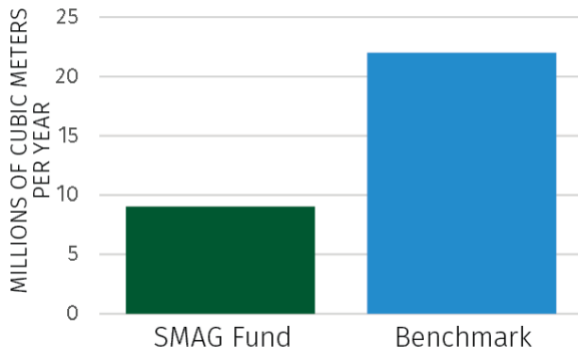
CARBON INTENSITY



FOSSIL FUEL RESERVES



ANNUAL WATER USEAGE



An overview of how the SMAG Fund compares on key sustainability performance metrics compared to the establish benchmark. See The Foundation for WWU and Alumni's 2024 Sustainability Report for more details. <https://foundation.wvu.edu/sustainability-performance-report-fy24>



1.2: Make investment holdings information publicly available, including but not limited to fund performance against ESG metrics (as available).

- The Foundation for WWU & Alumni committed to reporting annually on the Endowment fund's sustainability performance; the first of such reports was published in September 2024. The report can be found here: <https://foundation.wvu.edu/sustainability-performance-report-fy24>. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)

Goal 2: Through its decision-making and communication processes, the university will ask the Foundation Board to consider including additional investment criteria, including ESG, in its selection of investments or investment managers, and communicate those decisions to the university community.



2.1: Support the Foundation in publicizing its Climate Aware Investment option to prospective donors.

Intended start date: end of 2018

- During FY23, The Foundation updated its website to include information about the endowment portfolio, including information on the Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth Fund and a sustainable investing FAQ. In FY2024, the Foundation published its first Sustainability Performance report for the Endowment Investment Fund. The report can be found here: <https://foundation.wvu.edu/sustainability-performance-report-fy24>. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



2.2: Ask the Foundation Board to consider setting a goal to have a meaningful amount of endowment holdings invested in the Climate Aware Fund.

Intended start date: June 30, 2021

- See objective 1.1. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



2.3: Ask the Foundation Board to consider requiring investment advisors to include ESG criteria as part of their due diligence process when hiring investment managers that may manage Foundation funds, either directly or indirectly.

Intended completion date: end of 2018

- This objective was met during the 2018 RFP process and again in the 2023 Request for Information (RFI) process. The Foundation intends to include ESG criteria as part of future RFP processes, which are scheduled to occur every five years. In addition, the majority of managers that work with our investment advisors now incorporate some degree of ESG consideration into their investment process. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



2.4: Ask the Foundation Board to consider mandating that any investment advisor responding to a Request for Proposals (RFP) be a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).

Intended completion date: end of 2018

- This objective has been met. Russell Investments has been a signatory to the UNPRI since 2009. Additionally, Russell Investments is a signatory to the Carbon Disclosure

Project (CDP), Climate Action 100+, and is a supporter of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



2.5: Ask the Foundation Board to consider inclusion in any agreement with an investment advisor that if the advisor ceases to be a signatory to UNPRI or follow those principles, the Foundation may terminate the agreement.

Intended completion date: end of 2018

- No known progress in FY2024. The likelihood of this is slim as most managers would not remove themselves from the UNPRI. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



2.6: Ask the Foundation Board to consider, at such time as the Foundation makes investments itself, becoming a signatory to UNPRI.

- No known progress in FY2024. The Foundation does not (and likely will not) make investments itself. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)

Goal 3: Students understand both Western's and the Foundation's investment processes.



3.1: Advance educational opportunities for greater student learning in the management and oversight of endowments and sustainable investing.

- No known progress in FY2024. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)



3.2: Provide learning opportunities for students to evaluate the critical difference(s) between various types of sustainable investing and traditional investments.

- No known progress in FY 2024. (The Foundation for WWU and Alumni)

Other Progress: Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing

In FY2024, the Western Washington University Board of Trustees (BOT) committed to establishing the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI). The purpose of the committee is to evaluate proposals for review of investments currently held by various entities at Western. Two student representatives selected by the Associated Students sit on the committee. (<https://trustees.wvu.edu/acsr>)

Appendix - SAP Progress FY2022-2024

Legend

complete	
in progress	
on hold	
no known progress	
no longer applicable	

Curriculum and Research

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Western's curricula provide all students opportunities to nurture and create the conditions for a thriving society, economy, and environment (SEE).	Objective 1.1: Increase enrollment to 50 students by 2022 in the Sustainability Studies minor.			
	Objective 1.2: Every major has curricular options that include sustainability content by 2020.			
	Objective 1.3: Identify and promote opportunities for engaged learning in the area of sustainability by 2020.			
	Objective 1.4: Expand sustainability related student research opportunities [Independent Study Projects (ISP)] to all interested students by 2020.			
Goal 2: Western supports scholarship and teaching that contribute to the understanding and promotion of sustainability.	Objective 2.1: Commit resources to promote Washington Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WAHESC) by 2020.			
	Objective 2.2: Provide funding for three faculty and staff across disciplines to attend conferences that promote sustainability beginning 2018.			
	Objective 2.3: Establish internal funding for sustainability research starting summer of 2019.			
Goal 3: Western recruits and retains faculty and staff who focus on sustainability.	Objective 3.1: Maintain annual funding of a total of \$10K for up to ten Sustainability Fellows.			
	Objective 3.2: Create a tenure-track faculty line devoted to sustainability by next biennium (2019-2021).			
	Objective 3.3: Increase faculty capacity to offer sustainability-related curriculum by 2019.			
	Objective 4.1: Develop a 5-year strategic plan for the Institute of Sustainability by 2019.			

Goal 4: Western is home to an Institute for Sustainability (IS).	Objective 4.2: Begin fundraising campaign for Institute of Sustainability in 2019.			
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Campus and Community Engagement

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Western is internally organized to support university and community engagement to advance sustainability.	Objective 1.1: Complete a university-wide public engagement alignment process to enhance Western's structure and function for public engagement by fall 2019.			
	Objective 1.2: Commit to a university-wide system for qualitative and quantitative assessment of public engagement efforts by fall 2019.			
	Objective 1.3: Follow recommendations of alignment process to incentivize community engagement for faculty, staff, and students throughout the university beginning fall 2021.			
Goal 2: Western's culture and community engagement efforts reflect a strong commitment to sustainability.	Objective 2.1: Redevelop student, staff, faculty, and visitor orientation programs to emphasize Western's commitment to education for sustainability beginning spring 2017.			
	Objective 2.2: Expand courses and co-curricular programs for first-year students that teach about local and regional sustainability issues through community engagement beginning fall 2018.			
	Objective 2.3: Improve interpretation of Western-owned grounds to enhance understanding and appreciation of the unique cultural and environmental history of the area by 2020.			
	Objective 2.4: Establish sustainability-related interactive experiences, cooperatively designed and supported by WWU and community partners, to help build relationships among members of Western, and with the broader community by 2019.			
	Objective 2.5: Create a system for continually learning about (listening and dialoguing) evolving local to global sustainability opportunities and challenges by 2020.			
	Objective 2.6: Support the efforts of regional campuses to enhance their sustainability activities.			
Goal 3: Western's sustainability resources	Objective 3.1: Enhance web materials that enable the public to access sustainability resources beginning fall 2017.			

are easily accessed by the public.	Objective 3.2: Increase use of vibrant, visible, and accessible venues across the Salish Sea Region for community sustainability events beginning fall 2018.			
Goal 4: Western engages respectfully with Coast Salish Peoples in recognition that the university occupies traditional Coast Salish lands.	Objective 4.1: Create a university-wide tribal advisory committee to advise the President and University community on issues such as curriculum, campus life and gathering spaces, interactive facilities and operations, and engagement opportunities by 2018.			
	Objective 4.2: Establish a permanent tribal liaison position to build relationships between Western and the Coast Salish communities by 2018.			
	Objective 4.3: Expand and enhance institutional partnerships and collaborations with tribal institutions beginning fall 2017.			

Built Environment

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Carbon Neutrality: Reduce the carbon intensity of university energy supply sources and achieve 100% net university carbon reduction.	Objective 1.1: In the short term, identify and implement financially viable carbon reduction projects to reduce carbon emissions by 15%, per state requirements, by 2020.			
	Objective 1.2: In the mid-term, where reduction is not yet technologically feasible, seek and commit to credible carbon offsets for all continuing direct hydrocarbon use by 2030.			
	Objective 1.3: In the long term, achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, first through reduction and secondly through offset.			
Goal 2: Maximize cost-effective energy efficiency investments in university buildings, while steadily improving building performance and occupant comfort and health.	Objective 2.1: Continue to reduce the need for new construction by prioritizing the use of current facilities.			
	Objective 2.2: Develop energy performance targets and sustainable design standards by 2018.			
	Objective 2.3: Minimize light pollution while maximizing energy efficiency in exterior lighting by 2025.			
	Objective 2.4: Adopt policies or guidelines designed to minimize energy use and emissions from non-fixed assets such as refrigerators, freezers, custodial, and other mobile equipment by 2025.			

	Objective 2.5: Employ clean, renewable energy sources on- or off-campus to offset existing and new demands by 2030.			
	Objective 2.6: Design a university plan to support deep, holistic renovations and energy efficiency investments by 2035.			
	Objective 2.7: Design, construct, renovate, and operate buildings using a closed-loop process involving minimal to no waste in all processes by 2035.			
Goal 3: Green Building Certification: Acquire third party certification of the environmental performance of new and existing university buildings through the USGBC's LEED certification or equivalent process.	Objective 3.1: Complete the USGBC's LEED Gold certification or equivalent for all new and fully renovated university buildings starting in 2018.			
Goal 4: Utilize accepted Low Impact Development (LID) practices as standard to reduce rainwater/storm-water volume, improve outgoing water quality, and make on-campus use of collected rainwater.	Objective 4.1: Apply LID to all new construction, major renovation and other projects that increase paved surface area or otherwise significantly change university grounds by 2035.			
Goal 5: Build and maintain publicly accessible databases of energy use, water consumption, and carbon emissions for all university buildings.	Objective 5.1: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing energy consumption and emissions for all university buildings by 2018.			
	Objective 5.2: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing water consumption for all university buildings by 2018.			
	Objective 5.3: Build and maintain a publicly accessible database of available information for ongoing carbon emissions for all university buildings by 2018.			

Goal 6: Develop an active learning, living laboratory within Western’s built environment.	Objective 6.1: Expand support for courses and co-curricular programs for students that teach about local and regional stewardship solutions through skill development and campus and community engagement beginning fall 2017.			
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Student Life

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Students have a solid foundation for understanding cultural and global interdependence.	Objective 1.1: Increase participation in programs that connect students to sustainability in the local, regional, and global community beginning fall 2017.			
	Objective 1.2: All first-year Western students, including transfers, will engage in co-curricular programs around social, economic, and environmental (SEE) justice as part of their first year of experience at Western, beginning fall 2020.			
	Objective 1.3: Begin and/or enhance collaborations with other local education institutions in developing and supporting SEE justice co-curriculum: local schools, Whatcom Community College (WCC), Northwest Indian College (NWIC), and Bellingham Technical College (BTC) by 2020.			
Goal 2: Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and insight of sustainability in practice.	Objective 2.1: Enhance and increase co-curricular opportunities for student participation in campus-based sustainable practices beginning fall 2017.			
	Objective 2.2: Increase student participation in service learning and civic engagement that connects to SEE sustainability beginning fall 2017.			
Goal 2: Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and insight of sustainability in practice.	Objective 2.3: Improve sustainability literacy throughout co-curricular learning beginning in 2018.			
Goal 2: Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and	Objective 2.4: Increase the number and quality of opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in co-curricular SEE sustainability focused projects, research, and grants beginning 2020.			

insight of sustainability in practice.				
Goal 2: Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and insight of sustainability in practice.	Objective 2.5: Increase and further develop co-curricular education and outreach programs targeting sustainable living practices by 2018.			
Goal 3: Social, Economic, and Ecological (SEE) sustainability principles are integrated in student career and lifelong practices.	Objective 3.1: Cultivate student capacity and efficacy in creating positive change in SEE sustainability by 2025.			
Goal 3: Social, Economic, and Ecological (SEE) sustainability principles are integrated in student career and lifelong practices.	Objective 3.2: Increase the number of pathways into SEE sustainability-based careers available to WWU students beginning fall 2017.			
Goal 3: Social, Economic, and Ecological (SEE) sustainability principles are integrated in student career and lifelong practices.	Objective 3.3: Graduating students have a demonstrated commitment to lifelong SEE sustainability by 2035.			

Dining Services

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Research and explore new and emerging technologies, practices, and policies to increase sustainable performance in existing and new dining facilities.	Objective 1.1: Create a more efficient model to deliver food service to campus by 2019.			
	Objective 1.2: Achieve sustainable maintenance and renovation practices, and equipment purchasing by 2035.			
	Objective 1.3: Reduce resource consumption (such as water, energy) by 10% of current baseline by 2035.			

Goal 2: Increase environmental best practices for dining service providers and vendors.	Objective 2.1: Ensure 100% packaging of goods that University Dining Services produces is compostable/recyclable by 2020.			
	Objective 2.2: Increase local/regional food purchasing; WA, OR, ID, BC to 25% by 2020.			
	Objective 2.3: increase REAL food purchases to 25% by 2020. o Rationale: The University formally signed the Real Food Challenge in April 2016. We will continue working with student groups to meet our objective.			
	Objective 2.4: Implement a vendor environmental practices survey by 2020.			
Goal 3: Provide resources and opportunities for the campus and community to increase understanding and engage in sustainable food practices.	Objective 3.1: Continue educating campus and surrounding community about healthy and sustainable consumption practices.			
	Objective 3.2: Develop a mutually-enhancing relationship between Outback and University Dining Services beginning in 2017.			
	Objective 3.3: Explore funding options for offsetting increased costs to students as UDS works to meet Real Food Challenge and other local, regional food commitments beginning in 2017.			
	Objective 3.4: Continue to engage with the local and regional community to develop a sustainable food system model that links local producers with larger consumer entities.			
Goal 4: Become zero-waste in all campus dining locations.	Objective 4.1: Develop a recycling and compost program for all retail (dining) locations and their offices that results in zero waste by 2020.			
	Objective 4.2: Develop a recycling and compost program for all residential dining halls and their offices that results in zero waste by 2020.			
	Objective 4.3: Develop a recycling and compost program for all catering sites and their offices that results in zero waste by 2020.			
	Objective 4.4: Establish a monitoring system to identify base-line waste metrics by 2025.			

Grounds

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
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Goal 1: Reduce the consumption of natural resources in grounds maintenance.	Objective 1.1: Develop and implement the use of a preferred plant species list to reduce water consumption for each landscape type—formal, semi-formal, and native—by fall 2017.			
	Objective 1.2: Develop a dashboard of irrigation water consumption per irrigated area by fall 2017.			
	Objective 1.3: Evaluate the viability of rain and soil moisture sensors to reduce excess water consumption starting fall 2017.			
	Objective 1.4: Increase and enhance the use of compost and yard debris used on campus for moisture retention and weed suppression beginning 2018.			
Goal 2: Reduce air and noise pollution using sustainable landscape equipment.	Objective 2.1: Evaluate all equipment requests to determine whether a viable electric alternative exists beginning 2017.			
	Objective 2.2: Reduce carbon impact of vehicles and equipment to the Outdoor Maintenance shop as budget allows.			
Goal 3: Reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management.	Objective 3.1: Continuing education classes in Integrated Pest Management for all gardeners, annually.			
	Objective 3.2: Establish baseline of pesticide reduction by 2018.			
Goal 4: Enhance stormwater treatment and reduce pollutant runoff from impervious surfaces across campus.	Objective 4.1: Continue to protect water quality by complying with all DOE-required stormwater maintenance activities.			
	Objective 4.2: Establish regular street-sweeping contract to reduce potential pollution runoff to surface waters by 2020.			
Goal 5: Provide education on sustainable practices and utilize campus grounds to foster environmental stewardship.	Objective 5.1: Continue goal of employing at least six (6) seasonal student employees in the Outdoor Maintenance shop.			
	Objective 5.2: Continue to improve the educational component of the student employee program.			
	Objective 5.3: Make available educational opportunities on and around Western-owned grounds to enhance understanding and appreciation of the unique environmental setting of Western and its relationship to other global ecosystems.			

Procurement

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
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Goal 1: Encourage the use of sustainable businesses.	Objective 1.1: Develop “Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines” within Procurement processes, inclusive of lifecycle accountability, vendor information, embodied energy and emissions, and social equity practices.			
	Objective 1.2: Acknowledge the importance of purchases from local and regional business.			
Goal 2: Increase the percentage of use of sustainable products and natural resources throughout our supply chain.	Objective 2.1: Increase the use of recycled and reclaimed products.			
Goal 3: Increase the number of sustainable materials and supplies available in the bookstore for students and greater campus.	Objective 3.1: Increase percentage of purchases from local and regional businesses by 10% by fiscal year 2018.			
	Objective 3.2: Increase sustainable textbook options by 10% by fiscal year 2018.			
	Objective 3.3: Develop key criteria to evaluate suppliers when we consider the introduction of new products and the replenishing of existing ones by fiscal year 2018.			
	Objective 3.4: Continue to improve the visibility of the bookstore’s sustainable offerings.			
Goal 4: Prioritize methods of accessing library materials that have a smaller carbon footprint.	Objective 4.1: Encourage faculty to request and use materials purchased in e-form rather than paper.			
	Objective 4.2: Encourage faculty to use resource sharing opportunities like document delivery and Inter-Library Loan (ILL), rather than ordering materials.			
	Objective 4.3: Encourage publishers to use more sustainable materials in their publications.			
Goal 5: Designate the Facilities Management Fleet Services as the institutional office responsible for coordinating and	Objective 5.1: Consolidate the coordination of university vehicle purchases and life cycle management			

supporting all university vehicle (specialized, departmental, and fleet) purchase and life-cycle decisions.	Objective 5.2: Develop a vehicle procurement guide as part of the greater university e-procurement process			
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Transportation

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Western recognizes its role as a member of the larger transportation community and engages in local, regional, and state transportation issues and solutions.	Objective 1.1: Develop an integrated University Transportation Plan, including all components of campus transportation by fall 2018.			
	Objective 1.2: Pursue Western representation on the City of Bellingham Transportation Commission for sharing data, providing input on planning processes, and cooperation on shared goals beginning in 2017.			
	Objective 1.3: Pursue an integrated relationship between Western and Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) executive and planning staff, and the WTA Board, establishing a framework for collaboration on current and future goals beginning in 2017.			
	Objective 1.4: Include Western employee and student transportation options in community resilience and disaster preparedness planning, and in communication to the broader campus community by 2020.			
	Objective 1.5: Identify and measure the current efficacy of transportation options for equitable access to local institutions of higher education, including Western's extension campuses by 2025.			
	Objective 1.6: Begin advocacy at the state level for regional connectivity that supports reduced student reliance on automobile travel starting in fall 2017.			
Goal 2: Improve safety for users of all transportation modes through education and infrastructure improvements, prioritizing by vulnerability.	Objective 2.1: Adopt Vision Zero for campus by fall 2018.			
	Objective 2.2: Identify and develop a list of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety improvements to campus infrastructure, including service roads by June 2018.			

Goal 3: Reduce climate impacts of employee and student Western-related ground travel.	Objective 3.1: Reduce employee drive alone commute rates by 10% annually over the next five years improving bus, bicycle, walking, and carpooling options.			
	Objective 3.2: Reduce commuter student-driving rates by 10% annually for the next five years improving bus, bicycle, walking, rideshare and car-share, and carpooling options.			
	Objective 3.3: Reduce impacts of regional university-related ground travel 10% annually over the next five years.			
Goal 4: Reduce climate impacts of Western-related air travel.	Objective 4.1: Collect and make publicly available, data on all air travel by fall 2018.			
	Objective 4.2: Provide options to travelers for off-setting carbon by 2020.			
	Objective 4.3: Pursue a carbon off-setting system that benefits the local community beginning in 2020.			
Goal 5: Annually decrease impacts of university fleet vehicles.	Objective 5.1: Reduce the GHG emissions of the university fleet [by 10%] by fall, 2018.			
	Objective 5.2: All Western-owned vehicles continually meet WA State requirements for greenhouse gas emissions.			
	Objective 5.3: Collect information for all university fleet vehicle usage and energy consumption by 2018.			
	Objective 5.4: Carbon neutrality for every university-owned vehicle by 2035.			

Waste

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Create uniform waste collection receptacle standards across Western, providing compost, recycling, and landfill bins.	Objective 1.1: Provide portable recycling and composting receptacles with appropriate signage for all events hosted on Western property and by Western-affiliated groups, beginning fall 2018.			
	Objective 1.2: Eliminate paper towel waste by 2020.			
	Objective 1.3: Expand and improve collection of non-traditional recyclable materials beginning fall 2020.			

	Objective 1.4: Divert waste from the landfill by providing opportunities for campus to recycle and compost effectively and efficiently by 2025.			
	Objective 1.5: Identify funding sources to expand Big Belly recycling program during the 2017-2019 biennium.			
Goal 2: Institutionalize management practices and policies for waste collection.	Objective 2.1: Create mechanisms to connect the different departments that manage waste by fall 2020.			
	Objective 2.2: Institute quarterly waste management meetings across stakeholders to address issues and propose improvements to waste reduction systems, by fall 2017.			
	Objective 2.3: Formalize, with Facility Design and Capital Budget staff, Big Belly recycling stations as a university standard for outdoor bins by 2018.			
	Objective 2.4: Formalize Western's Ban on Single-Use water bottle sales by fall 2017.			
	Objective 2.5: Create an engaged citizenry, consistent expectations, and student buy-in to waste reduction by fall 2020.			
	Objective 2.6: Manage waste wisely at all events hosted on Western property and by Western-affiliated groups by fall 2020.			
	Objective 2.7: Initiate systematic waste data-collection beginning winter 2019.			
	Objective 2.8: Implement a Zero Waste Certification program beginning winter 2020.			
Goal 3: Provide opportunities for waste reduction education to Western faculty, staff, students, and visitors on accepted waste reduction practices.	Objective 3.1: Continue to create and improve opportunities for students to be directly involved with Zero Waste Western.			
	Objective 3.2: Provide waste reduction training to all staff and faculty beginning in 2020.			
Goal 4: Reduce electronic and hazardous waste.	Objective 4.1: Develop a framework for a university-wide centralized chemical purchasing system by 2022.			
	Objective 4.2: Reduce quantity of hazardous academic lab waste per student by 2030.			

	Objective 4.3: Improve university-wide usage and replacement of computers, especially in general use computer labs by 2022.			
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Investments

Goal	Objective	2022	2023	2024
Goal 1: Increase awareness and adoption of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in the selection of WWU investments.	Objective 1.1: Give due consideration to ESG criteria exercised by the companies and/or funds in which University investments are made.			
	Objective 1.2: Make investment holdings information publicly available, including but not limited to fund performance against ESG metrics (as available).			
Goal 2: Through its decision-making and communication processes, the university will ask the Foundation Board to consider including additional investment criteria, including ESG, in its selection of investments or investment managers, and communicate those decisions to the university community.	Objective 2.1: Support the Foundation in publicizing its Climate Aware Investment option to prospective donors, by the end of 2018.			
	Objective 2.2: Ask the Foundation Board to consider setting a goal to have a meaningful amount of endowment holdings invested in the Climate Aware Fund by June 30, 2021.			
	Objective 2.3: Ask the Foundation Board to consider requiring investment advisors to include ESG criteria as part of their due diligence process when hiring investment managers that may manage Foundation funds, either directly or indirectly, by the end of 2018.			
	Objective 2.4: Ask the Foundation Board to consider mandating that any investment advisor responding to an RFP be a signatory to (UNPRI) by the end of 2018.			
	Objective 2.5: By the end of 2018, ask the Foundation Board to consider inclusion in any agreement with an investment advisor that if the advisor ceases to be a signatory to UNPRI or follow those principles, the Foundation may terminate the agreement.			
	Objective 2.6: Ask the Foundation Board to consider, at such time as the Foundation makes investments itself, becoming a signatory to UNPRI.			
Goal 3: Students understand both Western’s and the	Objective 3.1: Advance educational opportunities for greater student learning in the management and oversight of endowments and sustainable investing.			

Foundation's investment processes.	Objective 3.2: Provide learning opportunities for students to evaluate the critical difference(s) between various types of sustainable investing and traditional investments.			
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