



## UNCG ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FY19

*The following items briefly outline the accomplishments related to sustainability, as facilitated actively, undertaken collaboratively, and reported by the Chancellor's Sustainability Council.*

### INSTITUTIONAL

- Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, SGA, and GSA approved resolutions that the Board of the University of North Carolina Greensboro Investment Fund, Inc. should require its investment policy (the Policy Manual) to include **Socially Responsible Investing** and **environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria** in its investment policies consistent with the core values and sustainability principles of UNCG.
  - The **Phi Beta Kappa Society, Epsilon Chapter of North Carolina**, has moved its endowment into sustainability focused index funds guided by environmental, social, and corporate governance factors (ESG). The UNC Greensboro chapter of the national Phi Beta Kappa organization made the switch in December 2018 after a series of discussions with members and after the Chancellor's Sustainability Council led a year-long series of campus-wide **"Conversations on Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investing,"** which were funded by a grant from the UNCG Green Fund.
- The University of North Carolina Greensboro has earned **Tree Campus USA®** recognition for the 10th year in a row. To obtain this distinction, UNCG met the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry required by Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, including establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects.
- UNCG submitting **Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)** scorecard to AASHE in February 2019. **Silver ranking expected.**
- **Appalachian Energy Summit Mid-Year Meeting-** UNCG will host on February 28, 2018 the mid-year meeting of the AES. Over 150 attendees are expected, from all universities in the system, and private universities in the state.
  - **Careers in Sustainability Panel & Networking Mixer** will be held for students on February 28, from 1:15 – 3:00 p.m., in conjunction with the Mid-Year Energy Summit.
- **Governor Roy Cooper** issued Executive Order 80, creating a vision for the State of NC to reduce its carbon footprint by 20% by 2025.



## OPERATIONAL

- The **UNCG Green Fund has awarded more than \$182,000 to 44 projects** during its first four years of existence to support sustainability initiatives on campus. Recently supported projects include:
  - Development of low-carbon transportation streetscape designs for West Gate City Blvd between Union Square and the Coliseum.
  - Converting approximately 117 exterior lighting fixtures to LEDs, saving approximately \$2,000 annually in utility bills.
  - The installation of four Level 2 electric car charging stations in McIver Deck.
  - The purchase of compatible occupancy sensors and thermostat covers in Jefferson Suites and Cone Residence Halls.
  - Prizes for UNCG Sustainability Short Films competition.
  - The curation of three outdoor concerts addressing sustainability and the community.
  - A benefit-cost report on retrofitting eight buildings with LED bulbs conducted by a student researcher.
  - Model energy consumption in campus buildings to explain hourly meter readings of electricity, steam, and chilled water conducted by a student researcher.
  - The purchase of bins for plastic bag collection at three locations (Moran Commons, Elliott University Center, and Kaplan Center), and student wages for related program staffing.
  - Implementing a pilot program for in-room composting bin to be placed in UNCG's Guilford residence hall, and student wages for related program staffing.
- In 2018, UNCG **diverted 45 percent of our waste** from the landfill.
- All Multi-Functional Devices (MFD's) on the Systel MPS program are set to **default duplex print** to reduce paper use and expenses across campus.
- Sustainable products are featured first in our punch out catalogs in **eMarketplace**. One of which is TreeZero office paper that is in our Office Depot punch out catalog. This paper is made from sugar cane waste; previously such waste was burned and not used in any manner.
- An (annual) **Supplier Green Fair** is being established for our strategic suppliers to highlight their products and services that are environmentally friendly, energy efficient, green, made with recycled content, etc.
- Software for electronic time sheets will be implanted soon, which will reduce paper use and expenses across campus.



## ACADEMICS

- As of August 1, 2018, Environmental Studies (EVS) and Geography merged to become the **Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability**. Environmental Studies runs three B.A. undergraduate majors — Environmental Studies (ENVS), Sustainability Studies (SUST), and Environmental & Sustainability Studies (ENSS) — and two minors (Environmental Studies and Sustainability Studies. **Total enrollment in EVS is growing consistently at a rate of 200%** between fall 2014 and fall 2018.
  - Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Sustainability will be available in Fall 2019.
  - Master of Arts in Applied Geography with a concentration in sustainability will be available to students in Fall 2019.
- 2018-19 marks the **13-year anniversary of the Sustainability Film & Discussion Series**.
- 2018-19 marks the **10-year anniversary of the Sustainability Short Films Competition**.
- **Dr. Olav Ruepell, Dr. Esmail Amiri (Biology)** and graduate students in the Ruepell Research group published an article in The Science of Nature journal about honey bee experiments they conducted during the solar eclipse of 2017 at the University of Clemson. For their research, they compared foraging and homing activities of hives with varying food supplies and brood populations.
  - Work continues on the **UNCG Plant and Pollinator Center** at the North Campus. The center repurposes the former school building on that site. It will contain an educational seminar room for community outreach / extension and research facilities to study pollinator health and interactions between plants and pollinators to understand ecosystem health and make our agriculture, apiculture, and ecosystem management more sustainable.
- **Dr. Etsuko Kinefuchi**, associate professor of Communication Studies and the Academic Sustainability Coordinator, attended the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that took place in Katowice, Poland, December 2018. She was part of the delegation representing the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA). During the conference, Kinefuchi participated in the dialogue panel, *Dialogemos: Participatory processes for the implementation of the Paris Agreement*.
- **Dr. Aaron S. Allen** and co-editor, Kevin Dawe, were awarded the 2018 Ellen Koskoff Edited Volume Prize for *Current Directions in Ecomusicology: Music, Culture, Nature* (New York: Routledge, 2016). The Ellen Koskoff Edited Volume Prize honors each year a book collection of ethnomusicological essays of exceptional merit edited by a scholar or scholars, one of whom must be a member of the Society for Ethnomusicology.