

UNCG

SUSTAINABILITY



SUSTAINABLE LIVING GUIDE



SUSTAINABILITY AT UNCG

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything we need for our survival and well-being depends either directly or indirectly on our natural environment. Thus, to act sustainably is to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can coexist and fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations.

At UNCG, we define sustainability as the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, economy, and aesthetics. We believe this interconnectedness provides a foundation from which to discover, implement, and enrich sustainable principles and practices with the intent to instill values that promote justice, invent innovative approaches and solutions to environmental and economic challenges, and instill civility and grace into our communities.

AASHE

In 2007, UNCG became a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to further its campus efforts toward building a healthy and just world. UNCG's membership into AASHE enhances the University's commitment to incorporating sustainability into its way of doing business and its academic programming. Students, staff, faculty and alumni are entitled to a free membership with AASHE - just use your UNCG email address to create an account. AASHE is a great resource concerning sustainability news at universities across the nation. Sign up for electronic newsletters and get access to an extensive collection of reports detailing the progress of green projects happening on campus communities much like ours - a great resource for research papers!

www.aashe.org



PEABODY PARK

The 125 acres of Peabody Park were established in 1901 from a financial gift from George Foster Peabody. Located in the Northeast corner of campus, the park contains a diversity of tree species that range in size from young saplings to large canopy trees. The park is used by multiple departments for educational and research purposes. There is an ongoing effort to remove invasive plants like English Ivy and to restore the natural and native habitat of the park.



TREE CAMPUS USA

Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. To obtain this distinction, UNCG met the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry required by Tree Campus USA, 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. 2021 marked our 12th year as a Tree Campus USA.

12 years!

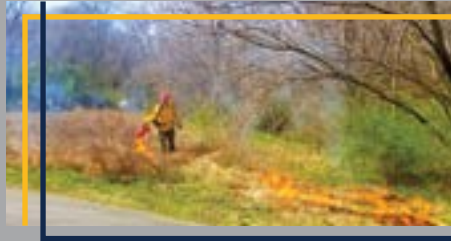


OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The mission of UNCG's Office of Sustainability is to encourage and support the development and implementation of sustainable practices in administrative units of the university and create a meaningful link between academics and operations that supports use of the campus as a teaching laboratory.

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

The Sustainability Council was formed in 2010 and consists of UNCG faculty, staff, and students. The Council works to identify and recommend responsible and sustainable practices in all aspects of institutional culture including operational activities, academic programs, and community relationships.



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Created by a team of more than 50 students, faculty, and staff, and signed in 2013 by former UNCG Chancellor Linda Brady, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the guiding document in the University's effort to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon neutral by 2050.

**8% Greenhouse
Gas reduction
since 2009!**

ACADEMICS

From anthropology to tourism, there are more than 100 courses at UNCG that focus on sustainability in undergraduate and graduate programs. If you really want to embed yourself in sustainable studies, you can enroll in the **Environment & Sustainability Program** or apply to be a resident of **Strong College**, located in Guilford Hall, which focuses on hands-on research and fieldwork through courses designed to generate a perspective on both local and global settings.



SUSTAINABILITY FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

The program, which consists of one Academic Sustainability Coordinator and up to six Faculty Fellows annually, promotes collaboration among scholarly disciplines in order to encourage the integration of sustainability in research and teaching across the campus. Fellows work on clearly specified projects that may include, but are not limited to co- or extra-curricular campus programs, curriculum activities (including team-taught and individual courses), and innovative research projects or collaborations.



WATER CONSERVATION

Water is the stuff of life. It doesn't get much more important than that, and we shouldn't take the important things in life for granted. Only 3% of the water on Earth is fresh and most of that is growing ever more polluted and unusable. Don't let faucets run and take shorter showers to help conserve this precious resource. Did you know, thanks to your help, water consumption at UNCG has decreased by 74% per gross square foot since 2003?

74%
Reduction!

CRAM & SCRAM

Established in 2001, the annual Cram & Scram offers residential students an opportunity to donate clothing and small household items they would otherwise put in the trash to UNCG, which then sells the items to the community for 50 cents an item. Proceeds go toward supporting educational programming about sustainability initiatives on campus. Any unsold items are donated to Goodwill and the Salvation Army. The Cram & Scram saves an average of 8 tons of "waste" from going to the landfill, annually.

FOOD

UNCG Spartan Dining commits itself to sustainable business practices and implements programs that encourage smart choices on food consumption, the reduction of food waste, health and wellness, charity and preservation. Spartan Dining's initiatives include, but are not limited to the use of only cage free eggs, purchasing as much as possible from local farms within 250 miles of the university, the operation of trayless dining practices to reduce energy and water consumption, and a partnership with the Food Recovery Network to reduce food waste and feed people in need.

12% locally
sourced!

GREEN ROOM & OFFICE CERTIFICATION

The Green Room and Green Office certification programs are overseen by the UNCG Office of Sustainability and are tools for our students, faculty, and staff to further the culture of sustainability at UNCG. By completing a checklist of various eco-conscious actions you can measure and share your commitment to a sustainable lifestyle. All dorm rooms or departments who complete the program receive a certificate of participation highlighting your accomplishments. Want to participate? **E-mail: uncgsus@uncg.edu**

UNCG
GREEN ROOM
CERTIFIED

UNCG
GREEN OFFICE
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CLUBS

Student groups play a vital role in the promotion of sustainability on campus and in the community. From community gardening, fighting food waste, eating vegan, to adopting streams and streets, there's plenty of opportunities to get involved and provide service to our campus and city communities.

See a list of all the clubs on campus and the events they're sponsoring via **[Spartan Connect](#)**.



BIKE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY

Bikes are plentiful at UNCG, maybe that's because we were the first campus in North Carolina to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly University! Bikes are fun, inexpensive, and healthy for you and the environment. Visit [POCAM's website](#) for information about registering your bike and locations of our bike repair stations.



EV CHARGING STATIONS

The result of a student initiative with financial support from the UNCG Green Fund, thirteen electric vehicle charging stations are available in the Oakland Avenue (five Level 1 and four Level 2) and McIver (four Level 2) parking decks. Two more were recently added next to the new Nursing building. Students and employees who want to regularly use the EV stations must register for a parking pass with POCAM and then can charge their cars for free! The stations are also available to the public, but regular parking and charging fees apply. Questions? E-mail: parking@uncg.edu

LEED BUILDING

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system for the design, construction and operation of high-performance buildings and developments, created by the **US Green Building Council**. In 2011, the University pledged to design all new buildings to LEED Silver standards. As of 2021, UNCG has 20 LEED certified buildings on campus - the most of any school in the UNC System!

20 LEED Buildings!



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Since 2009, UNCG's amount of building space has increased by 21% and its student population has grown by 18%, approximately. That's great news, but it also means we use about 18% more electricity overall than we used to. But thanks to our LEED Certified buildings, innovative technologies, and your conscientiousness, it now takes 25% less energy to heat, cool, and light an area per square foot than it used to. In short, we've grown in size, but become more energy efficient. And your contributions matter! That electricity is partly generated by burning fossil fuels. So turn off your lights and unplug your electronics when not in use to help reduce UNCG's carbon emissions and fight climate change!

GREEN FUND

In 2014, UNCG students elected to allocate a portion of their student activity fees toward environmental stewardship and established The Green Fund. The Fund operates as a grant program that is open to students, faculty, and staff to invest in projects to help meet the goals of UNCG's Climate Action Plan. As of Fall 2019, the Green Fund has invested over \$345,000 in 60 projects which have saved over 450,000 kWh of electricity, which translates to UNCG saving over \$36,000 a year.

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GREEN FUND

SUSTAINABILITY FILM & DISCUSSION SERIES

As the longest running program of its kind in the region, the UNCG Sustainability Film & Discussion Series continues to lend voice to environmental, sustainability, and climate issues affecting our community and the world. Join us each month during the academic year for a new documentary film and discussion with guest lecturers.

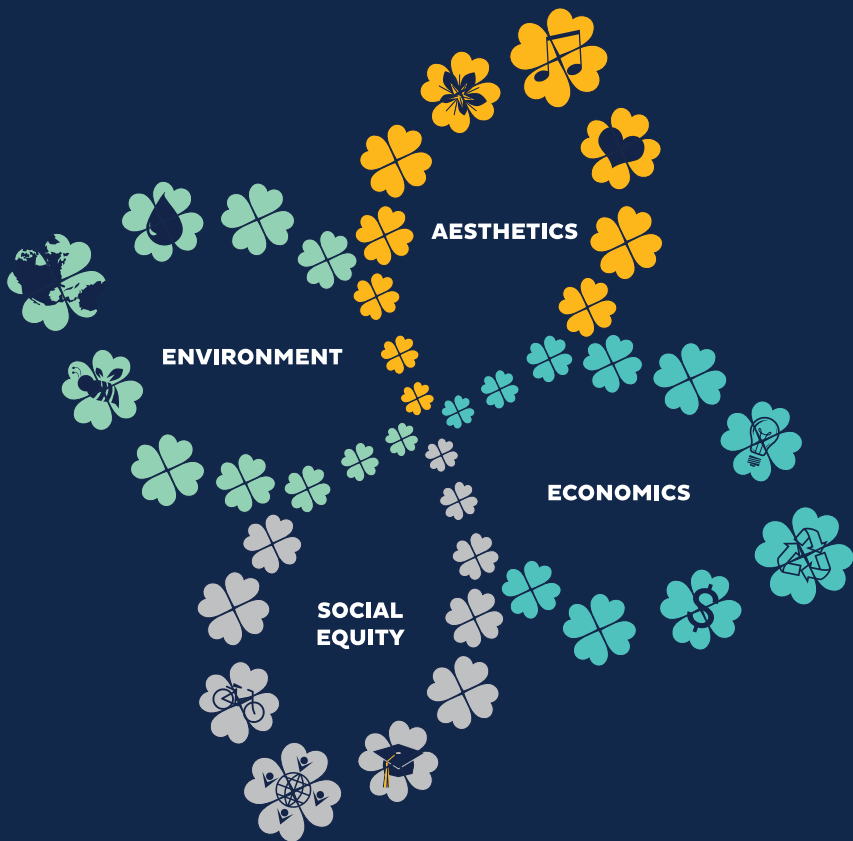
15 Years!

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FILM & DISCUSSION SERIES

LITTER

Litter has local and global ramifications. Greensboro's storm water system, like those of most cities, drains into our local creeks like Mile Run Creek to the south of campus and North Buffalo Creek which runs through Peabody Park. Those creeks are part of the Cape Fear River Basin, which drains into the Atlantic Ocean. Did you know that 80% of the plastic litter found in the oceans made its way there from the land? Pieces of plastic are easily mistaken for food by birds and fish here in Greensboro or hundreds of miles away in the ocean. It's everyone's job to pick up litter and keep campus and the environment clean. Pro tip: When you graduate, skip the glitter, don't litter.





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