

Sustainability at Eastern



Check out some of the awesome things Eastern is doing to be Greener and see how you can get involved!

Campus Life

Academics: Eastern offers a broad range of sustainability related opportunities. As of 2018, 6% of courses at Eastern were sustainability related or focused across 15 departments. The Environmental Earth Science (EES) department offers a concentration in Sustainable Energy Science and a minor in Sustainable Energy Studies for students interested in pairing this with any major. The Institute for Sustainable Energy hires up to 5 student interns annually, with an additional 5 internships available through Eastern's Biology and Earth Science departments.

Green Theme Housing: Eastern offers Green Theme Housing for residential students interested in sustainability. Students living in this sustainability-themed housing learn sustainable life skills by living in a model sustainable environment while participating in green initiative programs.

Student Engagement: The Center for Community Engagement is now offering 7 new sustainability related student engagement/volunteer opportunities ranging from data collection to repurposing excess food from Hurley Hall.

Operations

Lighting: Eastern has adopted outdoor solar lighting and continues to retrofit all campus lighting with LED bulbs.

Energy Efficiency: Renovations have been taking place on campus to bring buildings up to high performance standards. Five buildings on campus are built to LEED Silver Standards: Constitution (2004), Laurel (2005), and Nutmeg (2005) residence halls, the Science Building (2008), and the Fine Art Instructional Center (2015)

Electric Vehicle Charging: In 2019 Facilities, alongside the Center for Sustainable Energy Studies, installed 4 EV charging stations.

Planning and Administration

Three-Legged Stool of Sustainability: The "three-legged stool" is comprised of The Office of Facilities Management and Planning which manages campus buildings and operations, the Center for Sustainable Energy Studies which offers academic courses, and the Institute for Sustainable Energy which serves as a statewide resource and runs a sustainability certification program for Connecticut towns.

Green Campus Committee (GCC): GCC coordinates sustainability initiatives on campus and tracks and reports progress towards meeting our climate commitments. The Green Campus Committee is made up of a diverse group of faculty, staff, and students representing a multitude of departments across campus.

Climate commitments and reporting:

Second Nature: In 2015, President Núñez signed Second Nature's Climate Leadership Commitment, which includes a pledge to address climate resilience in addition to achieving carbon neutrality.

STARS: Eastern submits data on campus sustainability accomplishments to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Eastern has been recognized with a STARS silver rating in 2012, 2016, and 2019.

Climate Action Plan (2020): This plan serves as living document to guide the University to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, focusing on strategies towards improving operations, campus life, and planning and administration.

Eastern's 2020 Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

Develop a culture of sustainability at Eastern
Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
Transition to 100% renewable energy
Strive for net zero energy buildings
Integrate climate literacy into student learning
Improve greenhouse gas emissions data, tracking, and reporting
Quantify the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and cost savings associated with strategies in this plan
Develop additional strategies and target dates to ensure that Eastern meets the 2030 carbon neutrality target
Explore development of a green fund
Review and revise this plan as a living document to meet Eastern's climate and sustainability commitments
Build resilience by anticipating, understanding, preparing for, and adapting to the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets

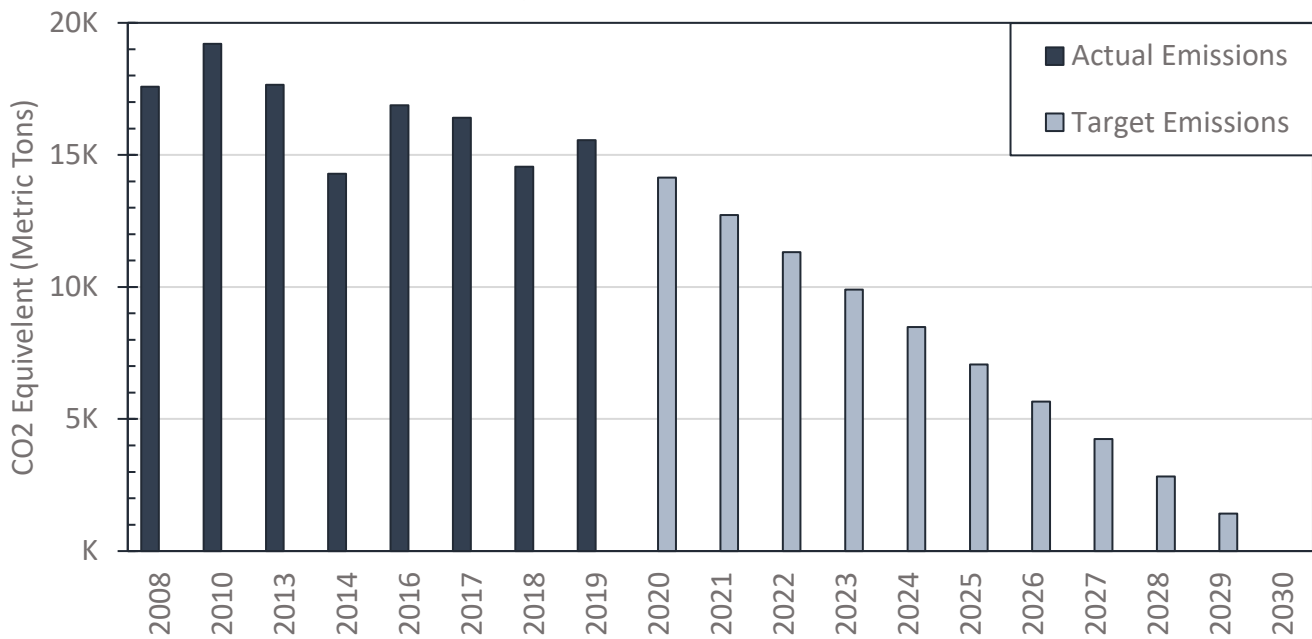


Figure 1. Eastern's greenhouse gas emissions, projected linearly, to meet zero carbon standards by the year 2030.

For more information, visit: <https://www.easternct.edu/sustainability/index.html>

OR contact Sustainability Specialist, Joey Marsalisi at marsalisij@easternct.edu

Test your sustainability knowledge and help Eastern gauge sustainability literacy with this quick quiz!

SCAN THE CODE:

