

2023-2030









Sustainability Strategic Plan



Tennessee Tech Office of Sustainability

CREATED DECEMBER 2023

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	03
Introduction	04
Summary of Goals	05
 Energy	06
 Food and Dining	07
 Water Conservation	08
 Recycling and Waste	09
 Green Space	10
 Transportation	11
 Education	12
 Community Engagement	13
Special Thanks and Acknowledgements	14

Introduction



WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability is the practice of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.



MISSION

Tennessee Tech University's Office of Sustainability strives to create a more environmentally friendly campus that provides mentoring and support through the integration of research and engagement for a sustainable campus.

Summary of Goals



Energy

- Promote energy conservation
- Reduce energy consumption per square foot



Food and Dining

- Promote sustainable food and dining practices on campus
- Reduce food waste



Water Conservation

- Promote water conservation through education and community activities



Recycling and Waste

- Promote sustainable action through innovative recycling efforts
- Increase recycling rate to 30%



Green Space

- Increase campus engagement in conservation efforts
- Increase campus green space by 15%



Transportation

- Encourage, promote, and support sustainable transportation options on and around campus



Education

- Effectively engage and educate students, faculty, and staff on sustainability practices



Community Engagement

- Increase number of students engaged in community service

Energy

- 1) Promote energy conservation
- 2) Reduce energy consumption per square foot

Action 1: Purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) through TVA's Green Switch

Action 2: Create an energy dashboard

Action 3: Renovate buildings with more efficient systems, windows, etc.

Core Principles

Meaningful Innovation
Supportive Environment

Strategic Goals

Innovation in All We Do
Engagement for Impact



Food and Dining

- 1) Promote sustainable food and dining practices on campus
- 2) Reduce food waste

Action 1: Bring awareness to food waste on campus through events, activities, and social media

Action 2: Promote the use of reusable cups at dining locations on campus

Action 3: Maintain and further develop partnership between Dining Services and the Office of Sustainability

Action 4: Calculate food waste and decrease it by a minimum of 5%

Action 5: Increase usage of reusable containers in The Caf

Core Principles

Community Engagement

Strategic Goals

Engagement for Impact



Water Conservation

- 1) Promote water conservation through education and community activities

Action 1: Educate students and faculty through campus activities, clubs, courses, and community involvement

Action 2: Involve the campus community in activities that promote water conservation

- Water conservation week
- Student volunteer opportunities

Action 3: Create rain gardens on campus



Core Principles
Community Engagement

Strategic Goals
Education for Life
Engagement for Impact



Recycling and Waste

- 1) Promote sustainable action through innovative recycling efforts
- 2) Increase recycling rate to 30%

Action 1: Educate campus community through activities, clubs, courses, and community involvement

Action 2: Involve the campus community in activities that promote recycling actions

- Collaborate with residence halls and student organizations

Action 3: Promote recycling throughout the Cookeville community through student volunteer opportunities and community-involved education

Action 4: Promote and advertise campus events as low-waste and provide resources for students to have low-waste events

Core Principles

Community Engagement
Student Success
Supportive Environment

Strategic Goals

Education for Life
Engagement for Impact



Green Space

- 1) Increase campus engagement in conservation efforts
- 2) Increase campus green space by 15%

Action 1: Host and support activities to promote pollinator education

Action 2: Increase educational plant signage across campus

Action 3: Create outdoor learning spaces and green study areas for students

Action 4: Maintain certifications to show Tech's commitment to maintaining the natural environment

Action 5: Implement native meadows around campus

Action 6: Prioritize new native plantings and pollinator-friendly spaces

Core Principles

Meaningful Innovation
Supportive Environment
Value Creation

Strategic Goals

Innovation in All We Do
Engagement for Impact



Transportation

1) Encourage, promote, and support sustainable transportation options on and around campus

Action 1: Increase bike services on campus

- Bike repair stations
- Bike lanes

Action 2: Pursue Bike Friendly campus certification

Action 3: Increase education on sustainable transportation

Action 4: Provide more opportunities for sustainable transportation on campus

Core Principles

Community Engagement
Meaningful Innovation

Strategic Goals

Innovation in All We Do
Exceptional Stewardship



Education

1) Effectively engage and educate students, faculty, and staff on sustainability practices

Action 1: Increase student involvement with sustainability initiatives on campus

Action 2: Increase faculty involvement by encouraging eco-friendly choices inside the classroom

Action 3: Create an engaging and informative Sustainability webpage featuring a calendar of events

Action 4: Implement an EcoRep program to achieve more student engagement

Action 5: Include sustainability in learning outcomes and program descriptions

Core Principles

Academic Excellence

Student Success

Supportive Environment

Strategic Goals

Education for Life

Exceptional Stewardship

Engagement for Impact



Community Engagement

1) Increase the number of students engaged in community service

Action 1: Create an online resource to connect students and student organizations to volunteer opportunities on and around campus

Action 2: Create an easy way for students to report community service hours and increase the number of student volunteers each year

Action 3: Promote volunteer work and incorporate more volunteer opportunities for students on and around campus

- Promote sustainable volunteer activities
- Educate students about volunteering

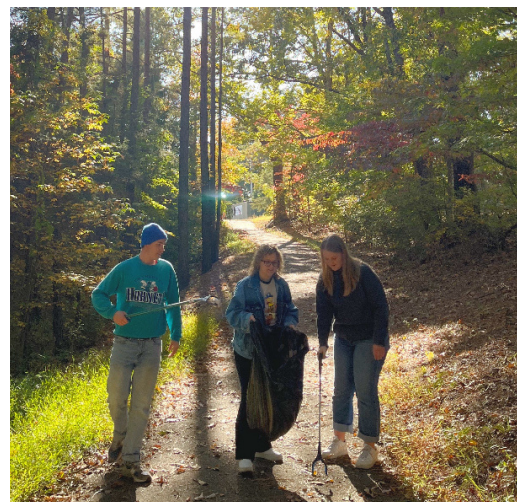
Action 4: Offer university-sponsored community service events

Core Principles

Community Engagement
Student Success
Supportive Environment

Strategic Goals

Engagement for Impact



Special Thanks

Facilities & Business Services

Energy, Water Conservation, Green Space

Office of Sustainability

Recycling and Waste, Green Space, Education

Parking & Transportation Office, Marc L. Burnett Recreation & Fitness Center, Eagles Outdoors

Transportation

Student Engagement Office, Service Learning Center

Community Engagement

Chartwells

Food and Dining

Acknowledgements

Faculty & Staff

DeLayne Miller, P.E.

Dr. Steven Sharp

Dr. Tammy Boles

ESS Senior 2023

Mya Moseley

ESS Senior Capstone Class 2022-2023

Courtney Wells, Zachary Merritt, Hailey

Nicks, Chloe Ray, Rebecca McDonald, Grady

Hicks, Gabriela De Almeida, Steven Bakaletz,

Lydia Dudley, Eli Galloway, Jojo McCaig,

Elizabeth McCurry, Jessee Griffith, Elijah

Vaughn, Kyla Gravil, Elliot Payne