

Education



Education for Sustainability

Sustainability education has been a part of the work of the Macalester College Sustainability Office since 2008. All of the signed college sustainability commitments (i.e. American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, Real Food Challenge, Talloires Declaration) have language about sustainability education. The Sustainability Manager also regularly teaches a Sustainability and the Campus class and supports interested faculty in using the campus as a living laboratory.

By the Numbers

- 📖 Sustainability Manager taught or co-taught **nine environmental studies classes**
- 📖 **24 classes or student academic projects** used the campus as a sustainability **living laboratory**
- 📖 **5 regularly offered classes** used the campus as a **living laboratory**
- 📖 Students have attended **4 UN climate change negotiations** as observers since 2015
- 📖 **STARS Gold rating** for sustainable achievements
- 📖 **2016 Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award**, Honoring Leadership in Facilities, Health, and Environment



Programs

- 📖 **Living Laboratory** - Connects students and faculty with **real-world learning** projects to promote education for sustainability using the **campus as a teaching tool**. Projects provide tangible opportunities for students on campus, while faculty simultaneously practice active pedagogy. The Sustainability Office hosts a website to connect students looking for projects with potential projects, resources, and support.
- 📖 **Campus Tours** - The Sustainability Manager and student workers organize campus sustainability tours and Markim Hall **tours upon request** and during reunions, student orientation, outside group visits, and classes.
- 📖 **Sustainability Tour Map** - Two alumnae in their 50th reunion wanted to have a sustainability tour of campus in 2008. As a result, the Sustainability Office developed a Sustainability Tour map that has been an outreach tool ever since. GIS student workers also created a **complementary GIS Sustainability Tour map** of campus.
- 📖 **Sustainability Office Website** - The Sustainability Office created an **extensive website** with details on Sustainability Office projects, the College's sustainable development goals and their progress, and any other related information on campus.
- 📖 **Sustainability Education Assistance for Faculty** - The Sustainability Manager assists faculty wanting to use the campus as a teaching tool and incorporate sustainability in classes. She developed a **sustainability field trip** and a list of **sustainability project opportunities** that is sent out before each term.
- 📖 **UN Climate Negotiations** - The Sustainability Office founded the program that brings students and staff to observe the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 📖 **Sustainability Student Worker Network** - The Sustainability Office created and continually supports the Sustainability Student Worker Network.
- 📖 **Student Group Support** - The Sustainability Office assists sustainability related student groups (MacCares, MacBike, MULCH, MacSHARE, FossilFreeMac)

