

Living Laboratory



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The Sustainability Office's Living Laboratory program connects students and faculty with real-world learning projects to promote education for sustainability using the campus as a teaching tool. Living Lab projects provide tangible opportunities for students on campus, while offering faculty a way to engage students, connect to sustainability education and simultaneously practice active pedagogy. Additionally, these projects help Macalester further our sustainability goals. As Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Sustainability Manager, has a specific interest in using the campus as a living laboratory, one of the focuses of the Sustainability Office has been supporting the use of the campus as a living laboratory.

By the Numbers

-  **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
-  **9** environmental studies Living Laboratory classes Sustainability Manager taught or co-taught , including the regularly offered Sustainability and the Campus class
-  **8** Macalester departments and two other school departments used the campus as a living laboratory



Programs

-  **Living Laboratory Website** - The Sustainability Office hosts a website to connect students looking for projects with potential projects, resources, and support.
<https://www.macalester.edu/sustainability/education/livinglab/>
-  **Campus Tours** - The Sustainability Manager and student workers organize campus sustainability tours and Markim Hall tours during reunion, student orientation, family fest, and for outside groups, and classes.
-  **Sustainability Tour Map** - Two alumnae in their 50th reunion wanted to have a sustainability tour of the 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.
-  **EcoHouse** - The EcoHouse is a residential living option for Macalester students who are interested in green-living lifestyles and willing to test the effectiveness of new green technologies, offering the opportunity of a 'live-in' laboratory. The house has been a source of numerous student independent study courses.
-  **Faculty Outreach** - The Sustainability Office offers a coffee break for new faculty to learn about sustainability education opportunities, including the Living Laboratory. Prior to each term, the Sustainability Manager also sends out a Campus Hidden Data Sets and Field Trip Sites list to the Sustainability Employee Network to assist faculty. She also offers support for faculty with interests in urban sustainability.
-  Macalester's Living Laboratory has been the source of the following **academic publications**:
 - Savanick, Suzanne and Caroline Savage 2019, "The Campus Living Laboratory" module, Science Education Resource Center. <http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/campusbased/index.html>.
 - Suzanne Savanick Hansen, 2017, "The Campus as a Living Laboratory, Macalester College Case Study Macalester College, USA" in Handbook of Theory and Practice of Sustainable Development in Higher Education, Sustainable Development, Springer . vol 3, pp 223-239.
 - Suzanne Savanick Hansen and Christopher Wells, 2012, "The Campus as a Teaching Tool: Case Study of the Macalester College EcoHouse" in WL. Filho (ed) Sustainable Development at Universities: New Horizons. Peter Lang: Frankfurt am Main.
 - Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Jonathan Bucki, and Justin Lee, 2011, "Engaging the Campus Community through Participatory Sustainability Strategic Planning", Sustainability: The Journal of Record. v 4, n. 2, pp. 75-79.
 - Wells, Chris, Suzanne Savanick, and Christie Manning, 2009, "Using a Class to Conduct a Carbon Inventory", International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education, v 10, n 3, pp. 228-238.