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In April 2008, Temple University signed the American Colleges and Universities’ Presidential Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a highly visible pledge to become carbon neutral and accelerate the development of educational and research efforts aimed at stabilizing the Earth’s climate.

In accordance with the ACUPCC, Temple launched a sustainability initiative across its campuses that included the:

- Development of a climate action plan in 2010;
- Identification of a carbon neutrality date of 2050;
- Submission of annual greenhouse gas inventories and biennial progress reports; and,
- Implementation of sustainability initiatives that lead to greenhouse gas emission reductions.

On April 20, 2016, the university reaffirmed its commitment by signing the Climate Leadership Statement, a new comprehensive climate commitment that incorporates carbon neutrality and resiliency as complementary strategies for addressing climate change.

Since signing the ACUPCC, Temple has published an Annual Report on Sustainability to report its accomplishments in sustainability. This is the sixth annual report and reflects the status of Temple’s sustainability initiatives as of the end of Fiscal Year 2016. The report is divided into the three categories of the Climate Action Plan: greenhouse gas reduction, curriculum and research and community outreach.

The Office of Sustainability moved to its new location in the Howard Gittis Student Center. Construction debris resulting from the office interior renovation was recycled.

Artist Caroline Rothwell turned carbon emissions into art with a stunning temporary mural at the LEED certified parking garage on the corner of 11th and Berks.
Temple’s long range Climate Action Plan recommends reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in 2030, with interim reduction goals of 5% by 2015, 15% by 2020 and 20% by 2025. Greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to stationary sources (fuel burned on campus), purchased electricity, transportation, solid waste and other small contributors (refrigerants, fertilizers, purchased steam and transmission and distribution losses).

Temple measures its greenhouse gas emissions annually, with FY 2006 as the base year from which the university will reduce its emissions. Between FY 2006 and FY 2016, greenhouse gas net emissions have decreased by 20% from 213,149 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E) to 170,558 MTCO2E. This decrease occurred while the gross square footage (GSF) increased by almost 24% or 2 million GSF and the student full-time equivalent (FTE) increased by 27% or 7,400 FTE students. This reduction reaches the 2015 goal established in the Climate Action Plan.

The FY 2016 greenhouse gas inventory showed that the majority of Temple’s greenhouse gas emissions were derived from buildings (stationary sources, electricity and steam), accounting for 76% of the total. Since FY 2006, Temple’s energy consumption has increased by more than 17%. Therefore, implementing energy conservation measures and improving building energy efficiency continue to be a critical step in reaching the university’s reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions. Other greenhouse gas reduction goals include transportation, waste minimization, recycling and behavior change initiatives.
By the end of FY 2016, six of Temple University’s campus buildings were LEED certified, including: Wachman Hall, Morgan Hall, the Science Education and Research Center, the Montgomery Parking Garage and the Architecture Building on Main Campus, and the Medical Education and Research Building on the Health Science Campus.
Approximately one-fifth of Temple’s greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. FY 2016 initiatives aimed at decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation include:

- Installation of bike repair stations at Main Campus and the Health Science Campus to enable riders to perform basic bike repairs while on campus;
- Partnership with Parking Services to administer a “Share the Road Pledge” to Temple drivers purchasing parking permits;
- Installation of new bike racks along 12th Street and Broad Street and at Paley Library and Tuttleman Learning Center;
- Completion of the 2016 Transportation Survey to track Temple’s commuting habits;
- Installation of bicycle dismount zone signage at Main Campus;
- Continued promotion of Bike Temple events, which included Urban Riding Basics classes that promote safe biking in an urban environment, group riding events aimed at promoting a fun social environment in which riders feel comfortable to ride with others and the hosting of events such as Temple Bike PHL, Bike to Breakfast and the Philly Phlyer Campus Criterium and participation in the Greater Philadelphia Bicycling Coalition summer commuter challenge;
- Continued operation of the bike surplus program, Secondhand Cycles, which resells bicycles that have been collected by Campus Safety and the Grounds Department to Temple University students;
- Continued hosting of two Indego bike share stations at Main Campus with reduced memberships offered to Temple students;
- Continued partnership with SEPTA to offer the University Pass to full-time students;
- Continued marketing of the Wage Works program which permits full-time employees to purchase public transit with pre-tax dollars; and,
- Continued partnership with car share programs, such as ZipCar and Enterprise Car Share.
FY 2016 waste minimization activities included:
- Appointment of a Surplus Property Working Group which led to the adoption of a central surplus property policy;
- Implementation of the Temple Tech for Philly program where the Computer Recycling Center outfitted a nearby elementary school with a lab of refurbished computers;
- Restarting of the composting program at the J&H dining facility;
- Distribution of reusable water bottles at orientation to all new students;
- Installation of additional water bottle refilling stations to reduce the number of single use bottles. Since the program’s inception in FY 2011, Temple has installed over 150 stations;
- Relocation of the Computer Recycling Center to a new retail space at Pearson McGonigle Hall;
- Relocation of the TOSS (Temple Office Supply Swap) program to the Office of Sustainability with expanded hours of operation; and,
- Continuation of programs such as TOSS which provides discarded office supplies free to students, faculty and staff, the Give + Go Green initiative in the residence halls, the Music Swap Table through the Boyer College of Music, and donation of surplus furniture and equipment to charitable organizations.

Hosting of events such as the Boyer Music Swap and Clothing Swap help to promote Temple’s waste minimization efforts.
Recycling initiatives in FY 2016 included the following:
- New exterior recycling and trash containers with increased quantities of recycling containers installed;
- Installation of additional recycling containers into residential halls with improved labeling;
- Distribution of recycling containers to Greek Life;
- Give + Go Green format change with almost 5,000 pounds of donations collected during student move-out;
- Continued participation in the annual RecycleMania Tournament;
- Continued recycling of construction waste materials, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by almost 7,000 MTECO2 in FY 2016; and,
- Continuation of the recycling program for used computers and electronics.
Programs implemented in FY 2016 to promote a green culture and environmental literacy included the following initiatives:

- Distribution of a reusable bottle to all incoming first-year and transfer students during orientation;
- Installation of light switch stickers at College of Liberal Arts reminding faculty and staff to turn off their lights and close the shades before leaving to help mitigate bird strikes with windows;
- Continuation of the Potlucks with a Purpose discussion series, hosted by The Green Council, which provided free dinners and a platform for discussion about sustainability issues while indulging in homemade food;
- Hosting of RecycleMania events to promote campus waste minimization efforts, including monitoring of recycling bins during a Temple basketball game and informing game-goers about recycling procedures and goals and a social media scavenger hunt that highlights sustainability at Temple;
- Promotion of pedestrian and bike safety through an awareness campaign;
- Continuation of the “Caught Green Handed” initiative which rewards students for making sustainable choices; and,
- Increasing the number of followers on social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
An important element in Temple’s Climate Action Plan is to promote broad sustainability efforts through academic programs that prepare students for leadership in this area. Advances in integrating sustainability into the curriculum during FY 2016 include:

- Offering a total of 248 courses identified as “sustainable”, which span 40 departments;
- Giving 34 guest lectures and 8 campus tours focusing on the role of sustainability at Temple;
- Hosting of a one-day Landscape Architecture site charrette aimed at designing a conceptual design for the Temple Community Garden;
- Development of an interdisciplinary course through the Department of Architecture focused on designing a tiny house for the Temple Community Garden site;
- Participation in the Fox DESIGNchallenge, an annual civic innovation competition for students from any field of study that focused on envisioning a smarter bus system through the context of mass transit, car culture and the quality of urban life;
- Eleven undergraduate students who received the Certificate in Sustainability since the program’s inception in 2010;
- Building and maintenance of a community garden for 1940 Residence Hall as part of the Sustainability LLC and first year seminar course;
- Offering of courses by the Rad Dish Café that included change making, nutrition and healthy food preparation;
- Hosting of a Teach-In by Environmental Studies that focused on Temple’s energy procurement policies;
- Hosting of the Trashion Show where students from Tyler’s Body Art and Adornment class designed and exhibited fashion created out of recycled materials; and,
- Continuation of integration of sustainability related service projects into university classes, like the School of Environmental Design’s Green vs. Gray Urban Ecology class, that allows students to participate in a community service based project.
Temple continues to expand its sustainability research. FY 2016 highlights in the advancement of sustainable research include:

- Continuation of the Graduate Research Award Sustainability Program (GRASP) which provides funding to a graduate student to conduct sustainability research. The 2016 GRASP was awarded to Amy Sheikh for her project titled “Healthcare Sustainability: the neglected cause. How we can reduce costs and waste by turning back time”;

- Funding of undergraduate student sustainability related projects through CARAS (Creative Arts, Research and Scholarship). Projects awarded included: “Development of a low-cost, bicycle mounted distance measurement tool to monitor motorist-cyclist following interactions on public roadways” by Blake Larson; “GIS Bird Collision Smartphone App: A comprehensive Data Collection System” by Jessica Waldinger; and, “Assessment of Metal Contaminants Found in Urban Streams” by Gianna Makler;

- Continuation of Paley Library’s Livingstone Undergraduate Research Award in Sustainability and the Environment. The winning project for 2016 was “The Mobilization of the Environmental Justice Movement in Louisiana: EJ Disputes and Grassroots Organizing in the Mississippi Industrial Corridor” by Joseph Gallagher. Morgan Nemtuda won the STEM category with her research “Using Green Infrastructure to Minimize Combined Sewer Overflows”;

- Study of global sea level rise caused by ice melt by Temple University Assistant Professor Atsuhiro Muto;

- Research conducted by the Office of Sustainability that included studying how sharrows affect the bicyclist experience in Philadelphia, examining recycling rates of exterior bins at Main Campus, and using student problem- and project-based learning to reduce bird-window collisions on campus;

- Grants awarded to Temple’s Center for Sustainable Communities to develop a green neighborhood toolkit and a green stormwater infrastructure plan through community-driven participatory Geodesign processes; and,

- NSF Faculty Early Career Development grant awarded to Allison Hayes-Conroy, Assistant Professor in Geography and Urban Studies.
The Office of Sustainability continues to expand the breadth of its partnerships to collaborate on a variety of community outreach efforts aimed at engaging students, faculty, staff and neighbors. Outreach activities in FY 2016 include:

• Hosting the Tri-State Sustainability Symposium which brings together community leaders, industry leaders, and educational leaders to share ideas and ask tough questions regarding sustainability in the Delaware Valley;
• Hosting Campus Sustainability Week in the fall and spring semesters, which included a green fair, lectures, demonstrations and workshops on sustainability topics in each school or college;
• Hosting of the annual Philly Co-op Summit at the Rad Dish Co-op Café;
• Partnerships with the Queer Student Union and Feminist majority to host a clothing swap and Students for Environmental Action along with Penn Environment to host environmental activist training;
• Coordination of and participation in service projects, such as Alpha Delta Mu’s school supply and book drive and RHA’s Litter Free Campus Trash Bash and Boxfort competitions;
• Promotion of and participation in the Volunteer Day at John Paul Endicott Community Garden organized by Temple Ambler Food Crops and Horticulture, the Earthship-Style Greenhouse Raising organized by the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Volunteer Day for the Urban Tree Connection and WASH and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030 Conference hosted by Fox School of Business;
• Hosting of events such as the screening of “Love Thy Nature” and Climate, Sustainability, and the Arts’ video festival; and,
• Participation at Welcome Week’s TempleFest and EarthFest at Ambler Campus, one of the largest educational celebrations of Earth Day, with an attendance of over 6,000 people and over 85 exhibitors.
Faculty, students and staff have received national awards on their sustainability efforts. Recognition of the Temple community’s efforts on sustainability in FY 2016 include:

- Temple University was awarded STARS Bronze by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE);
- Temple University has been named one of the Princeton Review’s 353 most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S. and Canada in 2015;
- Temple University has been rated as one of Sierra Club’s Cool Schools;
- RadDish Co-Op Café won the 2015 AASHE Student Sustainability Leadership national award and was also featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer;
- Temple won awards at the 2016 Philadelphia Flower Show including the PHS Sustainability Award for the educational major exhibit demonstrating the best use of sustainable gardening practices to the public; and,
- Presented at national and regional conferences, including: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the Tri-State Sustainability Symposium.

**Students of the Rad Dish Co-Op Café, a student-run, student-governed café located in Ritter Hall that provides healthy, local, ethical vegetarian food.**