The 2017 Strategic Plan for Campus Sustainability and Climate Action
Sustainability is a balance
- Social Equity
- Environmental Welfare
- Economic Security

These values support the earth’s capacity to endure.
Vision for URI Campus Sustainability:

The University of Rhode Island will be an institute of higher education that engages all members of the community in the pursuit of practices and principles toward a sustainable economy, a healthy ecosystem, and an environmentally just society.
President’s Transformational Goals for the 21st Century

Internationalize and Globalize the University of Rhode Island

- Sustainability is a global issue
- Preparing URI students to live and work in a globalized economy by understanding the world’s most pressing environmental issues

Academic Strategic Plan

Expand Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work

- Sustainability is a high-impact, cross-disciplinary field
- Addresses state, regional, and world challenges to improve health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and the human experience
URI Has an Ongoing Commitment to Sustainability

Over the past decade, URI has made significant contributions toward the creation of a more sustainable world through

• Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Operations

URI Achievements

• Set to achieve 30% alternative energy use
• Nearly 10% reduction in overall campus waste 2012-2016 (decrease of almost 500 tons)

URI Strategic Sustainability Plan

• The Plan is a living document
• An informative benchmarking tool for the university
• A commitment to a more sustainable future for our campus, state, nation and world
The Plan’s proposed Goals will have measurable outcomes by 2025

1. Strengthen student knowledge of global sustainability topics by increasing academic and research opportunities

2. Develop and implement outreach programs that promote a culture of appreciation for sustainability among all campus community members

3. Building on successes to date, strive to reduce campus greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with State of RI GHG Emissions Reduction Plan
Goal 1: Strengthen student knowledge of global sustainability topics by increasing academic and research opportunities

- All students graduate with a foundation of knowledge in sustainability issues via formal curricula
- Students research solutions for issues of global importance
URI Achievements:

• Over $4 million in grants received for energy research and project work FY13-FY17

• Over $46 million in grants awarded for sustainability and/or climate change research and project work FY13-FY17

• Sept. 2017: The National Science Foundation awards $19 million grant for URI to study the effects of climate variability on coastal ecosystems
Goal 1 Strategies:

**Strategy #1:** Increase environmental literacy among all undergraduate and graduate students

Metric: Number of graduates covered by sustainability learning outcomes

**Strategy #2:** Increase research opportunities that incorporate links between the local campus community and global sustainability issues

Metric: Percentage of research faculty and staff and departments that are engaged in sustainability research
Goal 2: Develop and implement outreach programs that promote a culture of appreciation for sustainability among all campus community members.

Equip students, faculty and staff with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to adopt behavior changes that promote sustainability.
URI Achievement:

Sustainability education signage developed for:

- Hillside Hall
- College of Pharmacy
- Chemistry
- Fitness and Wellness
- Gender and Sexuality
- CBLS

In design for:

- Brookside
- Engineering
- Gateway
- Welcome Center
Goal 2 Strategies:

**Strategy #1**: Engage and grow the campus community as a living laboratory for sustainability and support, publicize and share efforts that demonstrate best practices and principles

Metric: Results of awareness survey distributed in September and May (follow-up) to specific cohorts: residential students, commuter students, faculty, staff

**Strategy #2**: Raise awareness, develop new programs, and provide ongoing support for the university community’s current programs to work collaboratively off-campus with local municipalities, private entities and citizen groups

Metric: Number of long-term/ongoing community partnerships that address sustainability challenges in the broader community

**Strategy #3**: Increase public recognition of URI as a leader in sustainability

Metrics: Number of external media articles highlighting URI sustainability initiatives and achievements
Goal 3: Building on successes to date, strive to reduce campus greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in alignment with State of RI GHG Emissions Reduction Plan

URI Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e)

0 10,000 20,000 30,000 40,000 50,000 60,000 70,000 80,000 90,000 100,000

2005 94,429 2016 68,493

Nearly 30% Decrease in GHG Emissions over 11 years
The Resilient Rhode Island Act, 2014

- RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) formed
- By Dec. 2016, develop GHG reduction targets as directed by law within the Act
- The State's goal is 80% below baseline by 2050
- URI supporting that effort by aligning reduction goals

Second Nature, Carbon Commitment

- URI became charter signatory in 2007
- Institutions must make GHG inventory public, via website
- Develop reduction targets toward carbon neutrality
- Outline strategies to achieve goals
URI Achievement:
The U.S. DOE Workplace Charging Pledge

• Commits employers to installing charging stations at their workplaces.

• URI first and only univ./college in Rhode Island, and one of the few workplaces in the state, to sign

• 2-port electric vehicle (PEV) charging station acquired and installed via a grant from the State of RI Office of Energy Resources

• Demand is high. More charging stations planned for campus
URI Achievement:
Campus hydration stations divert nearly 1 million plastic water bottles from the landfill over 5 years of use

Pharmacy: 135,912
Hillside: 255,975
Wellness: 536,758
Total: 928,645
URI Achievement:
• 1 million square ft. of building space LEED certified
• Over 500,000 sf under LEED review

**LEED Gold**
• Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences – 2016
• Fascitelli Wellness and Fitness Center – 2013
• Hillside Residence Halls - 2012
• Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences - 2009

**LEED Silver**
• Butterfield Dining Hall - 2015
• Ocean Science Exploration Center & Pell Library - 2009
• Hope Dining Commons - 2007

**LEED Certified**
• Eddy, Garrahy, Wiley Residence Halls - 2007
Strategies 1-3: Transportation Alternatives

**Strategy #1:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions via improved utilization of transportation alternatives

Metric: Measurement of metric tons of CO2 equivalent (MTCO2e) related to commuting via alternative transportation and university fleet vehicle efficiency

**Strategy #2:** Significantly reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips taken by students, staff, and faculty to/from campus

Metric: Vehicle count of student, faculty, and staff vehicles on campus

**Strategy #3:** Communicate opportunities for transit alternatives to campus community

Metric: Ridership/use of transportation alternatives
Strategies 4-6: Energy Conservation/Efficiency

**Strategy #4:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions via improved efficiency of energy and resource consumption in facilities and operations

Metric: Measurement of metric tons of CO2 equivalent (MTCO2e) related to campus energy and building operations

**Strategy #5:** Maintain a 2% annual reduction in buildings and operations energy use per square foot of building space

Metric: Energy use (kBtu) per square foot of building space, as reported by Utilities Office

**Strategy #6:** Design and renovate campus buildings that exemplify leadership in sustainable, high-performance, resilient, and energy-efficient design

Metric: Water, Energy/Atmosphere, Site, Indoor Air Quality, Design Innovation (LEED) points, or equivalent
Strategies 7-9: Resource Management

**Strategy #7:** Increase waste diversion and recycling rate by at least 50% over 5 years

Metric: Overall campus waste (tonnage), as reported by Waste Minimization and Recycling Office

**Strategy #8:** Strengthen water conservation efforts and protect water quality

Metric: Reduce potable water consumption per user (gallons); formal policies in place that demonstrate a comprehensive approach for management of rainwater

**Strategy #9:** Increase purchases of "green" goods and services

Metric: Percentage of change