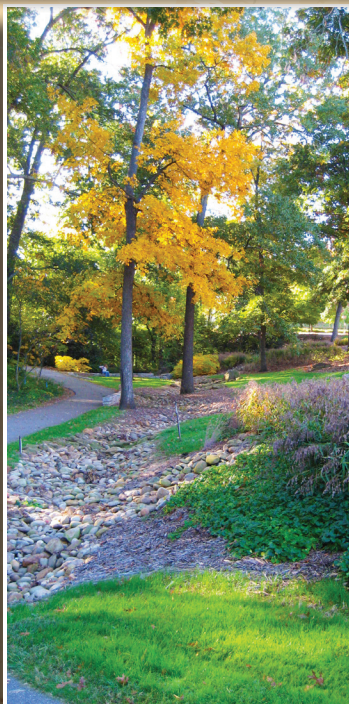




# SUSTAINABLE UGA

The University of Georgia Office of Sustainability

## 2014 Campus Sustainability Report







"As a land-grant and sea-grant institution, the University of Georgia is committed to the effective stewardship of our natural resources and to the advancement of campus sustainability. Nowhere is this commitment expressed more clearly than in the University of Georgia 2020 Strategic Plan, which outlines benchmarks and goals related to our efforts. The University community continues to make progress in this area of strategic importance, and you will find many of our achievements and initiatives highlighted throughout this report.

As a complement to the pages that follow, I would like to highlight two recent accomplishments of which I am particularly proud. First, the Facilities Management Division has developed a plan to replace the aging coal-fired boiler on campus with an electrode boiler that is powered by electricity. The new boiler will improve our energy efficiency and provide us with significant cost savings of more than \$19 million over a 30-year span. These operational savings can be redirected to strengthen our teaching, research, and service missions. The electrode boiler also will reduce our overall energy consumption on campus.

Second, the University continues to take steps to safeguard our historic resources. This fall, I appointed a steering committee—chaired by Dean Daniel Nadenicek of the College of Environment and Design—to develop a preservation master plan for the University's properties, structures, and landscapes across the state. The plan will establish guidelines for evaluating preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation opportunities. The preservation master plan will make a lasting positive impact on the educational environment at the University of Georgia.

Thank you for continuing to support UGA and for partnering with us to enhance campus sustainability."

Jere W. Morehead  
President, University of Georgia



"Our colors are red and black, but we're also one of the nation's "greenest" universities. UGA is one of just 64 institutions nationwide that have earned a gold rating through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), which awards points in categories such as academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration.

Our mission statement makes it clear that a healthy environment is vital in our interdependent, global society. Our faculty, staff and students are committed to sustainability and the Office of Sustainability, established in 2010 based on a student-led effort and a recommendation from a campus-wide working group, has served as a catalyst for enhancing sustainability instruction, service and research at UGA.

The University's 2020 Strategic Plan calls for increasing the number of courses with a sustainability component by 10 percent, and we're already halfway to that goal. Last year, nearly 500 courses—that's nearly 20 percent of all courses taught at UGA—included a sustainability component.

UGA has more than 600 sustainability researchers on its campuses, including those in the interdisciplinary Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society, Bioenergy Systems Research Institute and the Odum School of Ecology's River Basin Center. Many of our study abroad opportunities, service-learning courses and outreach programs integrate sustainability, as well.

Our entire campus is a living laboratory where sustainability is demonstrated and refined. UGA is using 14 percent less energy per square foot and 25 percent less water than in 2007, for example. Food Services now composts all of the organic material from its waste stream at the University's Bioconversion Center, and the compost eventually makes its way back to gardens and green spaces on campus. And Parking Services has dedicated Athens' first public charging station for electric vehicles in the North Campus Parking Deck.

As the state's flagship university, we have a special responsibility to demonstrate sustainability in all that we do. Thanks to the dedication of our faculty, staff and students, UGA is a national leader in sustainability."

Pamela Whitten  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost













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OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

## Sustainable UGA (An Introduction)

*sus•tain•a•bil•i•ty (noun)*

1. the ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed.
2. Sustainability is a process, not an end goal. It is a framework for organizing and acting which focuses on the whole, values interaction as much as component parts, and crosses traditional divides to address issues collectively. Mistakes of the past can be remediated, present systems can be evaluated and improved, and future needs addressed to promote social well-being, ecologic integrity and economic security for all.

## Sustainable UGA Vision

In the context of its multiple missions, the University of Georgia endeavors to:

Promote a model for healthy living on campus and beyond;

Develop a sustainable university that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs;

Create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to enhance the quality of life in their communities, both physical and scholarly;

Function as a living laboratory where sustainability principles are researched, taught, practiced, and continually refined.



Throughout UGA's 17 colleges and schools, sustainability leadership encompasses all aspects of the triple-bottom line of social well-being, ecologic integrity and economic security across the state, nation, and around the globe.

In 2014, UGA achieved a Gold rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This comprehensive evaluation of sustainability performance in all aspects of higher education is administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). UGA is one of 65 colleges and universities across the US and Canada that has achieved a Gold rating.

The Princeton Review identifies UGA as a "Green College" with a strong commitment to sustainability in academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities, and career preparation. UGA was named one of the nation's most environmentally responsible universities in the country and has been included on the Green College Honor Roll.

UGA's A- grade on the Sustainable Endowments Institute College Sustainability Report Card was among the highest in the nation, representing best practices in administration, climate change & energy, food & recycling, green building, student involvement, transportation, endowment transparency and investment priorities.



## SUSTAINABLE UGA





# STRATEGIC PLAN

## **Sustainability in the 2020 Strategic Plan**

"These, then, are the hallmarks of the UGA 2020 Strategic Plan... establishing a leadership position in sustainability as a major theme for research, education, and service."

### **Strategic Direction I: Building on Excellence in Undergraduate Education**

"In order to effectively encourage life-long learning, an enhanced international consciousness, increased community and environmental stewardship, and an appreciation for and acceptance of diversity in all its forms" UGA undergraduate education will instill "... knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; intellectual and practical skills; personal and social responsibility; and integrative and applied learning."

### **Strategic Direction III: Investing in Proven & Emerging Areas of Research Excellence**

"There are increasing expectations that as a result of groundbreaking research and scholarship, world-class universities will also help to improve the lives of their constituencies by addressing both immediate issues as well as "grand challenge" problems that threaten our security and well-being long term. Among these issues are safe and sufficient supplies of food and water, poverty and social justice, education, global health, environmental degradation, world financial stability, national security, and sustainable energy."

### **Strategic Direction IV: Serving the Citizens of the State of Georgia and Beyond**

"In the next decade, UGA must be responsive to the state's most pressing issues. Spurring business innovation, developing the state's leaders, and ensuring community resiliency all help drive economic prosperity for Georgia. By strategically engaging faculty from all areas of the University, outreach programs will bring the most effective resources to bear on pressing issues, including economic development, the environment, and health."





### **Strategic Direction VII:** Improving Stewardship of Natural Resources and Advancing Campus Sustainability

"Over the next decade, the University's campuses should be examples to others in reducing their environmental footprints to the greatest extent possible. This includes efforts to reduce energy use significantly, and intelligently, and carefully use and reuse scarce water resources, improve air and water quality, provide sustainable food and transportation options, purchase environmentally responsible products and equipment, increase recycling, and drastically reduce waste. Second, in the effort to prepare students for effective leadership on campus and beyond, sustainability should be infused into formal and informal educational opportunities throughout the University. Campus buildings and landscapes should be incorporated as teaching opportunities, which through design and functional interpretation will reveal innovative practices with the potential to enlighten and inform students and citizens about sound approaches to sustainable living. Third, research generated by UGA faculty and students as well as advances from the global community will be used to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, increase the reuse of materials, and continue the search for other methods that will reduce human impacts on the environment."





Strategic Priority:

Demonstrate a commitment to reducing fossil fuel use, thereby reducing the University's carbon emissions.

# University of Georgia Carbon Footprint

350,887,827.8

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent created by the actions of  
the University of Georgia in the  
2010 baseline year.

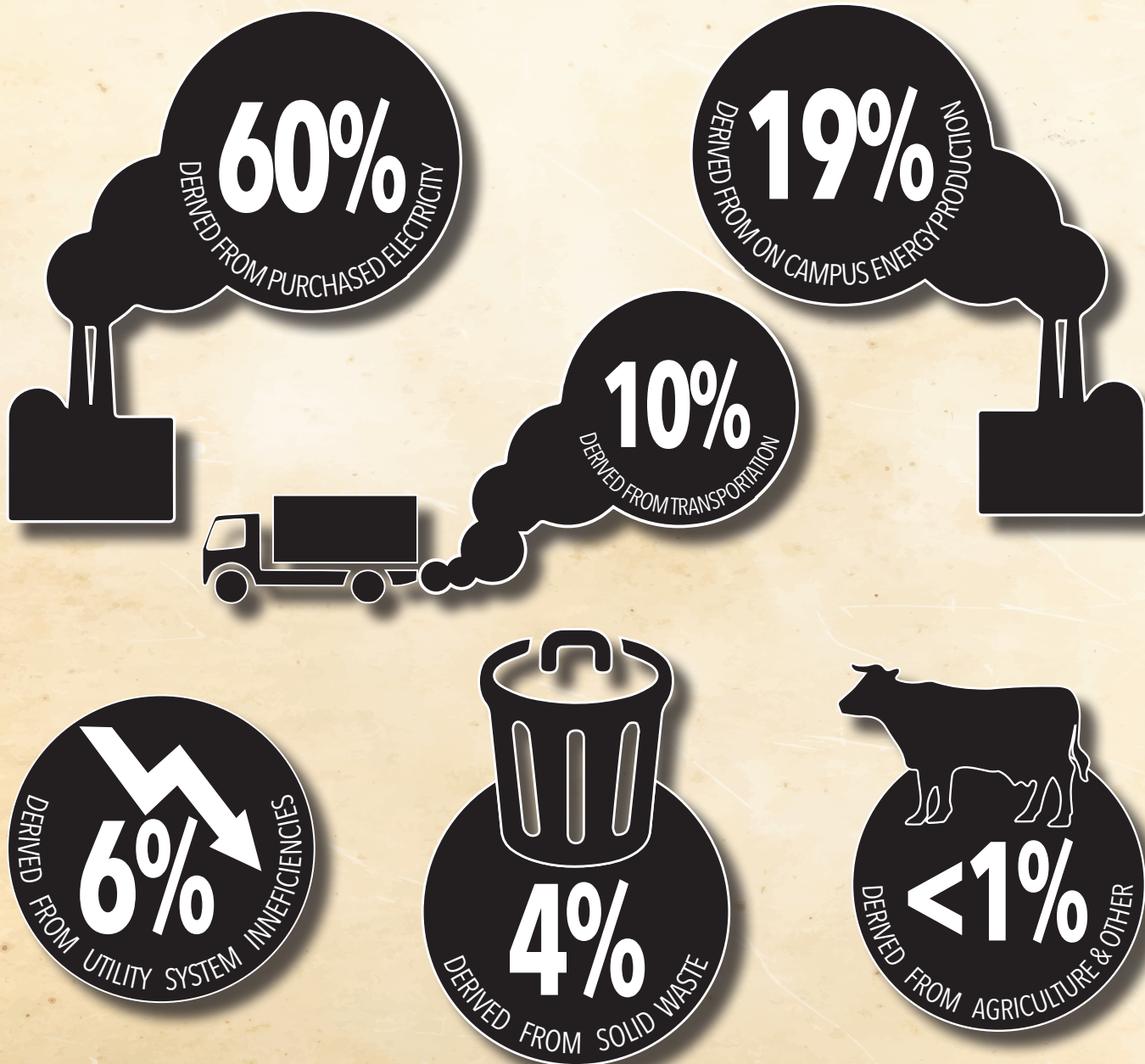
**BY 2020:**

**-20%**

**total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**



## What makes up UGA's carbon footprint?





**Strategic Priority:**

**Update UGA Guidelines for Design and Construction to incorporate, implement, and monitor current sustainable design strategies, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Sustainable Sites Initiative standards when appropriate.**





Strategic Priority:

Integrate sustainability into the student experience through curricular and co-curricular activities both in the classroom and beyond.



OF ALL COURSES  
**19.8%**  
INCORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY



**Strategic Priority:**

**Develop and implement a process for evaluating opportunities for on-site renewable energy in capital projects.**



SOLAR PANELS ON JACKSON ST. BUILDING  
**72**  
GENERATE NEARLY 30,000 KWH/YEAR



Strategic Priority: Encourage the further development and use of mass transportation to and on campus.

# 45%

of all students, faculty, and staff  
travel to campus by a method other than

# a single occupancy vehicle.

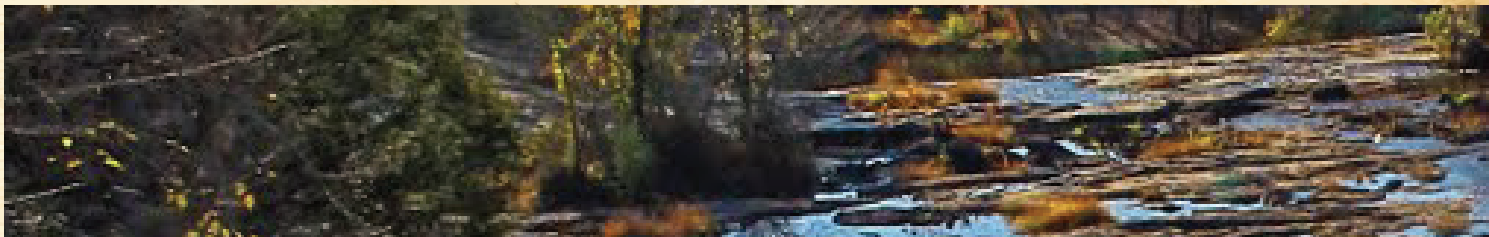


20,146 individuals don't drive a car. How'd you get to campus today?





**UGA has reduced its energy use by 15% per square foot since 2007.**



**UGA has reduced its water use by 15% per square foot since 2007.**

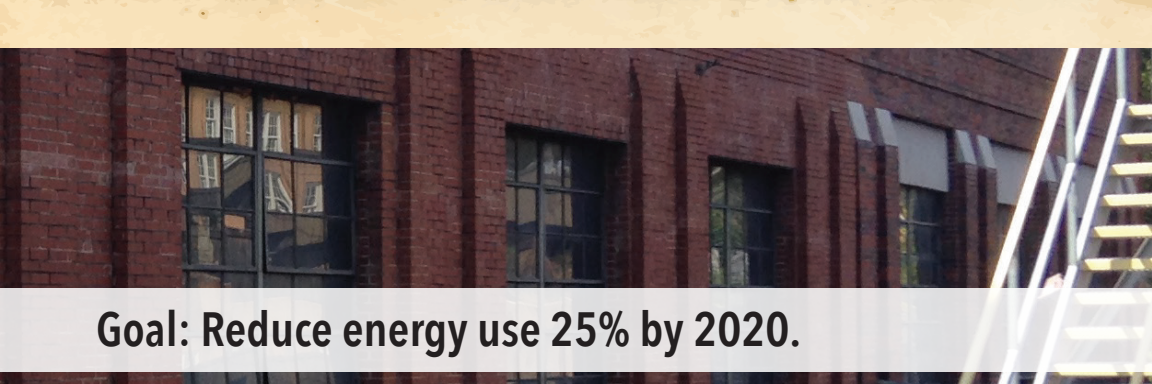


**UGA sent 295 fewer tons of waste to the landfill in FY2014 than in 2010 (a 6% reduction).**

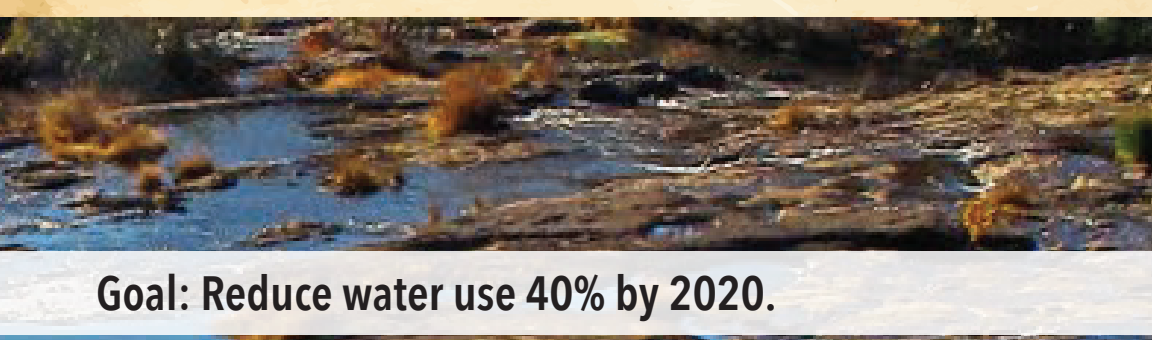


**20% of all food purchased in a UGA Dining Hall is grown in Georgia or a neighboring state.**






Goal: Reduce energy use 25% by 2020.



Goal: Reduce water use 40% by 2020.



Goal: Reduce landfilled waste 50% by 2020.



Goal: Purchase 35% sustainable and Georgia grown food by 2020.





# RESEARCH







**Research is the lifeblood of the institution. In 2013, UGA received \$138,470,620 in research awards helping to enhance our understanding of natural and social systems, reduce the consumption of natural resources, mitigate the impact of human practices on natural systems, and develop new strategies for a sustainable future.**

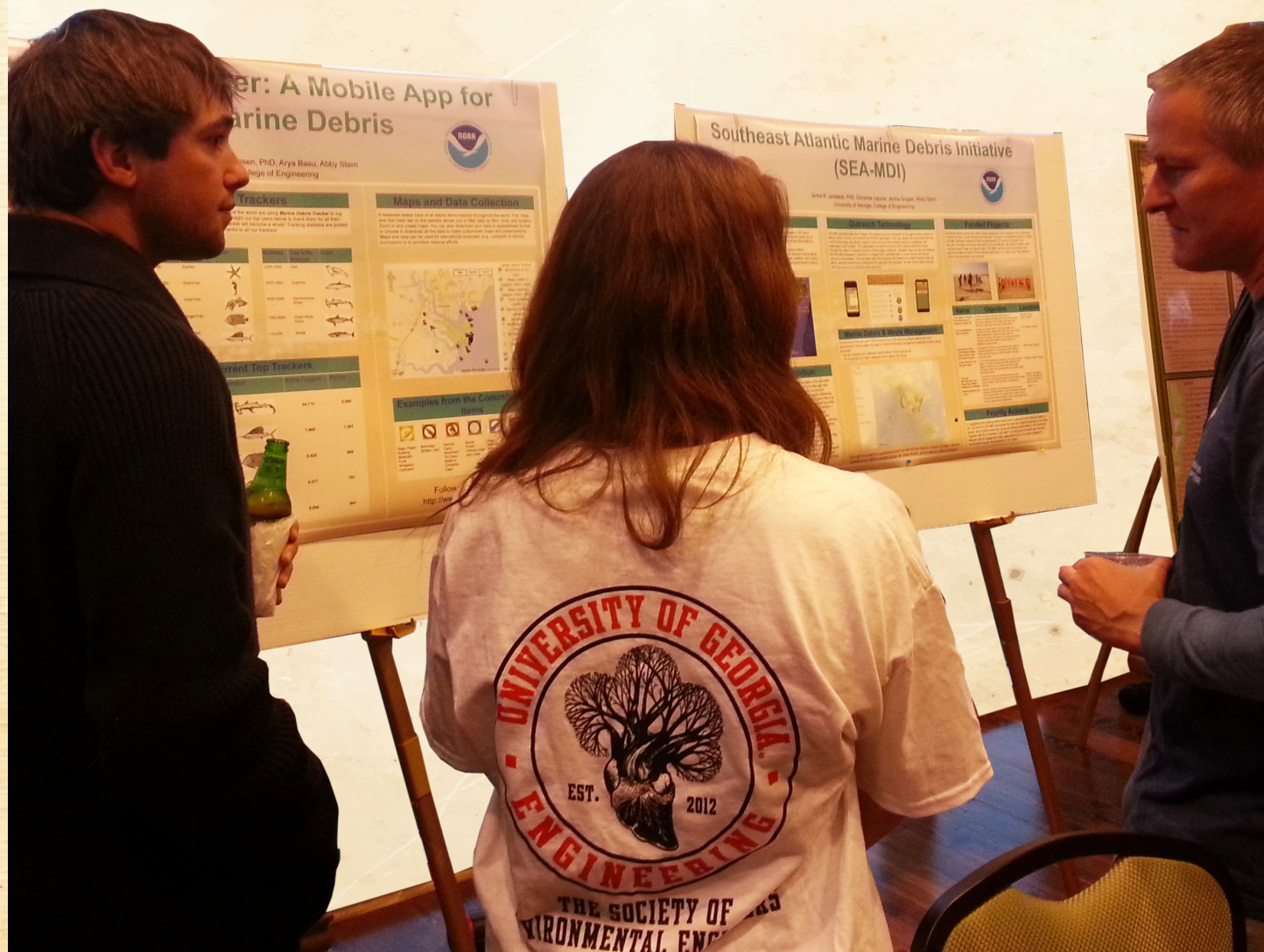
**Specific areas of excellence include water resources, bioenergy, sustainable agriculture, climate change, obesity, ecosystem dynamics, sustainable forest management, and much more.**

**Over 660 faculty conduct sustainability-related research at UGA.**



## 2014 Sustainability Science Symposium

The 2014 Sustainability Science Symposium strengthened research efforts at UGA. As the challenges of sustainability ascend to the top of research priorities in a wide array of disciplines, in the missions of universities and in major research funding agencies, the Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR), the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and several other campus partners collaborated to showcase over 40 interdisciplinary sustainability research initiatives emerging and ongoing at UGA. Over 150 faculty, staff and students participated in the one-day event.





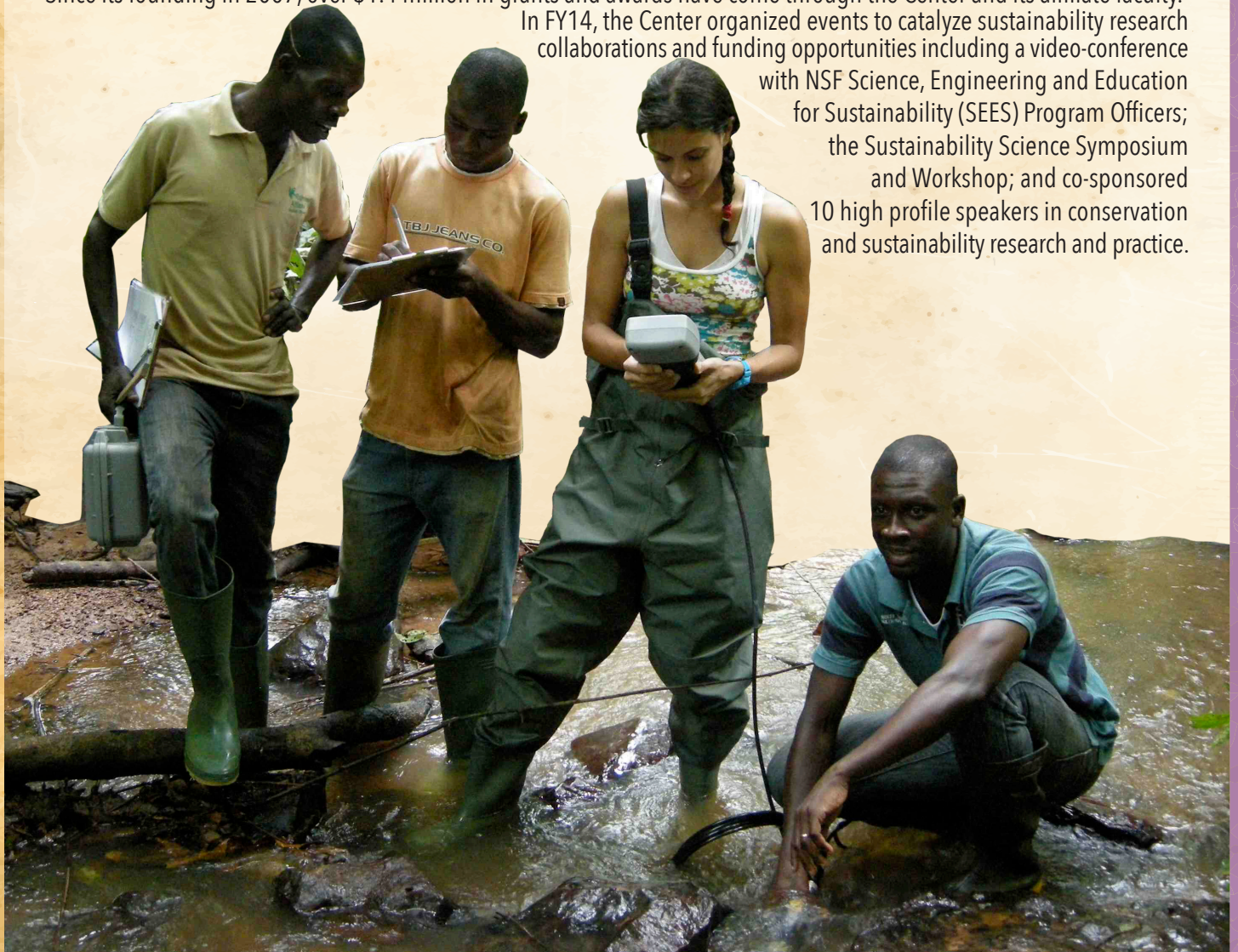
## Center for Integrative Conservation Research

The Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR) responds to one of the key challenges facing conservation today: identifying conservation practices and policies that simultaneously preserve biodiversity and serve human needs.

CICR utilizes insights and methodologies from across the social and ecological sciences to emphasize trade-offs that are associated with managing complex systems and environmental challenges. The Center's work is used to engage with policy and practitioner communities to support effective and equitable solutions to these trade-offs.

Since its founding in 2007, over \$1.4 million in grants and awards have come through the Center and its affiliate faculty.

In FY14, the Center organized events to catalyze sustainability research collaborations and funding opportunities including a video-conference with NSF Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) Program Officers; the Sustainability Science Symposium and Workshop; and co-sponsored 10 high profile speakers in conservation and sustainability research and practice.





## Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

The Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health, a collaborative effort between the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources and College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, serves a lead role in development, consolidation and dissemination of information and programs focused on invasive species, forest health, natural resource and agricultural management through technology development, program implementation, training, applied research and public awareness at the state, regional, national and international levels. In FY14, the Center faculty/staff conducted 102 programs for 5,050 attendees; produced 266 invasive species-related social media products, web-based products, and communication tools; and increased research grant funding to \$1,678,550 since 2010.

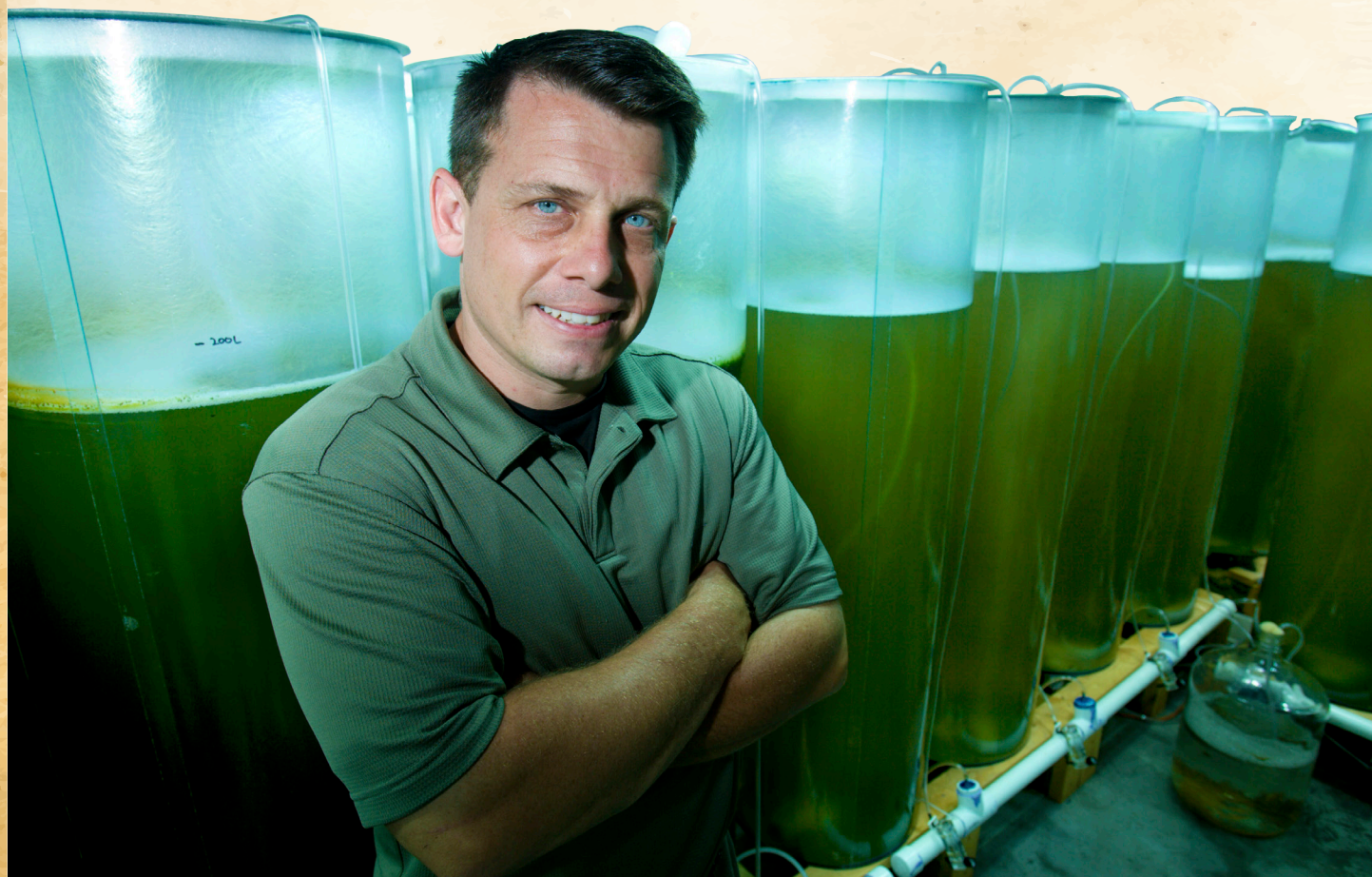




## Bioenergy Systems Research Institute

The Bioenergy Systems Research Institute (BSRI) unites the University's legacies in agriculture, forestry, environmental science and engineering with its strengths in carbohydrate science, genetics and microbiology to provide a scientific and practical foundation to support an economic and sustainable bioenergy future. BSRI encourages and facilitates:

(a) integrative, collaborative basic and applied research projects in bioenergy that recognize the entire lifecycle and environmental impact of biomass production, harvesting, transport, treatment, conversion, and recycling; (b) education and training of the next generation of scientists and engineers that will form the 21st century workforce in the alternative energy field; and (c) outreach and communication activities to involve our public and private stakeholders in the development and dissemination of next-generation bioenergy technologies. BSRI members have published 133 Refereed Journal Articles addressing issues in sustainability with topics ranging from carbon dioxide emissions and economic growth in the US to production of ethanol from high dry matter of pretreated loblolly pine and much more.





## Georgia Initiative for Climate & Society

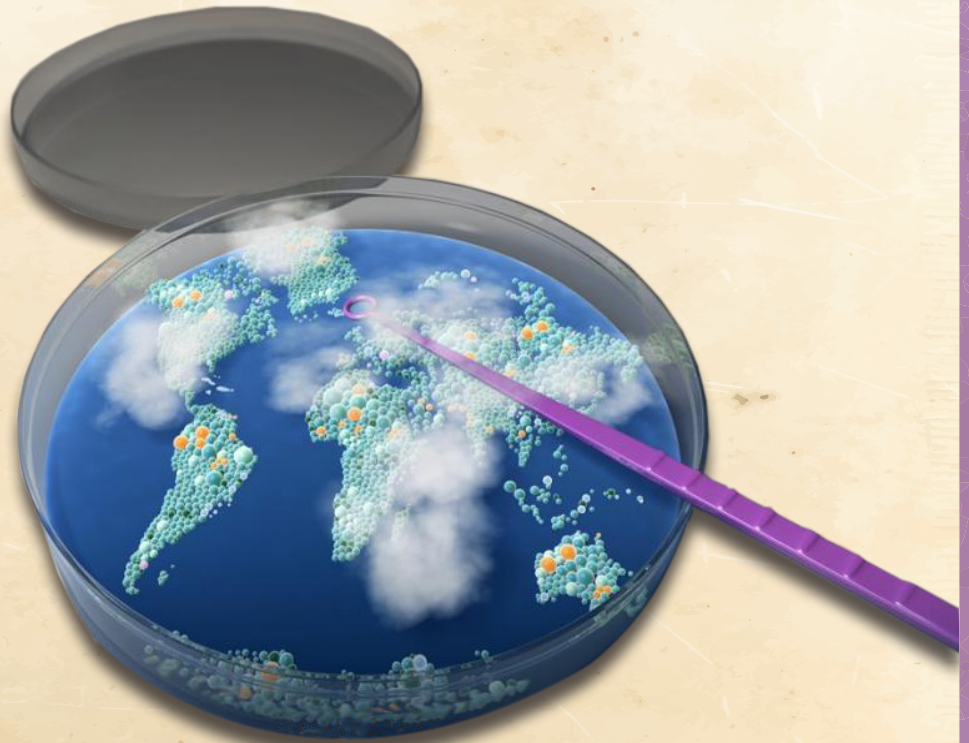
The Georgia Initiative for Climate & Society (GICS) is improving our understanding of the complex processes and effects of climate variability and change on natural, managed, human-built, and societal systems and developing user-inspired effective and appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies, solutions, information and tools. During 2014, GICS faculty and students developed "Weather is your mood. Climate is your personality." an educational poster series communicating the challenges and opportunities related to climate change in Georgia, including impacts on cities, coastal areas, agriculture, forestry, precipitation and temperature. The GICS website includes resources for educators and researchers interested in climate change including presentations by speakers from the Spring 2014 GICS seminar series. GICS members provided over six outreach presentations to the public this year on climate change at various civic groups and continuing education programs and one new GICS-inspired collaborative research project received 1.5 million dollars to investigate the effects of Greenland Ice Sheet meltwater on the nearby marine ecosystem.





## One Health

The One Health collaborative, spearhead by the UGA Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, is working locally, nationally, and internationally to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment with a unified vision toward combating today's global health threats. The efforts of One Health @ UGA aim to move beyond preventing infectious diseases toward a more comprehensive, global understanding of health that includes social, physical and other components. The goal is healthier people, healthier animals, and a healthier world. In 2013-14, OH @ UGA co-sponsored with the University of Liverpool, two International One Health Symposia. During FY14, OH@UGA co-sponsored two symposia, "Rabies: An old disease with new tricks" in partnership with the CDC and the Atlanta Public Health Office, and "The Secret Life of Malaria" in collaboration with several campus offices, institutes and departments. In January 2014, OH @ UGA in collaboration with the UGA Faculty of Infectious Diseases dispersed grants to fund collaborative research with a One Health approach, and OH@UGA, The Obesity Initiative and the Faculty of Infectious Diseases dispersed two travel grants to graduate students researching infectious diseases and obesity in collaboration with faculty at the University of Liverpool. A monthly seminar series is attended by local faculty and students as well as experts from throughout the region.





# EDUCATION





The University of Georgia prepares professionals who will teach, develop, manage, work in and influence society's institutions. As part of the constant pursuit of academic excellence, UGA offers over 115 sustainability-related degree programs in seven different colleges and 18 interdisciplinary certificates to provide the academic credentials required for leadership toward a sustainable future. Sustainability-focused programs are offered through UGA's Odum School of Ecology, the first of its kind in the nation, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, College of Environment & Design, College of Family & Consumer Sciences, College of Public Health, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, and each of the ten remaining schools and colleges at UGA. In FY14, the Sustainability Faculty Learning Community was established to advance sustainability pedagogy and the Office of Sustainability, Center for Teaching and Learning, Committee for the Integration of Sustainability Across Curriculum and others hosted the 3rd annual faculty development workshop, providing a running total of 54 faculty participants with tools and resources for effective syllabi development.

From 2010-2013, UGA offered 89 courses expressly focused on sustainability and 408 sustainability-related courses, comprising approximately 9.8% of all classes offered, aiming to redefine the relationships between human activity and natural systems.





## Local Food Systems Certificate

The Local Food Systems Certificate program engages undergraduates in a series of coursework and project-based experiences that provide a strong interdisciplinary foundation for future careers or lifelong personal involvement in local, sustainable food systems. The program - sponsored by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Environment & Design and Franklin College of Arts & Sciences - graduated 15 students in the 2013 inaugural class and 35 students from multiple academic disciplines are currently enrolled. The Sustainable Food Systems Initiative received a USDA National Needs Fellows grant in FY14 to fund 7 graduate students over the next four years.





## Cultural Landscape Lab

The Cultural Landscape Laboratory in the UGA College of Environment & Design provides research and learning opportunities for students, faculty, and professional practitioners in the area of cultural landscape management through long-term partnerships with organizations and people who steward nationally-significant cultural landscapes. With a focus on heritage conservation and sustainability, the lab partners with UGA Departments of Geography, History, Horticulture and the Institute of Native American Studies as well as external research partners to explore how our society may best sustain the ecological, social, and cultural systems that constitute America's most treasured landscapes. During 2013-14 academic year, Cultural Landscape Lab students served the Blue Ridge Parkway; Cowpens National Battlefield; Stratford Hall Plantation; Fort Sumter National Monument, and Wormsloe state historical site.





## **Integrative Conservation PhD Program**

The Integrative Conservation (ICON) PhD Program is currently a PhD degree option in four units: Anthropology, Geography, Ecology, and Forestry & Natural Resources. The Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR) serves as a facilitator and intellectual home for the program which serves 40 PhD students addressing complex conservation and sustainability challenges using integrative approaches across the social and natural sciences. Since its inception in fall 2011, ICON students have been directly responsible for garnering more than \$500K in grants and awards for research, and have begun to impact local communities around the world through the outreach and communication components of their work.





## Chew Crew

The Chew Crew, UGA's resident goat herd, helps restore the ecological quality of stream corridors and patches of forest on the UGA campus by munching away at kudzu, English ivy, privet and other invasive plants that out-compete native vegetation. This experiment in "prescribed grazing" creates opportunities for education, research and service on campus and in the local community. Begun in 2012 as a student-initiated project with Campus Sustainability Grant funding, the ongoing program is now managed by the College of Environment & Design with support from College of Engineering, Odum School of Ecology, Office of Sustainability and others. In FY14, students and faculty from CED, UGA Law, Odum School of Ecology, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural resources, College of Public Health and others worked to establish a local ordinance allowing prescribed grazing in urban areas, study regeneration rates of invasive species, and monitor water quality. A \$25,000 Ford Motor Company sustainable communities grant is helping to expand the program to Driftmier Woods on campus and engage local Barrow County Elementary School to establish the "Junior Herders" program.





## UGA Law Environmental Practicum

The Environmental Practicum, an interdisciplinary program through the UGA School of Law and Odum School of Ecology, offers an experiential learning program for graduate students interested in environmental preservation. Students in the Environmental Practicum work to improve water quality and protect and restore native aquatic species in targeted watersheds. In FY14 practicum students had an indelible and positive impact on UGA campus watersheds through detecting sewer line leaks and working with county officials to remedy concerns quickly, continuing community outreach campaigns to encourage collection of pet wastes and other water quality best management practices, and changing local legislation to allow prescribed grazing to restore native ecosystems. Significant off-campus contributions in FY14 include a proposal that received \$500,000 in grant funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation to build and monitor constructed wetlands to remove pharmaceuticals and other contaminants on the Cumberland Plateau in Sewanee, Tennessee, and FY15 practicum students will design a public education and social marketing campaign around the pilot wetlands.





## UGA Costa Rica

UGA Costa Rica - through instruction, research and outreach - seeks to advance our understanding of the interconnectedness of human and environmental systems, particularly socio-cultural, ecological, and economic sustainability. In 2013-14, approximately half of the academic offerings at UGACR incorporated formal service-learning opportunities. Overall, UGACR hosted 82 faculty and teaching assistants and 234 students on 23 academic programs run through UGA; 908 students and faculty from other academic institutions (including programs from Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, and the USA); 740 tourists participating in educational, nature-based programs at UGA Costa Rica; and 40 researchers and student interns. Also during 2013-14, UGACR produced approximately 17% of all food served on-site and purchased 33% of food from local sources; increased reforestation efforts to a total of over 30,000 trees planted in a carbon-offset program; generated energy from an on-site biodigester; installed solar hot water panels on all student dorms, the 12-room Ecolodge San Luis, and the new Paul A. Gross Faculty Residence facilities; and replaced approximately 800 light bulbs across the entire campus with LED technology; all of which contributed to receiving the Innovation in Sustainability Award Winner by GoAbroad.com and "four leaves" from the Certification for Sustainable Tourism program.





# SERVICE





The University of Georgia extends resources in the form of professional knowledge and expertise to help communities improve their quality of life and relationship with the natural world. University programs, including the nation's first cooperative extension service within the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, actively serve to advance sustainability beyond the UGA campus, to the state of Georgia, and around the globe.

In 2013, UGA students, faculty and staff performed over 107,779 hours of community service to create a positive impact in our local communities.





## UGA Extension

UGA Extension, the outreach unit of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, extends lifelong learning to the people of Georgia through unbiased, research-based education in sustainable agricultural and gardening practices, the environment, health and nutrition, and youth and families. UGA Extension has 280 agents that live and work in nearly each of the state's 159 counties. Every dollar invested in UGA Extension saves taxpayers' dollars in the long run and returns \$3 for every \$1 invested in Georgia counties.

In FY14, UGA Extension published impact reports on agricultural systems resilient to climate change, benefits of wildlife refuges, and the role of chemicals in honey bee loss, communicating timely information to farmers and community gardeners. UGA Extension highlights include collection of 60,000 pounds of pesticides from 21 counties; 3,200 Georgia Master Gardener Extension volunteers logged in 203,975 hours teaching sustainable gardening practices; energy assessments for 42 poultry farms, three dairies, a turf grass farm and a row-crop farm; agents trained 100 farmers in organic production and provided assistance to urban farmers, community gardeners and teachers for school gardens as a means to provide fresh food to underserved communities .





## Center for Community Design & Preservation

The Center for Community Design & Preservation in the College of Environment & Design delivers conceptual community design services by utilizing a mix of faculty, professional staff and students. As recipient communities receive high quality design services they could not otherwise afford, students receive the practical hands-on experience that makes them more marketable as graduates. CCDP highlights from 2013-14 include assisting ACC Solid Waste Division in a charrette to develop ideas, visions and alternatives for the new Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHARM) and partnering with the Office of University Architects to assist in the development of a UGA Property Historic Preservation Plan. In addition, CCDP helps support the Material Reuse Program, a hands-on building lab that salvages building materials for reuse in student-built community projects. The program, which began as a student-run initiative with Campus Sustainability Grant funding from the Office of Sustainability, has diverted more than 200 tons of construction and demolition waste from landfills and, in turn, provided inspiration and supplies for more than two-dozen student-built community projects. FY14 community partners included the Clarke County School District, Athens Land Trust, ACC Landfill, Casa de Amistad, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and others.





## Office of Service Learning

The UGA Office of Service-Learning supports academic service-learning and community engagement initiatives designed to enhance students' civic and academic learning, promote engaged research that is responsive to community needs, and contribute to the public good through mutually beneficial community-university partnerships. With support from the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach and the Vice President for Instruction, OSL has facilitated 182 service-learning courses in AY 2013-14 that combine active, experiential and inquiry-based learning with real world problem solving on campus and in the broader community. In FY15 OSL launched the Clarke Middle School Kitchen Garden Corp to teach middle school students about growing, harvesting and preparing nutritious, local foods, and established Experience UGA, a partnership with Clarke County School District to host interactive field trips focused on forest ecosystems, art education, outdoor leadership, local food systems, careers in science, and more.





## Campus Kitchen

Campus Kitchen at UGA, a student powered hunger relief program of the Office of Service-Learning, is combating food waste and senior hunger in the Athens area through partnerships with UGarden, the Athens Community Council on Aging, Talmage Terrace Senior Living Community, and various local grocery stores and restaurants.

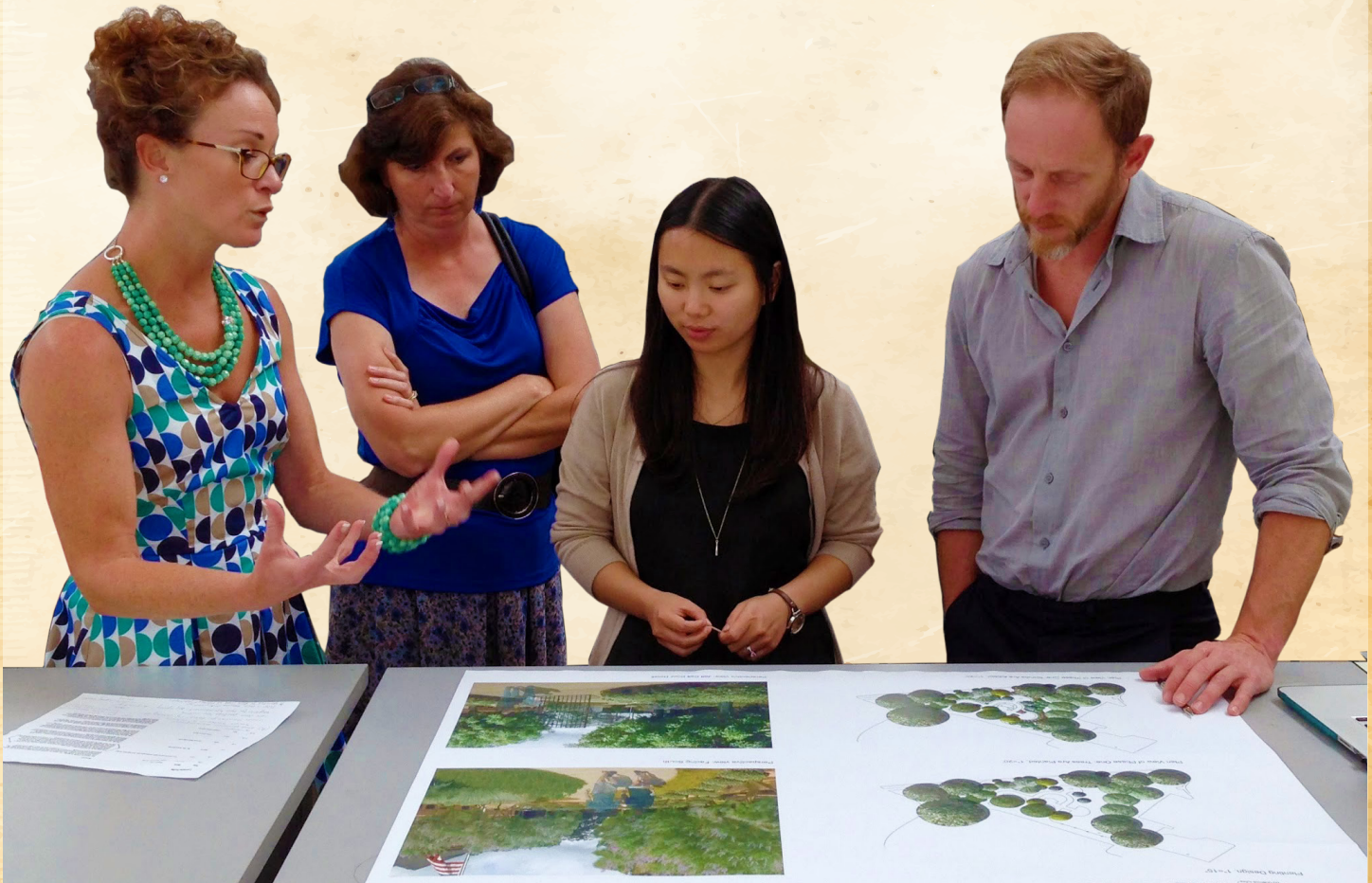
In 2013, over 350 CKUGA volunteers rescued nearly 35,000 pounds of otherwise wasted food, transformed it into 12,925 healthy meals, and delivered them to over 300 seniors in need. CKUGA donated 16,648 pounds of food (beyond meals) to various local nonprofits.





## Archway Partnership

The Archway Partnership enhances connectivity between UGA and communities across Georgia to address the state's critical community and economic development needs. This exciting initiative works with "portal" counties, allowing communities to gain the wealth of faculty and student expertise, who, in turn, gain practical experience outside of the classroom. Collaborative projects are tailored to address priority issues uniquely identified by each community. For example, the Washington County Archway Partnership and the UGA College of Engineering, with support from a \$1.7 Million EPA grant, retro-fitted diesel engines in both Athens-Clarke County and Washington County with hi-tech filters that reduce emissions to improve air quality. UGA graduate students worked with the Glynn County Archway Partnership to create a long-term community recycling plan which served as a model for other Archway communities. Students from the College of Environment and Design have worked on various projects throughout the state in which they recommended designs for the repurposing of old, dilapidated buildings.





## State Botanical Garden of Georgia

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia provides opportunities for recreation, events, research and learning through its natural areas, display gardens and building spaces to the public and members of the University of Georgia community. At the State Botanical Garden, a fundamental mission is to provide knowledge and experience. The beauty, serenity and vibrant flora provide a natural setting for relaxation, play, learning and exploration. The Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies is the Garden's headquarters for native plant restoration, conservation, education, production and safeguarding, providing a workshop-style teaching space available to UGA courses and plant professionals for horticulture, restoration and seed biology classes. The Georgia Native Plant Initiative showcases the horticultural appeal and ecological value of Georgia native plants in all kinds of gardening.





# ENGAGEMENT





UGA provides a broad range of educational, service, and social opportunities to inspire and support students in efforts to reduce their own environmental "footprints" and improve the campus, community, and world around them. Student engagement will always be a critical component of the University's sustainability initiative. In FY14, 31 sustainability-focused student organizations and 39 sustainability-related campus events provided opportunities for students to learn, connect and engage.













## Campus Sustainability Grants Program

The UGA Campus Sustainability Grants Program provides competitive funding for student-proposed projects and initiatives designed to advance sustainability through education, research, service and campus operations. Successful projects address priorities outlined in UGA's 2020 Strategic Plan to actively conserve resources, educate the campus community, influence positive action for people and the environment, and provide useful research data to inform future campus sustainability efforts. Overall, \$87,000 and 26 student grants have been awarded, including notable ongoing initiatives such as UGA Chew Crew, Material Reuse Program, and the UGA Compost Program. In FY14, \$28,000 was granted to implement nine student-initiated projects from installing Bike Repair Stations and "greening" the UGA Office of Admissions to a student-run dormitory composting program in Creswell Hall.





## Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program

The Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program – a collaboration with UGA's J. W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development - provides opportunities for hands-on learning, leadership and professional development while making a positive and tangible impact within the University of Georgia and Athens communities. Interns enhance a culture of sustainability through leadership in projects ranging from alternative transportation and climate action planning to waste reduction and watershed restoration. To date, OoS has hosted over 150 interns, including 46 students from 23 different degree programs during the 2013-14 academic year. A 2014 survey of 23 past interns that have graduated from UGA indicated that 19 are working in sustainability-related fields and three are pursuing advanced sustainability degrees in graduate school.





## UGArden Teaching & Demonstration Farm

UGArden seeks to promote the social, environmental, and nutritional benefits of sustainable gardening through the management of a 4-acre student-run community garden, fruit orchard, and woodland mushroom demonstration area. UGArden serves as an outdoor living laboratory for freshman first-year Odyssey seminars, courses in sustainable food production, and other academic offerings including the Local Food Systems Certificate. Produce grown at UGArden is distributed through the UGA Campus Kitchen Program, a market at the Athens Area Council on Aging for low-income families and weekly farm stand. Community outreach programs include Experience UGA, an annual program that hosts 7th graders from Clarke County; satellite gardens at Clarke Middle School and the Athens Area Council on Aging; workshops and classes offered through Cooperative Extension and the UGA OLLE Program; and numerous farm tours throughout the year. In FY 14, over 8,752 pounds of fresh organically grown produce were distributed to the community.





## UGA Housing Sustainability Initiative

University Housing strives to increase environmental awareness among students and staff as well as promote a sustainable community through leading by example. The Green Cup Challenge is a four-week energy, water and waste reduction competition between freshmen residence halls in the Hill community, challenging students to adopt sustainable living practices and reduce their environmental footprint. In FY 14, Church, Hill, and Boggs communities won the coveted Green Cup through reducing water use by 108 gallons each month and energy use by a combined 23%; the new EcoReps program was launched; the Dawgs Ditch the Dumpster / Give & Go student move-out donation program diverted over 30,000 pounds, or \$24,000, of valuable materials to community organizations; and the Global Engagement Freshmen Learning Community diverted 119.5 pounds of compost through a grant-funded project in Creswell Hall.





## Ecofocus Film Festival

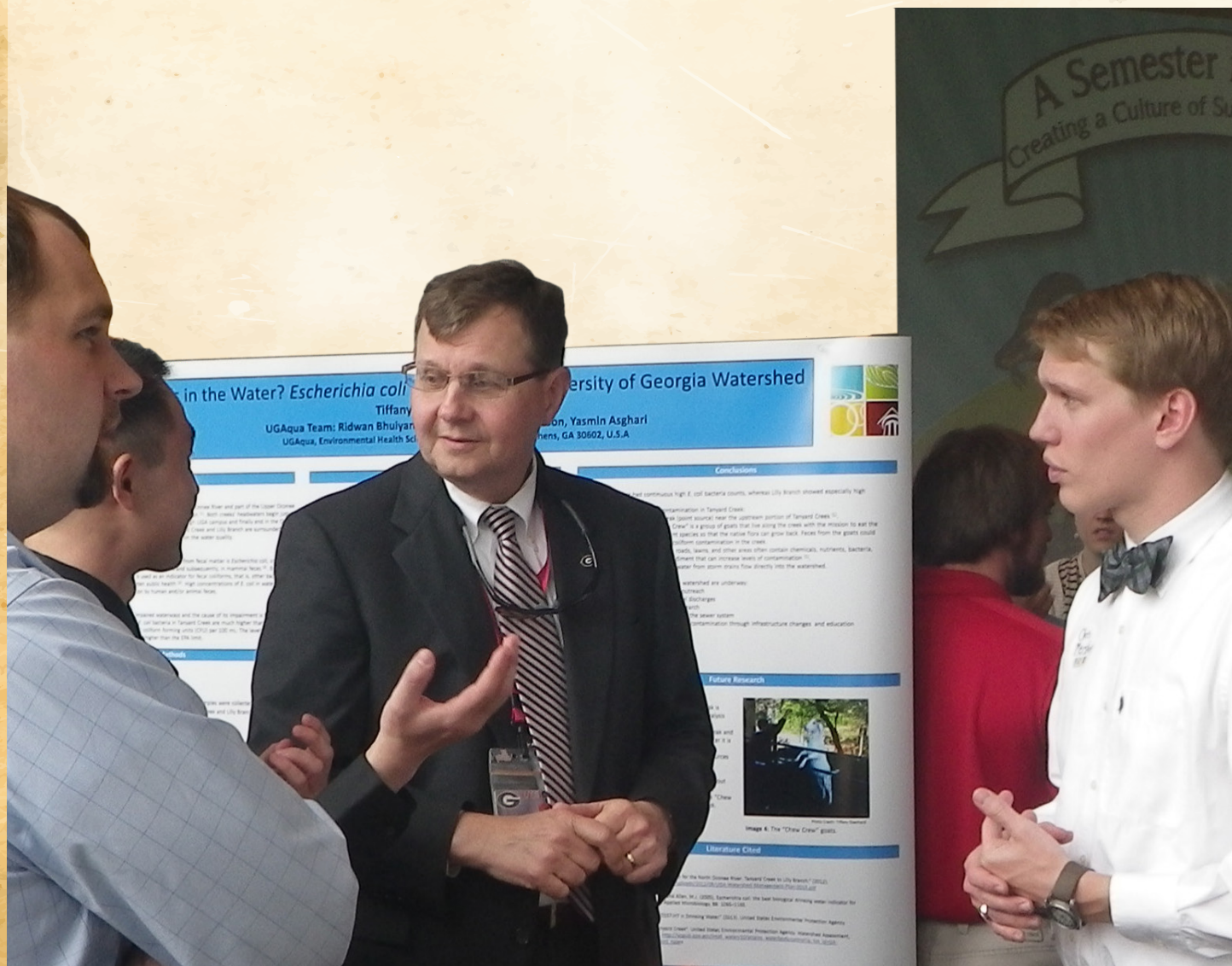
The EcoFocus Film Festival, spearheaded by the Odum School of Ecology with support from the Jane & Harry Willson Center for Humanities and the Arts and others, features top-quality films addressing a wide range of environmental issues, special events, panel discussions and question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers. In FY14, through a partnership with the Office of Sustainability, UGA students attended 18 EcoFocus events free-of-charge to help promote discussion and inspire students into awareness and action on behalf of the environment.





## Semester in Review - Creating a Culture of Sustainability at UGA

Fall and Spring Semester in Review events provide opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and shared celebration of current projects and initiatives to further sustainability at UGA. FY14 events included Office of Sustainability Intern presentations, 2014 Campus Sustainability Grant winners, poster presentations, and table displays from over 40 academic courses and sustainability programs at UGA. Waste-free receptions with local and seasonal food offerings were provided by UGA Food Services.





# OPERATIONS

Through stewardship of the University's natural and physical resources, UGA is creating an optimal student environment that functions as a living laboratory for sustainability. The University of Georgia implements policies and programs that reduce energy and water usage, promote recycling, reduce waste, construct high performance buildings and green spaces, provide alternative transportation options, promote local foods, improve the local ecosystem, and create a healthy environment for all campus constituents.

## UNIVERSITY

Endowed with 40,000 acres, the charter was the first controlled university. After first selected, the current

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Plans for a modern university Hill and realized under Hall the post-war presidents (n The builder of the modern p

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GEO





# Y OF GEORGIA

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rsity were first developed by Walter B.  
rmon W. Caldwell. The best known of  
ow chancellors) was David C. Barrow.  
plant was Chancellor Steadman V. Sanford.

GEORGIA HISTORIC MARKER

1991





## Air & Climate

UGA is committed to replacing the coal-fired boiler at the Central Steam Plant in 2015, signifying the single largest reduction in carbon emissions to date at UGA. A Climate Action Planning Task Force comprised of faculty, staff, students and community partners evaluates current activities, identifies new strategies to reduce emissions and sets emission reduction targets for the future. Other current UGA actions to reduce emissions include upgrading central utilities and building mechanical systems to reduce energy use, enhancing campus transit and bicycle programs, updating building construction standards to meet environmental and health goals, reducing landfilled waste, and mitigating emissions through preserved and managed forests. Goals of the Task Force include a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2035 and a lofty goal of neutrality by 2050.





## Indoor Air Quality - Green Cleaning Program

UGA's green cleaning program improves indoor air quality in buildings substituting hazardous chemicals with safer, environmentally-friendly cleaning products; reduces employee workplace accidents; and standardizes employee work practices to ensure healthy facilities. UGA was the first institution to receive Cleaning Industry Management Standards (CIMS) Green Building Certification with Honors for this innovative and holistic program which currently includes all "resident instruction" buildings on the UGA Athens Campus.





## Buildings

The University of Georgia's architectural heritage includes over 19 recently restored historic buildings as well as numerous state-of-the-art facilities designed to conserve resources and create the optimal environment for teaching and research. UGA's updated Design and Construction Standards ensure that new and renovated campus buildings reduce waste during construction and through ongoing operations, identify strategies for consuming 20% less energy and 40% less water than comparable facilities, evaluate on-site renewable energy opportunities to meet 10% of the building's energy demand, and reduce runoff to improve water quality.





The UGA Athens campus boasts four LEED GOLD-certified buildings, and four others pending certification, representing 920,000 sq. ft. of efficient, environmental design. The Terry College Business Learning Community, currently under construction and scheduled to open in May 2015, is designed to encourage collaboration and innovation while serving as a model for economic sustainability, consuming fewer natural resources and enhancing local economies by prioritizing local, regional and recycled materials. The new Bolton Dining Commons, opened in August 2014, promotes community and sustainability using state of the art equipment and building systems to reduce water, energy and waste.





## Dining

UGA Food Services continues to receive accolades for award-winning quality and service. The new Bolton Dining Hall, opened in Fall 2014, promotes community and sustainability while offering GA Grown products and vegetarian options at every meal. Overall, approximately 20% of food items served in UGA dining halls are from Georgia or bordering states. In 2014, Food Services reached its goal of eliminating all plastics from the waste stream and composting all organic materials leaving all dining halls on campus. Non-biodegradable products were replaced with more sustainable options including reusable bulk condiment stations, 100% silk tea bags, and bio-degradable paper straws.





## Energy

Overall, UGA is using 15.64% less energy per square foot in FY14 than in 2007. Energy upgrades have been implemented in over 50% of existing buildings on UGA's main campus and construction of new buildings and major renovations target energy use reductions of 20% beyond code compliance. Centralized utility infrastructure systems, including steam and chilled water loops, are continually expanded to heat and cool campus buildings efficiently. In FY15, District Energy Plant #1 will be expanded to serve 4 additional buildings and replace 8 aging chillers, the coal-fired boiler will be replaced with a highly efficient electrode boiler and a pilot Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract will install efficiency upgrades in several buildings on UGA's East Campus.



REDUCTION IN ENERGY USE  
**15.64%**  
PER SQ. FT. SINCE 2007



## Grounds

Graced with historic quadrangles and mature canopy trees, UGA is recognized as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the US. Historically significant landscapes are carefully managed to preserve the legacy of the University and newer landscapes are optimized for ecological performance and restoration. UGA is designated as a Campus Arboretum with a Sustainable Tree Trust that ensures long-term viability of the campus tree canopy. Tree mapping in north, south and east campus precincts has documented over 9,000 individual trees in developed campus areas providing air and water quality, shade, urban habitat and beauty. In FY14, UGA was awarded Tree Campus USA status for the fourth consecutive year and received preservation awards for restoration of the historic North Campus Iron Fence and the Thomas Church-designed courtyard at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

UGA grounds serve as a living laboratory for sustainable design. Over 70 rain gardens and other best management practices improve storm water quality and watershed health at UGA. The Chew Crew prescribed grazing project reduces the need for fossil fuels, machinery or chemicals to restore native forest habitat on UGA's campus. The Facilities Management Division Grounds Department composts organic leaf and limb debris along with animal bedding to create nutrient-rich compost for restoring campus soils and nurturing the campus landscape. In FY14, the compost operation was scaled-up to incorporate all food scraps and organic materials from campus dining halls.





## Transportation

Navigating the UGA campus without a car is getting even easier. In 2013, 61% of UGA students and 31% of faculty and staff did not purchase on-campus parking permits. UGA's campus transit system is the largest in the nation with over 11 million riders annually, contributing to Athens-Clarke County being ranked as the fourth highest public transit usage per capita in the US for 2013. Starting in 2014, the UGA App enables UGA students, faculty and staff to track campus buses in real-time making it even more convenient to ride Campus Transit. UGA bicycle infrastructure was enhanced to include new bike lanes and safety features on Sanford Drive as well as a total of four Bike Repair Stations conveniently located across the campus. Ten new bikes were purchased to expand Bulldog Bikes, UGA's campus bike share program, providing convenient Check-Out Stations in partnership with UGA Libraries. UGA Parking Services continues to offer incentives through the Alternative Transportation Program for members of the campus community who choose not to drive to campus, and to support alternative-fueled vehicles Parking Services installed UGA's first public Level-2 electric vehicle charging station in the North Campus Parking deck during summer 2014, which served 121 drivers in the first three months of operation. Facilities Management Division continues to update their service fleet to include a total of 21 electric vehicles in FY14-15.





## Waste Reduction

UGA is rethinking waste, moving toward a zero waste mentality. In FY14, UGA sent 295 fewer tons to the landfill than in 2010, about a 6% reduction overall. New single-stream interior "waste reduction stations" for "landfill" and "mixed recyclables" have been installed in over 28 campus buildings and 30 solar-powered exterior waste reduction stations were installed on campus. During the first six months of operation, the solar-powered exterior bins increased recycling in the impacted areas from less than 2% to 41% of materials diverted from the landfill resulting in 4.91 tons of mixed recyclables captured and a significant reduction in staff time and fuel use for collection, allowing for 27.5 hours per week to be allocated to other critical tasks. The UGA composting program managed by Office of Sustainability student interns currently serves over eleven locations and after summer 2014 had diverted a total of 2013 pounds of coffee grounds, apples cores and other organics from the landfill. The dining hall composting program was "scaled up" in 2014 from a pilot pre-consumer program in one dining hall to collection of all organic wastes from all UGA dining halls, diverting an estimated 10,000 pounds of organic material from the ACC landfill every week during fall and spring semesters.





## Water

The University of Georgia serves as a leader in the state and region for water resource management. Overall, UGA is using 25% less potable water than in 2007, reduced from 46.6 gallons per sq. ft. in 2007 to 35 gallons per sq. ft. in 2013. Water infrastructure improvements in FY14 include steam system condensate recovery, laboratory equipment upgrades, fixture replacements in campus restrooms, and innovative irrigation systems that efficiently use water based on soil moisture and climate data. Seventeen cisterns collect and store over 530,000 gallons of rain and condensate water for reuse in campus buildings and landscapes. Members of the UGA community continue to support water conservation, putting into practice the mantra: Every Drop Counts!

The Campus Watershed Project is an ongoing partnership between the University of Georgia and Athens-Clarke County communities to improve water quality in our shared water resources. Accomplishments include an EPA-funded 2013 UGA Watershed Management Plan, detection and repair of sanitary sewer line leaks, and community engagement to promote best practices on campus and in the local community.





# OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY





## **The University of Georgia Office of Sustainability**

The Office of Sustainability (OoS) was established in 2010 as part of a strategic directive to enhance conservation of resources and long-term sustainability at the University of Georgia. The primary source of funding for the Office of Sustainability comes from the mandatory Student Green Fee of \$3 per semester in fall and spring and \$2 in summer. Primary responsibilities of the Office include coordination, communication and advancement of sustainability initiatives at the University of Georgia.









## **The Green Fee & Office of Sustainability, 2010-2014 Highlights**

### **Academic Initiatives**

#### **Goal 1:**

#### **Enhance integration of sustainability across curriculum through academic programs, events and partnerships**

In an effort to advance academic sustainability initiatives, the Office of Sustainability established the Committee for the Integration of Sustainability Across Curriculum in 2011 comprised of faculty, staff and students from nine academic colleges. Highlights include:

1. A 4.8% increase in sustainability courses offered at UGA since 2010. In 2013, 497 documented courses incorporate sustainability, approximately 19.8% of the total courses taught.
2. Four faculty breakfasts and networking workshops hosted by the Office of Sustainability to encourage interdisciplinary faculty engagement and teaching.
3. Three annual faculty development workshops with a total of 54 faculty participants from 30 different UGA schools and colleges, resulting in over 50 new or revised courses that integrate sustainability into the curriculum and fostering formation of interdisciplinary relationships.
4. Ongoing development of interdisciplinary, graduate and undergraduate certificates in sustainability to supplement existing UGA degree programs and enhance student recruitment.

In addition to efforts of the Committee for the Integration of Sustainability Across Curriculum, staff in the Office of Sustainability have taught or co-taught 5 classes through the College of Environment & Design and the Odum School of Ecology and served on 8 thesis committees since the Office was established in 2010. As of Fall 2014, OoS staff have served as guest lecturers or project hosts in more than 147 academic courses at UGA.



## **Research Initiatives**

### **Goal 1:**

#### **Promote interdisciplinary research related to sustainability**

The Office of Sustainability strives to promote and support interdisciplinary sustainability research initiatives at UGA through partnerships with the Georgia Initiative for Climate and Society, Bioenergy Systems Research Institute, Center for Integrative Conservation Research, Sustainable Food Systems faculty, Riverbasin Center and others. Highlights include creation of the SEC Student Ambassadors and Scholars program for the first-ever SEC Symposium and participation in the UGA Sustainability Science Symposium. OoS has served as collaborator on over five grant proposals and spearheaded completion of the EPA-funded UGA Watershed Management Plan. To promote efforts of faculty campus-wide and to encourage interdisciplinary connections, OoS identified and made public a list of 662 sustainability researchers at UGA.

### **Goal 2: Enhance the UGA campus as a living laboratory for sustainability research**

The Office of Sustainability facilitates partnerships between academic and operational departments to enhance the University of Georgia's physical campus as a living laboratory for sustainability research. Relationships between UGA students, faculty and practitioners enable reciprocal learning and facilitate implementation of best practices in sustainability education, research and operations. Highlights include:

1. Development of the Campus Watershed Advisory Committee to improve the health of UGA watersheds. Students, faculty and staff from the College of Public Health, College of Environment & Design, Odum School of Ecology, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Facilities Management Division, Athens-Clarke County Government, local neighborhood associations and others are working together to identify and solve water quality issues on and off-campus.
2. The Chew Crew, an initiative of the College of Environment & Design with ongoing support and 2012 Campus Sustainability Grant funding from the Office of Sustainability, has grown into an interdisciplinary research lab addressing benefits of prescribed grazing, water quality impacts, invasive plant removal, community engagement and other aspects of life in the campus and urban context. A 2013 Campus Sustainability Grant was awarded to a graduate student in the College of Public Health to improve water quality on campus and beyond through expanded service-learning opportunities associated with the Chew Crew and other sites.



3. The UGA Solar Demonstration Project atop the Jackson Street Building, UGA's first building integrated solar energy project, provides data utilized in teaching and research by College of Environment & Design, College of Engineering and Terry College of Business.
4. The Campus Sustainability Grants program has fostered nine student research initiatives that engage academics and operations managers to use the UGA campus as a living laboratory, including research into living walls for urban food production, the effectiveness of raingardens at removing heavy metals from urban runoff, the validity of wireless electric vehicle charging technologies, and developing a roadmap for UGA's energy reduction and generation goals.





## **Service & Outreach Initiatives**

### **Goal 1: Effectively promote sustainability initiatives at UGA through various media outlets**

The Sustainable UGA "brand" is intended to elevate sustainability initiatives and reinforce a culture of sustainability at UGA. The OoS seeks to communicate effectively with multiple internal and external stakeholders including: UGA students, faculty and staff; local community members; prospective students; alumni; potential donors and other interested external partners; and national campus rating systems. Over 200 media articles regarding UGA sustainability initiatives have been published since establishment of OoS in 2010. Media statistics in FY14 include approximately 80 written articles featuring UGA sustainability initiatives, 1823 individual subscribers to the UGA sustainability Weekly Update, 1116 friends of the Office of Sustainability Facebook page, and 1453 followers of the Office of Sustainability Twitter account. As of June 13, 2014, 26,034 individual users have visited the Office of Sustainability website since its re-creation in 2012.

### **Goal 2: Engage campus & community through programs & events**

Since 2010, the OoS has hosted, co-sponsored or supported approximately 100 events aimed at educating and inspiring the UGA and local community. Thirty-nine events during FY14 included the UGA Green Cup Challenge residence hall competition, Operation Safe Drive, Semester in Review, Campus Sustainability Grants, Recyclemania, EcoFocus Film Festival, UGA Earth Week, Sustainability Across Curriculum Faculty Workshop, and participation in new student orientations. To date, approximately 668 faculty and staff participants in the Sustainable UGA Office Program are helping to conserve resources and promote a culture of sustainability in their office environments and the OoS Waste-Free Event Kits have eliminated the use of disposable items at over 40 events.

### **Goal 3: Engage and support external partners including ACC, local community & national organizations**

The Office of Sustainability partners with many external organizations to promote sustainability locally and beyond. OoS routinely partners with ACC Solid Waste & Recycling Division to reduce waste and increase recycling, including annual Recycling Happy Hour electronics recycling events held on campus during UGA Earth Week; to date, the three Recycling Happy Hours total 489 participants, 196 TV's and over 4678 pounds of hard-to-recycle materials collected. OoS has taken a leadership role in the annual ACC Green Fest, including administering the Odum Environmental Grants for local K-12 schools and support for the Green Fest Awards Ceremony; increasing Odum Grant funding to a total of \$4,400 and 19 projects awarded. OoS partners with ACC Water Conservation Office to conserve water and assist with ACC's Water First Community designation. OoS partners with ACC Stormwater in planning and implementation of water quality improvements, including identification and correction of a sewer leak under Lumpkin Street in 2013. Since 2010, Office of Sustainability staff and student interns have completed over 1000 hours of service in the UGA and local community.



The OoS promotes and supports service-learning opportunities on campus and in the local community. Examples include volunteerism through the OoS Student Internship Program; support for Campus Kitchen, Material Reuse Program and other community-focused student-based programs; creation of Discover Home to engage UGA study abroad students in sustainability-focused volunteerism. OoS staff have presented at annual conferences including Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), College and University Recycling Coalition (CURC), Southeastern Campus Sustainability Network, Georgia Campus Sustainability Network, Georgia Environmental Conference, Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Water Education Summit, and others.

#### **Goal 4: Develop publicly-available campus sustainability reporting**

The 2014 Campus Sustainability Report highlights sustainability initiatives in research, education, service, student engagement and campus operations. UGA received a STARS Gold Rating in its first-ever Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS) report submitted by OoS in April 2014, representing the culmination of over two years of documentation efforts by interns and staff in OoS, as well as partners in multiple departments across the campus. Campus sustainability surveys are completed by OoS annually, resulting in annual inclusion on the Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges, A- grade on the SEI Campus Sustainability Report Card in 2011 and Green Honor Roll in 2012.





## **Student Engagement Initiatives**

### **Goal 1: Provide meaningful professional development opportunities for students through the OoS Student Internship Program**

The Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program – a collaboration with UGA's J. W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development - provides opportunities for hands-on learning, leadership and professional development while making a positive and tangible impact within the University of Georgia and Athens communities. To date, OoS has hosted over 150 interns, including 46 students from 23 different degree programs during the 2013-14 academic year. A 2014 survey of 23 past interns that have graduated from UGA indicated that 19 are working in sustainability-related fields and three are pursuing advanced sustainability degrees in graduate school.

### **Goal 2: Administer & increase the Campus Sustainability Grants program**

The UGA Campus Sustainability Grants Program provides competitive funding for student-proposed projects and initiatives designed to advance sustainability through education, research, service and campus operations. Overall, \$87,000 has been awarded to fund 26 student-initiated projects. The number of funds and projects awarded has steadily increased from \$13,000 and four projects in FY2011 to \$28,000 and nine projects in FY14. Notable grant projects that have become institutionalized into ongoing UGA programs include water bottle filling stations, Bulldog Bikes bike sharing program, Recycling Happy Hour, Material Reuse Program, Chew Crew prescribed grazing program, departmental composting program, and public bike repair stations.

### **Goal 3: Partner with student organizations**

OoS has actively engaged with approximately 17 student organizations since 2010, including several in an ongoing basis. Notable partnerships include serving as advisors and co-sponsoring events with Go Green Alliance and Students for Environmental Action, coordination with SGA Sustainability Committee, partnering with the Center for Student Organizations to promote sustainable practices among all UGA student organizations, and assisting UGA Housing Residents Hall Association to develop and implement the Green Cup Challenge and EcoReps programs.







## Campus Operations Initiatives

### **Goal 1: Partner with F&A and Auxiliary departments to implement and promote initiatives in energy, water, food, waste, transportation and green building**

Overall, UGA used 15.64% less energy per square foot in FY14 than in 2007. Specific projects supported by OoS include holiday temperature setbacks, temperature setting and space heater policies, building assessments for lighting retrofits, a study of HVAC in server rooms, and a grant-funded student-initiated study of energy strategies to meet 2020 Strategic Plan energy goals. In 2012, OoS identified funding and developed plans to implement the UGA Solar Demonstration Project atop the Jackson Street Building. Also in 2012, OoS helped develop a partnership between Food Services, College of Engineering and Down-to-Earth Energy to create biofuel from used cooking oil at UGA dining halls.

Overall, UGA is using 25% less potable water than in 2007. OoS has supported water conservation initiatives primarily through continuing the Every Drop Counts mantra, serving as a point of contact for members of the UGA and local community to report potential water leaks or wasteful activities, and promoting rainwater and condensate water harvesting and reuse on campus. OoS actively supports water quality improvements and watershed planning, particularly through spearheading the UGA Watershed Advisory Committee comprised of students, faculty, staff and community members. The overarching project goal is to engage the campus community in enhancing and restoring campus watersheds.

Overall, UGA sent 295 fewer tons to the landfill in FY14 than in 2010 (about a 6% decrease). OoS conducted various waste audits on campus and developed a new standard interior "waste reduction station" for single-stream recycling in campus buildings, aimed at making it equally as easy to recycle as it is to throw something away. Following implementation of the new bins in MLC, total waste was reduced by 55% (260 pounds of waste generated each day vs. 580) and only 8% of materials in the "landfill" bin were recyclable. New standard bins have been implemented in over 28 campus buildings toward the goal of converting all R.I. buildings on UGA's main campus to single-stream recycling. OoS initiated installation of 30 Big Belly Solar exterior "waste reduction stations" on north campus, the Tate plaza area and at high-traffic bus stops. The solar-powered trash and recycling bins use solar energy to compact discarded materials and communicate wirelessly to enable efficient and targeted collection by Facilities Management Division staff. During the first six months of operation, the new stations increased recycling in the impacted areas from less than 2% to 41% of materials captured being diverted from the landfill. From mid-September 2013 to the end of March 2014, the Big Belly units collected 4.91 tons of mixed recyclables and significantly reduced staff time and fuel use. The OoS initiated dining hall composting program was "scaled up" in April 2014 from a pilot for pre-consumer food wastes in one dining hall to collection of all organic wastes from all UGA dining halls, diverting an estimated 10,000 pounds of organic material from



the ACC landfill each week. The departmental break room composting program managed by OoS interns has diverted over 2118 pounds of coffee grounds, apples cores and other organics from the landfill. Approximately 20% of all food items and 33% of produce served by UGA Food Services comes from Georgia or bordering states. OoS facilitated a partnership between Food Services, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and GA Department of Agriculture to promote the use of Georgia-grown foods in UGA dining halls. OoS also partners with Campus Catering to provide local, sustainable foods at campus events.

Office of Sustainability promotes alternative transportation options for the UGA community through partnerships with Parking Services, Campus Transit, FMD Grounds Department, Office of University Architects, Bike Athens, Georgia Bikes, and others. In 2012, OoS funded the UGA Bike Study to identify opportunities to enhance bike culture and improve bicycle infrastructure and in 2013 developed a Bike UGA Task Force comprised of stakeholders from the UGA and Athens community to guide bicycle improvements. This effort provided support for FMD Grounds Department to garner \$50,000 in annual funding for implementation of bicycle infrastructure improvements, with design assistance from an OoS student intern. OoS supported UGA Parking Services in the study, justification and installation of a public Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in the North Campus Parking Deck as well as grant proposals for installing additional EV charging stations in South and East Campus decks. The Bulldog Bikes bike sharing program remains small but has doubled in scale from 10 to 20 bikes since its inception. Overall, 61% of students and 31% of employees do not purchase on-campus parking permits.

To date, UGA has four LEED Gold-certified buildings (Tate Center Expansion, Residence Hall Building 1516, the Georgia Museum of Art, and the Jackson Street Building) with four more pending. OoS supports Facilities Management Division and the Office of University Architects in developing sustainable design criteria for UGA's Design and Construction Standards.

## **Goal 2: Partner with academic and operational departments to develop and implement plans to reduce UGA-related carbon emissions**

OoS established a campus-wide Climate Action Planning Task Force comprised of students, faculty and staff from over 25 organizations to develop plans for reducing greenhouse gas and carbon emissions. Recommendations for emissions reductions include best practices in energy; transportation; waste and recycling; agriculture, forestry, food services and grounds; and education and research. Aspirational emissions reductions goals include 20% by 2020, 50% by 2035 and a lofty vision of neutrality by 2050.









## Afterword from the Office of Sustainability

"University of Georgia students, faculty, staff and administrators are making both simple and profoundly responsible choices every day to promote the health and well-being of all, now and in the future.

We believe that our actions matter.  
Together, we're creating a culture of sustainability at UGA.

As a flagship institution of higher education, we have a tremendous opportunity – and responsibility – to train the next generation of leaders, to provide our students with both roots and wings, to lead by example, and to inspire. The work of the people and programs reflected in this report inspire me.

Members of the University of Georgia community are addressing "grand challenges" and immediate concerns to promote social well-being, ecologic integrity and economic security for all, locally and around the globe.

We have a long way to go toward a Sustainable UGA and we're making progress."

Kevin M. Kirsche  
Director of Sustainability





SUSTAINABLE UGA

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