Green Fact Sheet
Overview

Serving nearly 30,000 students, UMass Amherst ranks among the nation’s top 29 public universities. Nestled in idyllic Amherst, Massachusetts, the campus offers a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers.

As the flagship campus of America’s education state, the University of Massachusetts Amherst is the leader of the public higher education system of the Commonwealth, making a profound, transformative impact to the common good. Founded in 1863, it is the largest public research university in New England, distinguished by the excellence and breadth of its academic, research and community outreach programs.

The campus is deeply committed to the teaching, learning and day-to-day practices of sustainability. Our sustainability motto is Learn It, Lead It, Live It!
The UMass Amherst Libraries are robustly engaged in:

- fostering sustainability innovations
- collaborations with campus partners
- educating students to create a healthier, just and responsible world
- supporting the integration of sustainability across the curriculum
- modeling green practices
- honoring diversity and inclusion
- promoting open access
Sustainability & UMass Amherst

- Sustainable UMass, a hub of sustainability opportunities, activities, and monitoring for the campus
- Early signatory of American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (2007)
- Named one of 17 "amazing green college campuses" by *Mother Nature Network* (2015)
- Won a *Second Nature* Climate Leadership Award (2014)
- Rated “gold” for STARS (Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System)
- Chancellor’s Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Sustainability, Innovation & Engagement Grants (for campus projects)
- Real Food Challenge (20% organic, local, humane food on campus by 2020)
- Campus-wide green building requirements
Sustainability & UMass Amherst

ACADEMICS:
• 300+ sustainability courses (addressing economics, equity and environment)
• Sustainability Science Masters program
• School of Earth and Sustainability
• School of Built Environment/Environmental Design
• Sustainable Food and Farming
• Sustainable Entrepreneurship
“I have never seen a school with so many and such high caliber people working towards sustainability. Everywhere I look here I see signs of hope and inspiration convincing me that change is possible.”

-Annie Leonard
talking about UMass Amherst

Director of Greenpeace USA,
Founder of *The Story of Stuff* Project
& 2013 UMass Amherst Earth Day Keynote Speaker
Sustainability &
UMass Amherst Libraries

- Sustainability Fund
- Film screenings
- Sponsored speakers
- Sustainability Curriculum Initiative
- Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award
- Sustainability Studies Liaison Librarian
- T-shirts from plastic bottles
- Human Library event
- Talking Truth: Finding Your Voice Around the Climate Crisis
- ScholarWorks
- Green practices
The Sustainability Fund

• Launched in 2012
• Raised $224,000 to date
• Won the prestigious Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award (2013). An award juror noted that “The initiative is a strategic fundraising program serving as a model for other libraries.”
• Funds sustainability-related books, media, database subscriptions, speakers, and events; the Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award; and the Sustainability Curriculum Initiative (faculty grants)

1 bit.ly/galecengageaward
Film Screenings (and co-sponsors)

- *A Place at the Table* (Student Farm Enterprise)
- *Just Eat It* (Dining Services)
- *Disruption* (Mothers Out Front)
- *INHABIT* (Permaculture Initiative)
- *This Changes Everything* (Sustainable Living course)
- *The Wisdom to Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism and Community* (Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Office of Civic Engagement and Service Learning, Psychology of Peace & Violence Program)
Sponsored Speakers

- Annie Leonard, producer of the film *The Story of Stuff* (Earth Day 2013)
- Dr. Robert Bullard, author, considered the “Father of Environmental Justice” (Earth Day 2014)
- Gustavo Esteva, founder of the University of the Earth in Oaxaca, Mexico (Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning event 2014)
- Josh Fox, producer of the film *Gaslands* (Earth Day 2015)
Sustainability Curriculum Initiative

This professional development mini-grant program is now in its third year. Connecting 10 faculty members with their subject liaison librarians allows for expanding sustainability across the curriculum, with an emphasis on integrating library resources and service. Hosted in the Libraries Teaching Commons, meetings include teaching demonstrations, guest speakers, pedagogy support and discussions.

Together, these librarians and faculty:
- Co-create assignments and online course guides, which integrate library resources
- Co-teach a library-related class
- Expand the community of sustainability teachers
- Deepen students’ sustainability understanding
- Improve quality of papers and projects

Co-sponsored with The Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development and Sustainable UMass.
On the Sustainability Curriculum Initiative...

“I’m grateful for how the Initiative gave me the jolt of energy to redevelop my course, and the library databases to make it feasible. It’s been inspiring to work with the other faculty, and to see how my students have responded to the topic... the assignments I’ve developed for SC will remain part of my public policy syllabus going forward.”

-Marissa Carrere
UMass Professor of Public Policy, 2013
The Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award promotes undergraduates’ in-depth understanding of sustainability, research strategies, and the use of library resources. Submissions are accompanied by a research essay and faculty recommendation. Winning submissions are posted in the Student Showcase in the institutional repository (ScholarWorks) and recipients are honored at the Library’s annual fundraiser.

$1,000 first place
$500 second place (2)
$250 honorable mention (2)
Sustainability Studies Liaison Librarian

- Sits on the Chancellor’s Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Administers the Libraries Sustainability Curriculum Initiative and Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award
- Delivers sustainability-related library instruction across the curriculum
- Interfaces with the Libraries Office of Communication and Development

Madeleine Charney
Sustainability Studies Liaison Librarian
bit.ly/Charney-sustainability
Sustainable T-shirts

In honor of Earth Day in 2013, the UMass Amherst Libraries offered t-shirts made from recycled bottles for a $20 donation. The shirts feature an archival photo of the campus’s early days as an agricultural college and the words “Sustainable Since 1863.”

The t-shirts were produced from post-consumer waste yarns made in the United States from an average 14 bottles per shirt. Energy and resource savings from the 1,000 shirts ordered include 12,400 bottles diverted from landfills, 199,648 lbs. of greenhouse gases avoided, 137,586 gallons of water and 1,701 kWh hours of electricity saved.
Human Library

As part of a campus-wide celebration of Earth Day 2015, the UMass Amherst Libraries hosted a Human Library. The event provided an opportunity to “check out” a “living book” for 15 minutes of informal one-on-one conversation.

Examples of “living books” available for “check out” included: Army cadet, belly dancer, someone living with Crohn’s disease, mushroom farmer, nudist, Puerto Rican living with cerebral palsy, rabbi, vegan, and witch.

The event was made possible by the Veli W. & Ida G.L. Wallenius Library Endowment Fund, which supports diversity programming. The event was endorsed by the Center for Counseling & Psychological Health, Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success, Office of Civic Engagement & Service Learning, and Office of Religious & Spiritual Life.
Talking Truth: Finding Your Voice around the Climate Crisis

Hosted by the UMass Amherst Libraries, the Talking Truth series focuses on climate disruption as it relates to contemplative pedagogy, reflective learning and personal agency. Students, staff, librarians and faculty come together to share stories, write reflectively, screen films, learn from outside speakers, and meditate.

Materials from the series are retained in the University Archives to document this social paradigm shift on the campus.

The series is co-sponsored by the UMass Amherst Libraries, Office of Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program.
• Student showcase of sustainability work
• Educational resources related to sustainability (syllabi, exercises, assignments)
• Campus data (e.g. energy use, waste management)
• Sustainability reports & plans
• Sustainability conference proceedings

ScholarWorks is the UMass Amherst Institutional Repository. These open access pages related to sustainability are co-maintained by the Libraries and Sustainable UMass. The information is frequently downloaded by institutions and individuals from around the world: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/.
Green practices

• Green Monstah – a small, well-used e-waste recycling center in the lobby of the W.E.B Du Bois Library

• Green Office Program – all 26 stories of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library participate in this campus program: conserving energy, composting, and reducing paper waste

• Water bottle refill station – cuts consumption of disposable water bottles