Sustainability Vision 2016-2025:
A Community Conversation About Our Shared Future
Building on Emory University’s progress in many arenas of sustainability over the last ten years, the Office of Sustainability Initiatives—together with the Offices of the Provost and the Executive Vice President for Business and Administration—has convened a visioning process, to guide and inspire social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability on our campus and in our community over the next ten years.

The Visioning Committee has presented a draft document, and we are now embarking on a broad community conversation and consultation process to gain your feedback. We will hold formal meetings, encourage “community conversations,” and seek individual input, by email and through a “graffiti wall” at the Emory Farmers Market every week in September. Your advice and feedback will help frame the final Sustainability Vision and goals for 2016-2025, to be released in January, 2016.

Students, staff, faculty, administrators, and alumni are encouraged to participate in this consultation process. The opportunities to give feedback are described below. The link to our “Community Conversation Kit” provides everyone an opportunity to contribute to sustainability at Emory.
INTRODUCTION

Step 1: Get informed

Step 2: Participate in visioning, using the Community Conversation Kit. Deadline is Thursday, October 1, 2015.

Step 3: Make your personal commitment to sustainability actions.

How do I use the kit? This document guides you through the process of learning about sustainability on campus and provides you with opportunities to share your thoughts, values, and commitments, as a group or as an individual.
The goal of this step is to develop a shared understanding of the current state of sustainability at Emory University and the draft vision for the next ten years.

Background: Sustainability was identified as a fundamental principle guiding the university during the first strategic planning process led by President James Wagner in 2004-2005. President Wagner then named a Sustainability Committee to develop a more detailed vision for the responsible environmental, economic, and social future of Emory, including specific goals and targets.

To obtain an overview of Emory’s current activities, see: sustainability.emory.edu

See also topics links on page 16.
A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

In 2004, Emory University adopted sustainability as a guiding principle and inscribed it into the 2005-2015 Strategic Plan. Since that time, the university has become known for innovations in green building, curriculum development, sustainable food and procurement, and energy and water conservation.

This progress built on important efforts that include robust academic programs in sustainability-related fields, establishment of the University Senate’s Committee on the Environment, Emory Recycles, the No Net Loss of Forest policy, the commitment to LEED1 construction standards, and the campus land use classification plan.

Key institutional structures are now in place: the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, the Faculty Advisory Council, the Sustainable Food Committee, the Health Sciences Taskforce, a student and staff Sustainability Representatives program in over fifty campus buildings, and the Sustainability Forum that coordinates over a dozen student groups related to sustainability.

Together with active partnerships in Campus Services, Purchasing, Campus Life and Dining, and all the academic units, Emory has seen dramatic progress. Highlights are shown to the left.

- Built or renovated over 27 buildings to LEED standards.
- Met the goal of reducing campus energy use per square foot by 25%, with over $25 million in costs avoided.
- Created the Cliff shuttle system that runs on biofuel made from hospital and campus used cooking oil and transports millions of riders annually.
- Diverted 95% of construction waste from landfill and currently diverts over 40% of non-construction and non-hazardous waste.
- Built a new WaterHub facility that will cut potable water consumption as much as 40% and save the university millions in water utility costs over a 20-year period.
- Created or renovated over 300 courses that engage sustainability issues (offered in 57% of all academic departments across the university) and developed two minors related to sustainability.
- Created thriving educational garden project, Oxford organic farm, student-run fair trade coffee shop, and Emory farmers market.
- Developed multi-focused sustainability efforts in Emory Healthcare, including waste and energy reduction; Emory University Hospital Midtown alone has decreased its energy use by over 30% per square foot since 2009.
**INTRODUCTION**

The goal of this step is to collect your vision for sustainability at Emory University.

Recruit a small group of co-workers, friends, or colleagues and set aside time to read the draft document, see the link below.

Then, meet to discuss the draft and answer the three questions on the next page.

*Discussion questions continue on the next page.*
INTRODUCTION

STEP 2: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE EMSRY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What principles, queries, or action items does your group particularly like in the current Vision draft? What resonates for you?

2. Are there gaps in the vision or strategies? How would you amplify or enhance the vision or strategies? Do some sections raise concerns?

3. What are the actions that your group or you as an individual have identified that can help achieve this vision?

Congratulations and Next Steps: Thank you very much for contributing to the sustainability visioning process at Emory University.

Responses received by Thursday, October 1, 2015, will be taken to the Committee for consideration in the revised report.

Provide your feedback click here

See page 15 for opportunities to continue your contribution.
STEP 3: NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our vision raises the question: How can each group and individual in the Emory community assess and strengthen their contribution to Emory’s sustainability commitments?

The particular next steps for you will depend on your unit or affiliation at Emory.

Does your department, office, or school want to develop its own sustainability vision? How can you move forward with specific action items that support this vision? How can the goals and queries in the document be incorporated into the functioning of your unit? What structures need to be put in place to make commitments, assess them, and update your plan?

- Consider making some personal changes, using the Emory Sustainability Pledge here.
- Get involved—sign up for the Office of Sustainability weekly newsletter here.
- For graduate and undergraduate students, there are active student groups here.
- For more information on the Emory Farmers Market, sign up here.
- Faculty with sustainability-related teaching, research, and service interests are listed here.

To add yourself to this listserve, please send an email: emorysustainability@emory.edu
OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS PROCESS

2014
• October: Visioning Committee convened

2015
• April: Draft vision completed
• Summer: Unit leadership consultations begin
• September:
  • Community Conversations encouraged and individual feedback gathered online
  • All Tuesdays: Farmers Market “graffiti wall” gathers feedback
  • Feedback solicited from Atlanta experts and “thought leaders”
  • Individual and group commitments made for more sustainable Emory; deadline for feedback: Thursday, October 1
• October: Feedback from consultations compiled; report revised by Visioning Committee
• November-December: Sustainability Vision Report submitted for final approvals

2016
• January: Final Vision disseminated to the Emory Community to shape our shared future