THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Sustainability Plan Baseline Report

November 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | Office of Sustainability

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Climate Change and Energy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Toward a brighter future

The University of Chicago Board of Trustees supports a Sustainability Plan (SP) for the University, which organizes University sustainability goals into nine areas.

The Office of Sustainability has tracked and analyzed available data to provide the University's first report of progress toward the SP goals and inform University efforts. Both the quantitative and qualitative information in the following pages are key to understanding sustainability at UChicago.

The University of Chicago is known for translating research into impact for the benefit of future generations. Everyone in the UChicago community can make an impact through their actions. See page 8 for more information on how to make sustainability a habit.

Together the UChicago community can continue to make strides toward a brighter future.

The OSAC is comprised of a diverse group of UChicago departments and partners, including faculty and administrative leaders who provide strategic direction to the Office of Sustainability. The goal of the OSAC is to make environmental sustainability at the University more coherent, with broader and deeper impact. Members include:

- Abrams Environmental Law Clinic
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Campus & Student Life
- Energy Policy Institute at Chicago
- Facilities Services
- Office of the Provost
- Physical Sciences Division

For more information, visit **provost.uchicago.edu**.

1990–2004
The University has an informal sustainability council.

2004
UChicago students' Green Campus Initiative launches the University's first official Sustainability Council.

2006–2012
UChicago departments increase sustainability focus.

2008
The University establishes the Office of Sustainability.

2013
The Board of Trustees supports the Sustainability Plan.

2015
The Office of the Provost forms the Office of Sustainability Advisory Council (OSAC).

2016
The Office of Sustainability provides its first Baseline Report.

The Sustainability Plan organizes sustainability goals for the University of Chicago Hyde Park campus* into nine overlapping areas. This Baseline Report reflects the progress made in those areas from fiscal years 2009 through 2015.

* This does not include the medical center campus in Hyde Park.

Aerial view of the roof and courtyard of Midway Studios and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. The solar panels pictured here were part of a renewable energy installation completed in 2012 and partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

Executive Summary

Managing greenhouse gas emissions is the University's top sustainability priority.

By reducing building energy use, the University manages greenhouse gas emissions and realizes major economic benefits.

See individual area pages for additional details.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Recipient of philanthropic support from James and Paula Crown to support the University's aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.
- Accelerate Performance grant partner (a U.S. Department of Energy funded initiative)
- Two-Star Green Restaurant Association Certification at Arley D. Cathey Dining Commons and Café Logan in 2015
- 2011 Green Star Grand Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society for exceptional grounds maintenance
- Member of the Chicagoland Network for Sustainability in Higher Education (CNSHE) since 2010
- Member of the Ivy Plus Sustainability Consortium since 2009

AREA 1
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Approximate 1% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions

AREA 2
HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

9 **LEED certified buildings since 2010**

200+ **building energy efficiency measures since 2009**

AREA 3
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

39% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from student commuting

15% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from faculty & staff commuting

AREA 4
WASTE REDUCTION

More than 40% of UChicago waste was diverted from landfills in 2015.

AREA 5
FOOD SYSTEMS

35% of food served is grown, processed, and purchased within 150 miles.

40% of food served is grown, processed, and purchased within 250 miles.

AREA 6
GREEN SPACE

46%

of the University of Chicago campus is green space.

AREA 7
WATER CONSERVATION

14 centrally controlled smart irrigation systems installed

120,000 gallon underground stormwater retention system installed in 2015

AREA 8
ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PROCUREMENT

100% of the cleaning products used in UChicago dining halls and kitchens are Green Seal certified.

80% of the University's janitorial supplies are green products.

AREA 9
BUILDING AWARENESS AND PARTNERSHIPS

27,000+

UChicagoans have a role to play in creating a more sustainable campus.

AREA 1

Climate Change and Energy

Increased atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) are emitted as a result of human activities, contributing to climate change.

The University of Chicago recognizes the importance of acting responsibly to mitigate activities leading to climate change.

GOAL

Reduce University greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2025

NEXT STEP

The University has the potential to make the biggest impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by managing emissions associated with energy and utilities, transportation, and other sources.

Received a gift from James and Paula Crown to support the University's aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

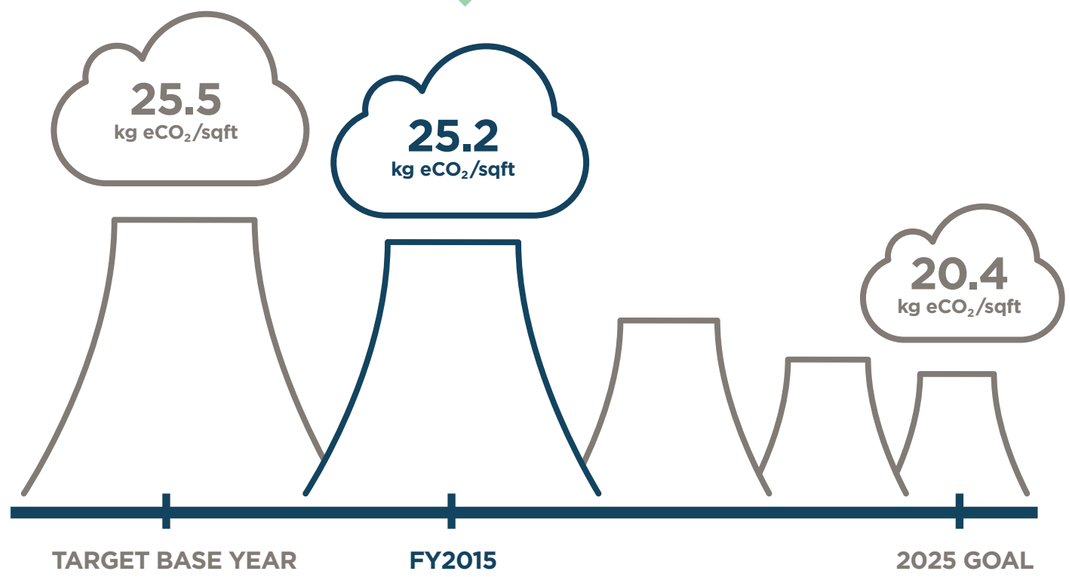
UNIVERSITY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Carbon intensity (greenhouse gas emissions per square foot) is measured in kilograms equivalent carbon dioxide per square foot (kg eCO_2/sqft).

Managing greenhouse gas emissions is a top priority for the University. It allows for progress in multiple areas of the Sustainability Plan at once.

The University's 2015 greenhouse gas inventory indicates an approximate one percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from the target base year to fiscal year 2015. Greenhouse gas emissions decreased mostly because of a decrease in electricity use. Limiting electricity and natural gas use will make the biggest impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

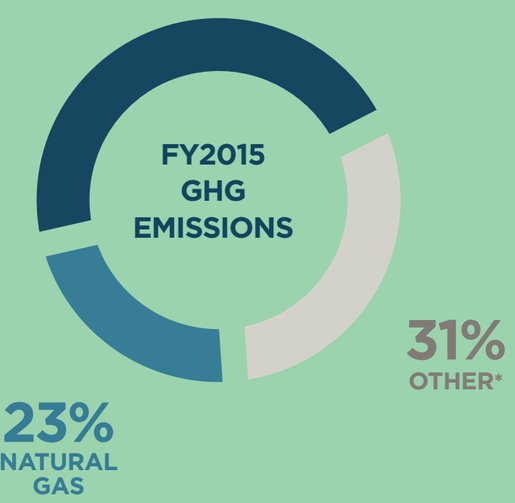
Approximate 1% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions



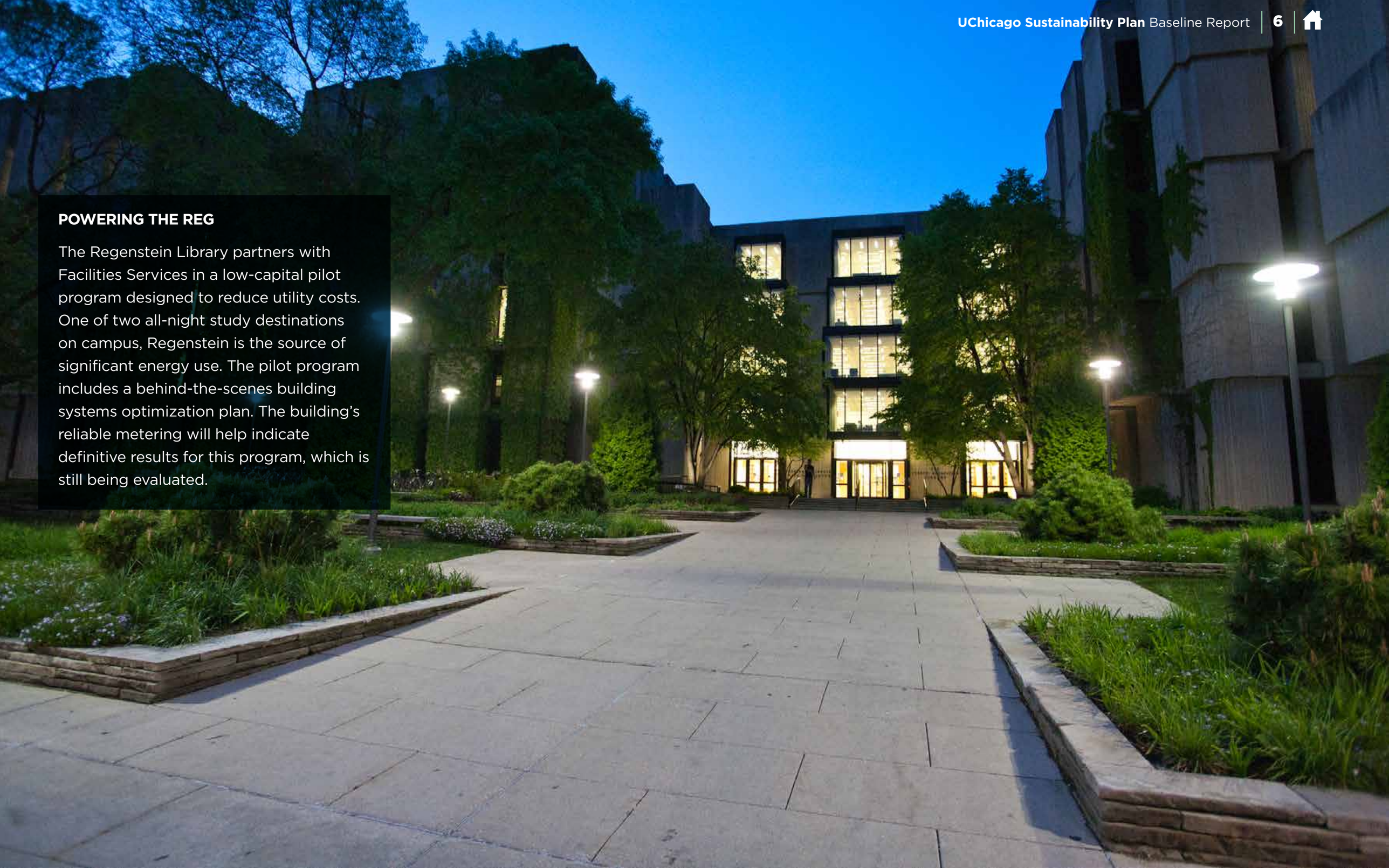
A NOTE ON TARGET BASE YEAR

The target base year is calculated and is the average of the greenhouse gas emissions from fiscal years 2012 through 2014. It is used for setting and tracking progress towards the SP greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. For example, to assess performance for fiscal year 2015, the greenhouse gas emissions from fiscal year 2015 (25.2 kg eCO_2/sqft) are compared to the greenhouse gas emissions from the target base year (25.5 kg eCO_2/sqft). This comparison reveals an approximate 1 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions for each subsequent year will be compared to the target base year, and performance will be assessed accordingly.

Natural gas and electricity use contribute to approximately 69 percent of University greenhouse gas emissions.



*Other includes University-owned fleet; UGo shuttles; agriculture (nitrogen in fertilizer); student, faculty, and staff commuting; business air and automobile travel; study abroad travel; solid waste; and transmission and distribution losses from electricity usage.



POWERING THE REG

The Regenstein Library partners with Facilities Services in a low-capital pilot program designed to reduce utility costs. One of two all-night study destinations on campus, Regenstein is the source of significant energy use. The pilot program includes a behind-the-scenes building systems optimization plan. The building's reliable metering will help indicate definitive results for this program, which is still being evaluated.

AREA 2

High Performance Buildings

Building occupants significantly impact energy use. Almost 70 percent of the University's greenhouse gas emissions come from natural gas and electricity consumed by campus buildings.

By reducing operational energy, greenhouse gas emissions are managed and major economic benefits are realized.

GOAL

Reduce the consumption of natural gas and electricity

NEXT STEPS

1. When economically feasible, prioritize energy efficiency measures to optimize the performance of existing buildings.
2. Build sustainable and efficient new buildings.
3. Inform building occupants about the significance of their behavior as it relates to energy use.

Accelerate Performance grant partner (a U.S. Department of Energy funded initiative)

CAMPUS NORTH RESIDENTIAL COMMONS AND FRANK AND LAURA BAKER DINING COMMONS SUSTAINABLE BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

University officials unveiled the design and architect for the Campus North Residential Commons and Frank and Laura Baker Dining Commons in 2013. Studio Gang Architects, led by Chicago architect Jeanne Gang, designed the building. The project is pursuing LEED Gold certification and will house roughly 800 College students in Autumn Quarter 2016.

The building's energy use intensity (EUI) target was set before the architect was selected. This allowed the design team to understand exact expectations for energy use in the building, informing how they approached sustainability and energy efficiency during the design phase.

Extensive metering allows residents to track their Houses' energy consumption.

Locally sourced materials, including precast concrete wall panels made within 150 miles of the site, mean limited transport of building materials, minimizing energy use.

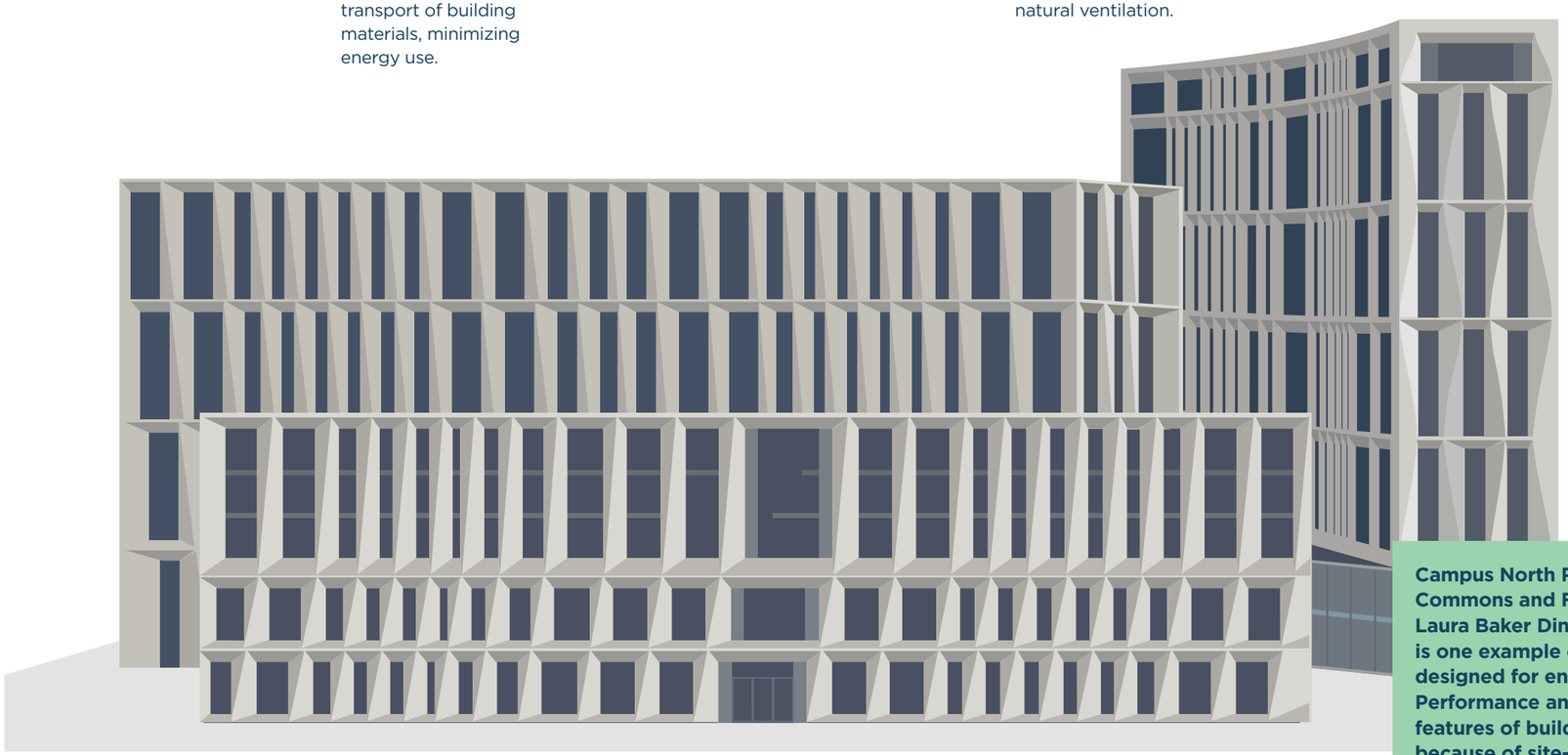
Radiant concrete slabs provide all heating and cooling (no forced air) for residential units.

Shallow floor plans allow daylight access for nearly all regularly occupied spaces, reducing the need for artificial lighting.

Architectural grilles are bird safe, provide shade and fall protection, and allow windows to open fully for natural ventilation.

Operable windows allow for natural ventilation and save energy during nice weather.

Exteriors are well insulated and utilize high performance windows to save energy.



Campus North Residential Commons and Frank and Laura Baker Dining Commons is one example of a building designed for energy efficiency. Performance and sustainability features of buildings vary because of site-specific factors.

AREA 2 HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

NINE UCHICAGO BUILDINGS HAVE ACHIEVED LEED CERTIFICATION SINCE 2010

1 **Campus Office Building**
6045 South Kenwood Avenue
LEED Gold

2 **Chicago Theological Seminary**
1407 East 60th Street
LEED Gold

3 **Earl Shapiro Hall**
5800 South Stony Island Avenue
LEED Silver

4 **Facilities Services**
5225 South Cottage Grove Avenue
LEED Gold

5 **Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**
915 East 60th Street
LEED Gold

6 **Saieh Hall for Economics**
1160 East 58th Street
LEED Gold

7 **Searle Chemistry Laboratory**
5735 South Ellis Avenue
LEED Gold

8 **UChicago Child Development Center—Drexel**
5610 South Drexel Avenue
LEED Gold

9 **UChicago Child Development Center—Stony Island**
5824 South Stony Island Avenue
LEED Gold

FIVE UCHICAGO BUILDINGS PURSUING LEED CERTIFICATION

1. **Campus North Residential Commons and Frank and Laura Baker Dining Commons**
5500 South University Avenue
Pursuing *LEED Gold*

2. **Gordon Parks Arts Hall—Laboratory Schools**
5815 South Kimbark Avenue
Pursuing *LEED Silver*

3. **William Eckhardt Research Center**
5640 South Ellis Avenue
Pursuing *LEED Silver*

4. **Keller Center (2018)**
1307 East 60th Street
Pursuing *LEED Platinum*

5. **David M. Rubenstein Forum (2019)**
1201 South 60th Street
Pursuing *LEED Gold*

ENERGY & OPTIMISM

The University has completed

200+

building energy efficiency measures since 2009.

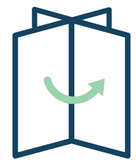
These measures include enhancements to heating, cooling, temperature controls, lighting, and façades.

QUICK TIPS TO HELP ENHANCE BUILDING PERFORMANCE

High performance buildings can be designed but need occupants' help in order to perform at an optimal level. Occupant engagement creates a building-wide culture in which empowered occupants are accountable for their own energy use, water use, and waste habits. Incremental change helps create good habits, contributes to a culture of optimal building use, and adds up to enhance building performance overall. **Take the first step:**

TAKE THE STAIRS

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS



USE REVOLVING DOORS

USE NATURAL VENTILATION WHEN POSSIBLE

SET COMPUTERS TO AUTO-SLEEP

USE NATURAL LIGHTING AND TASK LIGHTING INSTEAD OF OVERHEAD LIGHTING

AREA 3

Multi-Modal Transportation

Multi-modal transportation is the entire transportation system used by the UChicago community to get to, from, and around campus, including cars, shuttles, buses, trains, bikes, and walking. It encompasses student, faculty, and staff everyday commuting, the University-owned fleet of vehicles, and UGo Daytime and NightRide shuttles. UChicago encourages alternative modes of transportation, including public transportation, carpools, and electric vehicles.

GOAL

Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions

NEXT STEP

A multi-modal transportation plan will provide recommendations for sustainable campus transportation.

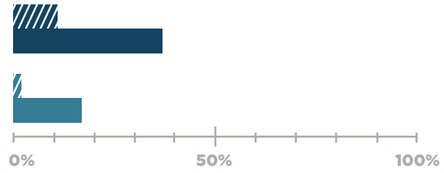
GET ON THE BUS: TRENDS IN UCHICAGO COMMUTING

39% DECREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM STUDENT COMMUTING* **

15% DECREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM FACULTY & STAFF COMMUTING* **

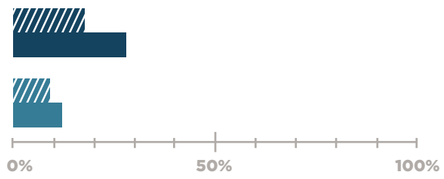
Student bus use increased from 11% to 37%**

Faculty & staff bus use increased from 2% to 17%**



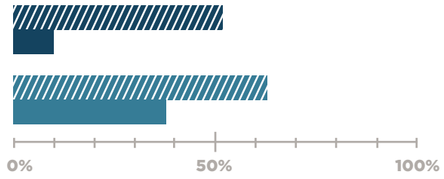
Student walking increased from 18% to 28%**

Faculty & staff walking increased from 9% to 12%**



Single-occupant automobile use by students decreased from 52% to 10%**

Single-occupant automobile use by faculty & staff decreased from 63% to 38%**



2004 Student
2014 Student
2004 Faculty & Staff
2014 Faculty & Staff

* From the target base year to fiscal year 2015. Refer to page 5 for definition of target base year.

** According to estimates derived from the Campus Access Survey Report, from surveys conducted in 2004 and 2014.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION: A ROAD MAP

2003

Offered down payment assistance to encourage faculty and staff to purchase homes near campus though the launch of the Employer-Assisted Housing Program

2012

Provided free transportation on UGo Daytime and NightRide shuttles for University identification holders

2015

Offered bike sharing program discounts to UChicago students, faculty, and staff

2006

Provided free transportation on CTA routes 171 and 172 for University identification holders

Offered occasional parking program in which parking is occasionally available for free to those who regularly use buses or trains

Offered parking discounts for individuals who carpool

2010–2015

Partnered with Blackstone Bikes to run ReCycles Bikes Share program

Program phased out with introduction of new bike sharing program in 2014

2014

Partnered with the City of Chicago to introduce 10 bike sharing stations across campus, maximizing opportunity for connection to city-wide transportation systems, including CTA and Metra

AREA 4

Waste Reduction

Waste causes pollution, contributes to climate change, and expends money, energy, and natural resources. Solid landfilled waste contributes to almost four percent of the University's greenhouse gas emissions.

GOAL

Reduce the amount of total landfilled waste

NEXT STEP

Continue to explore cost-effective ways to improve existing waste reduction programs.

COMPREHENSIVE WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM

To reduce landfilled waste, the University provides convenient opportunities to recycle and properly dispose of products, while educating the University community on the benefits of creatively reusing and reducing the amount and type of products consumed. Whenever possible, waste is diverted from the landfill through recycling, composting, and donating.

A YEAR'S OUTPUT: 2015

3,900+
short tons of waste
1 short ton = 2,000 lbs

Approximately 59% landfilled

Approximately 41% diverted from landfill
1,606 short tons of waste diverted from landfill

1,371 short tons
of recycled waste

52 short tons
of aerobically digested food waste from UChicago dining halls

178 short tons
of composted landscape waste

5 short tons
of composted food waste

ELECTRONIC WASTE

Incorrect processing of e-waste can affect human health and pollute the environment.

The University makes recycling electronics less cumbersome by offering three campus drop-off locations:

1. **Facilities Services**
   5225 South Cottage Grove Avenue
   Via the loading dock
2. **Regenstein Library**
   1100 East 57th Street
   Drop-off bin near the battery receptacle
3. **Gordon Center For Integrative Science**
   929 East 57th Street
   Drop-off bin located in the west lobby

For free pickup, contact **computerrecycling@uchicago.edu** or **773.702.7913** to schedule an appointment.

30,000+
pounds of electronic waste collected for proper disposal in 2015

AREA 5

Food Systems

Pesticides and fertilizers contaminate water, which has potentially dangerous impacts on human health and wildlife. Food shipped long distances contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution.

By investigating the sources and practices surrounding campus food, the University aims to reduce environmental degradation and emissions, while supporting local businesses and responsible practices.

GOAL

Increase the amount of responsibly raised, grown, and sourced food purchased by UChicago Dining

NEXT STEP

The Office of Sustainability is working with UChicago Dining and the new food vendor to secure local and healthy food and reduce food waste.

Achieved Two-Star Green Restaurant Association Certification at Arley D. Cathey Dining Commons and Café Logan in 2015

UCHICAGO DINING RENEWS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

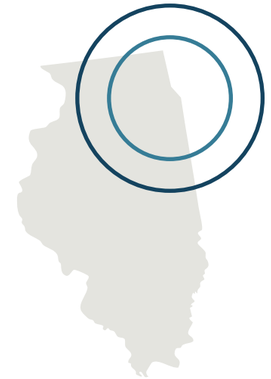
UChicago Dining is heightening its commitment to sustainability, including strengthening its relationships with local vendors and businesses.

In 2015, UChicago Dining created and released a request for proposal to food service companies across the country. As of July 1, 2016, a new food vendor is providing food for UChicago dining halls, academic cafés, and retail markets.

- The new food vendor will prioritize locally and sustainably produced items.
- Menus will be written based on seasonality and availability of regional fresh product.
- All seafood purchases will continue to follow the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program sustainability guidelines for commercial buyers.

SUSTAINABLE DINING

UChicago's food system includes the food served in all UChicago dining halls and cafés, student-run cafés, and marts. The University has responsible food procurement and operational guidelines addressing all parts of the system, from local food considerations (grown, processed, or purchased), farming practices, and food preparation to food waste, water consumption, and cleaning products.



35%
of food served is grown, processed, and purchased within 150 miles

40%
of food served is grown, processed, and purchased within 250 miles

100% **of used fryer oil is donated for industrial reuse.**

AREA 6

Green Space

Forty-six percent of the University of Chicago campus is green space. A certified botanic garden, the UChicago campus is a model for sustainable groundskeeping practices that embraces water conservation, chemical minimization, and environmental protection measures. Campus landscapes feature longer-lived plants that rely less on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, reduce the use of limited and costly natural resources, reduce waste generation and disposal, and require less maintenance while preventing air, water, and soil pollution.

GOAL

Continue the development and implementation of sustainable design and maintenance of all campus grounds

NEXT STEP

Create a comprehensive set of guidelines that applies to all aspects of green space design and maintenance.

Received the 2011 Green Star Grand Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society for exceptional grounds maintenance

TREE TO TABLE

Protecting trees is a campus priority. The University of Chicago recycles and relocates its trees, either giving them new campus homes when they are displaced due to construction or donating them for creative reuse.

Harvested lumber from mature campus trees has been used in woodworking projects across campus. When the Mansueto Library was being built, for example, trees were removed from the site. Some were replanted nearby. Others, which were reused, can now be found in Regenstein Library as benches, tables, and doors.

REUSE & RECYCLE

Sandstone pavers reclaimed from the Main Quadrangles were used in the stacked stone walls (pictured here, framing the plant beds) at Regenstein Library, Cobb Gate, and Max Palevsky Residential Commons and are now a signature element on campus.

STAYING GREEN
SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

The Quadrangle Entry Gardens are watered by one of 14 campus smart irrigation systems. These systems alert Facilities Services staff when irrigation is necessary or there are technical issues, allowing the University to use water much more efficiently. **Installing these systems has conserved significant natural and economic resources.**

Five irrigation systems were converted to smart irrigation systems in 2015:

1. 5855 South University Avenue
2. Max Palevsky Residential Commons C/East
3. Max Palevsky Residential Commons A/West
4. Searle Chemistry Laboratory
5. Laird Bell Law Quadrangle

APPROPRIATE PLANT SELECTIONS

Integrating native and introduced species that are both environmentally sound and beautiful is a campus priority. The Quadrangle Entry Gardens are one example of the University's sustainable landscaping practices. Gardens are planned and designed to utilize appropriate plant species suited for specific sites. The commitment to use species best adapted to Chicago's soil and climate is evident throughout campus as **over 85 percent of plantings have been selected for optimal durability**. These plants:

- Reduce the need for inorganic fertilizers and pesticides (thereby reducing pollution on site and further downstream)
- Require less water
- Provide a vital habitat for insects, birds, and wildlife

PARTHENOCISSUS

PEROVSKIA

ECHINACEA

BAPTISIA

RUDBECKIA

SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEM
(See page 13 for more information.)

AREA 7

Water Conservation

Water conservation touches many aspects of sustainability. Pumping, delivering, and treating water requires significant energy. By reducing potable water consumption, we abate negative environmental pressures on the watershed and water treatment infrastructure, and at the same time save energy.

GOAL

Reduce the consumption of potable water (see Wise Water Use, page 16)

NEXT STEPS

1. Employ water conservation measures wherever possible.
2. Continue to optimize water use at new project sites, including mitigating storm-water runoff at the Keller Center (2018) and David M. Rubenstein Forum (2019).

REDUCING POTABLE WATER CONSUMPTION

As population increases, demand for freshwater increases, and so does cost. Despite the University's location adjacent to the Great Lakes, the largest source of freshwater in the world, potable water is becoming more scarce. If current usage rates continue, the City of Chicago will consume its allotment (according to international agreement) of Lake Michigan water by 2030. Limiting the use of potable water is critical.

The University has implemented a variety of water conservation measures, including smart irrigation systems, and encourages the use of harvested water whenever possible.

In addition, the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago are working together to conduct research, disseminate new water technologies, and promote water reuse.

TRACKING UNIVERSITY WATER USE

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago provides the University with potable water and cleans the water the University uses. The district checks water meters twice a year, basing UChicago's water bills on average water use.

An external vendor checks the University's water meters each month at varying intervals. Not every UChicago building is metered. Using the water data available, there is no discernible water use trend. The University could better understand how to reduce its water consumption if it installed its own monitoring infrastructure, which would provide more reliable data.

600 MILLION +
gallons of water are collected from Lake Michigan, sanitized, and delivered to the University's Hyde Park campus each year.

194 MILLION +
gallons of water fall to the campus as rain each year.

360,000+
gallons of water are saved per year through UChicago Dining's tray inconvenience program, which discourages tray use in the dining halls.

14 centrally controlled smart irrigation systems were installed between fiscal years 2012 and 2016.

AREA 7 WATER CONSERVATION

WISE WATER USE

The University's Wise Water-Use Guidelines, established in 2012, expound upon the commitment to water conservation set out in the University's Sustainability Plan. The guidelines are driven by five goals:

1

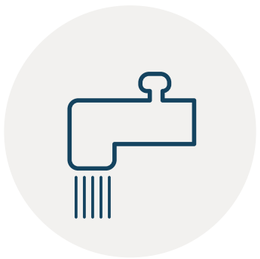
Increase water harvesting and recycling

PROGRESS

In a pilot project with the City of Chicago, the University installed a 120,000 gallon stormwater retention system under the North Science Quadrangle in 2015 (see page 17).

Building plans for the Keller Center (2018) include a rainwater harvesting system which will capture rainwater from the roof for toilet flushing. The system is expected to save 300,000 gallons of water per year.

2



Reduce the consumption of potable water

PROGRESS

The University installs auto-shutoff faucets for all new buildings and major renovations.

The new Keller Center (2018) will include ultra low-flow toilet fixtures, faucets, and showers which will result in a 40 percent reduction in water use.

The David M. Rubenstein Forum (2019) will include low-flow water fixtures, which will result in a 30 percent reduction in water use.

3

Maintain the aesthetics of the campus landscape and botanic garden

PROGRESS

From fiscal year 2012 to 2016, 14 centrally controlled smart irrigation systems were installed.

Per a 2013 Facilities Services Facility Standards update, any new irrigation system installed at the University must be a smart irrigation system.

Planning and design of all University gardens utilize appropriate plants.

4

Minimize impacts to natural resources from the discharge of stormwater

PROGRESS

All new campus buildings since 1999 have implemented green roofs.

Building plans for the David M. Rubenstein Forum (2019) and the Keller Center (2018) mitigate stormwater runoff.

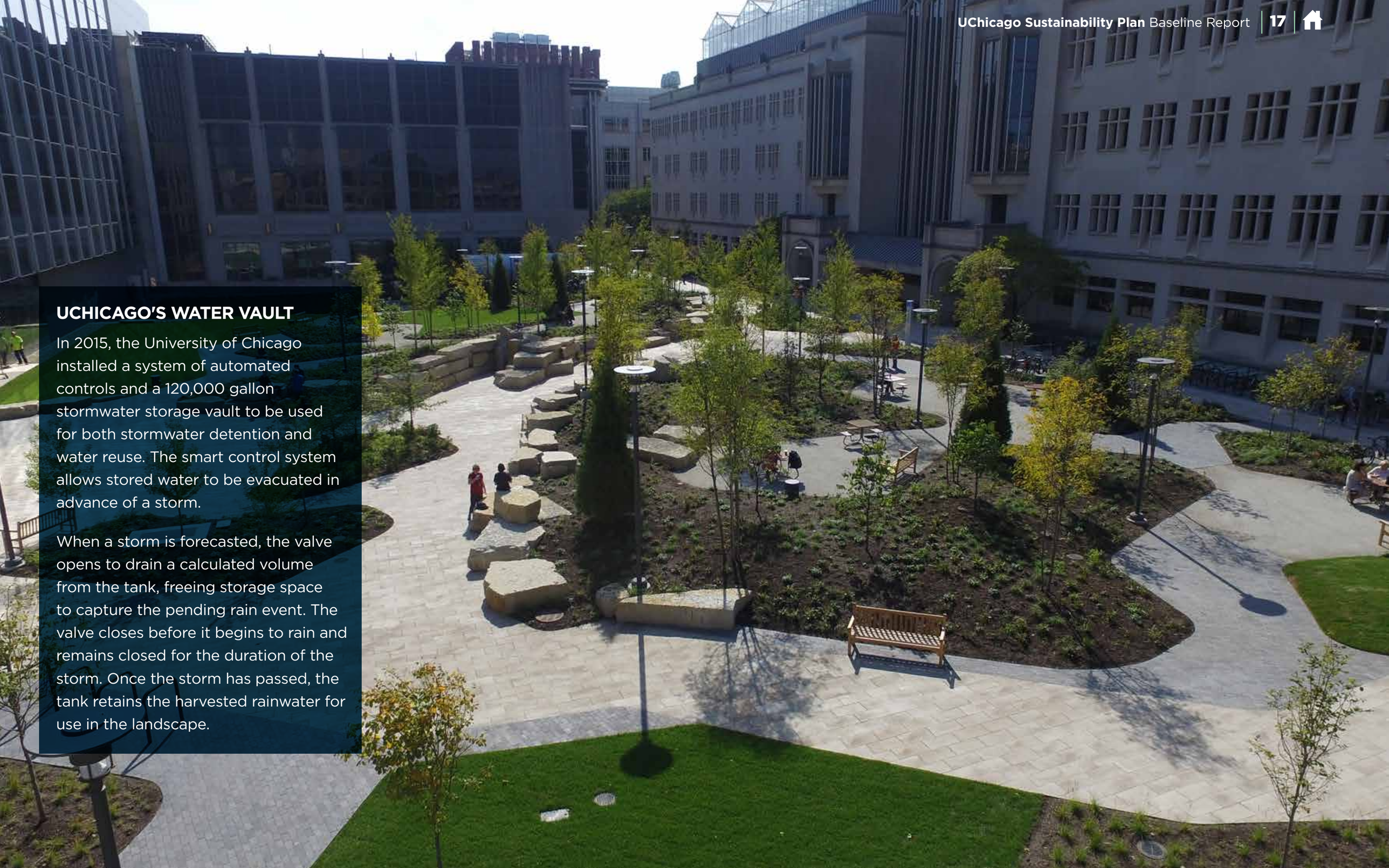
The Keller Center site will also include an infiltration swale, landscaped areas with less pavement and more plantings, and a vegetated roof, which all contribute to a significant reduction in stormwater runoff and improved water quality.

5

Encourage prudent financial decisions

PROGRESS

As the cost of water continues to increase, so does the financial significance of the University's water conservation efforts.



UCHICAGO'S WATER VAULT

In 2015, the University of Chicago installed a system of automated controls and a 120,000 gallon stormwater storage vault to be used for both stormwater detention and water reuse. The smart control system allows stored water to be evacuated in advance of a storm.

When a storm is forecasted, the valve opens to drain a calculated volume from the tank, freeing storage space to capture the pending rain event. The valve closes before it begins to rain and remains closed for the duration of the storm. Once the storm has passed, the tank retains the harvested rainwater for use in the landscape.

AREA 8

Environmentally Preferable Procurement

The University leverages its buying power and considers environmental factors alongside traditional procurement criteria while supporting supplier diversity and the local business community.

The University considers products that minimize pollution, improve indoor air quality, conserve energy, and reduce both materials sent to landfills and exposure to hazardous materials.

GOAL

When feasible, reduce the environmental impact of products and services throughout the University supply chain

NEXT STEPS

1. Address materials used, modes of production, amount of transportation associated with product delivery, efficiency of operation and use, and effects of disposal.
2. Select products that have positive environmental attributes (e.g., biodegradability, low toxicity, low volatile organic compound (VOC) content, reduced packaging, and low life-cycle energy use).

SUSTAINABILITY IS BALANCE
HOW THE UNIVERSITY BALANCES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability at UChicago is making decisions that balance environmental, social, and economic considerations.

The Office of Sustainability applies this logic—practical sustainability—in as many decisions as possible across the University.

This ensures that decisions are sustainable for the long term.

The University's procurement decisions consider environmental, social, and economic sustainability:

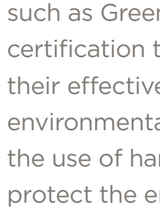
Environmental
Products and vendors meet the environmental requirements stipulated in applicable University contracts.

Social
The University supports local and minority- and women- owned businesses.

Economic
Products and vendors need to be economically competitive.

UChicago Local
Through the UChicago Local initiative, the University is engaging local suppliers for its acquisition needs. Doing so has positive social, environmental, and economic effects—local communities benefit, products and services travel shorter distances, and the University continues to receive the best value.

100%
of the cleaning products used in UChicago dining halls and kitchens are Green Seal certified.



80%
of the University's janitorial supplies and paper products are green products.*

*In 2014, 80 percent of the University's janitorial and paper purchases in participating buildings met specified sustainability criteria, which include certifications such as Green Seal.

SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

University contracts encourage janitorial and other vendors to meet specified sustainability requirements. For example, the University's janitorial contractor is required to meet the University's sustainability standards. The criteria include certifications such as Green Seal, an industry-standard certification that requires products to maintain their effectiveness while also curtailing environmental impact. Reducing or eliminating the use of harmful cleaning chemicals helps to protect the environment while simultaneously enhancing the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

AREA 9

Building Awareness and Partnerships

Encouraging sustainability practices in the University of Chicago community requires immense cooperation. Since every UChicagoan plays a role in creating a more sustainable campus, awareness and education are critically important.

GOAL

Involve the entire University community in creating a more sustainable campus

NEXT STEPS

To make greater strides toward a more sustainable campus, the entire UChicago community—students, faculty, and staff—needs to collaborate and make sustainability a priority.

The Office of Sustainability will continue its outreach to form strategic partnerships, programs, and projects.

Member of the Chicagoland Network for Sustainability in Higher Education since 2010

Member of the Ivy Plus Sustainability Consortium since 2009

COLLABORATIVE BY NATURE

Working toward sustainability is by nature collaborative work—work that requires willful participation. Incredible progress can be made by leveraging the vast knowledge of the University community. Through its research, centers, institutes, and affiliated laboratories, the University makes significant impact on energy and environmental challenges around the world.

A sampling of our sustainability partners:

- Argonne National Laboratory
- Center for Robust Decision Making on Climate and Energy Policy
- Computation Institute
- Energy and Environment Lab
- Marine Biological Laboratory
- Office of the Provost
- University Library
- Water Research Initiative

PROJECT **CAFES**

Café **A**ssessment **F**or **E**nvironmental **S**ustainability

UChicago students partnered with experts from the Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition to analyze food sourcing, use of paper products, and energy, water, and waste management in a research project that will improve sustainable practices in four student-run cafés on campus.

The project was a collaboration that included members of the Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition and the University's Office of Sustainability, Center for Leadership and Involvement, Social Sciences Division, and Environment, Agriculture, and Food Working Group. The Office of Sustainability coordinated project activity, fostering collaboration in this diverse team. This exemplifies a key goal of the office, which is to enable connection among autonomous University groups to drive toward greater collective impact.

LAUNCHING 2016

CAMPUS AS A LABORATORY

The Campus as a Laboratory initiative is making the campus a "living laboratory" in which the campus community explores sustainability-related academic research through University facilities.

Like any UChicago research endeavor, Campus as a Laboratory has begun its road to discovery by asking questions:

- What is sustainable practice at an institution like UChicago?
- What information can other ecosystems and life systems provide about sustainability?
- What campus practices and processes have the ability to create knowledge well beyond the geographic reach of UChicago?

The project uses the UChicago campus as a test bed where students, faculty, researchers, and staff can explore—and answer—these critical questions together through multiple phases.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Sustainability Plan
Baseline Report

sustainability.uchicago.edu

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