

2020-2022 Sustainability Plan Update

The University of Chicago created a more ambitious goal to reduce its absolute greenhouse emissions by 50% by 2030. Energy consumption in campus buildings has the largest impact on University greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to more than 70% of the University's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Awards

- ASHRAE® Illinois Chapter, Region VI Technology Award, Gordon Center for Integrative Science, 2021
- ASHRAE® Illinois Chapter, Technology Award, Gordon Center for Integrative Science, 2020
- ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year, 2021, 2022
- Green Restaurant Association Certification ★★★ Arley D. Cathey Dining Commons and Café Logan, 2022
- International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories, Leadership in Energy and Emissions Reduction, 2022
- Peoples Gas Energy Efficiency Partner of the Year, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Tree Campus Higher Education Recognition, 2021

Related Links

[The University of Chicago Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, 2022-2030](#)

[The University of Chicago Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#)

[Greenhouse Gas Emissions Dashboards](#)

[Utility Usage Dashboards](#)

1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

10%

Decrease in scopes 1 and 2 absolute greenhouse gas emissions from the target base year to fiscal year 2021

2 HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

1 LBC
Living Building Challenge

2 PLATINUM

16 GOLD

4 SILVER
LEED Certified Buildings

3 MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION



Providing 1 annual 10-ride Metra pass for all students

4 WASTE REDUCTION

43%

FY2022 diversion rate

5 FOOD SYSTEMS

30-35%

Total spend procured with hyper-local, minority, and women business enterprises

6 GREEN SPACE



Earned the **Tree Campus Higher Education Recognition** from the Arbor Day Foundation for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation

7 WATER CONSERVATION



At Gordon Center for Integrative Science, reduced potable water use by nearly **3.3 million gallons** per year through a condensate recovery project

8 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PROCUREMENT



In collaboration with IT Services, replaced aging fleet of stand alone multi-functional devices with an interconnected network of new **energy-saving** devices

9 BUILDING AWARENESS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Launched EFCampus, a student-faculty research and education partnership with University staff to advance campus sustainability

25+ EFCAMPUS STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

10+ UNIVERSITY UNITS