



BSU Sustainability Office

Progress Report



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2016



Note from the Sustainability Director

As I finish up my eighth year working in this wonderful place, it is fun to reflect on what we've accomplished. And, yes, I say "we" because none of this happens without shared vision and many oars rowing the boat in the same direction. Nothing improves without change, and change must be thoughtful and swift if humans are to survive and thrive on this planet.

For many decades the faculty, staff, administration and students at BSU have decided that the environment is a defining feature of the university. From one of the oldest environmental studies programs in the nation, to a defining value of environmental stewardship, the university has proudly proclaimed its dedication to protecting and preserving Mother Earth. Examples exist throughout campus that showcase this devotion such as native plant beds that support pollinators, water bottle filling stations, and convenient recycling stations. Bikes line the buildings, and our community was chosen to pilot one of the few, if not only, small-scale bike sharing programs in the nation. Other, less obvious projects also display our commitment such as one of the first solar transpired air installations in the state. Academically, all undergraduates must understand not only the impacts humans have on the environment, but the ways all are involved in being part of the solution by completing an environmental course.

This strategic plan was created when BSU decided it wanted to go to the next level and had the support and guidance of many devoted students, faculty, staff, and community members. In 2008 the Sustainability Office was created, and I was hired to oversee the new student Green Fee, acting as the first full-time Sustainability staff within the MnSCU system. The American College and University President's Climate Commitment was signed that same year, committing BSU to become carbon neutral. Much of our work around energy conservation and renewable energy stems from this pledge.

BSU honors Anishinaabe peoples' stewardship of this land by striving to ensure the history, language, and culture are part of our sustainability journey. Recognizing our unique cultural heritage and location, the Sustainability Office operates under a sustainability model which included the environment or Mother Earth as the basis for everything; the deep understanding that we need the environment to survive and thrive. The model also includes a wellness component, realizing that our own individual mental, spiritual, and physical wellbeing must be considered when making good decisions for the future.

I look to the future with hope and anticipation. Today's college students come with an amazing amount of knowledge and passion for the Earth! They are ready to lead!

According to Ojibwe legend, we are in the time of the 7th fire; a time when we are given a choice between two roads, one that's scorched and well-worn, and one that's green and less trodden. Let's be mindful, brave, and full of love for all of our brothers and sisters, and continue to lead our region down the green path.

Erika Bailey-Johnson

Sustainability at BSU

BSU's Vision

We educate people to lead inspired lives.

BSU's Mission

We create an innovative, interdisciplinary and highly accessible learning environment committed to student success and a sustainable future of our communities, state and planet. Through the transformative power of the liberal arts, education in the professions, and robust engagement of our students, we instill and promote service to others, preservation of the earth, and respect and appreciation for the diverse peoples of our region and world.

Sustainability Office

Ganawendakamigaawigamig



BSU Sustainability Office Staff in jackets locally made by the Bemidji Woolen Mills

Sustainability Office Vision

Exemplify and create a culture that can exist indefinitely while in harmony with nature.

Sustainability Office Mission

The mission of Bemidji State University's Sustainability Office is to promote awareness and instill passion for the Earth through research, projects, and leadership.

Sustainability: Our Definition

Ojibwe Influence

BSU is situated on original Ojibwe territory and is surrounded by three Native American reservations: Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake. BSU's vision of sustainability is intimately related to Native American culture and perspective. Our sustainability model is inspired by the Anishinaabe creation story, where Gichi Manidoo (the Creator) created the world in a certain order. Humans were created last and are dependent on animals, plants and Mother Earth to survive, yet nothing is dependent on humans. Humans need nature to survive and thrive.



A Focus on Wellness

In the BSU Sustainability Office, the environment is seen as all-encompassing with real limits that need to be understood and respected. This is in contrast to more conventional definitions of sustainability, where the environment is merely one balancing element along with the economy and society. Therefore, the office engages in work that recognizes a healthy society and healthy economy cannot exist without a healthy environment.

"In our office, we also discuss getting enough sleep, eating right and exercising. We talk about not sitting for too long. We talk about reducing stress and finding outlets for anxiety. We don't ride a bike just because it saves us money or doesn't create emissions when we use them; we also ride it because it's good for us. We paint and sing because it feeds our soul."

-Erika Bailey-Johnson
Sustainability Director

History of Sustainability at BSU

- 1969** – [Center for Environmental Studies](#) Established
- 1972** – [Environmental Studies Bachelors of Science and Graduate Program](#) created
- 1992** – Environmental Task Force Created (now known as the [Environmental Advisory Committee](#))
- 1998** – [Environmental Policy Statement](#) Established, People and the Environment Course Created
- 2004** – [University Mission Statement and Environmental Stewardship Signature Theme](#) Created
- 2005** – [Sustainable Campus Endowment Fund](#) Created
- 2006** – [Talloires Declaration](#) Signed & Wind Energy Purchased to power the Student Union
- 2008** – \$5/Semester Green Fee Established & Sustainability Office Created, Sustainability Director Appointed, [ACUPCC signed](#)
- 2009** – [Strategic Plan for Sustainability](#) (2008 – 2013)
- 2010** – [Schools Cutting Carbon Grant](#) Awarded
- 2011** – [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#) Completed & Accepted, [Solar Transpired Air Feasibility Study](#) Conducted
- 2012** – [Sustainable Landscape Plan Created](#); [Sustainable Procurement Guidelines](#) Adopted
- 2013** – Solar Transpired Air Collector installed; [Biomass Feasibility Study](#) Completed
- 2014** – Assistant Sustainability Director Appointed, [Sustainable Campus Research Award](#) Created
- 2015** – Climate Action Progress Report Completed, Sustainability Endowment 1st Award Given, [Green Fee](#) increased to \$7.50/semester



Shoreline Sculpture commissioned out of White Pines taken from campus grounds

Recognition & Leadership

Institutional



- Ranked 11th by Great College Deal in their list of the [20 best college deals in America for environmentally minded students](#) in 2016.
- Named one of Princeton's [Top Green Colleges](#) in [2011](#) & [2012](#)
- 1st place in the [Minnesota Campus Energy Challenge, 2009](#) and [2010](#).
- Recognized as an [Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partner](#)
- Named one of the [Top 10 affordable schools for Outdoor Enthusiasts](#)
- Recognized as [No. 1 Fishing College](#) in the Country

Staff



Erika Bailey-Johnson
Sustainability
Director

- Highlighted in the [Clean Energy Resource Team's 2016 Women in Energy Series](#)
- Named one of [Prairie Business Magazines "Top 40 under 40"](#) for Promising Young Professionals
- Named as one of [Midwest Energy News' "Top 40 under 40"](#) in 2015



Anna Carlson
Assistant Sustainability
Director

- NW Regional Coordinator for the [Clean Energy Resource Teams](#)
- PhD in Sustainable Energy Planning & Management from Aalborg University in Denmark

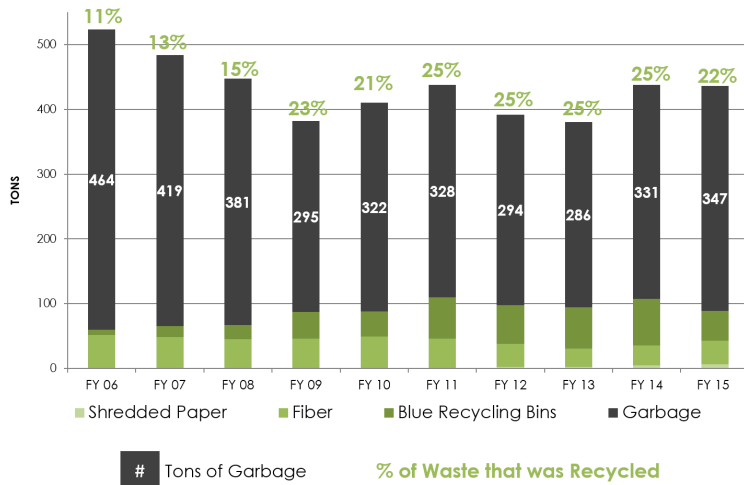


Memberships



Waste, Water & Land Use

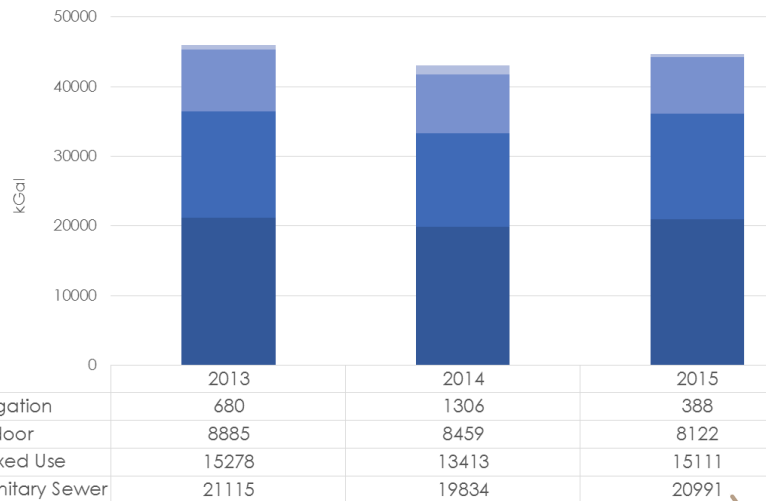
Waste



Between 2006 and 2015 BSU has successfully **reduced its overall waste generation by 25%** and has **doubled its recycling rate**. Programs such as “Donate Don't Dumpster” in coordination with the Free Store as well as clear, consistent recycling on campus has led to this success.

Water

BSU has just recently started tracking its water usage through B3 Benchmarking. There have been a number of efficiency improvements installed on campus including **low flow showerheads** saving the University approximately **35 million gallons of water to date**. Wally's is also installing an upgraded water system that is slated to **save Walnut hall 50% of its water usage**.



Land



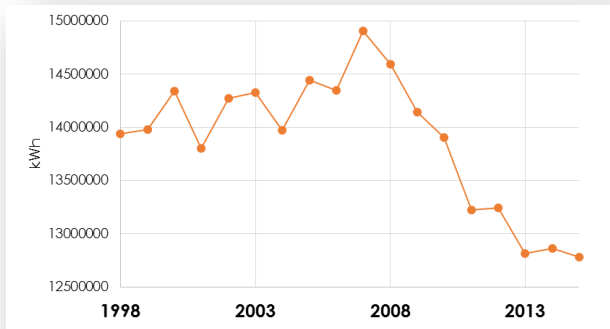
- ◆ Gitigaan Campus-Community Garden
- ◆ Early Bloom Garden
- ◆ American Indian Resource Center Garden
- ◆ Butterfly Garden
- ◆ Native Lakeshore Restoration
- ◆ Shakespeare Perennial Garden

Native, edible & perennial plantings on campus

Native and Perennial plants reduce energy and water use on campus and promote pollinator habitat and health. By Today BSU has restored 850 feet of shoreline with native plants. In 2012 BSU created and adopted a **Master Landscape Plan** that includes strategies to **increase native, edible and perennial landscaping** on campus.

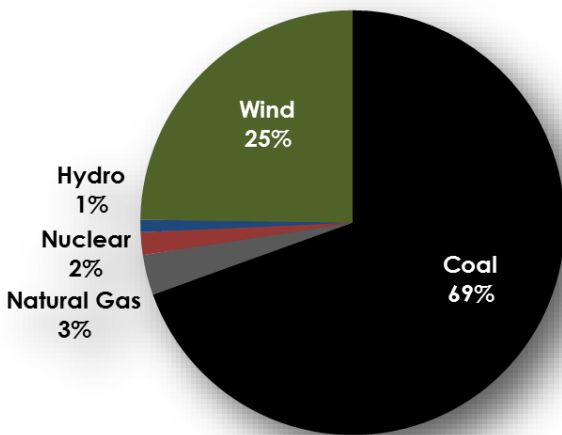
Energy Use

Electricity



BSU has made great strides in electrical efficiency on campus. **Since 2007 BSU has decreased its electrical consumption by 14%.** Much of the improvements are thanks to LED lighting retrofits across campus.

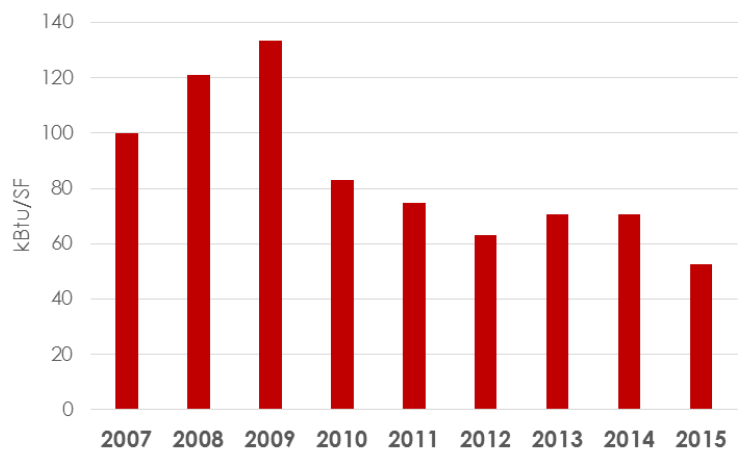
Thanks to a green power purchase agreement through Otter Tail Power's Tailwinds Program, **BSU purchases enough wind power to cover the electricity use of the Student Union.** In 2015, Ottertail also generated 20% of its electricity from wind. This combined with our wind power purchase allows BSU to boast **25% wind energy** on campus



Heat

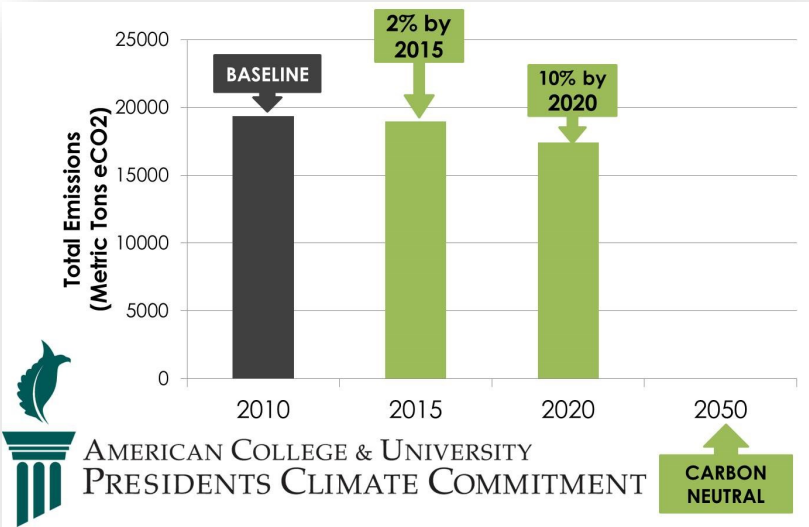
In 2009 BSU installed a high efficiency natural gas boiler that helped lead to a **60% reduction in energy used for heating between 2009 and 2015.**

In 2015 **BSU ranked #2 in the entire MnSCU system for energy use per square foot**, and is recognized as decreasing **44% in overall energy use since 2009.**

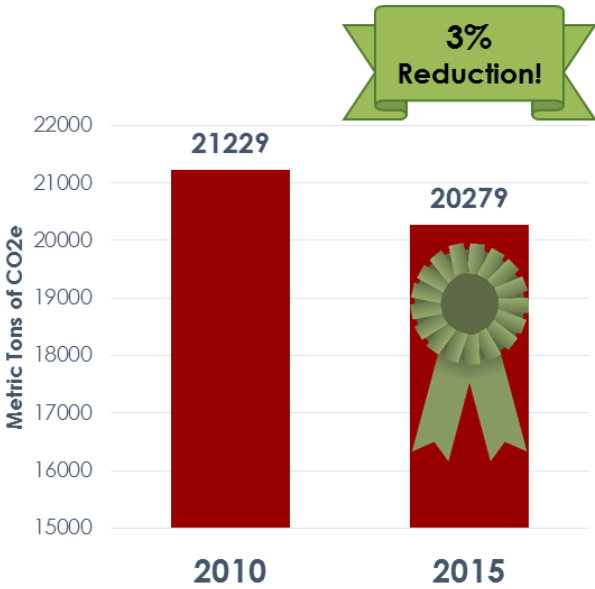


Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2008, Bemidji State University signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment **agreeing to become carbon neutral by the year 2050**. BSU set interim carbon reduction targets with the first being a 2% reduction from a 2010 baseline by the year 2015. **We exceeded that goal and achieved a 3% reduction by 2015.** Our next reduction goal is 10% below the 2010 baseline by the year 2020.



Observed Trends & Influential Factors



- BSU has retrofitted many lighting fixtures to high efficiency LEDs across campus, and has **decreased electricity consumption 8% since 2010**.
- BSU installed a **solar transpired air collector** on the Lower Hobson Union in 2013, **reducing heating load approximately 129 mmBTUs/year**.
- We have experienced **unseasonably warm winters** reducing our heating requirement. Overall our **heating load has decreased 9% since 2010**.
- BSU has **decreased its physical footprint by 133,147 square feet** since 2010, taking down Sanford Hall, Maple Hall & the Peter's Aquatics Lab
- BSU's newest renovation project (Memorial Hall) is **built to LEED standards**.

Campus & Community Engagement



The Sustainability Coordinator is a co-advisor for the Students for the Environment Club on campus. Therefore much of the work in the office is coordinated with club members. SFE also plays a big role in organizing Earth Day events each year and collaborates well with office activities and projects.



The Sustainability Office plays a big role in the Campus Nice Ride Program by subsidizing student rental rates, as well as contributes to marketing and organizational support. Students only end up paying \$20/semester for a bike. The Green Fee was also used as initial financial support to get the program established at BSU.



From 2012 to 2014, The Sustainability Office was a host site for a Minnesota GreenCorps member. This relationship helped strengthen the connection between BSU's Sustainability Office and the City of Bemidji's Sustainability Committee. It also helped establish the Sustainable Tuesday's program and greatly supported Bemidji's GreenStep Cities progress. Thanks to GreenCorps member work, Bemidji is now recognized as a Step 3 City in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.



The Sustainability Office works closely with the Indigenous Environmental Network on a number of different programs and initiatives including Sustainable Tuesdays; a program that has evolved into Ebiyang ("where we are at home" in Ojibwe) as well as the Bemidji Truth and Reconciliation efforts.



Since 2013, the Sustainability Office has established a strong relationship with the Headwaters Regional Development Commission, collaborating on internships focusing on Clean Energy development. Our collaborative work has successfully resulted in funding acquired through the Clean Energy Resource Teams and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to advance Clean Energy Financing in NW Minnesota.



BSU's Sustainability Director is an original founding member of the City of Bemidji's Sustainability Committee and has been an integral figure with the group ever since. Now both the Director and Assistant Sustainability Director are active members, assisting the City through their GreenStep Cities program and advising the city on environmental best practices. We have also been responsible for hosting the Annual Sustainable Places Tour around our community for 4 (going on 5) years.

Campus & Community Engagement



BSU has a longstanding relationship with the Clean Energy Resource Teams with our Sustainability Director serving on the NW steering committee for 2 years. Our office has received a number of seed grants through CERTs and now the Assistant Sustainability Director is co-employed as the NW Regional Coordinator for CERTs; strengthening ties to regional clean energy connections and projects.



BSU's Sustainability Director currently serves on the board of directors of Happy Dancing Turtle: Sustainable Living Campus. 2016 marks the first year in a collaboration to bring an Eco-Camp to BSU's Summer programming for 1st and 2nd Grade students.



BSU has a long standing relationship with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance working with them on various solar feasibility studies and installations on campus. In addition BSU's Sustainability Director served on the board of the RREAL for 6 years and served as board chair for 2 years. And currently, our Assistant Sustainability Director serves on the board of directors for RREAL on a 3 year term.



BSU's Assistant Sustainability Director is also currently serving a 3 year term on the board of the NW Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. The NW RSDP sponsored her participation in the U-LEAD leadership program through the University of Minnesota Extension with a training program called: "Leadership in the face of Change" in 2016.



The Sustainability Office has been actively engaged in the City of Bemidji's GreenStep City program. Their collaboration with the Minnesota GreenCorps helped get the city established in the program and has seen the city through to be recognized as a Step 2 city in 2014 and Step 3 city in 2015. The office is currently working with a set of internships that are assisting a number of other NW communities advance their GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations programs.



The Sustainability Office has adopted a section of the North Country Trail; committing to cleaning and maintaining the Waboose Lake Loop. The office staff volunteers at least once a year at the site clearing trails and limbing branches.



BSU Sustainability Office

2008 –2013 Strategic Plan Summary



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2016

Strategy A: Reduce our Carbon Footprint



- 🌿 **Goal 1: Increase energy conservation and efficiency**
- 🌿 **Goal 2: Reduce waste and increase recycling**
- 🌿 **Goal 3: Encourage alternative modes of transportation**
- 🌿 **Goal 4: Promote renewable energy**

SUMMARY

Goal 1: Increase energy conservation and efficiency

Status	Initiative
●	1.1 Calculate BSU's campus carbon footprint (ACUPCC).
✓	1.2 Develop a Climate Action Plan (ACUPCC).
●	1.3 Challenge students to reduce energy consumption via the "Do It In The Dark" contest.
●	1.4 Establish an Energy Star Purchasing Policy (ACUPCC).
✓	1.5 Contract outside specialists to perform building audits, identifying potential areas for improvement in heating, cooling, insulation, and lighting.
●	1.6 Review hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and fully electric vehicles for BSU fleet replacement over time.
●	1.7 Encourage high-efficiency lighting upgrades throughout campus.
✓	1.8 Participate in the Minnesota Campus Energy Challenge to encourage campus-wide energy conservation.
●	1.9 Promote green building design, construction, and destruction; encourage LEED certification or similar standard (Laurel House as MN EnergyStar Certified).
●	1.10 Investigate options for less energy-intensive equipment.
●	1.11 Promote the use of local foods.

✓ **Achieved**

● **On Track/Ongoing**

● **On Hold/At Risk**

● **Not Started/Dropped**

Highlights



Since 2011, BSU's campus/ community garden has provided 28 plots per year to campus and community members so they have the ability to grow, harvest and consume fresh, local produce. It has been fully subscribed with a waiting list since it was established.

Since 2008, Students for the Environment has sponsored a campus wide energy challenge. This program has engaged and educated hundreds of students, on energy conservation and efficiency, and saved the University over \$5,500 in energy costs.

I'M DOING IT IN THE DARK!



SUMMARY

Goal 2: Reduce waste and increase recycling

Status	Initiative
●	2.1 Perform a waste audit of Hagg-Sauer Hall.
●	2.2 Monitor and implement strategies to increase recycling.
●	2.3 Investigate options to reduce cost for waste and recycling.
✓	2.4 Salvage food grade oil (Dan Houg).
●	2.5 Investigate options for composting to decrease food and yard waste and provide a valuable (perhaps profitable) commodity.
✓	2.6 Implement a reusable take-out container program.
●	2.7 Implement a bottled water policy to reduce plastic waste and encourage the use of tap water.
✓ ●	2.8 Implement a paper policy to reduce paper waste.
●	2.9 Encourage the reuse of water bottles and coffee mugs.
●	2.10 Encourage efficient hand-driers to reduce paper towel waste.
●	2.11 Communicate with General Maintenance Workers, Waste Management, faculty, staff, and students regarding waste and recycling opportunities for improvement.
✓	2.12 Implement a Free Store.
●	2.13 Encourage the purchase of recycled products and more sustainable products in general (paper, office furniture, cleaning supplies, etc.).
●	2.14 Establish a Sustainable Procurement Policy
✓	2.15 Establish a tobacco-free campus policy

✓ Achieved

● On Track/Ongoing

● On Hold/At Risk

● Not Started/Dropped

Highlights



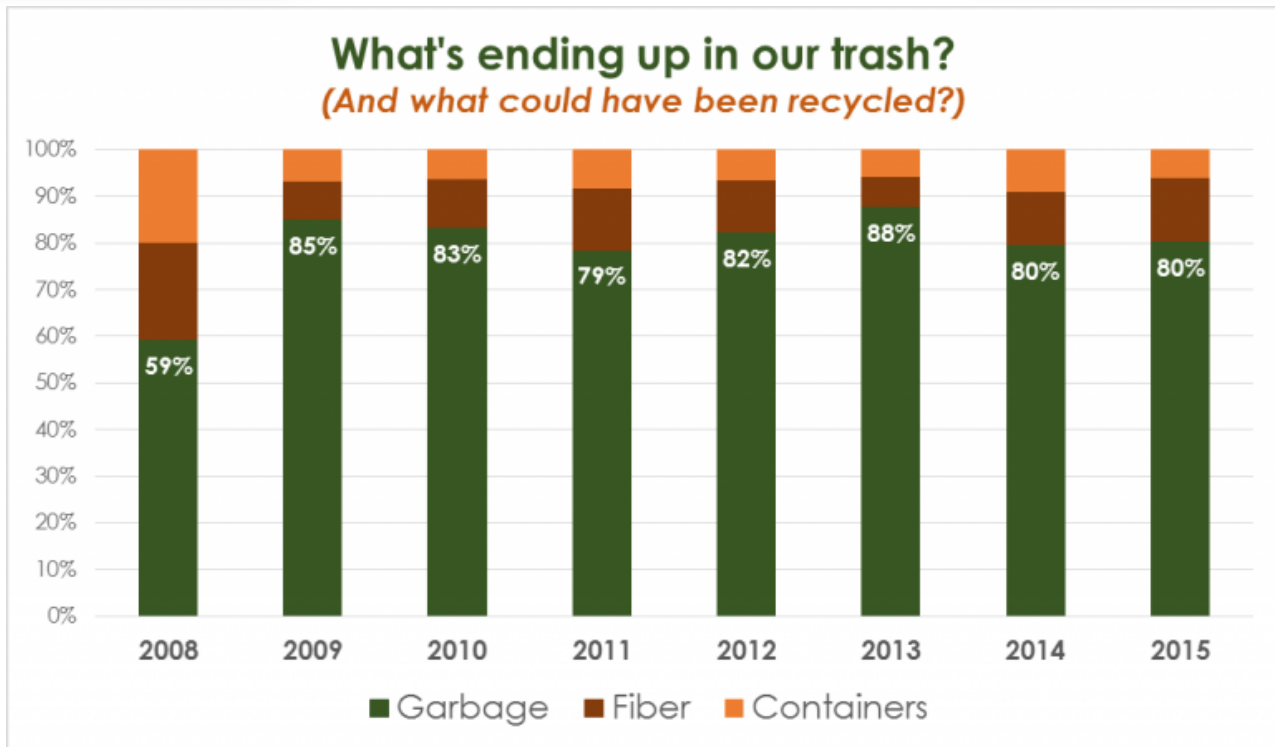
Aramark has partnered with the Sustainability Office to implement a reusable to-go container program. The campus community can make a one-time purchase of a to-go container for \$5, use them across campus and return/exchange for a clean container for no additional cost.



Highlights Cont.



The Sustainability Office established a Donate Don't Dumpster program as a way to divert gently used items from the landfill. This program has supported BSU's Free Store since it opened in 2010.

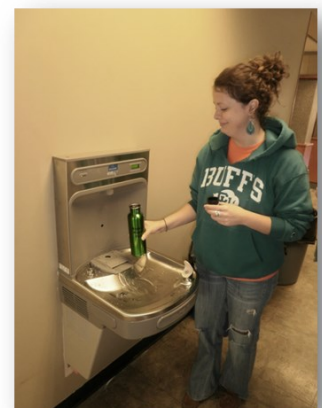


Each year, the Sustainability Office staff conducts a waste audit of Hagg-Sauer Hall to identify what is ending up in the trash. Since the office was established in 2008, the audit results have shown a dramatic improvement in waste items being disposed of properly. This is in large part due to comprehensive recycling information and infrastructure being provided across campus.



At the beginning of every school year, the Sustainability Office gives away free reusable water bottles and coffee mugs to all incoming freshman and transfer students.

The Office is also working with the Environmental Advisory Committee, Student Senate and the Facilities crew to install Elkay water bottle filling stations in each campus building. BSU currently has 20 stations in 14 buildings across campus.



SUMMARY

Goal 3: Encourage alternative modes of transportation

Status	Initiative
●	3.1 Co-host a Bike Bemidji event to encourage bicycling and bike safety.
✓	3.2 Promote and increase ridership on Paul Bunyan Transit (ACUPCC).
●	3.3 Investigate biodiesel production and use.
●	3.4 Communicate with those involved in biking/walking trails.
✓	3.5 Initiate a bike lease program (Bucky's Bikes).
✓	3.6 Investigate a bike rental/buy program.
●	3.7 Establish a ride-share program online to reduce commuter miles and encourage car-pooling.



Achieved



On Track/Ongoing



On Hold/At Risk



Not Started/Dropped

Highlights



In 2011, BSU installed its solar powered bus stop shelter to help promote and increase ridership on Paul Bunyan Transit.



BSU's bike lease and rental program has evolved since 2008. What started out as Bucky's Bikes has now become BSU Nice Ride through a partnership with Nice Ride Minnesota and the City of Bemidji. BSU has 100 bikes that can be leased to students, faculty and staff on a daily or semester long basis. The Green Fee now subsidizes the rentals to make them more affordable for students, who now only pay \$20/semester for their Nice Ride bike.

SUMMARY

Goal 4: Promote renewable energy

Status	Initiative
●	4.1 Investigate options for solar energy on campus; implement where appropriate and feasible.
●	4.2 Continue to purchase Ottertail Tailwinds.
●	4.3 Investigate options for wind energy on campus and in the community; implement where appropriate and feasible.
●	4.4 Begin conversations about a sustainable living laboratory on the old high school property.
●	4.5 Continue to investigate alternatives for electricity and heating; implement when feasible.
●	4.6 Be aware and involved in local renewable energy projects.
●	4.7 Investigate Life Cycle Analysis of renewable energy options.

✓ **Achieved**

● **On Track/Ongoing**

● **On Hold/At Risk**

● **Not Started/Dropped**

Highlights

In 2013, BSU commissioned a Biomass Feasibility Study. The recommendations indicated BSU could reduce its carbon footprint by 32% by converting its heating plant to wood chips.

	Gas Today			Gas Under Future Load			With Biomass Under Future Load		
	Fuel Usage	CO ₂ *1	SO ₂ *2	Fuel Usage	CO ₂ *1	SO ₂ *2	Fuel Usage	CO ₂ *1	SO ₂ *2
	MMBtu/yr	tons/year		MMBtu/yr	tons/year		MMBtu/yr	tons/year	
Gas Usage	169,243	9,816	-	113,893	6,606	-	3,739	217	-
Biomass Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,023	-	0.6
TOTAL	169,243	9,816	-	113,893	6,606	-	121,762	217	0.6

NOTES:
 *1 *lb/MMBtu* *Gas: 116* *Biomass: 0*
 *2 *lb/MMBtu* *Gas: 0* *Biomass: 0.01*



In 2013, BSU installed its first solar energy technology on campus: a solar transpired air collector on the Lower Hobson Union. By pre-warming the intake air for the building in the winter, this installation will save the university approximately 185 mmBTU's each year resulting in annual energy savings of around \$2,000. This project will also save over 10 metric tons of carbon from being emitted each year by the University.

Strategy B

Model stewardship of land and water



- 🌿 **Goal 5: Improve water quality and increase water conservation**
- 🌿 **Goal 6: Increase native vegetation**

SUMMARY

Goal 5: Improve water quality and increase water conservation

Status	Initiative
✓	5.1 Implement a tray-less policy to conserve water and reduce waste.
●	5.2 Perform a water audit to determine where water-saving measures can be cost-effective.
●	5.3 Implement recommendations of water audit such as low-flow shower heads and low flush toilets.
●	5.4 Discourage parking on Lake Bemidji.
●	5.5 Implement runoff mitigation strategies.
●	5.6 Investigate options for irrigation systems.
●	5.7 Consider green roofs and permeable parking lot material for future building projects.
●	5.8 Review current use of pesticides and herbicides.



Achieved



On Track/Ongoing



On Hold/At Risk



Not Started/Dropped

Highlights



The Sustainability Office collaborated with BSU Dining Services to instigated a tray-less policy in Walnut Dining Hall as a way to cut down on water use and reduce food waste.

The Sustainability Office collaborated with the Environmental Advisory Committee, Administration and the Grounds Crew to designate the academic side of campus a pesticide free zone. Starting the summer of 2016, the academic buildings will no longer be sprayed with pesticides, respecting the sensitivity of the aquatic environment.



SUMMARY

Goal 6: Increase native vegetation

Status	Initiative
●	6.1 Continue to replace annual bed and lawn space with native perennials.
●	6.2 Continue to educate regarding the benefits of native perennials by creating signs, giving presentations, etc.
●	6.3 Investigate options for office/department adoptions of the native plant beds to assist in maintenance.
●	6.4 Investigate options for various types of native plant beds.
●	6.5 Encourage the planting of native trees.
●	6.6 Review the Master Facility Plan to ensure that sustainability of the land is incorporated.
●	6.7 Continue to monitor the use of Hobson Forest.



Achieved



On Track/Ongoing



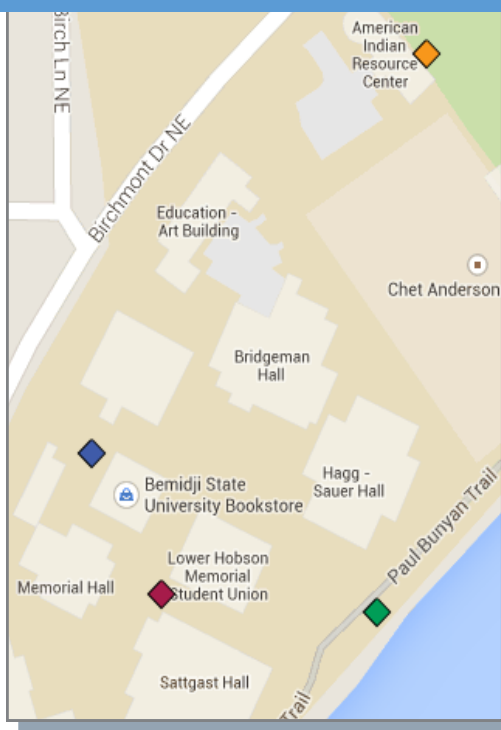
On Hold/At Risk



Not Started/Dropped

Highlights

Location of BSU's native plantings



Since 2008 BSU has established 4 native plant beds on campus and has adopted a Master Landscape Plan that integrates native, perennial and edible plantings across campus to promote environmental health and natural habitat.

- ◆ Early Bloom Garden
- ◆ American Indian Resource Center
- ◆ Butterfly Garden
- ◆ Native Lakeshore Restoration

Strategy C: Motivate, educate, and outreach on sustainability issues



- 🌿 **Goal 7: Disseminate sustainability information**
- 🌿 **Goal 8: Provide leadership on and off campus**
- 🌿 **Goal 9: Provide incentives to change behaviors**

SUMMARY

Goal 7: Disseminate sustainability information

Status	Initiative
✓	7.1 Create a Sustainability Website.
✓	7.2 Send "Go Green" tips weekly to staff and faculty.
✓	7.3 Send "Go Green" tips weekly to Marketing and Communications to integrate into the Northern Student newspaper.
●	7.4 Investigate integrating sustainability into the curriculum (ACUPCC).
●	7.5 Investigate the creation of an "Environmental Literacy Certificate".
●	7.6 Investigate the creation of a Green Beaver booklet to showcase campus projects and goals.
●	7.7 Continue to promote and improve People and the Environment as a liberal education requirement.
●	7.8 Continue to act as a resource for students, faculty, staff and the community on issues related to sustainability.
●	7.9 Host, organize, and/or assist in conferences and presentations related to sustainable topics such as local foods (Home Grown Economy Conference).
●	7.10 Coordinate the Traditional Skills Workshops to teach sustainable life skills.
●	7.11 Continue to be involved in first-year student and residential assistant orientation programs.
●	7.12 Continue to coordinate with NTC regarding green energy programs.
●	7.13 Investigate utilizing an intern for summer employment
●	7.14 Share what campus departments and offices are doing to promote sustainability.
●	7.15 Incorporate a Sustainability Tour during Orientation Weekend.
●	7.16 Create a list of sustainability projects for faculty departments and campus offices.

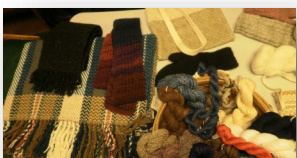
✓ Achieved

● On Track/Ongoing

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● Not Started/Dropped

Highlights



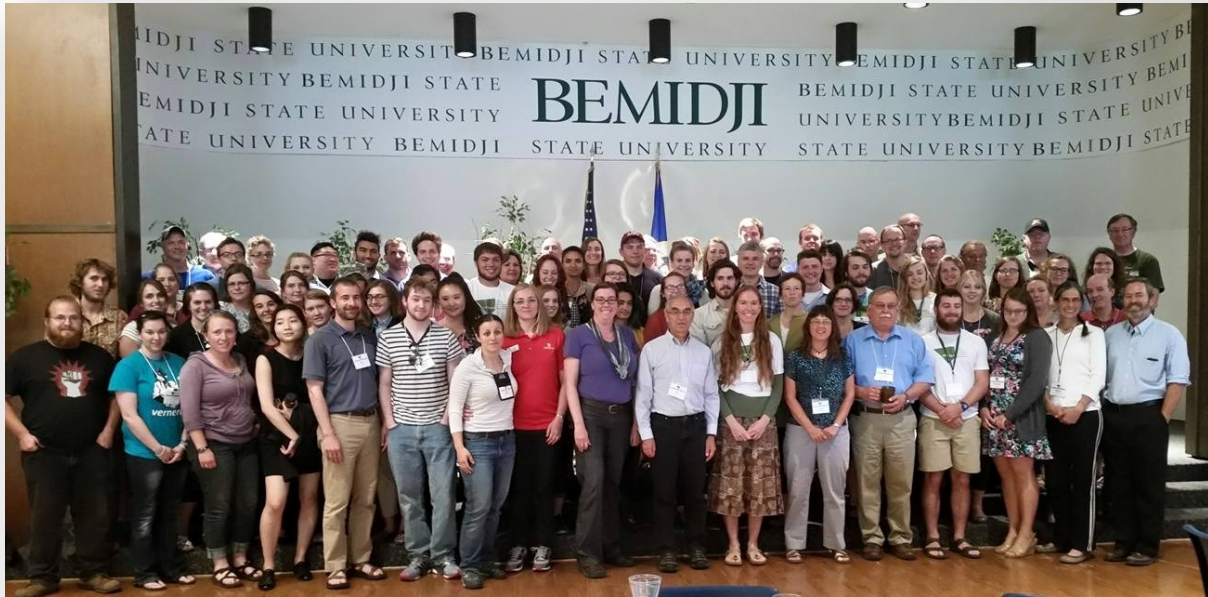
The Sustainability Office offers monthly Traditional Skills workshops for students and community members to learn fun and useful skills such as cooking, sewing, knitting, jewelry making, food preservation and venison processing.

Highlights Cont.



People & the Environment has been a required class for all incoming students that teaches core environmental literacy and offers hands-on learning opportunities. With an emphasis on field trips and external learning environments, this class is one of a kind and reflects the University's shared fundamental values.

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In 2015 BSU hosted the Upper Midwest Association of Campus Sustainability (UMACS) conference. The conference theme was Healthy Planet=Healthy People, Campuses and Communities and it brought together over 120 people from 18 institutions spanning 5 different states and provinces. Bemidji State was able to highlight its unique wellness model of sustainability and demonstrate our respect for and collaboration with our native communities.

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Left Image: Erika Bailey-Johnson giving an introduction to Sustainability at BSU at the UMACS conference June 2015

Right Image: Alternative Transportation Panel featuring Tony Desnik of Nice Ride Minnesota at the UMACS conference

SUMMARY

Goal 8: Provide leadership on and off campus

Status	Initiative
●	8.1 Support the Environmental Advisory Committee.
●	8.2 Promote Students for the Environment.
●	8.3 Continue to coordinate the Nuts and Bolts Appreciation event.
●	8.4 Be involved and network with various sustainability-related organizations
●	8.5 Continue to participate in community events and initiatives.



Achieved



On Track/Ongoing



On Hold/At Risk



Not Started/Dropped

Highlights



In 2015, the Sustainability Office brought 21 students to the national Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference in Minneapolis. BSU was well represented both physically as well as institutionally by being a gold level sponsor of the event.

The Sustainability Office has done an excellent job being an active, visible participant in a number of community events. For example, the Sustainability Director has coordinated the BSU Dragon Boat Team "Beaver Fever" for the past 5 years. This fun and challenging event has brought together students, faculty, staff and alumni in a great community event that promotes wellness and comradery!



SUMMARY

Goal 9: Provide incentives to change behaviors

Status	Initiative
●	9.1 Manage and support the use of the Green Fee for student projects (Green Fee Mini-grants and Sustainability Employment).
●	9.2 Encourage energy competitions to foster behavior changes (see initiatives 1.3 and 1.8).
●	9.3 Seek out funding to support sustainable initiatives.
●	9.4 Provide financial costs for current behaviors (ex. leaving the lights on, driving a car)

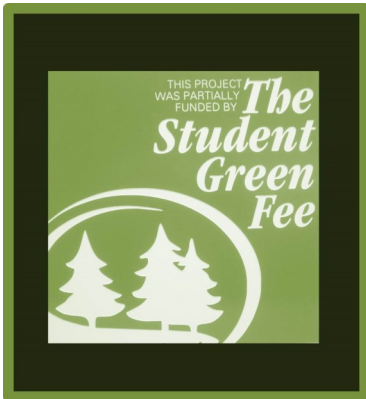
✓ **Achieved**

● **On Track/Ongoing**

● **On Hold/At Risk**

● **Not Started/Dropped**

Highlights



Since its inception, the Sustainability Office has managed the Student Green Fee and has supported numerous student-led initiatives, campus sustainability projects, and office staffing. The majority of the sustainability work done on campus is a direct result of the Green Fee, and has been a point of pride for BSU's Student Senate and overall student body.



Since 2015, the Sustainable Campus Endowment provides \$500 in annual awards for students who have shown exceptional commitment to sustainability and have demonstrated leadership on campus. The "Sustainable Campus Research and Community Engagement Award" applications are reviewed and selected by the Environmental Advisory Committee.