

Syracuse University Sustainability Timeline

1972

- Reacting to the International Energy Crisis of the 1970s, Syracuse University calls for energy conservation.

1974

- University starts energy conservation competitions to emphasize energy conservation goals.
- Low-flow shower heads installed in residence halls.
- Boiler and temperature reset controls installed across campus.

1978

- All buildings are sub-metered on campus to track energy usage

1979

- Steam Station installs more efficient burners and a computerized combustion control system.
- Bird Library converts air handling system to a computerized system.

1982

- Central computer system installed for South Campus to meet energy needs.

1990

- The University initiates a campus recycling program.

1992

- Replacement of paper towels to electric hand dryers begins at the University.
- Energy Manager hired to track and manage energy conservation.

1995

- Hendricks Chapel Lutheran Ministry begins Ten Tons of Love program (now through Off-Campus Commuter Services)

2005

- Syracuse University commits to purchasing 20% of electricity from renewable sources.
- The University joins EPA's Green Power Partnership.

2006

- The College of Visual and Performing Arts hosts the Canary Project which photographs the impacts of climate change.
- The University is recognized as EPA Big East Green Power Champion.

2007

- Syracuse University signs American College and University President's Climate Commitment (now Second Nature).
- University creates Sustainability Division (Renamed Energy Systems and Sustainability Management in 2015).
- University receives B- on first Sustainability Report card from Sustainable Endowments Institute.

2008

- Food Services starts using green cleaning products.
- The University offers paperless payroll.
- Syracuse University participates in nationwide "Focus the Nation" teach-in.
- Sustainability Management completes Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2001-2007.

2009

- Green Library Guide is created.
- The University establishes "Green Days" shutting down most campus buildings to save money over year-end holidays.
- Climate Action Plan is created.
- Green Data Center is constructed and opened.

2010

- Sustainability related student groups form on campus.
- Food Services and Physical Plant start composting organic waste.
- VPA works with Sustainability Management to create a Sustainability Studio in Smith Hall.
- Waverly Rain Garden is installed.

2011

- The University begins to install water bottle filling stations on campus.
- Print production of campus telephone directory ceases.
- University creates RideShare program (now ZimRide) to provide flexible options.
- University conducts Food Waste Audits.
- Syracuse Center of Excellence awarded LEED Platinum Rating.

2012

- Syracuse University Steam Station installs two new air compressors that cut water use by 3 million gallons per year.
- Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center earns LEED certification.
- Sustainability Management institutes e-waste recycling for students in University libraries.

2013

- The University installs solar thermal panels on 20 South Campus buildings to provide domestic hot water.
- The University phases in tray less dining.
- Climate Change Garden installed at Life Science Center.
- Sustainability Management begins “Caught Green Handed” campaign.

2014

- Syracuse University increases percentage of green power to 35%
- The University and the Rescue Mission collect five-cent containers for meals.
- Carrier Dome roof rainwater capture-system installed.
- University employees raise support for United Way for Shop and Eat Local partner-merchants.

2015

- Earthfest is hosted at Thornden Park in collaboration with Sustainability Management, NYPIRG, and Students of Sustainability.
- Dineen Hall earns LEED certification.
- University formalizes commitment to prohibit direct investment in coal and fossil fuels.

2016

- University creates Cycle Share Program on campus.
- Syracuse Campus Crunch is hosted on campus to promote support of local agriculture.

2017

- Electric Vehicle Charging stations installed in Booth and University Avenue Garages.
- Campus as a Lab for Sustainability funds released to students and faculty.
- University Bookstore creates a reusable bag program.
- University ranks number one in New York State in RecycleMania Tournament.
- Recognized as ACC Conference Champion in EPA’s Green Power Champion

2018

- University ranks number one in New York State in RecycleMania Tournament
- Recognized as ACC Conference Champion in EPA’s Green Power Champion

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