SERVICES

The University will reduce the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the wide range of services it provides to faculty, staff, and students. Dining, procurement of goods and services, and transportation all have impacts on our climate, air quality, water, and human health. The strategies outlined in this focal area will reduce the associated carbon emissions, enhance the local environment, and support the community.

GOAL 1
Radford University will increase the sustainability of the campus food system in an effort to reduce harmful environmental and social impacts.

Strategies
A. Increase the amount of sustainably produced, ethically sourced, and/or local foods and beverages served on campus.
   1. Conduct an inventory of food and beverage purchases that qualify as sustainably and ethically produced.
   2. Set immediate, near, and long-term targets for sustainable and ethically produced food products based on Chartwells designations, STARS designations, and/or third-party certifications (Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance, etc.).
   3. Expand sustainable food purchasing to achieve established purchasing targets. Use Chartwells/Compass guidelines and/or STARS guidelines
B. Eliminate or significantly reduce food waste on campus.
   1. Review, update, and formalize procedures and guidelines for recovery and donation of good leftover food from campus dining locations.
   2. Implement a food waste tracking program to monitor and decrease food waste from campus dining locations.
   3. Investigate composting, dehydrator, and pulper options for decreasing food and other organic waste and implement solutions as soon as possible.
   4. Conduct baseline assessment of food waste going to landfill.
   5. Establish immediate, near, and long-term targets for percentage reductions in food waste and take actions to achieve target reductions.
C. Eliminate or significantly reduce single use plastic, polystyrene, and other landfilled waste in food and beverage service, vending, and other campus services to meet or exceed standards established in Executive Order 77.
   1. Investigate a reusable container program, as well as paper and compostable container options for dining takeout, and implement as feasible to comply with EO77
2. Provide reusable beverage and dining ware options for students to purchase, including straws, bags, and utensils.

3. Promote refillable water bottles and bottle filling stations, and provide bottled water in aluminum or other non-plastic containers.

4. Develop a targeted phase out plan of single use plastics and other single use items.

D. Increase the number of plant-forward meals and plant-based options served on campus.
   1. Investigate feasibility of student-run campus gardens to contribute to campus food supply or designated local food events and implement as feasible.
   2. Promote the availability and benefits of sustainable, plant-forward food choices and expand vegan and plant-forward dining options as needed.

E. Increase awareness of sustainable food systems to encourage attentive and conscious food choices.
   1. Evaluate opportunities to host a farmer’s market or community supported agriculture program on campus or in the community.
   2. Evaluate options for hosting a sustainability-themed food outlet on site.
   3. Increase labeling and signage around sustainable food choices.
   4. Provide information to campus community on current sustainability initiatives in Dining.
   5. Investigate benefits of Green Restaurant certification and pursue as appropriate.
   6. Develop and implement a campus-wide “sustainable, low-impact, or green event program, policy or guidelines” to promote sustainable catering options and reduce landfilled waste, e.g. leftover food, disposable dining ware, and other associated waste.
   7. Develop and implement a "Green Events Certification" program to certify and incentivize more sustainable and environmentally friendly events.

GOAL 2
Radford University will develop comprehensive, sustainable purchasing guidelines that align with and contribute to campus sustainability goals (energy, recycling, waste, social responsibility, etc.), EO 77, and STARS.

Strategies
A. Develop sustainable procurement guidelines and best practices for campus purchasing and contracts.
   1. Stay current with advanced trends in sustainable procurement specifications and strategies.
   2. Create Guidelines for Sustainable Procurement to educate and engage campus in making environmentally friendly purchases.
   3. Develop standardized sustainability language for solicitations.
   4. Collaborate with campus contractors to implement sustainability initiatives.
5. Create best practice teams comprised of procurement and other university staff to develop strategies and specifications that encourage and enhance sustainable purchasing.

6. Promote reuse through purchase of surplus items.

7. Promote sustainability in campus procurement through recognition programs, awards, and/or incentives for departments that make the biggest strides towards these initiatives.

B. Develop product specific criteria for high impact products (e.g. chemically intensive services, consumables, furniture, IT equipment, food service providers, professional service providers, transportation, and fuels) and commonly purchased or highest quantity items (e.g. paper) where possible to promote more sustainable products.

1. Promote the support of a common campus-wide sustainable purchasing initiative, such as buying recycled content paper.

2. Encourage and promote the importance in buying Energy Star rated appliances and equipment.

3. Develop a Sustainability Procurement Guide that identifies environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives for commonly purchased items.

C. Establish purchasing guidelines and recommendations to meet or exceed standards established in Executive Order 77, to reduce "disposable" or "single use" plastic items.

1. Create list of acceptable product alternatives currently available from vendors.

2. Create an EO77 virtual training for purchasers and event planners, along with other resources to be used by staff and students.

GOAL 3
Radford University will reduce and offset transportation-related emissions associated with University operations.

Strategies
A. Investigate and develop a voluntary "Carbon Neutral Commuter" program. Participants can purchase carbon offsets to accompany their parking pass to offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with their commute.

B. Explore “Bus, Bike, and Walk” parking permit for off-campus apartments and other commuters to encourage alternative forms of transportation.

C. Promote carpooling and develop prioritized parking for carpool vehicles as needed.

D. Investigate carbon offset opportunities for business travel. If feasible, implement a carbon offset program for ground and air business travel.

E. Investigate if Main Campus-RUC transit route and Blacksburg/Christiansburg/Radford route would be carbon net positive.

F. Update telework policy and encourage teleworking as appropriate.