



Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: **Dr. Elizabeth Davis**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: **Furman University**

(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street

Mailing Address: **3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613**

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: **Greenville County** IPEDS Number*: **218070**

Telephone: **(864) 294 - 2100** Fax: **(864) 294 - 3939**

Web site/URL: www.furman.edu E-mail: **elizabeth.davis@furman.edu**

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Date: **January 9, 2020**



Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Rusty Monhollon
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rusty Monhollon".

Date: 2/10/2020

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

Furman University

South Carolina Nominee to the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools



Prepared by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

In Partnership with the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

February 2020

Documentation of Sustainability Achievement

Summary Narrative: An Overview of Our Work Encompassing All Three Green Ribbon Pillars

Furman University is firmly committed to reducing environmental impacts, promoting and improving health and wellness, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. More than two decades ago, Furman recognized that fulfilling our educational mission required that students attain environmental and sustainability literacy, and that we operate more efficiently and take greater responsibility for our impact on the environment.

Furman has received national recognition and won numerous national awards for its sustainability efforts including the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) gold rating for campus sustainability, a top 10 national ranking among baccalaureate institutions (the highest ranked institution in the southern US), the 2016 National AASHE Campus Sustainability Achievement Award, and selection by AASHE as one of fourteen national sustainability academic centers for “Teaching Sustainability Across the Curriculum”.

The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities serves as the university’s interdisciplinary academic sustainability hub promoting the integration of sustainability across the curriculum and the study and practice of sustainability on campus and in the greater community. Originally established as a center in 2008, the Institute analyzes and addresses campus and community sustainability challenges from an evidence-based, solutions-oriented, systems approach that involves interdisciplinary collaboration among campus and community stakeholders. This approach provides unprecedented learning opportunities for our faculty, staff, students, and community partners and contributes to the greater campus and community good. Other colleges and organizations regularly visit the Institute to learn about its programs and benefit from its innovative approaches.

The Institute offers a wide array of faculty, staff, student, and community development programs including (1) an Affiliate Faculty Program designed to stimulate interdisciplinary conversation, collaboration, and course development around campus and community sustainability, with more than 65 faculty participating, (2) A Student Fellows Program which has supported over 230 fellows in their sustainability research and action around campus and in partnership with 30 different community partner organizations, and (3) the Community Conservation Corps (CCC), a free home weatherization program for low-income homeowners in the greater Greenville area designed to reduce energy consumption, promote financial stability, and increase environmental awareness. The program has weatherized 138 homes in the Greenville community, with the assistance of student volunteers.

In addition to offering programs, the institute is also responsible for implementing, coordinating, and tracking sustainability for the entire campus. With the guidance of Sustainable Furman, our campus sustainability plan, the Shi Institute has garnered support for sustainability among students, faculty, and staff. Some recent accomplishments include working with facilities to implement environmentally-friendly landscape and construction practices, providing opportunities for students to solve sustainability problems on campus, creating a framework for a zero-waste campus, and hosting an AASHE Hub workshop on integrating sustainability into curriculum through campus living/learning laboratories.

Regarding curriculum, Furman believes all students should be environmentally- and sustainability-literate and requires that all students take a “Humans and the Natural Environment (NE)” course to graduate as part of their General Education requirements (GER). NE courses emphasize some aspect of the interactive relationships between humans and the natural environment. Furman is also the first, and still only, liberal arts institution in the country to offer a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability Science (SUS) degree. The degree program, now eight years old, has been one of the fastest growing majors in Furman’s almost two-hundred-year history, with more than 70 declared SUS majors currently enrolled.

In addition to requiring the GER and offering multiple degree programs in sustainability and environmental science, the university also supports multiple, one year engaged living programs including (1) the Greenbelt Community, an intentional living, learning community intended to foster sustainable living and lifestyle choices among twenty-two sophomore students living in four eco-cabins on campus and (2) the Environmental Community of Students, a first-year program focused on global environmental and sustainability issues.

Operationally, Furman is reducing environmental impacts through energy and water conservation, sustainable buildings, waste reduction, and alternative transportation. As an inaugural signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), Furman declared that it will strive to reach climate neutrality with zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2026. We have been diligently working towards this goal by increasing operations efficiency, creating a campus-wide culture of conservation to decrease energy use, creating a more sustainable transportation system through changes in behaviors and policies, investing in renewable energy projects, and developing offset projects and sustainability-oriented service projects in the greater Greenville community.

We track our Greenhouse Gas Emissions annually and have developed a Climate Action Plan that lays out a path to reduce our carbon footprint. To date we have been able to reduce our overall carbon footprint by nearly 30% since our 2007 baseline, even as we have increased our building square footage. Our facilities team has been working to improve building efficiency and optimize energy use. Furman has installed several renewable energy installations around campus including an extensive geothermal system for its upper-class residences and a 743-kW solar farm on a six-acre site at the campus’s main entrance. This solar array is the largest solar project on a South Carolina college campus and, together with numerous other smaller solar arrays on campus, brings Furman’s total solar generating power close to the 1 MW cap set by the state. A locally-owned flock of sheep were also added to the solar farm to manage and “mow” the grass.

Furman boasts eight LEED-certified buildings on campus including the first LEED-certified building in the state of South Carolina, Hipp Hall. Other innovative campus operations that incorporate sustainability design technologies and provide student learning opportunities include: (1) the Living Machine, a tidal wetland wastewater treatment system that treats campus wastewater and uses the treated water for toilet flushing in our science center and (2) the organic practice Furman Farm and hydroponic system that provides the dining hall with fresh produce and composts all dining hall pre- and post-consumer food waste for use on the farm.

Furman promotes campus health and wellness through a variety of programs, practices, and educational efforts. All students are required to take a “Mind and Body (MB)” course to graduate. MB courses support Furman’s mission statement expressing a commitment to develop the whole person-intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Some new programs include: (1) a student Eco-Reps program which promotes sustainable lifestyle choices

within the residence halls and has recently launched a residential composting program, (2) FitRx, a student-led program that creates individualized exercise training programs for faculty and staff participants, and (3) a free Mindfulness and Meditation Course which explores mindfulness techniques, personal practice experiences, and strategies to enjoying a mindful presence.

Overall, living sustainably entails taking the long view of our actions and their consequences. Furman University has made institutional sustainability a primary priority, and our efforts have produced very tangible benefits on campus and in our community.

Pillar I: Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Furman is currently an AASHE STARS gold rated institution. Sustainability has been integrated into all our campus operations, practices, and policies. Highlights of our efforts include:

Carbon Neutrality Goals

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: In 2007, Furman signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, developed a Climate Action Plan, and committed to carbon neutrality by 2026, the university's bicentennial. Beginning with the signing of the President's Climate Commitment, Furman has calculated its carbon footprint every year. To date, net emissions have been reduced from 28,668 MTCO_{2e} to 20,115 MTCO_{2e}, a total reduction of about 30%, through improved energy efficiency, more renewable energy, behavior change, and local offsets.

Carbon Offsets: Achieving carbon neutrality will not be possible without offsetting unavoidable emissions. Furman participates in several programs that provide local carbon offsets:

Community Conservation Corps (CCC): The Community Conservation Corps is a university-run program founded in 2009 and managed by the Shi Institute that performs energy efficiency weatherizations free of charge to qualifying underserved local residents with the goals of reducing energy consumption, promoting financial stability, and increasing environmental awareness of homeowners. Pre- and post-improvement audits, combined with homeowner utility data pre- and post-weatherization, are compiled to determine average energy savings per home (both natural gas and electricity). Energy savings are converted to a greenhouse gas emission equivalent and applied against Furman's carbon footprint. Over the first nine years, the CCC weatherized 138 homes. The program is a partnership between Furman University, Habitat for Humanity, and Piedmont Natural Gas. In 2016, the CCC received the Habitat for Humanity Organizational Donor of the Year Award.

Composting: All pre- and post-consumer food waste from the Dining Hall and campus yard waste is composted on campus. Last year, Furman produced 51.6 short tons of compost.

UCapture: Furman has partnered with UCapture, an online shopping platform that allows users to fund carbon offset projects via a commission program with online merchants. Furman user-generated funds contribute to a methane capture project at the Wolf Creek Landfill in Georgia. Furman currently has the most people participating in the program of any higher education institution (over 600 users) and currently ranks #2 in the country in UCapture offsets with 222 MTCO_{2e}.

Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation

To date, Furman has installed eight photovoltaic projects and three solar thermal projects on campus to generate renewable energy. The 30-kW solar photovoltaic array at the Shi Institute generates enough energy to completely power the building. Additional energy is returned to the grid to be used elsewhere on campus. Solar thermal panels at the Townes Science Center and the Physical Activities Center provide hot water for those buildings. In 2017, Furman installed a 743-kW solar array in a visible location across from the main entrance to campus. This array is the largest solar project on a South Carolina college campus and brings Furman's total solar generating power close to the 1 MW cap set by the state. A locally-owned flock of sheep were also added to the Solar Farm to help manage the grass.

Green Building

LEED Buildings

Since 2001, Furman has required that all new or significantly renovated buildings meet LEED-Silver standards. The university is now home to 8 LEED-certified buildings. The university has also implemented energy efficiency projects in existing buildings. Recent accomplishments include the creation of a recommissioning program for existing buildings and the installation of geothermal ground-source heat pumps in North Village residence halls with a \$2.5 million-dollar grant from the US Department of Energy. The system has helped reduce energy use by 20-25% in the residence halls.

Shi Institute Southern Living Showcase demonstration home

The Shi Institute resides in a LEED Gold, former Southern Living Green Design, net zero energy, showcase home. The building has had over 30,000 visitors come see its green design features that incorporate a wide array of green building features including locally sourced building materials, passive solar design, five different types of solar arrays, geothermal heating and cooling, and recent additions of smart home technology, countertops made from glass recycled on campus, and Interface carpet tiles made from recycled fishing nets.

Water Quality and Campus Grounds

Tree Campus USA / Arboretum

Furman University has been recognized for eleven years running as a Tree Campus USA® by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. The campus is also home to the George G. Willis Jr. Arboretum, a Level 1 accredited arboretum through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum. The arboretum contains over 280 labeled trees, representing more than 80 distinct species.

Integrated Pest Management

In April of 2019, Furman's Grounds Department implemented an Integrated Pest Management Plan for the entire campus landscape in order to utilize natural methods of pest control and reduce the use of synthetic pesticides.

Lake Restoration

In 2006, as part of Furman's "Year of the Environment" campaign, the university dedicated itself to improving the environmental quality of the campus lake and its surroundings. A lack of vegetated buffers, increased stormwater runoff, and an overpopulation of waterfowl contributed

to a decline in water quality over time. A local landscape design firm crafted and implemented the first phase of the restoration plan, including the addition of native vegetation along the shoreline and extensive raingardens in place of pipe entry points. The lake is being used as a living laboratory to study the effects of the restoration effort on the water quality and ecological integrity of the lake system.

Campus Habitat and Biodiversity

The Furman campus consists of a mixture of forest, lawn, stream, and lake, which produces a mosaic of habitats supporting a wide range of species. The campus is home to numerous migrating species which are seasonally characteristic of the South Carolina Piedmont region. Faculty, students, and classes regularly study the vast array of local species and conduct biodiversity surveys on campus. *Sagittaria fasciculata*, more commonly known as bunched arrowhead, is an endangered, federally-protected small, herbaceous plant that grows in wetlands and lives on campus. Furman maintains a protected area for the bunched arrowhead, complete with a viewing deck and educational signage.

Living Machine

One of our more innovative projects is the closed-loop solar/aquatic tidal wetland wastewater treatment system in the Charles Townes Science Center, dubbed "The Living Machine." Wastewater from Townes and the Physical Activities Center are sent to the Living Machine to be naturally treated through a series of wetland basins. The facility can process up to 5,000 gallons of wastewater every day. The treated water is reused inside Townes Science Center for toilet flushing. Regular class visits to the Living Machine provide hands-on introductions and lab activities related to the nitrogen cycle, wastewater treatment, and graywater reuse systems.

Waste Reduction

Furman has a comprehensive recycling program, as well as food composting and yard waste composting programs. Throughout campus there are recycling containers located within and outside of buildings, as well as at athletic events. We recently completed a campus-wide waste audit and are currently working to implement a series of proposed recommendations including: (1) paper towel composting in the academic building bathrooms, (2) a glass recycling program, (3) composting in the residence halls, and (4) a paper printing reduction campaign.

Move-in / Move-out

Move-in and Move-out are high waste periods. Furman has a move-in recycling program, where students set up recycling stations outside of the dorms and collect and recycle the cardboard boxes used during the move-in process. During move-out, large donation boxes are available to collect donated items within the residence halls and trucks are stationed in the student parking lots to collect larger items. All donations go to the Dream Center, a local nonprofit that serves those in need with a hand up instead of a handout by empowering them to grow towards becoming healthy and self-sufficient.

Transportation

Furman recently completed a comprehensive transportation plan which includes efforts to educate the campus about greenhouse gas emissions generated by transportation, facilitate

alternative automobile use and use of the public transit system, revise parking policies to discourage casual car use, and promote our bike rental program. The plan also calls for the conversion of the campus fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles. Currently our admissions office's electric trolleys use solar panels on their roof to charge.

Pillar 2: Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Campus and Community Health and Wellness

Furman University is firmly committed to improving the health and wellness of our campus community. We offer a wide range of health and wellness programs for our faculty, staff, and students, and integrate environmental health policies and practices into our operations, work spaces, and overall campus landscape.

Improved Health and Wellness - Practitioners and Programs

IACH

Furman has an Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH) and a formal partnership with Prisma Health System, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina to help educate health care professionals and foster research and partnerships that strengthen community health. Furman seeks not only to advance health and wellness issues on campus, but also advance the well-being of the diverse communities in Greenville and around the world. IACH builds upon the classroom experience by facilitating collaborative projects that incorporate research and programs to drive community impact.

Campus Clinics, Counseling, and Psychiatric Services

For students, we always have a nurse on duty and a local physician on call to treat common illnesses, dispense over-the-counter medications, and provide care for chronic illnesses. Aside from routine and emergency medical care, we also offer a women's clinic, a sports medicine/physical therapy center, counseling center, and alcohol and drug education. Student Counseling Services provide crisis intervention, psychological support, individual counseling, mental health wellness outreach and clinical collaboration. Health Promotion for faculty, staff, and students provides inclusive health programming, advocacy and outreach to support mental, physical, and social well-being.

Specific Health & Wellness Programs

Furman University is committed to supporting employees in all dimensions of wellness—physical, social, environmental, spiritual, occupational, financial, emotional, and intellectual. Through Furman's Physical Activity Center, Human Resources, and Wellness Committee, the Furman community has many opportunities to get involved with health and wellness programs:

Well Track

Furman provides all faculty and staff with access to WellTrack, an interactive on-line self-help tool. It includes guided tools and resources for stress, anxiety and depression, relaxation

techniques, a virtual Zen room, MoodCheck – the daily mood tracker, and a personal progress dashboard.

PAC and Recreational Sports

Campus Recreation is another important element of campus health and wellness. The available facilities include the physical activities center with a gym, workout facility, basketball and volleyball courts, racquetball court, and pool. Students, faculty, and staff can use these facilities at no cost. Campus recreation also oversees several student-led programs including numerous intramural and club sports programs.

Wellness GER

Furman maintains general education requirements for all undergraduate students in order to graduate. All students are required to take a “Mind and Body (MB)” course to graduate. MB courses emphasize the importance of the body and mind and supports Furman’s mission statement expressing a commitment to “develop the whole person-intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.”

Employee Health Risk Assessments and Biometric Screenings

Operated by Prisma Health and Furman Human Resources, employees can take advantage of onsite screenings once a year to measure certain health indicators (e.g. lipid panel, blood pressure, blood glucose, etc.). The assessment and flu shots are available free of charge, and participation results in a discount on health insurance.

FIT Rx

An engaged learning opportunity called FIT Rx pairs junior and senior undergraduate health sciences majors with approximately 35 faculty, staff, and spouses, to create individualized exercise training programs. Students meet with their "clients" up to 3 times per week for the semester, providing feedback and guidance on health and exercise progress.

Group Exercise Classes

The Furman Group Exercise Program offers classes for employees and dependents at a discounted rate of \$30 for one semester for unlimited classes. Classes include Yoga, Barre Pilates, Indoor Cycling, Aqua Fitness, and more.

Mindfulness and Meditation Course

A four-week mindfulness course is offered to the Furman community once a year by two faculty members. The course explores mindfulness techniques, personal practice experiences, and how to enjoy mindful presence.

Financial Wellness

Furman offers free financial wellness seminars led by faculty members in the Departments of Business and Accounting. Seminar topics include budgeting, managing debt, safeguarding credit, planning for retirement, and more.

Vocational Reflection and Spiritual Wellness Seminars

The Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection offers regular seminars for employees, including events like the Labyrinth Walk, learning about the labyrinth on campus as a tool for reflection, meditation and/or prayer.

The Furman Office of Chaplaincy offers regular seminars for employees to explore spiritual wellbeing, including events like “What is Spiritual Wellness” and “Spiritual Wellness Practices”.

7-Seater bike

The 7-seater bike is a conference-style bicycle where one driver and six riders pedal simultaneously, centered around a circular handlebar. The bike is housed on campus through the County Recreation Department and can be checked out by any faculty or staff member free of charge.

Local & Nutritious Foods

Food Systems

Bon Appetit is Furman’s food provider and has a long-standing commitment to healthy and sustainable foods through their Farm to Fork program. Their first choice is to purchase seasonal ingredients from small, owner-operated farms and ranches within a 150-mile radius of campus. Their commitment to local food is about preserving biodiversity, protecting open space, supporting family farmers, and keeping money invested in our community. Furman sources at least 25% of ingredients, by dollar, from local farmers and artisans, prioritizes plant-based proteins in the café, offers vegetarian options at every meal, provides food cooked from scratch, including stocks, sauces, and soups, and purchases only cage-free and third party-certified eggs, pork raised without the use of gestation crates, and ground beef from Certified Humane operations or small, local farmers. Seafood is purchased in accordance with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Guidelines for Sustainability. In addition, we’ve been at the forefront of the movement for farmworkers rights and host an annual National Farmworker Awareness Week on campus.

Furman Farm

Located adjacent to the Shi Institute, the Furman Farm is an organic practice farm with a comprehensive composting program. The composting program handles all the pre- and post-consumer waste from the dining hall and processes much of the university’s landscaping waste. The compost program uses large scale pile composting and an in-vessel anaerobic composter. The farm is largely student run. The Furman Farm provides the campus community with an environment in which students, faculty, and staff can study, research, and practice small-scale food production. The garden helps strengthen physical, mental, and spiritual connections to the land through the practice of sustainable, organic agriculture, and it provides a wide variety of crops which are served in the Dining Hall.

Plant Based Eating and Other Nutrition Courses for Faculty, Staff, and Students

Taught by a Prisma Health Registered Dietitian, this free course helps participants identify areas to integrate small, sustainable, dietary changes toward a more plant-based diet. Other classes have included general nutrition, healthy cooking, and healthy eating.

Furman University Eating Lean (FUEL)

FUEL uses a simple plate-based model to promote healthful eating. Participants are asked to conform most of their meals to the FUEL plate which consists of one-half vegetables and/or fruits, one quarter whole grains or potatoes, and one quarter lean proteins. FUEL participants receive comprehensive assessments, such as body composition analysis via Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry, blood work (lipid panel, glucose, hemoglobin A1c, C-reactive protein, blood pressure), and a three-day food record analysis to assess nutrient intake. The program includes a

comprehensive nutrition education class where participants can sample many delicious new foods. Since the program began, over 150 participants have learned how to improve their health - one plate a time.

Campus Health

Chemical Management / Green Cleaning

Purchasing decisions result in large socio-economic and environmental impacts, both locally and globally. Furman University is committed to the use and purchase of environmentally- and socially-responsible products and services, particularly around our green cleaning supplies.

Pillar 3: Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Environmental and Sustainability Education at Furman

Environmental and sustainability education and literacy are paramount to what we do, and sustainability has been infused across our entire curriculum. In 2018, there were 374 courses offered that explicitly included sustainability as part of their focus, representing 31% of our course offerings and spanning 21 of our 24 academic departments. We support a wide range of curricular and co-curricular environmental and sustainability education programs for our students:

Credit or Certificate Bearing Environmental / Sustainability Programs

Humans and the Natural Environment General Education Requirement

Furman maintains general education requirements for all undergraduate students to graduate. All students are required to take a “Humans and the Natural Environment (NE)” course. NE courses emphasize some aspect of the interactive relationships between humans and the natural environment.

Bachelor of Science Degree in Sustainability Science

Furman has been at the cutting edge of sustainability curriculum development with the first, and still only, liberal arts Bachelor of Science in Sustainability Science degree in the United States. The curriculum is designed to provide students with a marketable skill set and a holistic, problem-based, solution-driven way of thinking that considers the complexity and feedbacks between social, economic, and environmental systems. Classes focus on addressing real world sustainability problems like food security, energy production, and access to clean water. The degree has been one of the fastest growing in the history of the university and currently has more than 70 declared majors in the program. In addition to our sustainability science degree, Furman offers two degrees in Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) (BA and BS) and an Environmental Studies minor.

The May X Program

Furman offers May Experience (May X) programs, many of which include sustainability-focused topics. May X is an optional three-week term following the spring semester that allows students to explore topics, frequently outside of their majors, in courses that will not be offered during the academic year. Recent sustainability-focused May X programs include (1) Slow Food Italy, which engages students in an extended, in-depth discussion about ways to promote and maintain healthy, environmentally-responsible food production, procurement and preparation in modern society in Italy, (2) The Farm, which brings students to Iowa, the leading corn, soy, egg, and hog producer in the nation, to look at large-scale commercial farming, and (3) Lost Horizons in China: Shangri-La, Pandas, and the Environment, which takes students to China to visit the world's most populated country and the environmental challenges it faces.

Post-graduate Certificate in Corporate Sustainability

Furman offers a postgraduate diploma in corporate sustainability, designed for individuals or teams responsible for implementing sustainable business practices. The program is an intensive experience consisting of five multi-day modules taught over a nine-month period for regional professionals. Program participants have included leaders from many major international corporations including BMW, Milliken, Fluor, and Michelin.

Sustainability - Environmentally Focused Engaged Living Programs

Furman University has had a long-standing commitment to promoting engaged learning through the development of academic learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting and supports several academic, residential living/learning communities focused around sustainability and the environment:

The Greenbelt Community

The Greenbelt is an intentional living/learning residential community intended to foster sustainable living and lifestyle choices among twenty-two sophomore students who live in four eco-friendly cabins on main campus. In this one-year program, the residents take a course on "Sustainability Living and Leadership" in the Fall and a sustainability project-based course on "Making Change Happen" in the Spring. Students are encouraged to explore their passions by practicing sustainability in this close-knit community and implementing environmentally-friendly initiatives that will improve our campus community. A new outdoor classroom/community space was added to the community to foster outdoor learning.

The Environmental Community of Students (ECOS)

ECOS is an engaged living program for 15 first-year students focused on global environmental and sustainability issues. The ECOS program started in 2006 and is a one year academic, residential, environmental/sustainability-focused program in which fifteen students live together in a residence hall and take two courses as a cohort, an "Introduction to Environmental Sciences" course in the fall term and a first-year writing seminar titled, "Sustainability and Society", in the spring term.

The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities

The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities is the university's interdisciplinary academic sustainability hub which promotes the study and practice of sustainability on campus and in the greater community, as well as the infusion of sustainability across the university curriculum. Originally established as a center in 2008, the newly named Institute analyzes and addresses campus and community sustainability challenges from an evidence-based, solutions-oriented, systems approach that involves interdisciplinary collaboration among campus and community stakeholders. This approach provides unprecedented learning opportunities for all involved and contributes to the greater campus and community good.

The Institute offers several programs including:

- (1) **AASHE Center for Teaching Sustainability Across the Curriculum.** In 2016, The Shi Institute was selected as one of AASHE's 14 national "Centers for Teaching Sustainability Across the Curriculum". The goal of the Centers is to accelerate the infusion of sustainability content into curriculum, regionally and nationally.
- (2) **Shi Institute Faculty Affiliate Program.** The Institute provides funding, resources, and monthly faculty workshops and networking opportunities to encourage sustainability course development. The program is open to all faculty and is designed to stimulate interdisciplinary conversation and collaboration around campus and community sustainability. The program has more than 65 faculty actively involved.
- (3) **Shi Institute Student Fellows Program.** The Institute supports and hosts a Student Fellows Program which engages Furman undergraduate students in sustainability research and action around campus and community-based sustainability projects. Last year the Institute supported 30 student fellows. In its ten years, the Student Fellows program has supported more than 230 fellows from almost every major across campus and has partnered with more than 30 different community organizations to address local sustainability challenges. Partner organizations are chosen to represent all aspects of sustainability (social, economic, and ecological), providing a variety of student experiences while also addressing sustainability in a holistic way in our community. A few examples of these jobs include Sustainability Outreach and Engagement Fellow, Student Assistant Farm Manager, Alternative Transportation Fellow, and Greenville County Parks and Recreation Fellow.

Co-Curricular Programs and Organizations

Thoreau Cabin

A replica of Thoreau's cabin from *Walden* was built by a 2009 May Experience class. The cabin stands as a testament to our desires to better connect with nature and to aspire to simple living. Visits are organized by the English Department and activities range from literature readings to writing retreats to discussions on simple living.

EcoReps Program

In the residence halls, our EcoReps program has become the main catalyst for sustainable behavior change. The EcoReps' mission is to instill a sense of sustainability on Furman's campus by promoting sustainable behaviors through education, awareness, and connections with residence life. They host events in and outside of their residence halls that are fun and accessible and encourage the average student to incorporate sustainable behaviors into their daily life.

Orientation

Sustainability education is featured as part of our faculty, staff, and student orientation programs. During new student summer orientation, sustainability is offered as one of two sessions students can choose from to learn more about a specific area of university life. Each session includes an interactive discussion about the university's sustainability programs and initiatives.

Green Office Program

Now in its third year, the Green Office Certification program aids departments in adopting more sustainable practices. The program outlines 39 sustainable practices, each worth various points for achieving a green office certification level. All 24 academic departments participate in the program.

Student Organizations

There are many student organizations focused on sustainability and the environment: (1) **Heller Service Corps** offers students the opportunity to give back to the community and engage in service. Each year, the corps connects more than 1,800 students to over 50 agencies across Upstate South Carolina, (2) **Environmental Action Group** aims to educate the campus about how to live an eco-friendly life while completing service projects and activities that support this philosophy through the governance of students, (3) **Bartram Society** brings together students who share an interest in Earth and Environmental Sciences and Sustainability Science, (4) **Millennium Fellows**, a student program administered in partnership with the United Nations, empowers students to become agents of change at their schools. Fellows work to address sustainable development goals through applied research projects on campus / community, and (5) **Furman University Outdoor Club** creates and supports a community of students aimed at experiencing the natural world.