



Sustainability 2017

Annual Report

Green Campus

About: Take a look back at the 2016 - 2017 academic year and see how Harper College is embracing sustainability on campus. This annual sustainability report highlights major green initiatives and events including green campus projects, waste reduction and student engagement. Enjoy!

Energy Efficiency

Renovations of Building D were completed in the fall of 2016 and doors opened for classes. Built to LEED Silver standards, the 105,000 square foot building incorporates many green features including exterior sun shades, motion sensors, active chilled beam cooling and reflective roofing. The number of windows increased by 78% to allow more natural light inside. Students now enjoy this newly remodeled space as a favorite gathering place and study area.



Harper's prairie observation deck, which allows classes to study Illinois' natural habitats, was built with recycled materials.

Prairie Observation Deck

Completed in fall 2016, the new accessible prairie observation deck is an outdoor classroom where students observe and study the plants, birds and mammals of natural prairie habitats. The observation deck is located in Harper's natural area on the east side of campus and was built with the environment in mind. All of its building materials feature recycled content: 20% recycled content in its concrete piers, 25% in its steel support framing, 36% in its composite decking and 70% in the railing system's stainless steel cables and fittings.



“There is no substitute for speaking about something while gesturing toward the real thing” Craig Stettner, Biology Professor

IMPACT: 5,000+ student hours of instruction time in Harper's natural areas.

Carbon Commitment

Harper College is a signatory of the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments, a network of over 600 colleges and universities across the country that are committed to reducing environmental impact on campus. As part of the updated reporting system, all signatories submit an annual progress evaluation. Harper submitted its first progress evaluation in spring 2017 and continues to streamline environmental data collection.

IMPACT: Harper reduced net greenhouse gas emissions by 5.55% since 2015.



Project CAPtivate

A team of faculty and staff came together during the 2016 Harper Leadership Institute to develop an initiative where students, faculty and staff collaborate to reduce environmental impact on campus. Piloted in spring 2017, Project CAPtivate pairs aspects of Harper's Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the student learning experience to turn student research into action. Participating classes conduct research

in various aspects of campus sustainability, including energy efficiency, waste reduction and alternative transportation. The first projects specifically developed research and project proposals on campus composting and single use cup reduction. Project CAPtivate will continue to involve students and faculty in reducing Harper's greenhouse gas emissions for years to come.



Promotional materials highlighting Harper's green campus.

IMPACT: Harper's approach to meeting its climate reduction goals has expanded to include student and faculty involvement. The student learning experience is enhanced through the addition of project-based learning.

Waste Reduction



In its first year of operation, Harper's ReUseIt Room diverted over 4,300 items from the landfill.

ReUseIt Room

The ReUseIt Room opened its doors in fall 2016 as Harper's first office supply exchange space. Located in the newly renovated Building D, room D266b, the ReUseIt Room allows employees to obtain office supplies without purchasing new items. Employees are also encouraged to donate gently used office supplies they no longer need. This waste reduction initiative continues to result in decreased material sent to the landfill and reduced spending.

IMPACT: 4,305 items reused, \$9,300 saved in avoided office supply expenses, 1,400 lbs of material diverted from the landfill.



VHS Recycling

As cleanouts and moves continue on campus, the Harper College Library works to eliminate its outdated VHS tape collection. Harper College partnered with Green Disk Inc. to properly dispose of the tapes. The library sent two shipments of tapes to Green Disk's recycling center during FY17.

IMPACT: 440 pounds of VHS tapes were diverted from the landfill.



The Harper College Library removed and recycled 440 pounds of VHS tapes from its collection in FY17.

Waste-Free Moves

Harper College's commitment to reducing waste prompted the development of a waste-free move guide to standardize the collection and recycling of office supply items. The campus uses the guide when offices are in transition during building renovations and moves. The guide offers tips for keeping standard office items out of the landfill such as folders, binders, hanging files, desk organizers and more. The waste-free move guide can be found online at harpercollege.edu/gogreen.



Scrap metal from Harper's Welding Technology programs is staged before it is sent to the recycling facility.

Metal Recycling

Harper's expanded welding and manufacturing program produces an increased amount of scrap metal and shavings. Harper partners with Metals Asset Management to properly recycle all scraps from the fabrication labs, and hosts a permanent collection box on campus outside Building H.

IMPACT: Ten tons of scrap metal were recycled in FY17.

Upcycled Banners

Old and outdated banners found a new life on Harper's campus. This new waste reduction initiative utilizes vinyl, a material that cannot be recycled and that would otherwise be doomed to a life in the landfill, and upcycles the material into tote bags and luggage tags. These items are given away to students and employees across campus. In addition, a broken window shade was transformed into colorful beach bags. These fun and durable items provide users with a little piece of Harper history and help reduce waste on campus.



Old Harper banners are given a second life through an innovative upcycling initiative.

IMPACT: 640 square feet of vinyl banner and window shade material were diverted from the landfill.

Engagement

Community Supported Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a system of food distribution where a local farmer offers shares of the farm to the public. The farmer harvests and divides up the produce each week and delivers the shares to community shareholders at designated drop off sites. Shareholders receive the freshest food, enjoy the benefits of eating fresh and organic products, support the local economy and become a part of the local food movement.

Harper College has partnered with local farmers to become a CSA pickup site. Two farmers, specializing in either sustainable meat or vegetables, regularly deliver pre-paid shares of fresh produce to campus.

IMPACT: 14 community members have joined the local food movement.



Farmer Trogg of Trogg's Hollow delivers fresh produce to campus CSA shareholders weekly.



Plants donated by Harper College employees made the inaugural RePlantIt Free-for-All a success.

RePlantIt Free-for-All

Harper hosted its first RePlantIt event in May 2017. As a spin-off of the ReUseIt Room, RePlantIt provided the opportunity for employees to exchange excess plants from their home or office – for free! This event helped to turn participant's gardens – and offices – a little more green.

IMPACT: Over 40 employees participated in the inaugural RePlantIt Free-for-All.



Share your sustainability story! You are doing great things in sustainability and we want to know about it! Visit harpercollege.edu/gogreen to share your story.

Green Office Program

Launched during Earth Week 2017, the Green Office Program engages the campus in a self-guided initiative that promotes best practices in office efficiencies, cost savings and environmental action. The program supports the College's commitment of reducing environmental impact and recognizes leaders in environmental sustainability.

Offices first conduct a pre-audit to document the green initiatives they are already engaged in. Next, each office targets specific items on the 30 piece checklist to complete. Once offices complete 75% of the checklist and shift behaviors and operations, they become Green Office Certified.

IMPACT: Nine offices are striving toward Green Office Certification.

True sustainability happens when it is embedded into core operations and is part of everyday life. Together, the campus is taking steps toward a resilient future.



The One Stop was the first office on Harper's campus to become Green Office Certified.



 Harper College

Green Office Logo

Students in the summer 2016 Graphic Design 1 course put their newly developed skills to the test. Led by Professor Patty Bruner, the class engaged in a design project to develop the Green Office logo. One lucky designer's artwork was chosen. The students' fun designs and hard work made the final decision difficult. A big thank you to this graphic design class for contributing their skills to the success of Harper's green initiatives!



Students show off their logo designs for Harper's Green Office Program.



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