

# SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## ACADEMICS

- New sustainability-related academic offerings include:
  - A 12 credit certificate in Indigenous Knowledge & Environmental Sustainability
  - Sustainability Science and Practice B.S. (new degree)
  - Wildlife Biology, Masters in Public Administration 4+1 (new joint degree)
  - Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

## CAMPUS OPERATIONS

- Campus Dining continues to demonstrate its leadership in campus sustainability. Steps taken this year include:
  - Switched to non-bagged tea in some operations to cut down on packaging waste
  - Switched to ecoStick tea and coffee sweetener in all campus operations to reduce packaging waste
  - The Dollar Coffee Club raised over \$6,000 for student sustainability scholarships this year, with five students receiving scholarships this past fall
  - With the help of the Kless Sustainability Fund, Campus Dining purchased UM's first delivery bike from local manufacturer Coaster Cycles. The bike helps to reduce the emissions footprint of on-campus catering delivery and increase employee well-being.
- The University Center, Campus Dining, UM students and the Office of Sustainability piloted **pre-consumer compost collection in the University Center** as a first step toward making the UC the first Zero Waste building on campus. The pilot was a massive success! The UC subsequently reduced the use of its trash compactor and is now saving money each month on its waste service, even after paying for compost collection services.
- UM became the first university in Montana to join the **Post Landfill Action** Network, connecting students and the campus community to resources on Zero Waste strategies and education. Additionally, the recycling program installed **new recycling signage** across campus and worked with Busch Systems to identify areas for improvement. **New waste infrastructure** will be installed in summer 2020.
- In spring 2020, UM began work with local energy service company McKinstry to plan updates to the campus steam plant, including the installation of additional turbines that will allow UM to generate significantly more on-site electricity. McKinstry's efforts also include work to **reduce UM's energy consumption** by way of LED retrofits, water conservation strategies and building retro-commissioning.
- The **Phyllis J. Washington College of Education** expansion was certified LEED Gold for its green design and construction features.
- Several other projects that will **conserve energy** on campus are underway, including LED retrofits for Pantzer Hall and Urey Lecture Hall, street lights and Adams Center lights. Facilities also is updating our stormwater plan in an effort to reduce and prevent pollution.

## TRANSPORTATION

- ASUM Transportation invested in 529, a **new bike registration technology** that connects bikes to a national database, making them more likely to be recovered if stolen.
- The **UM Commuter Challenge**, hosted by ASUM Transportation and Missoula in Motion, had record participation with 12 teams, 125 total participants and 6,747 pounds of carbon avoided.
- UMPD implemented new license plate reading technology allowing for **more efficient parking management**.
- The Montana Department of Environmental Quality awarded UM a grant to support the purchase and installation of **four dual-port electric vehicle charging stations**. The project also is being supported by Operations and Finance and the Kless Sustainability Fund.

## ENGAGEMENT

- **The Green Office Program** continued to grow in its second year with five new offices joining the program and the majority of pilot offices continued in their commitment to the program.
- The student group **Climate Response Club** launched the **35% by 2025 campaign**, encouraging UM to reduce its energy consumption. The ASUM Senate also passed a resolution in support of this.
- The ASUM Sustainability Board had an exhibit in the **Tunnel of Oppression** about the use of prison labor to fight wildfires. The exhibit highlighted the links between wildfires, climate change and incarceration.
- The ASUM Sustainability Center and the Office of Sustainability partnered with local Boy Scout troops in January to offer a day-long **sustainability merit badge**.
- The **Kless Sustainability Fund** supported several student-led proposals in spring 2020, including new water bottle filling stations in Miller Hall and the Music Building, insulated grocery bags for the UM Food Pantry and signage for four EV charging stations that will be installed on campus.
- As of September 2019, the **ASUM sustainability coordinator position is now a full-time position!** This dramatically increases the capacity of our sustainability efforts on campus and means more consistency year-to-year supporting sustainability.

