

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Facilities & Services
Sustainability



American Indian Student Center Generates Energy

As the spring sun begins to shine so will the energy source at the American Indian Student Center. Over spring break, GenPro Energy mounted solar panels that equal approximately 7.4 kW of energy. These panels which are found on the south portion of the building were donated by the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department.

SDSU also has solar panels on Stanley J. Marshal (52.2 kW) as well as a 23 kW solar array at Daktronics. The latter is mainly used for research. Facilities & Services has plans to mount solar panels on top of Facilities & Services and the Raven Precision Agriculture Center.

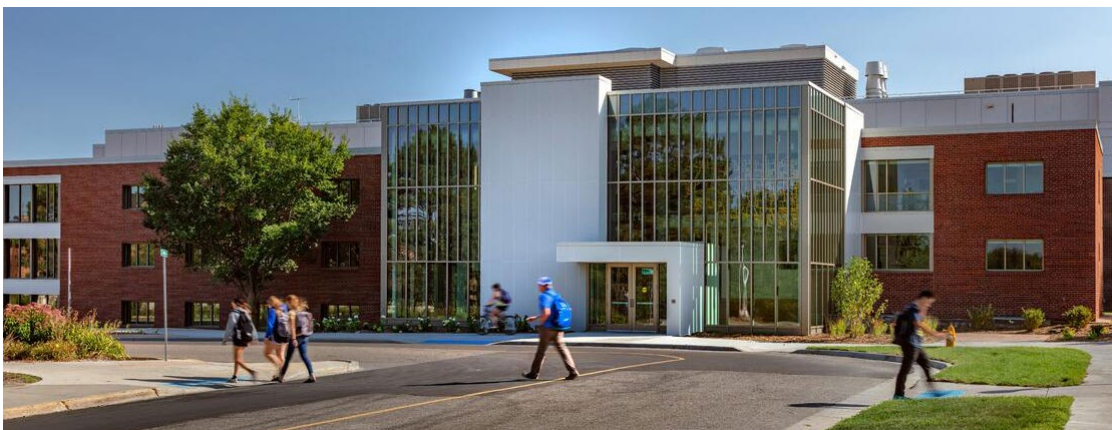
[Read about solar arrays](#)



STARS Results Are In

Back in February, SDSU officially received a silver rating for its recently submitted sustainability benchmark report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. As you may recall, this report measures campus sustainability efforts in all areas of campus from academics and operations to diversity and student engagement. Besides earning a higher rating than the SDSU 2016 report, what areas did SDSU excel in and where can campus improve? Below are three opportunities for improvement and three successes. These were based on how SDSU did compared to SDSU's eight academic peers who have also completed a STARS report.

[Read about STARS Results](#)



Harding Hall Earns LEED Gold Certification

Harding Hall achieved LEED V4 Gold certification for implementing measurable strategies and solutions in all areas of sustainable construction including site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. The project exceeded the minimum state requirement of LEED Silver status by 13 points. Green buildings allow South Dakota State University to operate more sustainably and give students, faculty, and staff a healthier, more comfortable space to work and live. Green building certification is proof that SDSU values sustainability and the quality of our built environment. We are dedicated to constructing and operating our buildings at the highest levels of sustainability.

[Read about Harding Hall](#)



Energy Conservation Tips at Home

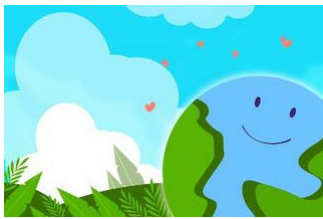
As we all live and work from home, our energy and water consumption may be seeing an increase. Try these tips to reduce your usage of water and energy.

- Skip the dryer and hang your clothes to dry.
- Turn off the water as you brush your teeth and wash your hands.
- If you have enough dishes to fill your dishwasher, use the dishwasher instead of washing your dishes by hand.
- Reduce your shower time by 1 minute to save 2 to 5 gallons of water. If you want to go even farther challenge yourself to take a 5-minute shower. Want an extra set of “green” points? Turn the water down a notch or two and take a cooler shower to save energy from heating the water.

- Open up the shades and allow the sun to help warm the inside of your home. Too hot in your home? Open the windows to feel the spring breeze instead of turning on the air conditioner.
- Fix leaky pipes.
-and more!

[Learn More](#)

Sustainability Tidbits



Earth Day Celebration!

Stay tuned! Facilities & Services – Sustainability & McCrory Gardens are joining forces to celebrate Earth Day with you (virtually, of course!). Event details will be shared on @SustainSDState or @McCroryGardens social media accounts and the sdstate.edu events page.



Sign on for Sustainability

Join Coughlin the Rabbit and sign the **SDSU Sustainability Pledge** AND



Tree & Bee Efforts Continue

2020 marks the eleventh year SDSU has been recognized as a Tree Campus USA and the second year SDSU has been recognized as a Bee Campus USA.

Click here to learn more about campus efforts!



Jack's Cupboard is Open

Jack's Cupboard remains open during the COVID-19 pandemic by

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BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | APRIL 15, 2020



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[SDSU also has solar panels](#) on Stanley J. Marshall Center (52.2 kW) as well as a 23 kW solar array at Daktronics Engineering Hall. The latter is mainly used for research. Facilities and Services has plans to mount solar panels on the Raven Precision Agriculture Center. Solar panels are scheduled to be installed on the Facilities and Services' main building in June.

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[3 students inducted into international honor society](#)

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Opportunities for Improvement:

- **Student Engagement:** Currently, SDSU does not have a peer-to-peer student sustainability education program. Such a program would be a formal way for students to engage and educate their peers about sustainability and help them to live more sustainably. Programs like this can occur specifically in the residence halls or across campus. They often engage students through events like competitions, workshops, and informational handouts.
- **Supporting Sustainable Transportation:** While SDSU has fuel efficient preferred parking at McCrory

Gardens (This earned SDSU points in the report!), many of our peers also have additional designated efforts to encourage and promote sustainable transportation. In general, sustainable transportation is commuting to campus in any way besides driving by yourself in a car. Some efforts our peers have done include a bike/pedestrian plan, long-term bike parking, incentives for those who carpool to campus, a drive home if you walk or bike and are unable to get home (i.e. due to a thunderstorm, family emergency, etc.), telecommuting policies, and bike storage & shower facilities.

- Biodiversity Assessment: While SDSU has 100% of its land cared for under an integrated pest management or organic-like management (*Note there was an increase of land managed in a sustainable fashion compared to our 2016 report!), there is no known assessment of the vulnerable/endangered species and/or environmental sensitive areas on SDSU's land. Sounds like a great research project, right?!

Successes

- Electronic Purchasing – Only three peers reported information for this section. Of those three, SDSU had the second highest number of purchased electronics that are EPEAT Gold certified. EPEAT is an environmental rating similar to Energy Star. Approximately 85% of electronics SDSU purchases are EPEAT gold, 11% are EPEAT silver, <1% are EPEAT bronze, and 4% are not certified.
- Supporting Sustainability in Courses: SDSU is one of three schools who reported having some form of incentive for faculty to include sustainability in their courses. Over the last few years, SDSU has offered multiple workshops free of charge for faculty. At these workshops, faculty learned how sustainability topics fit into their discipline and explored strategies for discussing sustainability in their classrooms.
- Research & Support for Research: According to the analysis done for the STARS benchmark report, 49% of faculty/staff research is sustainability related and 86% of departments have sustainability related research. Besides one peer institution, these numbers are significantly above our peers. SDSU also has some level support to encourage students and employees to conduct sustainability research. These include a sustainability research guide from Briggs Library, the Biology and Microbiology Department REU in bioenergy, and the support from the Sun Grant program for bio-renewable energy and products research .

To see more details about the report and other report highlights [click here](#) or contact the Sustainability Specialist at jennifer.mclaughlin@sdstate.edu.

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[Campus Race to Zero Waste Results Announced](#)

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Energy Conservation Tips

APRIL 14, 2020

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- Reduce your shower time by 1 minute to save 2 to 5 gallons of water or challenge yourself to take a 5-minute shower. Want an extra set of “green” points? Turn the water temperature down slightly and take a cooler shower to save energy from heating the water.
- Open up the shades and allow the sun to help warm the inside of your home. Too hot in your home? Open the windows to feel the spring breeze instead of turning on the air conditioner.
- Fix leaky pipes.
- Unplug any electronics when they are not in use for more than an hour. A power strip is a great way to make this task easier.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.
- Insulate your water heater and the first six feet of the pipes.
- Only flush the toilet when necessary.
- Seal any cracks that lead to the outside. This could be around windows, doors, or piping that exits the house.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.

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Sustainability Pledge

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Sustainability Pledge

Sustainability is an essential concept for our campus and society. Being sustainable helps ensure that natural resources are used in a way that they will be here for future generations. Living sustainably also ensures that everyone is treated with equity and has access to basic human rights and needs. Take the SDSU Sustainability Pledge today to help move campus towards a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable campus!

Take The Pledge! [HERE](#)

The pledge is only open SDSU faculty, staff and students. Please only take the pledge *once*. If you have problems with the pledge submitting, please contact the [Sustainability Specialist](#).

We would like to recognize those who have taken the sustainability pledge as a commitment to making their lives and SDSU more sustainable. Names are manually updated monthly and may not appear until the next update. Note: Individuals whose name appears on this website have given SDSU permission to display their name as an indication of their pledged commitment to sustainability.

Aaron Bartz
Aaron Bauder
Aaron Sundmark
Abby Mikel
Abigail Blok
Adam Goetz

[Initiatives](#)[Take Action](#)[Get Involved](#)[Sustainability Pledge](#)[Resources](#)

Pledge Stats

How many people have taken the pledge?

Students: 266

Faculty: 70

Staff: 179

Other: 2 (Jack Rabbit and Coughlin the Rabbit)