

As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted normal operations at the College and exposed the fragility of the world in times of crisis, the Office of Sustainability's mission to advance sustainability at Lafayette College, to serve as a community leader, and to help educate and inspire the next generation of problem-solvers was more vital than ever.



CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Lafayette is committed to reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency on campus.

TOTAL GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

Lafayette College has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 30% compared to its 2008 baseline thanks to energy conservation efforts by Facilities Services.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions



ON-CAMPUS SOLAR

Kirby Sports Center roof is home to 540 megawatt-hours per annum (MWh) solar array. This large demonstration array is our most visible display of Lafayette's carbon neutrality progress. Over its lifetime, the solar array will offset 9,625 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), or the equivalent of taking more than 2,000 cars off the road.

DIVERTING FOOD WASTE

The College's student-run composting program puts nutrients from the dining halls back into the soils of LaFarm, thereby increasing the soil's carbon sequestration capacities. In 2019, the College's student compost management team collected and composted 14,491 pounds of campus food waste.

BIRD ANTI-COLLISION FILM

Lafayette is reducing on-campus bird collisions by at least 90% by installing anti-collision frit on windows on buildings such as Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center, Skillman Library, and Acopian Engineering Center.

RECOGNITIONS

Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center received a platinum rating, the highest recognition awarded, by the U.S. Green Building Council for sustainable, energy-efficient design and construction. Lafayette won the 2020 Campus Sustainability Award by Association of the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in recognition of its participation in a consortium power purchase agreement to buy renewable energy.



CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB

Lafayette's campus operates as a living laboratory, providing students the opportunity to conduct research and explore and test new models of sustainable systems.

FOOD AND FARM

LaFarm continues to be the heart and home of Lafayette's sustainable food loop. In addition to composting food waste, LaFarm expanded its footprint to meet the growing student interest in employment and volunteer opportunities at LaFarm, while increasing production for Dining Services and Vegetables in Community, and generating additional income. Specific enhancements include:

- **GREENHOUSE:** Greenhouse: In 2019, the ERGS capstone developed a plan for an off-grid greenhouse for LaFarm that will help LaFarm to grow its own seedlings, while also integrating the development of small-scale green technologies into Lafayette coursework.
- **ELECTRIC TRACTOR:** In 2019, engineering students laid out plans and budget for a tractor conversion project, in

which a gas tractor will be converted to run on off Tesla batteries. The project is expected to be completed in 2021-2022.

- **HIGH TUNNEL:** Thanks to a generous donation, Lafayette's LaFarm became home to a high tunnel, a 30-by100-foot growing environment that enables the farm to extend its season and protect its crops..

Lafayette was included in the 2020 Sustainable Campus Index, which recognizes top-performing sustainable colleges and universities for its work creating a sustainable food loop.

POP-UP THRIFT SHOPS

The Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with Gateway Career Center, hosted its annual pop-up thrift shop on campus in 2019 and 2020 in an effort to encourage students to trade in items for something that's "new to you." Students, faculty, and staff donate clothing and housewares they no longer need to other members of the campus community who "shop" for free. More than 800 items were donated to the 2020 event.



GREEN MOVE OUT

At the end of each spring semester, students are encouraged to recycle their unused or gently used household items by donating them to local organizations. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, this campus-wide sustainability and community service effort continued in 2020.

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Lafayette faculty and students are leveraging their intellectual capital to enhance the College campus as well as their surrounding communities.

- **Prof. Kira Lawrence** served as an Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship in which she informed New Jersey state policy on clean-energy transition.
- **Prof. Megan Rothenberger** collaborated with Prof. Trent Gaugler and Prof. Andrea Armstrong to publish research on invasive crab species and its impact on industry and community.
- **Prof. Andrea Armstrong** and **Prof. Wendy Wilson-Fall**, associate professor and chair of Africana studies, discussed "Race & Space in the Lehigh Valley," a digital forum that explored the relationship between race and the region.
- A new Bachelor of Science in engineering degree program is being offered to provide students with increased opportunities in emerging fields that cross the boundaries of the traditional engineering degrees.
- **Brooke Paccione '21** received a grant from ASTM International to support a civil engineering senior capstone project to review a remediation plan and envision the use of a brownfield site in Easton.
- Under the co-presidency of **Noah Grossman '21** and **Alec Cwienkala '21**, Lafayette's student-run investment club approved an environmental, social, and corporate governance commitment for the portfolio moving forward.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

We strive to be a good neighbor and enrich the lives of those around us.

Vegetables in the Community (ViC) is a food distribution stand in Easton's West Ward. The program is a cooperative community development project among Lafayette College, the City of Easton, local NGOs, and Crayola. Students and faculty work cooperatively with neighborhood residents to deliver produce, share food knowledge, collect and distribute recipes, and cook samples. ViC continued to operate throughout the summer of 2020 to provide nutritious, affordable food to the Easton community.



For more detail visit sustainability.lafayette.edu