

# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2023-2024



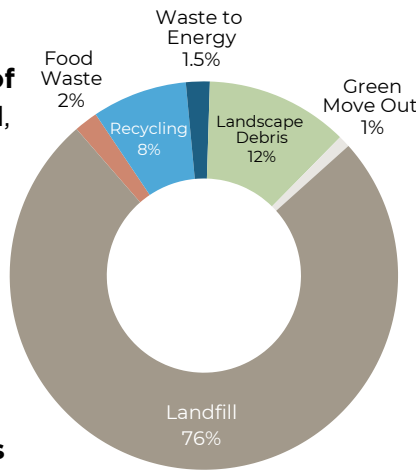
Lafayette College is proud to be the first higher education institution in the Lehigh Valley to set a climate commitment and continues to hold the most ambitious goal in the region. We've made strides toward decreasing emissions, fostering a culture of sustainability, and utilizing our campus as a living laboratory to further educational and operational success. Students, faculty, and staff collaborate to embed sustainability throughout campus life.

## TRANSFORMING OUR OPERATIONS

Lafayette employs many strategies to decrease emissions, improve energy efficiency, create material circularity, and decrease waste on campus, among other operational advancements. Our goal, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan, is to achieve carbon neutrality and 60% waste diversion by 2035.

### Waste Diversion

Up 4% from last year, **24% of campus waste was diverted**, largely due to expanding organic waste collection sites to new residential, administrative, and retail locations. Enhanced move-out collection efforts also contributed to the increase.

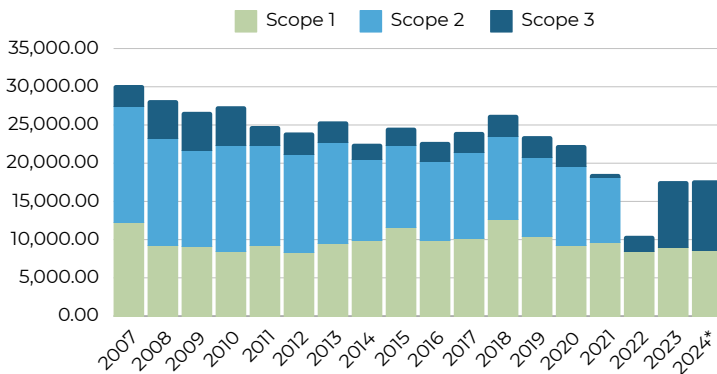


### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Lafayette **reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 41% from the 2007 baseline.\***

In spring 2024, Lafayette and eight other schools signed a Power Purchase Agreement for Renewable Energy Credits from a large-scale solar project, offsetting 100% of campus electricity usage starting in 2027.

Scope 3 emissions reporting was expanded in 2023 to include purchased goods, capital goods, and fuel-related activities, reflecting an increase in Scope 3 emissions.



\*2024 Scope 1 and 3 partially estimated based on historic data

### Sustainable Food Loop

Lafayette grew our campus-wide composting program, founded in 2009, aided by a new composting vessel with enhanced capacity. Through increases in daily pickups from dining halls and weekly stops at select offices and residence halls, this initiative **diverted 35,000 lbs. of food waste from the landfill to the vessel**, increasing campus diversion by 2%. Finished compost is brought to LaFarm and incorporated into soil, and the produce grown goes into meals at the dining halls, completing the Sustainable Food Loop. The program is run by the Office of Sustainability's student Compost Crew.

### LaFarm | Lafayette College's Farm

This year, Lafayette's 3-acre working farm and community garden devoted one-fifth of the land to full-season cover crops to build soil health and further sequester carbon. Additionally, compost generated from food scraps produced from the new compost vessel was applied to LaFarm's beds for the first time, providing nutrients for the soil.

**22,000+ lbs .**  
of produce harvested

**74 events**  
hosted at LaFarm

**19 courses**  
incorporated LaFarm  
into their syllabus

**1,000 visitors**  
spent 1,300+ hours at  
LaFarm

*Read more in the LaFarm annual report at [garden.lafayette.edu](http://garden.lafayette.edu)*

# CULTIVATING A LIVING LAB



With over 60% of courses with sustainability-focused or inclusive content and two-thirds of departments conducting sustainability research, campus operates as a living lab, providing the opportunity to explore and test new models of sustainable systems.

## Research & Scholarship

Over 20 years of research and collaboration among the Wildlands Conservancy, numerous government agencies, conservation organizations, and faculty at Lafayette led to the removal of dams in Bushkill Creek to support local ecosystems, including freshwater mussels. This project demonstrated **environmental stewardship and offered rich interdisciplinary collaborations**, bringing together faculty and students in biology, civil and integrative engineering, geology, and economics.

## Applied Learning

This year, students across multiple disciplines studied topics of sustainability from environmental studies and science, economics, engineering, English, to biology and more. A **Campus as Lab webpage** was developed for ongoing availability of data and materials.

[sustainability.lafayette.edu/educate/campus-as-lab/](https://sustainability.lafayette.edu/educate/campus-as-lab/)

## REDEFINING CAMPUS CULTURE

**Cultivating a lived experience that matches a wide array of interests and themes embedded in sustainability is at the core of Lafayette.**

### Community Involvement

Students, faculty, and staff find their passion and make a difference. This year:

**75+ events**

hosted by departments & clubs

**49% of students**

engaged by a sustainability peer educator in residence

**50+ students**

employed by the Office of Sustainability

**12 offices certified**

through the new Sustainable Office Program

### Campus Thrift Store

Lafayette opened a pay-what-you-can, student-run Thrift Store providing affordable, accessible necessities, which **distributed 945 items** in its first year. The store also teaches about **conscious consumption, fast fashion, and reuse, providing education on sustainable behaviors.**

## STARS Gold

Lafayette earned a **gold rating for sustainability initiatives from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)**, having achieved silver in previous years. This achievement is the culmination of the advancement of sustainability initiatives and contributions from more than 20 departments and the academic community.



## IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

**Lafayette is committed to community outreach, education, and tangible impact on issues related to sustainability.**

### Community-Focused Fellowships

Made possible through funding from **Capital Blue Cross, Audrey Weisenberger '27, Reed Hewson '27, and Peaches Darbeh '27** participated in a fellowship to help grow, harvest, and distribute **6,200 lbs.** of produce and gather information on food justice and organizations in Easton in summer 2024.

### West Ward Market & Sale

In partnership with Easton Garden Works, LaFarm distributed **1,500+ lbs. of food at a pay-what-you-can rate at the West Ward Market**, a local farmers' market, with another **3,500 lbs. to local pantries.**

Additionally in summer 2024, 125 volunteers from 21 departments collected, sorted, and **distributed 6,500 gently used items** from students through **Green Move Out, West Ward Sale, and Campus Thrift Store.** 2,100 of the items were donated to local nonprofits.



**For more details, visit [sustainability.lafayette.edu](https://sustainability.lafayette.edu)**