

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2024-2025



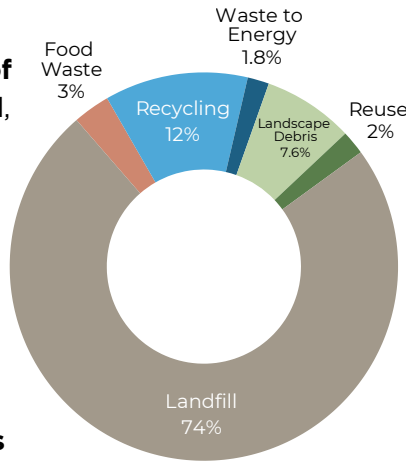
Lafayette College is proud to be the first higher education institution in the Lehigh Valley to set a climate commitment and continues to hold the most ambitious goal in the region. We've made strides toward decreasing emissions, fostering a culture of sustainability, and utilizing our campus as a living 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 Climate Action Plan 2.0, is to achieve carbon neutrality and 60% waste diversion by 2035.

Waste Diversion

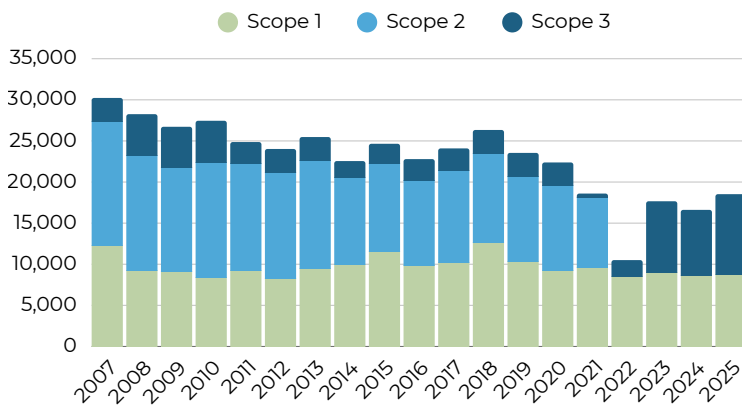
Up 2% from last year, **26% of campus waste was diverted**, largely due to an increase in accounting for specialty recycling, including construction-related materials. An increase in recycled cooking oil also contributed to the rise.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Lafayette **reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 39% from the 2007 baseline.**

This year, scope 3 was a major focus for the College when it comes to reporting and tracking. Lafayette improved the scale of its reporting on goods and services emissions in scope 3, while also improving its reporting accuracy. One example is the increased use of mass-based reporting rather than spend-base, which will provide a more precise methodology moving forward.



Built Environment

Lafayette is committed to any new infrastructure achieving certification in the world's most widely used green building rating system, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). This year, **McCartney II, a new residence hall, and the William E. Simon Center for Economics and Business earned Silver certification from LEED.** Over 65% of McCartney II's construction waste was diverted from landfills, and its water fixtures will save over 1.2 million gallons per year. Simon Center features LED lighting and gray linoleum floors made from recycled materials. These features, among others, demonstrate Lafayette's commitment to sustainable building and thoughtful considerations around efficiency, as well as health and well-being for occupants.

Climate Action Plan 3.0

With the five-year window since the development of Climate Action Plan 2.0 coming to a close, the College began the process to **assess progress and opportunities for climate action and waste reduction on campus to meet our goals.** In spring and summer 2025, Lafayette contracted with a consultant and began data collection to support an analysis of the campus's sustainability progress toward our carbon neutrality and waste commitments. In academic year 2025-2026, Lafayette will continue this planning process, including hosting deep and meaningful engagement with the campus community, local partners, and alumni to develop Climate Action Plan 3.0.

Learn more at sustainability.lafayette.edu/climate-action-plan

CULTIVATING A LIVING LAB

With 72% of departments offering courses with sustainability-focused or inclusive content and 70% of departments conducting sustainability research, campus operates as a living lab, providing the opportunity to explore and test new models of sustainable systems.



Campus as a Living Lab

Through a partnership with environmental studies, LaFarm, and the Lenape people, **native crops were grown at LaFarm on ancestral Lenape soil, including tobacco, beans, and squash sent to the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma**, returning their native foods to them for use in cooking and cultural heritage. The class Land Acts (EVST 370), led by Prof. Kyle Keeler, is among 23 additional courses that partnered with LaFarm this academic year to bring applied learning to the classroom.

Environmental Justice Working Group

This year, the College **established a community of practice** to create space for scholarly interaction with environmental justice, foster scholarship and research, encourage more attention on the topic in the classroom, and integrate more programming on environmental injustice into campus activity.

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.

65+ events

hosted by departments & clubs

91% of students

engaged by a sustainability peer educator in residence

60+ students

employed by the Office of Sustainability

13 tours

focused on sustainability conducted across campus

Greening Events

To decrease environmental impact and increase awareness through event planning on campus, Lafayette **launched the Green Events Certification**. This certification is available to students, faculty, and staff looking to make an impact through their event-planning practices and programming.

Food and Farm Conference

Lafayette hosted the third Annual Northeastern Food and Farm Conference, featuring a keynote panel with three regional food justice leaders, focus-topic discussions, a tour of LaFarm, composting facilities, and demonstrations of sustainable initiatives on campus and in the community. **The conference showcased the ways our collaborations provide a model for food and farm systems at liberal arts colleges.**

127 attendees

from 19 colleges and organizations across 7 states

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, Minh Hoang '28, Haley O-Shea '26, Caleb Fosset '26 and Prem Kumar '26** participated in a fellowship to help grow, harvest, and distribute **over 6,000 pounds** of produce and gather information on food justice and organizations in Easton in summer 2025.

West Ward Sale

In summer 2025, 150+ volunteers from 25 departments collected, sorted, and **distributed 6,900 gently used items** from students through **Green Move Out, West Ward Sale, and Campus Thrift Store**. 3,700 of the items were donated to local nonprofits.

Sustainability Leadership Program

In 2025, Lafayette hosted the inaugural Sustainability Leadership Program for **11 high school students**. This weeklong program fostered experiences in innovative thinking, food justice and regenerative farm systems, civil leadership, and college life, offering sessions to develop valuable academic and leadership skills.

For more details, visit sustainability.lafayette.edu