

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2025-2026

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.



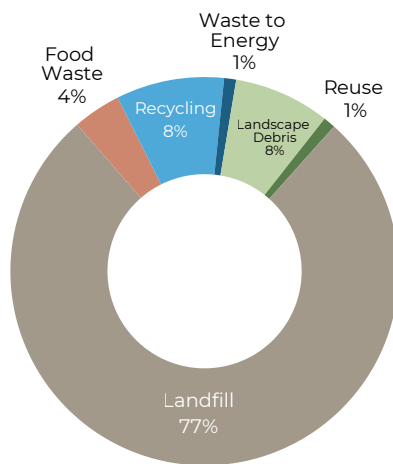
TRANSFORMING OUR OPERATIONS

Lafayette employs strategies to decrease emissions, improve energy efficiency, create material circularity, and decrease waste, among other operational advancements. Our goal, as outlined in Climate Action Plan (CAP) 3.0 is to achieve carbon neutrality and 60% waste diversion by 2035.

Waste Diversion

This year **23% of campus waste was diverted**.

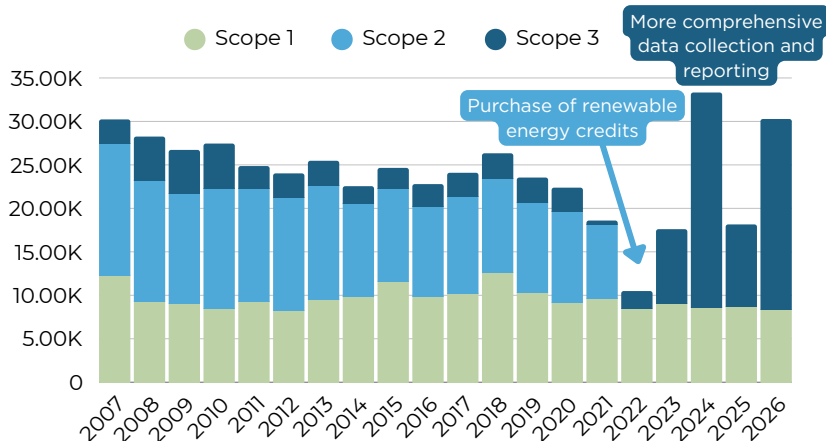
Composting increased from 3% to 4% with capacity in the vessel for increased capture. Landfill waste increased, showcasing a need for focused impact, which is a pivotal section of emphasis in the CAP 3.0.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions

From the 2007 baseline, Lafayette **reduced scopes 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 69%** primarily attributable to energy conservation measures and procurement of renewable energy credits.

Increases in scope 3 emissions are the result of **significant expansion of data collection**. This year's increase is predominantly due to enhanced accounting of Lafayette's emissions related to purchased goods and services.



Climate Action Plan 3.0 Released

This academic year, the Lafayette community updated the CAP 2.0 (2019) with new strategies and goals to reach carbon neutrality by 2035. Over **300 students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, community members, and the Board of Trustees** contributed to the development of the plan through **46 open stakeholder engagement sessions**. These sessions resulted in six key focus areas with targets from 2026-2035:

- Resiliency & adaptation measures
- Decarbonizing heating, cooling, & hot water
- Electricity solutions
- Transportation
- Waste & procurement
- Metzgar net zero plan



The Board of Trustees renewed Lafayette's commitment to carbon neutrality by **approving CAP 3.0 on May 22**.

Read the plan at sustainability.lafayette.edu/climate-action-plan-3/

Creating Circularity | Thrift Store

During Green Move Out, **20,000+ pounds** of items were collected from students for redistribution to the campus and community. This year, **300 more items were diverted to the thrift store** to increase on-campus circularity. Items included those that are frequently bought new at the beginning of the year, such as storage containers, mirrors, trash cans, and more.

CULTIVATING A LIVING LAB

With over 90% of departments offering courses with sustainability-focused or inclusive content and conducting sustainability research, campus operates as a living lab, providing the opportunity to explore and test new models of sustainable systems.

Sustainability in Curriculum

By taking a deep look at our course offerings and cross-analyzing the Sustainable Development Goals, we identified 21% more departments offer courses and research opportunities for students to immerse themselves in sustainability education, with a **total of almost 300 courses to explore**.

LaFarm | Working Farm & Community Garden

This year, along with many other class collaborations, LaFarm worked closely with Professor Dave Brandes and his students to **create a rainwater catchment and purification system**. This system will provide **off-grid water for LaFarm's new wash station**. Civil Engineering 475 in the fall began the design process, and Environmental Studies 303 initiated building and implementation.

19,000+ lbs

of fresh, local, student-grown produce

83 events

engaging campus & community

980+

visitors through volunteering, events, & more

17 courses

collaborated with LaFarm



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.

70+ events

hosted by departments & clubs

72% of students

engaged by a sustainability peer educator in residence

60+ students

employed by the Office of Sustainability

25 tours

focused on sustainability conducted across campus

Fraternity & Sorority Life

In spring 2026, **12 out of 14 existing chapters elected Sustainability Chairs** to spearhead sustainability actions in FSL communities as part of a new initiative to incorporate sustainability more broadly across living communities.

Sustainability Literacy Assessment

In spring 2026, a campus-wide Sustainability Literacy & Culture Assessment was deployed to benchmark community knowledge, values, and behaviors. Results revealed **a strong correlation between student tenure and sustainability literacy**, with performance steadily increasing from first-year students to seniors.

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

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

West Ward Sale

Through Green Move Out, thousands of items were collected and sorted for distribution to the local community. **1,500 items were donated directly** to 18 community partners and organizations, and **3,000 items were sold at the West Ward Sale** in July at Paxinosa Elementary School **at a pay-what-you-can rate**.

K-12 Youth Sustainability Education

This academic year, free youth education opportunities were offered to the local community. We developed a daylong sustainability camp for the students of the Boys & Girls Club of Easton, as well as several sessions for local middle school students through Connected Classrooms, Girl Scouts Badge Day, and the Nurture Nature Center's Youth Climate Summit.

Additionally, the Sustainability Leadership Program, a week-long sustainability program for high school students, **hosted 14 campers from across the country**. Students participated in educational programming, while also getting the chance to experience life on a college campus while staying at Lafayette.

For more details, visit sustainability.lafayette.edu