



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

University of Maryland, Baltimore



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Higher Education
Member since September 2009

Management and Leadership

Environmental Team

UMB established the Office of Sustainability in August of 2021. We have 3 full time positions focused on many aspects of sustainability, including greenhouse gas reporting and compliance, waste and recycling, and education and engagement.

Waste

Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

A statewide website, www.govdeals.com, is utilized to advertise furniture and equipment that is available for sale. This is managed through the UMB Surplus Property program.

In 2022, UMB switched to a local vendor to resell and recycle electronic waste from campus. The vendor prioritizes reselling before recycling and is located within Maryland.

Twice a year, the campus holds specialty collection events for waste streams including books, batteries, electronics, and ink toner/cartridges.

Recycling

The University of Maryland Baltimore has had an operational recycling program since 1997 and participates in the All State Agencies Recycle (All StAR)

Program. Solid waste and recycling tonnages are reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) through this program.

We have three major waste streams on campus – mixed metals, plastic and glass; paper and cardboard; and trash.

In 2023, UMB began rolling out a self-service waste model to deploy consistent centralized waste bin stations with clear signage in buildings across the campus: <https://www.umaryland.edu/evs/self-service-waste/>

Composting

UMB also began composting research animal bedding late in 2014, with over 100 tons annually being composted in 2015 and 2016. This process was put on hold around 2019, and we are looking to restart the effort in 2023 with the opening of a new Recycling Center facility on campus.

UMB is part of team with Baltimore City's Department of Public Works and other area universities that received a grant in 2023 to develop two community composting sites on its campus. In its first two quarters of collection, UMB has diverted over 4,000 lbs of food scraps from being landfilled and/or incinerated.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

UMB monitors energy consumption in BTU/sf for every building on campus. At any given time, we have approximately 5-8 energy reduction effort projects active on campus.

UMB formed an Energy Reduction Team in 2020 to maximize energy savings with building setbacks through building automation systems.

In January 2022, a project started to replace all fluorescent light bulbs on campus with LEDs, and this project is 32% complete. Once completed, this project is estimated to save 5% of our total electricity consumption.

Renewable Energy

In October 2022, UMB announced its commitment to purchasing 100% renewable electricity for the 2022 calendar year and beyond. This is in addition to its three existing power purchase agreements.

In the early 2024, UMB signed a Power Purchase Agreement for the installation of on-campus solar canopies at two of its parking garages, the Penn and Pearl Garages. These will be the first on-site renewable energy installations on UMB's campus.

Transportation

Employee Commute

The Parking and Transportation Services program includes access to free MTA passes, a carpool program, pre-taxed monthly parking permits, shuttle services, secured bicycle storage, electric charging stations, and bike air pumps.

UMB has 21 EV charging stations on campus. Additional chargers have been installed on a surface lot in 2024 and are the first ADA-accessible charging stations on campus.

UMB completed construction of a second secure Bike Room on the north end of campus in the Baltimore Grand Garage to complement the Pratt Garage Bike Cage, with an additional 22 spots for secured bike parking.

Green Building

LEED Certification

All new construction is built to the LEED Silver standard, as a minimum, which requires a number of energy efficiency & other sustainability features. The School of Pharmacy Addition received LEED Gold certification under the New Construction rating system in 2011. The Bressler Research Building received LEED Silver status for its renovations of the 7th and 8th floors of the building. The Health Sciences and Research Facility III received LEED Gold status in 2018, and the new Design & Construction office suite achieved LEED Gold certification in 2019.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

Bike Friendly University

The Office of Sustainability submitted for the Bike Friendly University designation through the League of American Bicyclists in July 2022, and was awarded an honorable mention.

Climate Action Plan

In early 2022, the Office of Sustainability released a strategic plan that includes greenhouse gas reduction goals in support of the Second Nature Climate Commitment. <https://www.umaryland.edu/sustainability/strategic-plan/>

Campus Trees

In the summer of 2022, UMB received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust through the Urban Trees grant program to plant 65 new trees on campus to increase the urban tree canopy in Downtown Baltimore. All trees were planted in the fall of 2022, and a volunteer planting event open to members of the UMB and UMBC communities was held in November, with 11 trees being planted that day.

The Office of Sustainability submitted for the Tree Campus Higher Education designation through the Arbor Day Foundation and finalized its Campus Tree Care Plan in December 2022.

The Office of Sustainability completed a tree inventory in 2023 for its campus trees, collecting data on location, species, diameter breast height (DBH), and categorizing whether the tree was native or non-native. The inventory was published campus-wide in Spring 2024.

Green Labs Program

In the fall of 2022, the Office of Sustainability launched a Green Labs pilot program; 4 labs from 3 of UMB's schools are participating as beta testers before the program is rolled out more widely to all research areas of campus.

Freezer Rebate Program

In January 2023, the Office of Sustainability launched a freezer rebate program to financially incentivize labs who are replacing old ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers to select energy efficient models. Funding is available on a first-come, first-serve basis until it is depleted.

Sustainability Leadership Micro-Courses

In 2023, the Office of Sustainability worked with UMB's Learning Institute to launch a series of micro-courses. These courses are available to the campus community who receive a micro-badge upon completion. As of spring 2024, two of three micro-courses have been published.

Resilience

The Office of Sustainability has four working groups, one of which focuses on Resilience. The group has drafted a Resilience Assessment for the campus which will be submitted to Second Nature in 2023.

In February 2024, the Office of Sustainability set up a weather monitor and time-lapse camera to capture live data on local temperature, humidity, rainfall, air quality, and other metrics.

Profile Updated April 2024



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

