



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Office of Sustainability

"Sustainability and environmental justice are expressions of our understanding that we've been given so much by God, but we don't own the world. We are simply asked to care for it. And so we must care deeply, and from the heart."

*Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J.
President,
University of San Francisco*

A COMMUNITY IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

Green Initiatives at the University of San Francisco

Respect and care for the Earth are integral to our mission at USF. Our whole community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors—is seeking new ways to learn, teach, work, and live in balance with nature.

As stewards for future generations, we can change old habits and discover creative solutions that will allow the Earth and its creatures to flourish. We believe that climate change is a real and present crisis, exposing vulnerable populations to massive snowstorms, immense hurricanes, extraordinary floods, and prolonged droughts.

The USF community is inspired to respond, to act now, and to truly make a difference. If we all pitch in, our collective local actions will have a global impact.

Together, we can change the world from here.

As a community committed to sustainability, USF actively:

- *Drives Less*
- *Builds Green*
- *Reduces Carbon Emissions*
- *Minimizes Waste*
- *Eats Sustainably*
- *Reduces Water Use*



LIVE

USF recognizes the moral imperative to act now on climate change. The **USF 2014 Climate Action Plan** details our comprehensive and pragmatic strategies to become carbon neutral by 2050. It identifies four key areas of concentration: conserve energy and carbon, increase energy efficiency, increase renewable energy, and offset or reduce emissions elsewhere. At USF, we live our commitment to reduce our environmental impact on multiple fronts, including:

One of our main goals is to be carbon neutral by 2050.



Driving Less

USF encourages students to bike, walk, carpool, or use public transit and provides bike storage, free transit passes, and other transportation programs—only 26% of commuters drive alone to campus.



Building Green

The new \$54 million Center for Science and Innovation is LEED Gold certified. Skylights provide natural light, reducing the need for artificial lighting. The building stores rainwater for landscape irrigation, and its green roof naturally cools the building while reducing run-off.



Reducing Carbon Emissions

USF's five solar installations—capacity 590 kilowatts—generated an average of 733,876 kilowatt-hours over the last seven years, avoiding 1,597.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide—equal to taking 352 cars off the road for a year.



Minimizing Waste

In 2015, **Recyclemania** rated USF one of the top 20 colleges for waste reduction. Currently, 64% of USF's trash is diverted from the landfill through recycling and composting.



Eating Sustainably

In partnership with Bon Appétit Management Company, USF buys more than 20% of its food from local farms. We reduce food waste by buying healthy and delicious fruits and vegetables that do not meet supermarkets' strict standards for size and appearance.



Reducing Water Use

As California's drought intensifies, USF is changing landscape and irrigation, investing in more efficient equipment, and encouraging people to change how they use water daily.



At USF, students can deepen their knowledge of sustainability and the Earth through multiple disciplines and prepare themselves to address today's ecological challenges. USF offers several programs with emphasis on environmental issues:



- Undergraduate program in Environmental Studies
- Undergraduate program in Environmental Science
- Graduate program in Environmental Management
- Minor in Urban Agriculture



USF faculty members make a global impact with their research—from understanding the impact of climate change on sea life to helping developing countries build sustainable economies to documenting endangered species in Laos. A unique aspect of the USF learning experience is that our faculty give students the opportunity to engage in field research, providing real-world experience in their areas of study. Plus, faculty add life to academic concepts by bringing research experience into the classroom.



USF students think beyond themselves and contribute to the campus, to San Francisco, and to people and places around the world.

Students share their knowledge and energy—and have fun—while making a difference. Opportunities to give back include:

- Environmental Education and Outdoors Club
- USF Community Garden
- Campus Ministry Volunteer Programs
- Associated Students of USF (ASUSF) Sustainability Committee
- Graduate Student Senate



The **USF Community Garden**—located between Lone Mountain and the Education Building—is a living laboratory for students, faculty, and staff interested in sustainable agriculture.

Follow us on Twitter: @USFGarden.

LEARN

USF currently offers over 140 courses related to sustainability and the Earth's health, including:

- Sustainable Design
- Conservation Biology
- Sustainable Business Models
- Global Economic Justice
- Climate Change Science & Policy
- Environmental Ethics

GIVE

GARDEN VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Every Friday
2:00-5:00 PM

Open to USF students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

LEAD

USF GREEN
CHANGEMAKERS



Watch our video:

GREEN HAPPENS HERE

<http://bit.ly/GreenHappensHere>



Deneb Karentz

Professor of Biology and Environmental Science
Researches the ecological implications of climate change in Antarctica: *"It's important for people to realize that humans are actually changing the environment and doing it faster than evolutionary processes can allow organisms to adapt."*

Brittany Rowles

Environmental Studies '11
Launched USF's first Earth Day. Now with Rock the Bike, providing human-powered energy for events: *"I would love for people to eat more locally sourced food, start gardens, and get more connected to the food they nourish their bodies with."*

Seth Wachtel

Chair of the Department of Art + Architecture
Uses local materials and skills to strengthen communities: *"I'm getting students engaged with hands-on projects that hone professional skills for their chosen fields while building a strong desire and belief in helping underserved communities."*

Gretchen Coffman (on right)

Professor of Environmental Management and Science
Brings her classroom into the field: *"My students enjoy learning about environmental science and ecology through a more personal experience. We don't just study theory. We take action, restoring ecosystems using a hands-on approach."*

I AM READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT



- **Waste less. Recycle and compost more.**
- **Conserve water. Make every drop count.**
- **Ride your bike, or take public transit.**
- **Volunteer at the **USF Community Garden**.**
- **Join the **ASUSF Sustainability Committee**.**
- **Enroll in **ENVA109, Environment & Society**.**
- **Visit www.usfca.edu/sustainability, or stop by our office to learn more.**

The USF Office of Sustainability

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Local Action
Global Impact

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