



The ETSU Sustainability Department seeks to advance efforts to nurture, fortify, and uphold HEALTHY PEOPLE on a HEALTHY PLANET at ETSU and beyond.

The mission of the ETSU Department of Sustainability is to develop and provide support for sustainability initiatives within the campus and community in order to cultivate a thriving culture of sustainability throughout operations, research, education, community service, and student life.

Department Staffing 2013-2014

Sustainability Director	(1) FTE
Recycling Coordinator	(1) FTE
Outreach Coordinator	(1) Part-time 20 hours per week
Recycling Assistant	(1) Part-time 20 hours per week
Student Help	(5) Federal Work Study
	(6) Academic Performance Scholarships
	(9) Temporary Workers (EcoNuts/Ambassadors) – funded by SAACS

So what exactly is sustainability?

According to the Brundtland Commission's 1987 report, sustainable development "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This means that the social, economic, and environmental systems that are in place at the present will not detract from the resources, quality of life, and capital that are available to people in the future.

When referring to sustainability and its relation to a college or university campus, it is the development of a process or management system that helps to create a vibrant campus economy and high quality of life while respecting the need to sustain natural resources and protect the environment.

To put it simply, sustainable practices nurture, fortify, and uphold HEALTHY PEOPLE on a HEALTHY PLANET.

ETSU Sustainability works to integrate sustainable practices into all aspects of campus life, and endeavors to inspire students, faculty, and staff to incorporate sustainability into their work, research, and daily habits.



To accomplish our mission, we:

- Educate the campus community about sustainability
- Develop sustainability programming and best practices that affect student education and campus operations.
- Foster collaboration between campus units and external resources
- Provide encouragement and support to campus departments to find ways of reducing environmental impacts and to promote sustainability efforts.
- Measure and report on campus sustainability efforts.
- Provide outreach to individuals and organizations both on and off-campus.

The Department of Sustainability manages various programs to accomplish the above strategies:

- **Marketing/Outreach**

The Department of Sustainability develops and distributes marketing materials to promote sustainability initiatives and events and to educate the campus community about sustainable practices. Main marketing strategies include the following:

- Bimonthly release of the Sustainability Newsletter
- Updates to the Department of Sustainability website (gogreen.etsu.edu)
- Updates to the departmental Facebook page
- Design and distribution of posters and flyers to educate and promote about sustainability issues
- Presenting sustainability related programs to various on and off-campus groups.



- **Events**

The Department of Sustainability participates in campus events to promote the departments' initiatives while also providing students, faculty, and staff with information and opportunities to engage in environmentally and socially responsible actions at ETSU. As the campus community becomes more aware of their resource use on campus, they are more likely to reduce the amounts of energy, water, etc. consumed and can therefore save money for the university when their efforts are combined.

Some of the events attended in the past year include: student orientations, Welcome Week events, the ETSU Farmers Market, and RA training.

Throughout the past year, the Sustainability Department has planned and coordinated a wide variety of events to educate the campus community about sustainability and to encourage students, faculty, and staff to consider how their daily habits impact the planet.

Main events (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014) include:

- **Campus Move-In/Move-Out** – Extraneous items and packing materials (such as cardboard) are collected during Campus Move-In to divert waste from the landfill. During Campus Move-Out, items in good condition are accepted as donations to local charities and are collected by the department.
- **Your Environmental Road Trip (YERT)** – This film was screened as an outdoor movie. Students were provided with a list of sustainability-related events that they could attend on campus throughout the semester.
- **Service Saturdays** – A series of Brush Creek Clean-Ups were conducted with help from student volunteers. The clean-ups were planned in conjunction with Volunteer ETSU's Service Saturday program.
- **No Impact Week** – Based on the No Impact Man film and "No Impact Project" by Colin Beavan, No Impact Week encourages students to examine their lifestyles in relation to the natural environment. Each day of the week focuses on a different theme, such as food, transportation, consumerism, etc. Events are planned for each day that relate to the theme for the day and promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles.



- **Green Cup Competition** – This event was comprised of two competitions in the spring semester – RecycleMania and Campus Conservation Nationals – along with several other events. Students competed for points in the Green Cup competition. Prizes were awarded to the top three residence hall winners and top three individual student winners.
- **Earth Month events** – The department hosted and cosponsored three guest speakers during Earth Month (lectures included “Grow Appalachia” by David Cooke, “Regional Industries and Their Environmental Impact” by Park Overall, and “Brightening the 21st Century” by Sister Paula Gonzalez). Two films were screened – Disney’s Earth and Water Blues: Green Solutions. The department partnered with Volunteer ETSU to hold the university’s annual Campus Beautification Day, and also planned and coordinated the ETSU Earth Day Festival with the university’s student-led environmental group. Also, all promotional materials and marketing for the month was completed by the Department of Sustainability.

- **EcoNuts/Eco Ambassadors**

This peer- to-peer outreach and education program, funded by the Student Activities Allocation Committee (\$13,200) has enabled our department to reach out to our student population to educate and encourage them to be more aware of their environmental impact while on campus. Focusing on encouraging recycling and reducing resource use (primarily electricity and water), the EcoNuts and EcoAmbassadors have been active throughout the year presenting programs to educate fellow residents and collaborating with our department during many events.

- **Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)**

STARS is a program offered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). It allows colleges and universities to track and compare their progress on sustainability projects and initiatives. After a detailed report of the university’s sustainability efforts was submitted to AASHE in 2010, ETSU received a Bronze rating from the STARS program. Senior staff at the university have committed to improving upon the current STARS rating and have included this as a goal in the ETSU Strategic Plan. In order to support this endeavor, the Department of Sustainability has taken the following steps:



- Identified faculty and staff members to serve on one of seven STARS subcommittees (subcommittees: Research & Curriculum, Energy, Climate Change & Green Buildings, Transportation, Materials & Services, Water & Waste, Education & Awareness, and Planning, Administration & Engagement).
- Served as an advisory agent at subcommittee meetings
- Compiled all recommendations from each subcommittee and presented recommendations to senior staff along with subcommittee chairs

- **Grants**

ETSU Sustainability in collaboration with ETSU Department of Engineering Technology faculty has secured two (2) major grants 2013-2014. These include the TVA Energy Right Solutions for Higher Education grant to hire (4) interns per semester to identify energy saving opportunities on campus and a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to implement various energy saving and/or alternative energy programs on the campus. The TVA grant enabled the sustainability department to present a faculty workshop titled “Infusing Sustainability into the Curriculum” for (2) two consecutive years.

TVA ERSHE Grant	\$39,040
TDEC Grant	<u>\$133,995</u>
Total grant funds:	\$173,035

- **Campus Sustainability Fee**

This fee of \$5 per student/semester generates approximately \$130,000 per year for projects related to energy/resource conservation, sustainability education, etc. The Department of Sustainability manages the fee along with the Campus Sustainability Fee Committee, which votes to determine which project proposals to accept each fall. Since the fee was instituted in 2008, 91 proposals have been submitted for review and 60 have been accepted for development and completion. The department aids in the management of the fee by:

- Sending out a call for proposals each fall
- Promoting the fee to ensure that students, faculty, and staff know that funding is available



- Communicating information about projects funded by the fee to the campus community
- Organizing proposals and information for the Campus Sustainability Fee Committee (*the Director of Sustainability serves as committee chair)
- Overseeing the Campus Sustainability Fee budget
- Overseeing project implementation

Project Comparison by FY

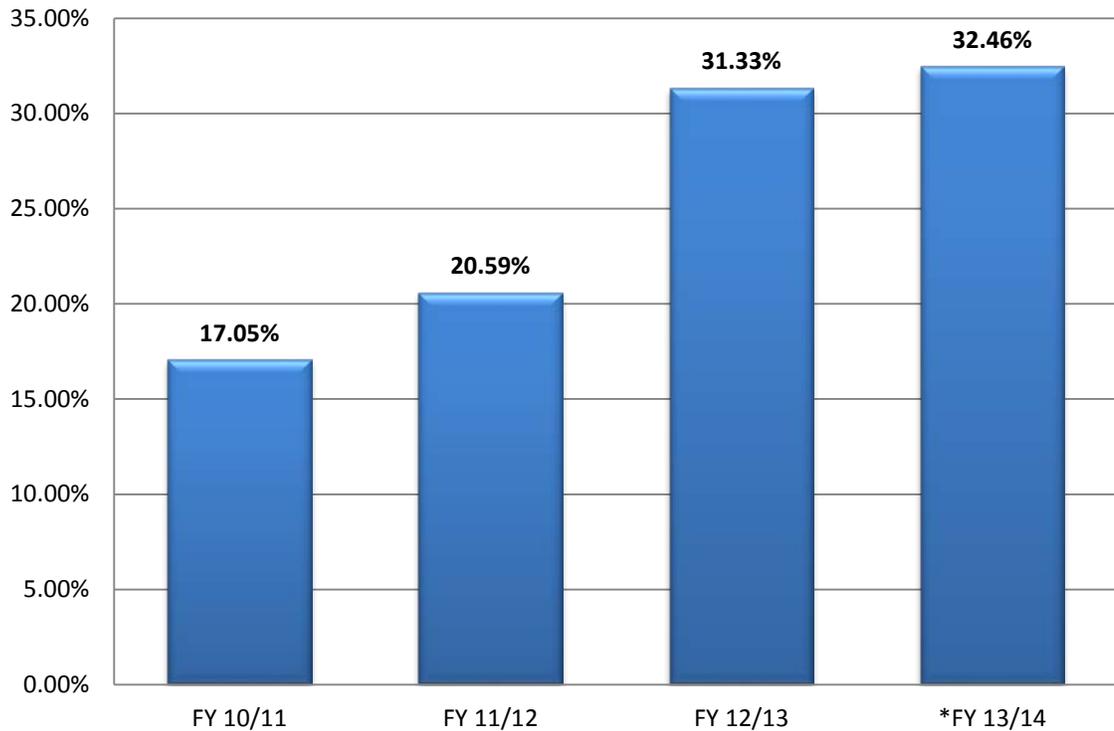
FY 12/13 Projects	Budget	FY 13/14 Project	Budget
EcoMill Treadmills	6,000	Buc Bike Support	7,074
Bike Repair Station	2,034	Light Sensors CPA	11,136
Solar Wall - CPA	100,000	Hydration Stations	7,668
Buc Bike Signage	201	Photovoltaic System	40,000
Bus Shelter	18,314	Graduate Asst for Sustainability	8,000
Energy Dashboard	12,000	LED lighting - Wilson Wallis	5,000
Sustainability Center Planning	5,000	Hydration Stations -VA bldgs	4,000
Hydration Station	2,172	Electric Meters	13,200
	\$145,721	Drying Racks - Residence Halls	450
		Reusable Water Bottles - new students	9,750
		Marketing Materials - Sustainability	5,000
		Occupancy Sensors - Culp Center	2,500
		Plumbing Upgrade - Wilson Wallis	16,924
		LED Lighing - CPA multipurpose room	23,000
			\$153,702



- **Recycling**

The recycling shop is responsible for the collection of all recycling materials on campus. Staffing includes one (1) FTE coordinator, one (1) PT temporary worker, and seven (7) APS/FWS student workers during the school year. Responsible for over 300 recycling containers on campus, the staff collected over 531 tons of materials in FY12-13 with an overall recycling rate of 31%. Revenue from recycled materials: \$7,992.01. Cost avoidance from landfill tipping fees: \$25,536.

Recycling Rate

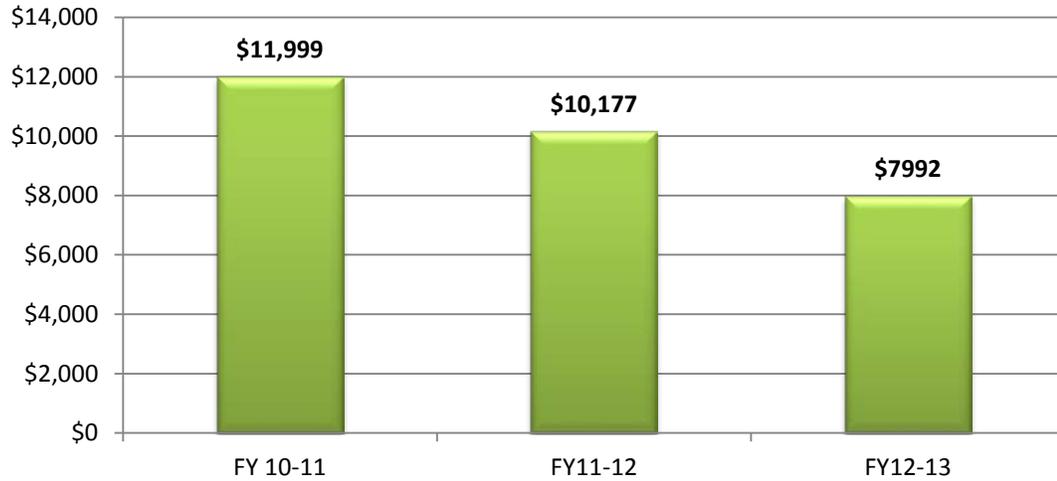


*As of April 2014



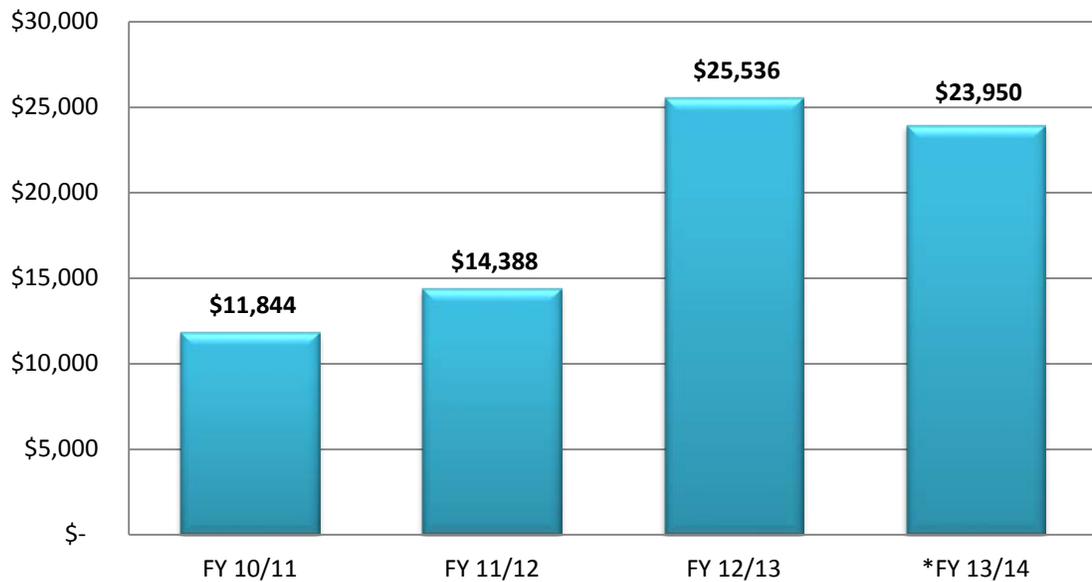
Some of the commodities we recycle provide some revenue depending on market conditions. Aluminum, steel/tin, and printer cartridges provide us a small return.

Recycling Revenue



The largest fiscal benefit to recycling is cost avoidance of landfill tipping fees. They increase every year with an average increase over 2%.

Cost Avoidance



*As of April 2014

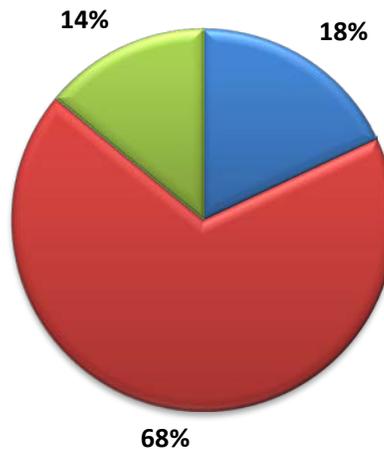


- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory was conducted by an intern in the Department of Sustainability in 2013. The inventory serves as a baseline for campus emissions and conveys the sources and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the university. This information will allow us to set reduction targets and to prioritize projects. The 2013 inventory revealed several key findings:

- **Scope 1** – Emissions produced directly by the university account for 18% of total emissions
- **Scope 2** – Emissions produced from generated electricity purchased by the university account for 68% of total emissions
- **Scope 3** – Emissions indirectly related to the university such as daily commuter traffic account for 14% of total emissions

Greenhouse Gas Inventory - 2013





- **ETSU Community Garden**

The ETSU Community Garden grew out of a Campus Sustainability Fee proposal submitted in 2008. It has been supported by the Department of Sustainability since its construction and has achieved much success in attracting gardeners each year. The annual budget for the garden is approximately \$300. The Department of Sustainability manages the ETSU Community Garden in the following ways:

- Hires 1-2 unpaid student interns to manage the garden
- Coordinates Community Garden work days with garden managers and other gardeners
- Designs promotional materials to attract new gardeners
- Supplies the soil and mulch for plots and walkways