

**State University of New York College at Geneseo**  
**U.N. Global Compact member since 2013**

**COE**  
**2021**

**Our Sustainability Mission**

SUNY Geneseo is committed to finding innovative ways of living sustainably by adhering to the principles of ecological, social, and economic justice. SUNY Geneseo defines sustainability using the United Nations definition: "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." We use this definition due to its broad implications. Sustainability work at the college cannot be restricted to environmental sustainability, it must also address economic and social sustainability. Our approach is campus wide, looking to implement the UN sustainable development goals inside the classroom, outside the classroom, for students, faculty, and staff, and in facilities as well as programs.

Our efforts aim to:

- Educate the campus and local community about sustainability by offering activities and programs to individuals and organizations.
- Foster collaboration between units of the College and external resources.
- Consult with campus departments—administrative and academic—to find ways of reducing harmful environmental impacts and promoting sustainability.
- Coordinate efforts to meet the goals of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.
- Participate in, and support the efforts of, the United Nations' Global Compact.
- Collaborate with campus partners to reduce inequity and become an anti-racist college

**Sustainability Inside and Outside the Classroom**

Our goal is to produce sustainability-literate students by incorporating relevant topics across our curriculum, through co-curricular opportunities, and in facilities management and communication.

Students can access a range of diverse and innovative sustainability experiences through their coursework, both on-campus and abroad, ranging from physics and biology to English and history. For instance, our popular *Global Environmental Politics* course focuses on concerns like climate change and ecological degradation through the lenses of citizens, civil society, political parties, policymakers, government institutions, and international organizations.

Our faculty continue to make huge strides in addressing pressing concerns of society and the environment — like Barnabas Gikonyo, director of Introductory Chemistry Labs, who is converting algae to biofuel. Further afield, we take great pride in creating learning opportunities that address sustainability issues, such as the study abroad "Comparable Sustainability in Nicaragua" summer course led by Kristi Hannam, associate professor of biology.

We are anticipating approval of a sustainability category in our revised General Education and the approval of a new Sustainability Studies Major. These curricular milestones demonstrate the expertise and commitment of faculty and staff on the college campus as well as partnerships with the regional community.

The College's energy garden — or eGarden — is outfitted with solar and wind power generation capabilities and it is dedicated to providing interdisciplinary teaching, research and engagement opportunities. Projects include the cultivation of garlic and other vegetables that are used in the campus dining facilities, and the retrofit of golf carts into solar-powered vehicles. This year, the office of sustainability on campus is utilizing a \$3,000 grant to increase participation in sustainability efforts for BIPOC students. Two students were hired with the grant to organize and sell produce grown in the eGarden at an urban farmers market and collect information on what produce customers would like to have more access to.

We also offer co-curricular educational opportunities such as the Jade Certificate, which is a workshop-based, sustainability leadership credential initiative administered through Geneseo Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD) program. Other opportunities for students to actively engage in sustainability initiatives include the Environmental Writing Club; the Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship (FORCES), a multi-campus organization that supports volunteer services and recreational activities in New York State Parks; and the Geneseo Environmental Organization (GEO), which promotes environmentally-friendly practices on campus and in the community.

For students who share an interest in preserving and protecting our natural environment, Geneseo's Eco House residential living-learning community provides the opportunity for them to live their beliefs. House residents engage in a variety of activities and workshops designed to enhance their sustainable living skills.

### **Geneseo Participates with World Leaders in United Nations Sustainability Efforts**

As a participant in the U.N. Global Compact, SUNY Geneseo has joined with world leaders at the United Nations in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

The College has created an innovative way to share how Geneseo addresses these sustainability goals through the curriculum, integrated learning opportunities, research, and international and local service. Visitors to our [website](#) can explore how the College and alumni are leading sustainability efforts on campus and throughout the world with an interactive storytelling map, designed by Miles Druce '17 and directed by Kris Dreessen, project creator and manager of editorial services in the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Dreessen and Dan DeZarn, Geneseo's Director of Sustainability, led a workshop at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2018 national conference in Pittsburgh, PA. The workshop focused on the College's support of the U.N. 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the interactive map, with information for other academic institutions to create their own.

Visitors can search the map by either clicking on a specific location or via any one of the 17 U.N. goals, which include reducing inequalities; increasing opportunities in education, health, and economic growth; creating sustainable communities; and preserving natural resources.

Geneseo is one of 35 U.S. academic institutions and the only SUNY institution in the Compact. As the largest global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders, the Compact draws support from 170 countries and includes organizations and companies such as Coca-Cola, Johnson & Johnson, and LG Electronics.

This year SUNY Geneseo also became a signatory to the University Global Coalition, offering two virtual events during SDG Awareness Week and have taken the lead in pursuing SDG #4 — Quality Education, partnering with four institutions from around the world.

### **Sustainability — Facilities and Campus Construction**

SUNY Geneseo demonstrates our commitment to building a community that uses resources responsibly through our campus facilities, including our new construction and renovation. Since 2018 SUNY Geneseo has upgraded much of our interior and all of our exterior lighting, to high efficiency LED fixtures. In addition we have installed submeters on all of our academic buildings and most of our residence halls, to be able to better understand how our energy is being used and to strategize for better efficiency. In 2020 we entered into a consortium of colleges and universities in New York State dedicated to forming the largest power purchase agreement of renewables in the higher ed sector. We also incorporate innovative technologies such as geothermal wells and rainwater collection. Five of our buildings — two residence halls, an administration building, a renovated academic building, and a dining facility — boast or align with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. A sixth building, Red Jacket Dining Complex, was completed in August 2018 and is awaiting certification.

For Monroe Hall, a campus residence hall, the entire process — from design to construction — used environmentally friendly materials, as well as geothermal well technology. Even construction waste was recycled.

Our “green” facilities are:

**Monroe Hall** • LEED Gold Certified • Geothermal heating and cooling • Rainwater harvesting for use in bathrooms • Electronic energy dashboard • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment • Water bottle refill stations

**Bailey Hall** • LEED Silver Certified • Natural daylighting • Passive solar and sun shading • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment • Water bottle refill stations

**Letchworth Dining Complex** • LEED Silver Certified • Geothermal heating and cooling • Rainwater harvesting for use in bathrooms • Natural daylighting • Passive solar and sun shading • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment

**Seneca Hall** • LEED Silver Certifiable • Geothermal heating • Passive solar and sun shading • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment

**Doty Hall** • LEED Silver Certifiable • Geothermal heating and cooling • Rainwater harvesting for use in bathrooms • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment • Water bottle refill stations

**Red Jacket Dining Complex** • LEED Gold Certified • Natural daylighting • Energy-efficient windows and mechanical equipment • Water bottle refill stations • LED lighting

### **ACCOLADES**

*U.S. Green Building Council 2020 Green Schools Award*

SUNY Geneseo received a U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) 2020 Green Schools Award for the Red Jacket Dining Hall. The project also achieved a USGBC Gold award for commitment to environmental sustainability in construction and was recognized for innovative

and exemplary lighting design, reducing connected lighting power by 54 percent and occupancy sensors being installed for 98 percent of the project connected lighting load. The renovation also reduced potable water usage by 38 percent and process water by 52 percent. No CFC-based refrigerants were used in the new refrigeration systems and 43 percent of the existing interior non-structural elements were reused. The project was also recognized for innovation in recycling because 31 percent of the total building materials were manufactured using recycled materials, and 66 percent of on-site construction waste was diverted from landfill. The building's carbon footprint was further reduced by having 40 percent of the building materials manufactured within 500 miles of the project site. The project achieved further recognition by utilizing low VOC emitting materials in the construction as well as maintaining an indoor air quality plan.

#### *Princeton Review's Green Colleges*

SUNY Geneseo is one of the 375 most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review. Listed in the 2020 edition of *The Princeton Review Guide to 375 Green Colleges*, Geneseo was selected based on the College's commitment to the environment and sustainability.

#### *Service and Volunteerism*

SUNY Geneseo has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since its inception in 2006. Most recently, in 2017, SUNY Geneseo earned a place in all four categories — education, economic opportunity, interfaith community service, and general community service and was named with "distinction" for general community service.

#### *Washington Monthly 2018 Rankings*

*Washington Monthly* magazine ranked SUNY Geneseo second overall among 695 master's universities in the nation for its contributions to the public good across three broad categories: social mobility, research, and service.

SUNY Geneseo ranked 107th in the North category of Liberal Arts institutions for "Best Bang for the Buck" among the 400 colleges.

## **BEST PRACTICES**

#### *Printing Initiative Reduced Waste*

In 2018, the Office of Computing and Information Technology (CIT) launched the gPrint system, which is helping to reduce waste on campus. It is part of CIT's ongoing Printing Improvement Initiative, which makes printing more efficient for the entire campus community — and is environmentally conscious. Students add their documents or images to be printed to a cloud queue and go to a printer to manually release their print jobs. CIT estimates that the College has saved thousands of pieces of paper per week in Milne Library alone. During one week last fall, prior to gPrint implementation, staff picked up more than 7,000 sheets of abandoned prints. Now, fewer than 100 sheets are collected weekly, and that number is expected to continue to decline.

### *Symposium Focused on Sustainable Food Systems*

SUNY Geneseo's Office of Sustainability hosted a two-day symposium in 2017 to discuss sustainable food systems, with a focus on the Genesee Valley in which the College is located.

The symposium featured a series of presentations and discussions that "set the table" by using the interdisciplinary lenses of culture, technology, agriculture, environmentalism, ethics, and economics. The keynote address was delivered by internationally renowned environmentalist and scholar David Orr. The meeting also featured a series of interdisciplinary presentations and roundtable discussion sessions that focused on how SUNY Geneseo, working with our local community, can be a vehicle to promote sustainable food systems and food security on regional, national, and global levels.

### *Sustainability Efforts Reduced Number of Cars on Campus*

In 2002, the College introduced a campus shuttle service to reduce the number of cars on campus. Students rode the shuttle 43,000 times in the first year. By fiscal year 2015-16, the total number was 118,000. Those rides were used to get to the airport, Amtrak station, live theater performances in Rochester, Letchworth State Park, and other destinations. Since the launch of service, the College has seen a 44% decrease in the number of resident students bringing vehicles to campus.

### *Supporting Local Farmers, Growers*

The College has long recognized the importance of purchasing and serving local foods and actively seeks out solutions to increase the amount of local produce served on campus. The College partners with American Fruit and Vegetable, a local distributor for all of its produce. Through American, the College is able to purchase over 35 different items from over 20 New York state farms.

Purdy & Sons is another distributor that offers an innovative solution to providing New York State produce year-round. Purdy introduces farmers to other local distributors who cut, freeze and pack the produce, which is then distributed to customers across the state. Through Purdy & Sons, SUNY Geneseo is able to serve locally grown foods, flash frozen at the peak of freshness, throughout the school year.

### **Sustainability in Student Life and Dining**

Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS) manages eight restaurants and cafés on the SUNY Geneseo campus. Options include Fusion Market, Starbucks, Food Studio North, and the Chowhound Food Truck. CAS continually seeks to improve efficiency so that SUNY Geneseo can reduce its impact on the environment and act as a more effective environmental steward.

Other programs CAS has initiated to drive sustainability include a very successful initiative to introduce high-efficiency washing machines, reducing the College's consumption of water by 11 million gallons over the past few years. Through recycling and the introduction of biodegradable packaging, CAS now diverts over 8.5 tons of paper from landfills on an annual basis. Food scraps are also put to good use by composting over 14,000 pounds of discarded food annually. The compost is then distributed around campus as fertilizer.

Some other initiatives include the recycling of waste oil and the elimination of styrofoam products, which are not typically accepted by recycling programs. Even campus vending

machines are equipped with VendingMiser technology that powers down the machine when no one is nearby.

### **Building a Better Campus**

A major campus construction project that was completed October 2018 is providing improved electrical and telecommunication infrastructure; updated electrical equipment; and heating, water and sewer upgrades. The \$12 million project is expected to [energy savings].

In addition to replacing underground utilities and improving site surfaces, the project includes upgraded main electrical equipment in various buildings. A more visible part of the project is the replacement of old asphalt sidewalks and pathways with new concrete walkways. The area also underwent a surface redesign that included new pathways in order to create a more attractive central campus green space. The project is funded by New York State through the State University Construction Fund.

### **Telling Our Story:**

Geneseo has led sessions on the College's comprehensive sustainability efforts at conferences:

- Oct. 2017: Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education: Dan DeZarn, director of Geneseo's Office of Sustainability, led a session about how Geneseo integrates sustainability into the student experience and curriculum at the national conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- Nov. 2017: New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education: DeZarn, Kris Dreessen and Miles Druce '17 led a similar session with emphasis on the storytelling map at the annual conference at SUNY Cortland.
- Oct. 2018: DeZarn, Kris Dreessen and geography major Elijah Freiman '20 led a session on how Geneseo addresses the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a participant of the U.N. Global Compact and creation of an ArcGIS interactive storytelling map to show Geneseo's efforts at the national conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Dan DeZarn and other members of the SUNY Sustainability Coalition are developing a system of goals to guide the SUNY system through the lens of U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

### **SUNY Geneseo is a proud member of:**

- The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- The New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE)
- The United Nations Global Compact
- The American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)