



Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The college or university has in place is willing to provide a link to or copy of a non-discrimination policy. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

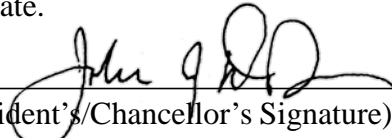
Name of President/Chancellor: John J. DeGioia, Ph.D.

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: Georgetown University

(As it should appear on an award)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.


(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Date: February 3, 2023



Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Tia Marie Brumsted

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date: 2/13/23

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or [email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

SUMMARY NARRATIVE

Pillar I Achievements

Georgetown has reduced its carbon footprint by over 71 percent per capita from a 2006 baseline through a combination of energy efficiency and procurement of renewable energy certificates for 100 percent of our power. In 2021, Georgetown entered a partnership with ENGIE North America to reduce energy use intensity by 35 percent by 2031. Since 2014, 60 percent of buildings built or renovated received LEED Gold certification, and 29 percent of new buildings achieved LEED Silver certification.

In addition to addressing energy and emissions, Georgetown has also made strides to improve other dimensions of sustainability. Eighty-six percent of students and 54 percent of faculty and staff use sustainable transportation to get to campus. Georgetown's irrigation system adjusts water use according to real-time weather data. Georgetown's campus also has three significant green roofs. Other innovations include a 20,000-gallon rainwater cistern on the Regents Hall science building, used for flushing and irrigation. The University's annual spring-move out drive donates more than 30 tons of furniture and household goods to the nonprofit Keys for the Homeless. Georgetown's main dining hall also composts all pre-consumer waste. Georgetown supports and protects the local ecosystem by prioritizing native plants and is DC's first certified "Bee Campus" by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Pillar II Achievements

All of Georgetown's LEED certified buildings comply with LEED standards for indoor environmental health. Georgetown prioritizes the use of Green Seal and EPA certified cleaning products in all buildings, and 85 percent of the campus grounds use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.

Full-time students have access to the campus rec center, and the Outdoor Education (OE) club provides transportation and hikes at nearby state and national parks. Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) support students in both immediate and longer-term mental health wellness. The work of creating healthy and inclusive communities is further supported by Georgetown's student centers, such as the Georgetown Women's Center. In 2020, Georgetown was named the "Best School for LGBTQ+ Students in DC" by the Best Colleges and Pride Index, and Georgetown's LGBTQ Resource Center is the first Center of its kind at a Catholic/Jesuit institution in the country. Students of color are supported by the Center for Multicultural Equity and Access (CMEA). Georgetown supports staff health with GUWellness, a well-being initiative that provides programs, experiences, and opportunities to build and sustain self-care practices.

Finally, Georgetown is actively involved in our historic neighborhood through the Georgetown Community Partnership, which utilizes information-sharing and consensus-based decision-making to foster a high quality of life in the neighborhoods around Georgetown's Main Campus.

Pillar III Achievements

The Core Pathways program allows students to meet requirements while studying climate change from an interdisciplinary perspective. Further, 42.5 percent of departments conduct at least one sustainability research project. Georgetown's active club culture fosters engagement through multiple undergraduate groups focused on the environment and sustainability. The Center for Social Justice's Alternative Breaks Program allows for hands-on, service-based learning focused on the environment. The Capitol Applied Learning Lab encourages students to pursue sustainability in both internships and classwork, centering the city of Washington, DC as a learning opportunity.

In 2021 Georgetown launched the Earth Commons as a hub for environmental and sustainability innovation, research and education. Assembling a team of interdisciplinary experts, researchers, leaders and students, the Earth Commons is building, supporting, and infusing environmental and sustainability research, education and action throughout the Georgetown University community and beyond through accomplishments like the *Common Home Magazine*; a Master of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Management; a ten-day ecology program in the Yucatan Peninsula; and grant-making within the university.

NOMINEE INFORMATION

School, District (LEA), or Postsecondary Institution Name: Georgetown University

Category of Nomination (School, District, or Postsecondary): Postsecondary

Address: 3700 O St NW City: Washington State: DC Zip: 20057

Twitter: @Georgetown Facebook: Georgetown University

Top Official (School=Principal; District=Chancellor/CEO; Postsecondary Institution=President)

Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Dr. First Name: John Last Name: DeGioia

Position/Role (Principal/ Chancellor/ CEO/ President): President

Email: emb257@georgetown.edu Phone: (202) 687-4134

Lead Applicant (if different)

Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Ms. First Name: Meghan Last Name: Chapple

Position or Role (e.g., Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director): Vice President of Sustainability

Email: meghan.chapple@georgetown.edu Phone: 202-961-5578

Check all that apply:

Early Learning

Public

Two-Year

Elementary

Charter

Four-Year X

Middle

Magnet

Community College

High

Non-Public X

Career and Technical

Provide percentages, if any are relevant to your school, district, or institution:

Pell Recipients: 12%

Special Education: NA

Free and Reduced Price Lunch: NA

Graduation Rate: 95%

Minority: 36%

Attendance Rate: NA

Limited English Proficient: NA

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 20,935

Number of Schools: 12

Buildings: 61

Campuses: 3

DOCUMENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENT

Pillar I: Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Georgetown University is committed to addressing critical sustainability challenges in our local and global communities. The University is pursuing broad-based, practical approaches to sustainability, including dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the energy efficiency of our campuses, reducing waste, and providing sustainable transportation for students, faculty, and staff. Georgetown has made strong public commitments to sustainability, including the District of Columbia College and Sustainability Pledge, the Laudato Si' Action Platform, the International Sustainable Campus Network, the U7+ Alliance of World Universities, the Catholic Climate Declaration, and We Are Still In. To ensure these commitments are met and to increase sustainability across the university, the Georgetown Office of Sustainability was established in 2013 and the University is currently working on an ambitious [sustainability plan](#), anticipated to be completed in 2023.

Reducing and Eliminating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Georgetown takes the reality of climate change seriously and, as a respected university and Catholic institution, the University has an important role to play in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, Georgetown's President, John J. DeGioia, pledged a 50 percent reduction in Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020, from a baseline year of 2006. In 2014, Georgetown met this goal six years ahead of target, reducing its carbon footprint by over 71 percent per capita through a combination of energy efficiency in our facilities and procurement of renewable energy certificates (RECs) for 100 percent of our power. About two-thirds of Georgetown's electricity is sourced through a Power Purchase Agreement sourcing electricity from 11 solar farms located within the PJM grid.

Buildings

Recognizing that 72 percent of the District of Columbia (the District)'s [emissions come from building and energy use](#), Georgetown has focused much of its climate action work on increasing the efficiency of its buildings while ensuring new buildings are highly sustainable. In 2009, Georgetown committed that all new buildings and major renovations would be designed in the US. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification or higher. Through focused implementation of this commitment, development opportunities have improved systems that reinforce social, environmental, and financial sustainability objectives. 60.5 percent of new buildings ("new buildings" defined as built/renovated since 2014) received LEED Gold certification, 29 percent of new buildings achieved LEED Silver certification, and 10 percent of new buildings comply with LEED Building Design and Construction standards but are not yet certified. Approximately one million square feet of campus buildings are LEED certified.

Energy

Georgetown's energy use intensity (EUI) decreased from 0.31 to 0.27 between 2006 through 2019, an improvement of approximately 14 percent. Over that time period, the school reduced its total source energy consumption by approximately four percent even as gross floor area increased by approximately 10 percent. Since FY14, the university has invested in a set of efficiency measures that are saving at least 3.3 million kWh of electricity and 82,000 MMBtu of natural gas each year, cutting 5,500 metric tons of CO₂. Additional projects include retrofits of our heating and cooling plant such as a boiler fan upgrade, steam trap repairs and a deaerator project, cutting an estimated annual 2,508 metric tons of CO₂.

As part of an innovative partnership known as [Georgetown Energy Partners](#), the University anticipates further reducing its energy use intensity by 35 percent by 2031. Current and upcoming projects include:

- Over 70,000 light fixtures are currently being upgraded to Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs estimated to reduce GU's carbon emissions by 1,700 tons of CO₂ annually.
- The installation of smart meters will offer Georgetown real-time data energy on energy use and progress towards net-zero emissions.
- GU is transitioning portions of its district energy system from the use of high-pressure steam, which needs to be heated to 350° F, to hot water, which only needs to be heated to 160° F. The first phase of this project is expected to reduce our carbon emissions by 350 metric tons of CO₂ annually.

About forty-four percent of Georgetown's energy is offset by the purchase of unbundled renewable energy certificates (RECs). Georgetown has already achieved net zero Scope 2 GHG emissions (those associated with electricity use) through the purchase of these RECs for 100 percent of electricity on Main Campus use since 2013. A 15-year agreement allows Georgetown to annually buy 100,000 megawatt-hours of electricity from 11 existing solar plants located within the PJM grid. In recognition of these achievements, Georgetown received the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partner of the Year Award in 2013.

Divestment

Georgetown is a leader in committing to use its investments to support climate action. In 2020, Georgetown University's Board of Directors voted to make investments that target a market rate of return in renewable energy, energy efficiency and related areas, while freezing new endowment investments in companies or funds whose primary business is exploration for or extraction of fossil fuels. Additionally, the Board committed to divesting from public securities of fossil fuel companies within the next five years (2025) and divesting from existing private investments in those companies over the next 10 years (2030).

Water

Located near the banks of the Potomac, Georgetown both conserves the water we have and ensures that we maintain the integrity of our watersheds.

Georgetown's campus has three significant green roofs — the Leavey Esplanade, the Southwest Quadrangle, and Regents Hall — along with smaller green infrastructure projects throughout the campus. The gravel, soil and sand deposits underneath the plants help filter pollutants from the absorbed stormwater. In addition to reducing and delaying stormwater runoff, green roofs act as insulators by reducing heat and cooling loss; reducing the urban heat island effect by humidifying and cooling the surrounding air; filtering airborne dust and other particles; reducing CO₂ levels; absorbing sound; and increasing available habitat for pollinators and other species.

A 20,000-gallon cistern harvests rainwater from the roof and site of Regents Hall science building, using it for toilet flushing and irrigation on site. This system not only reduces stormwater runoff, but also reduces potable water demand in the building. In Nevils courtyard, a 170-gallon Aqualok "Bioswale" unit collects rainwater via a downspout from a portion of the Nevils rooftop; the stormwater slowly infiltrates into the nearby soil to divert water from the storm sewer to a nearby tree, where it reduces irrigation demands. Georgetown also has permeable pavers throughout the campus to slow and filter runoff at the Leavey Center, Harbin Hall and Red Square.

Further, Georgetown's irrigation system, Rain Bird IQ, adjusts water use according to real-time weather data. The system also has built-in flow sensing which helps prevent excess water losses when a broken pipe occurs. Building design and grounds management work together to conserve and reuse rainwater during the design and construction phases of capital projects.

Waste

To promote a circular economy, Georgetown aims to reduce consumption, reuse products whenever possible, and recycle the remainder. Georgetown hosts an annual spring Move Out Drive, which serves as a signature sustainability program for the University. The Office of Sustainability, the Office of Neighborhood Life, and Planning and Facilities Management partner to donate student furniture, clothing, non-perishable food, and household items to a non-profit partner, Keys for the Homeless. In 2022, Georgetown students and the community diverted over 65,000 pounds of material from the landfill valued at over \$250,000 in donations for people experiencing homelessness.

Georgetown's main dining hall, O'Donovan Hall, collects and composts all pre-consumer food waste. At the weekly Georgetown University Farmers' Market, student clubs have also organized a compost collection to provide another option for food purchased at the Market and scraps from their own kitchens. Students store and bring their weekly compost to the Market for disposal, where it is screened for contamination by volunteers who also help educate the community about composting.

Additionally, the student organization Georgetown Renewable Energy and Environmental Network (GREEN) and The Corp (a student organization that runs eight companies on campus) have partnered to put used clothing racks for sale in several Corp locations. Students have monthly opportunities to donate clothes, which are sorted by GREEN and sold at on-campus coffee shops.

Sustainable transportation

Georgetown students and employees already overwhelmingly use sustainable modes of transportation (defined as walking, cycling, vanpooling (or carpooling), taking public transportation or campus shuttles, riding motorcycles or scooters, using a zero-emissions vehicle, or participating in teleworking or distance education) as their primary commuting mode. Eighty-six percent of students and 54 percent of faculty and staff use sustainable transportation. To reduce the need for cars, taxis, and rideshares, Georgetown offers a free shuttle service for all University community members. The shuttles service six routes across DC and run five days a week. The shuttle also connects the community to the Rosslyn Metro station, increasing access to public transportation. In total, 35 percent of Georgetown's vehicle fleet (total fleet including the bus fleet) consists of electric or fuel-efficient vehicles.

Other University sustainable transportation programs include:

- Hoya Transit Pilot, a program providing a Metro stipend to participating students to better understand transit usage and interest. The results of the pilot will inform a long-term decision about student transit passes or stipends.
- Students and faculty receive discounts on Capital BikeShare and ZipCars.
- Georgetown was the first campus in Washington, DC, to be designated a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Four electric vehicle charging stations serve as reserved parking for electric vehicle owners.
- Free shower facilities and bike racks support bicyclists commuting to campus.
- The Hoya Transit pilot offers students \$100 in Metro fare per semester in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 to better understand and support student transit demand.

Landscape

As a neighbor to the 183-acre Glover-Archbold Park, Georgetown's campus supports many native animals and birds such as eastern gray squirrels, blue jays, and monarch butterflies. A variety of campus landscaping offers habitat to wildlife. For example, the springtime flower displays feature lantana, which attracts a variety of butterflies, while viburnum and holly plantings around campus bear fruits that attract songbirds. Georgetown has five food-producing gardens on campus, including a medical school-run garden that provides a space for patients and nurses to relax, featuring native medicinal herbs.

Since 2020, Georgetown has been certified as a "Bee Campus" by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Georgetown is home to two active beehives, cared for by Hoya Hives, a student organization. The bees are also used for research and teaching purposes by professors in the biology department. Each hive is home to 30,000-50,000 pollinators.

Pillar II: Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Environmental Health

Georgetown's Office of Environmental Health and Safety is continuously improving its efforts to reduce the impacts of campus activities on the environment and to ensure that the Georgetown community has a safe and healthy environment in which to live, work, and learn. Georgetown has programs to identify, prevent and abate harmful chemicals, mold, and microbes; test the safety of our drinking water; and dispose of waste in a safe manner. The Georgetown Planning and Facilities Management team is also working to optimize ventilation in all buildings through a comprehensive assessment and enhancement effort throughout campus.

Georgetown demonstrates its commitment to the health of employees, students, and our environment, including nearby Glover Archbold Park, through an Integrated Pest Management program used on 85 percent of Georgetown grounds. Georgetown also has a robust custodial program that provides both routine and deep cleaning, disinfection, trash and recycling collection, and snow and ice removal. Georgetown's custodial team partners with cleaning consultant Core America to ensure that the university's program is following the cleaning industry's best-practices for higher education.

All of Georgetown's LEED certified buildings comply with LEED standards for indoor environmental health. For example, Nevils Hall scored 10/15 possible points for the indoor environmental quality (IEQ) standard. Features include low-emitting adhesives, sealants, wood products, and paint; increased ventilation systems; and outdoor air delivery monitoring. Georgetown prioritizes the use of Green Seal and EPA-certified cleaning products in all buildings.

Outdoor Recreation

Through wilderness-based endeavors, Georgetown University Outdoor Education inspires and guides students, creating a community where learning, personal challenge, reflection, and increased compassion for others and the environment are fostered and upheld as core values. Programs include renting outdoor equipment to students and staff, recommended outdoor opportunities, and a pre-orientation program for new Georgetown students to bond with their incoming classmates while backpacking and rafting in nearby natural areas in Virginia and West Virginia. Georgetown is also located near several parks and other outdoor locations for students and employees to recreate, including Glover Archbold Park, Rock Creek Park, and the National Mall. Finally, the Outdoor Education (OE) club provides accessible, affordable, and safe ways for students to experience the natural wonders of the DC-Maryland-Virginia

region. OE offers transportation and guided hikes to locations like Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland, and pre-orientation programs for first-year students to the Shenandoah Valley.

Psychological and Social Services

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) supports students in both immediate and longer-term mental health wellness. To meet the needs of Georgetown's diverse community, the 18 staff members and three trainees at CAPS provide culturally relevant and sensitive services. CAPS also maintains a 24-hour emergency line for students. Georgetown also connects students to mental health professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week through HoyaWell. HoyaWell is free of charge and provides students on-demand mental health support, scheduled appointments, and psychiatric consultations with a referral from CAPS.

Physical Health Promotion

All full-time students can access Yates Field House, the university's recreation facility. At Yates Field House, extensive fitness and recreation programming is available not only for students but also staff, faculty, alumni, and local community members. Facilities include a 25-yard pool, cardio fitness areas, weight rooms, tennis and squash courts, and batting cages. Program areas such as group fitness, aquatics, racquet sports, intramural sports, and Red Cross certifications provide daily opportunities for students and members to improve physical and mental wellness.

Health Education Services

Health Education Services (HES) at Georgetown reflects Georgetown's commitment to the concept of *Cura Personalis*, or care for the whole person. HES offers consultation, network, advocacy for primary prevention, risk reduction, and health support, from their permanent location on campus. At this location, HES provides confidential crisis response, referrals, and advocacy for student concerns.

Student Centers at Georgetown

Georgetown's many student centers offer specialized support and advocacy services. The Georgetown Women's Center was founded in 1990 and "seeks to center the experience of women and educate the entire campus about gender dynamics that impact campus culture." In 2020, Georgetown was named the "Best School for LGBTQ+ Students in DC" by the Best Colleges and Pride Index, and Georgetown's LGBTQ Resource Center is the first Center of its kind at a Catholic/Jesuit institution in the country. The center offers community, advocacy, and support to LGBTQ+ students, and seeks to build on the rich interfaith and intellectual engagements of Georgetown.

Additionally, the Center for Multicultural Equity and Access houses a number of programs for students of color. Initiatives include:

- The Black House: The Black House was established fifty years ago after the Black Student Alliance called for a community space for students of color. Today, the Black House holds workshops, discussion groups, and social events aimed at fostering diversity on campus.
- La Casa Latina: Founded in 2016, La Casa Latina was the first dedicated space on campus for empowering and bringing together the Latine community on campus.

Staff Health Promotion

Georgetown supports staff health with GUWellness, a well-being initiative. GUWellness provides programs, experiences, resources and opportunities to help build and sustain self-care practices. Services within GUWellness include an app that provides on-call Registered Nurse and claims specialists, and wellness workshops among other resources. Georgetown also offers employees reduced rate memberships to the university gym facilities, and allows bicycle commuters to campus free access to

locker rooms and showers at the gym as well as discounted access to towel service and locker rentals. Finally, Georgetown offers employees Mindset, a virtual coaching and therapy service of One Medical, at no charge, as well as access to the Calm well-being and mindfulness app.

Family and Community Involvement

Georgetown is actively involved in our historic neighborhood and works to create a collegial, collaborative relationship with our neighbors. The Georgetown Community Partnership utilizes information-sharing and consensus-based decision making to foster a high quality of life in the neighborhoods around Georgetown's Main Campus. The Partnership is composed of neighbors, senior university leaders, students, faculty, staff, local government partners, and civic partners. It is a model for town-gown relations through its commitment to shared goals, broad representations, transparency, consensus-building, and shared accountability.

Georgetown also offers short, non-credit courses to members of the community over 55 years of age. In FY15, 160 participants registered for 11 different courses taught by retired university faculty. Community members over 65 years of age can also audit most undergraduate courses. This reflects Georgetown's commitment to lifelong learning as well as to the surrounding community.

Hoya Hospitality

Hoya Hospitality, Georgetown's dining provider, procures and creates many sustainable dining options for the Georgetown community at its locations on Georgetown's three DC-based campuses (Main, Medical and Law). Hoya Hospitality tracks and endeavors to procure increasing numbers of local, regional and third-party certified products. Further, in Academic Year 2022, 37 percent of the food procured by Hoya Hospitality was plant-based, which typically has a lower carbon footprint than animal-based food. Vegan and vegetarian options are available daily at all Hoya Hospitality locations. Pre-consumer composting also takes place at all Hoya Hospitality locations on the main campus. Hoya Hospitality utilizes a meal preparation system that works to minimize food waste, and also uses a trayless dining program to minimize food waste and conserve water. Dining locations have energy efficient LED lighting, as well as ENERGY STAR rated equipment and low VOC adhesives and paints in new construction and renovation projects.

Hoya Harvest

The University is currently creating a food-producing garden using sustainable growing techniques. The launch of Hoya Harvest comes after a year and a half of collaborative planning with D.C. urban agriculture experts, on-campus partners, and community members, and strives to incorporate the wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm from the Georgetown community. The garden will be managed using regenerative agriculture techniques to support both a thriving ecological community and a hearty harvest. Produce from the garden will be distributed via the Hoya Hub, Georgetown's on-campus food pantry, and other partners identified through the Center for Social Justice, at once honoring our Jesuit values.

Well-Being Initiative

Georgetown is a co-creator of the Wellbeing Project, a coalition of higher education institutions and social change organizations whose mission it is to support the well-being of social changemakers. Building on years of collaboration with the other members of the coalition, Georgetown will conduct interdisciplinary research on inner well-being, social change and education to help prepare the next generation of social change leaders. Beginning this year, the Wellbeing Project will partner with the Earth Commons

— Georgetown’s hub for environmental and sustainability innovation, research and education — to address ecological belonging as an essential aspect of environmental change.

Pillar III: Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Georgetown centers environmental and sustainability learning in all its schools, with a particular emphasis on STEM literacy for all, encouraging interdisciplinarity, and incorporating equity into environmental discussions.

Earth Commons

Georgetown launched the Earth Commons Institute in 2021 as a hub for environmental and sustainability innovation, research, and education to accelerate action on the most pressing issues of our earth. Assembling a team of interdisciplinary experts, researchers, leaders and students, the Earth Commons is transforming the university into a living laboratory to develop scalable solutions for a greener, more sustainable world. The Earth Commons aims to:

- Catalyze environmental scholarship across disciplines to innovate solutions for critical environmental issues.
- Create a cutting-edge, interdisciplinary learning experience that empowers people to be good stewards of our common home.
- Create interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty, students, and external partners to pursue solutions in service of the world.

The Earth Commons offers a Master of Science in Environmental and Sustainability Management in partnership with the McDonough School of Business and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The Earth Commons also runs a ten-day program in the Yucatan Peninsula exploring the ecology of tropical forests and mangroves, and their connections to the culture of the current and pre-European Mayan communities.

Finally, the Earth Commons, along with the Office of Sustainability, funds and administers the Green Commons Awards and the ECo Impact Awards. The Green Commons Awards provide funds up to \$5,000 to members of the Georgetown University community for sustainability projects. The Green Commons Awards are intended for proposals that support community discourse and action on environmental and sustainability issues, and funding may be used for travel or residency expenses, materials and supplies, and event planning. Funding is available year-round to faculty, staff and students throughout the campus. Past projects funded through this awards process include environmental films, an expanded battery collection pilot project, equipment for increased food donation, and a reuse pop-up for incoming students at the start of the school year to purchase donated goods from the previous year’s Move Out Drive.

The ECo Impact Program cultivates new research by providing seed funding for pilot projects with the potential to compete successfully for outside funding support. The awards emphasize multidisciplinary and collaborative work and provide faculty and staff up to \$25,000 for undergraduate and graduate student support, travel expenses, materials and supplies.

Environmental and Sustainability Academic Programs

The Environment and sustainability are woven into courses across the university. Examples include:

- **Science, Technology, and International Affairs (STIA) Energy and Environment concentration (undergraduate):** Students follow the regular School of Foreign Service core curriculum while also

completing a lab science sequence, and develop an in-depth understanding of current issues in energy and the environment.

- **Environmental Studies minor (undergraduate):** a dynamic undergraduate program focused at the nexus of social and ecological issues. The program emphasizes science, policy, and the humanities in equal parts to help cultivate critical and constructive perspectives on emergent environmental issues.
- **Master in Public Policy / Master in Science in Sustainability and Social Innovation:** provides multi-disciplinary training in public policy, sustainability, business and social innovation, international educational experience, and potential work experiences in both Europe and North America.
- **Certificate in Sustainable Business (School of Business):** provides a deep understanding of the complex social, economic, and environmental challenges of the 21st century related to business management.
- **Master of Science in Global Real Assets (School of Business):** focused on emerging issues in the fields of real estate, infrastructure, and energy resources — from traditional real estate to sustainability to infrastructure.
- **Environmental Health and Medicine Track (School of Medicine):** focused on complications due to the dynamics of climate change, how to incorporate environmental health into clinical practice, and the development of environmental history-taking skills, patient advocacy, and medical sustainability.
- **Environmental Law Program (School of Law):** covers core and advanced topics in domestic and international environmental law, as well as energy, natural resources, land use, historic preservation, and food law.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Georgetown's Core Pathways program allows students to fulfill their core requirements while examining climate change through an interdisciplinary lens. Students take seven-week classes worth 1.5 credits each; both the sciences and humanities are represented, to foster an appreciation for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of climate change. Example courses include Theology of Climate Change, Climate Storytelling, and the Chemistry of Climate Change.

STEM

Fifteen percent of all researchers at Georgetown are engaged in sustainability research, with 42.5 percent of departments conducting at least one sustainability research project. All Georgetown students are required to take one natural science class as part of their core requirements.

Co-curricular activities

Georgetown's active club culture fosters engagement with sustainability. Undergraduate groups include:

- *The Georgetown Renewable Energy and Environmental Network (GREEN)* runs a variety of sustainability programs on campus such as education initiatives, an aquaponics tank, and a student-run garden. GREEN also supports energy reduction initiatives, and advocates for waste reduction and diversion programs on campus.
- *Slow Food and Veg-Out* promote sustainable, equitable agriculture and plant-based diets.
- *The Georgetown University Environmental Health Collaborative* focuses on the intersection of public health and the environment. The Collaborative recently won a grant from the American Public Health Association to host a "Climate Health in the District" program. This weekend-long event involved environment/public health education initiatives, service activities supporting unhoused individuals, and panels with climate and public health experts.

Earth Week

In April 2022, a collaboration between multiple student groups on campus, the Office of Sustainability, and the Earth Commons launched Earth Week at Georgetown. With over 25 events held between April 18 and 22, Earth Week brought sustainability to the forefront of campus life. Events included faculty talks on Indigenous philosophy, sustainability meditations, a business and sustainability panel, and an Earth Day benefit concert.

Project-based and Place-based Learning

Many classes at Georgetown utilize the campus as a living lab. Examples include:

- A foraging class in the biology department conducted almost entirely on campus using on-campus foraged plants, and showing students where to find them.
- A hydrology class that uses real-time precipitation data from campus to teach students about run-off and flood modeling.
- A geoscience class that uses soil samples from campus and Glover Archbold Park to learn about soil classification.

Alternative Breaks Program

Georgetown's Center for Social Justice runs the Alternative Breaks Program. Trips that center sustainability include:

- *Spring break in Appalachia: Mountain Environmental Justice (MEJ)*. MEJ participants engage with residents of Harlan, Kentucky in order to learn how the United States' declining coal industry has affected Appalachia's economy, and in turn, its local lifestyle. Participants work closely with our long-standing community partner COAP Inc., a nonprofit that builds environmentally friendly homes in Harlan.
- *DC Food Justice*: Food Justice participants explore food deserts and socioeconomic barriers to fresh food for all. Participants spend spring break exploring how agricultural and food distribution practices can become more equitable.

Capitol Applied Learning Lab (CALL)

Georgetown's recently opened Capitol Applied Learning Lab (CALL) encourages students to pursue sustainability in the heart of Washington, DC. In Spring 2023, environmental and sustainability opportunities at the CALL include:

- Two professional experiential seminars (CALL Internship Seminar/Internship and Disability & Activism (plus Internship Placement))
- Four unrated courses (Global Perspectives on Environmental Protections and Health, Environmental Law, Art for the Emergency: Climate Storytelling & Performance and Agriculture and Sustainability: Food, Farming and Technology)
- Two CALL workshops (Art for the Emergency: Climate Storytelling & Performance at the Kennedy Center and Intro to Green Campaigns with Matthew Littlejohn)

Publications

Cura Terra is Georgetown's student-run, undergraduate journal of the environment. Originally published from 1997-2007 and relaunched in 2020, *Cura Terra* accepts undergraduate submissions from all disciplines. It also features student artists on its cover.

Common Home Magazine, published by the Earth Commons, is a student-edited publication that explores the "broad topics around environment and sustainability". It highlights the research contributions of

experts from Georgetown and beyond. Sections include “The Breakthrough: Scientific breakthroughs, discoveries, and more, explained by the researchers who achieved them”, “The Silo: A series where experts discuss an environmental topic from multiple angles” and “The Breakdown: Where experts explain relevant, complex, and emerging environmental concepts issues and explore how they might shape our future”.