



Sustainability

Annual Progress Report

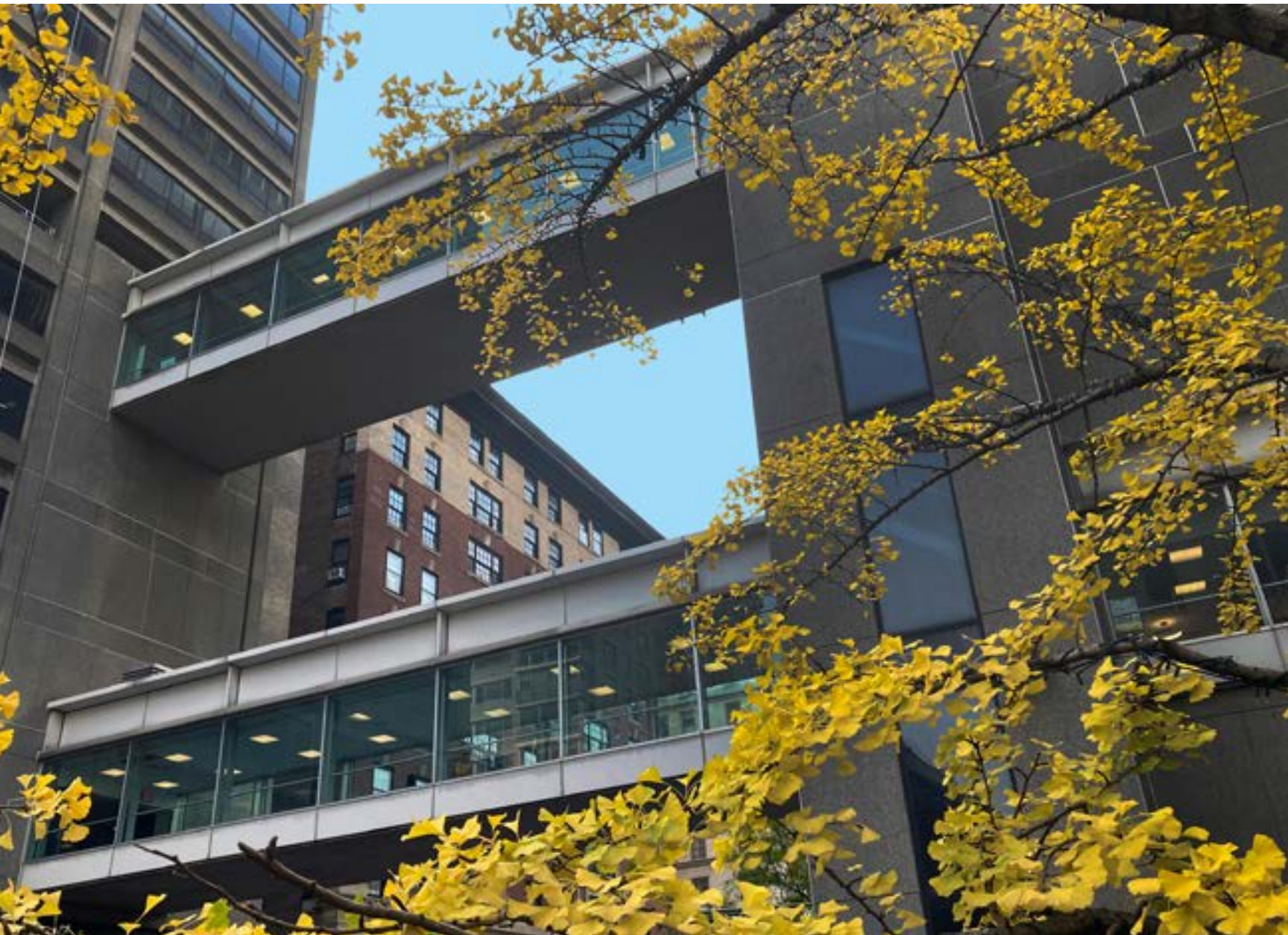


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1. WELCOME

About this Report

Thank you for reading this document. This is the first edition of a Hunter Green Sustainability Annual Report! This yearly report is prepared by the Hunter College Sustainability Council to convey and share the latest campus sustainability highlights, initiatives, and progress to-date on our Hunter 10-Year Sustainability Action Plan.

Our mission as the Hunter Sustainability Council is to raise awareness, promote campus community participation in eco-friendly behavior, and create new opportunities for Hunter to expand its sustainability practices. We are proud to publish this 2023 report highlighting and reinforcing Hunter’s commitments to improve upon its campus operations and exemplify our institutional *Mihi Cura Futuri* motto — “The Care of the Future is Mine.”

Please treat this annual report as a resource to gain greater understanding of our campus ecological footprint, strategies, and actions for building a better climate future – and to remain tapped into the latest CUNY and State sustainability announcements & resolutions that impact our campus.

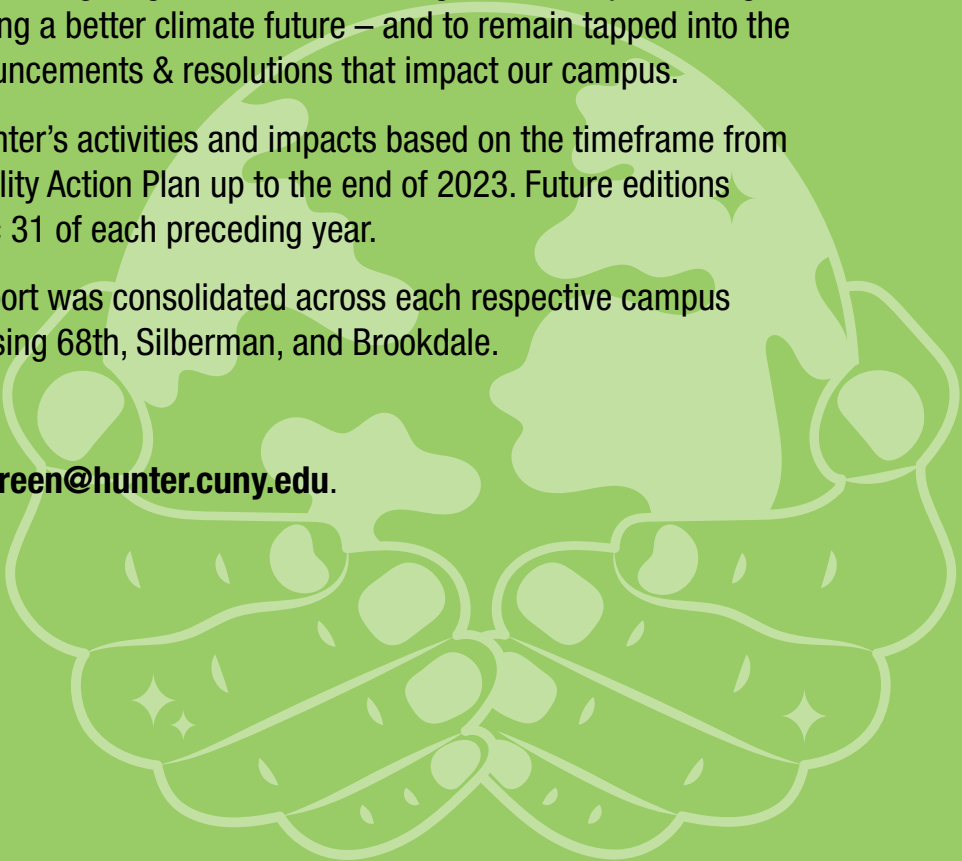
As a first edition, this report describes Hunter’s activities and impacts based on the timeframe from finalization of Hunter’s 10-Year Sustainability Action Plan up to the end of 2023. Future editions of this report will span from Jan 1 to Dec 31 of each preceding year.

Information and data collected for this report was consolidated across each respective campus through centralized databases encompassing 68th, Silberman, and Brookdale.

*This report was published on June 2024.

For questions about this report, contact: green@hunter.cuny.edu.

Thank you,
Hunter Sustainability Council



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Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

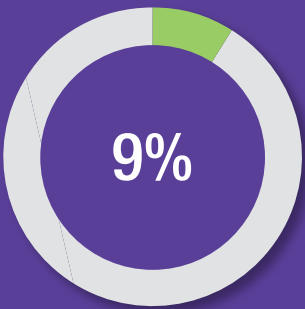
2. IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE

We are focused on minimizing our environmental impact and committed to putting in the work to achieve our sustainability goals. The results of our efforts have thus far led to continual reductions in our waste, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions.

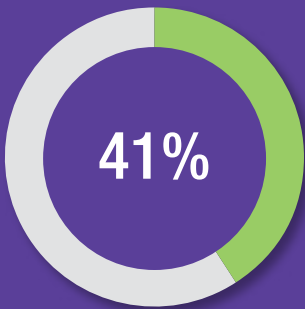


[1] GHG emissions reductions have a CY2005 baseline ; [2] EUI values have a Fiscal Year (FY2006) baseline ; [3] waste diversion based on a FY18-19 baseline

Energy Snapshot

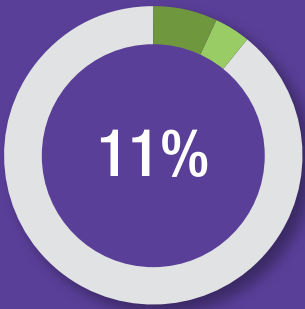


9% Reduction¹
in Energy Use Intensity



41% Decrease²
in GHG Emissions*

Waste Snapshot



Campus Waste Diversion³
up from 7% to 11%*

Our Campus Footprint 2020 – 2023

The following metrics represent our operational footprints from 2020 to 2023.



Water Consumption
98,383,846 Gallons



Annual average of 50 Olympic-sized swimming pools each year



Solid Waste
1,486.8 Tons



The weight of two Statues of Liberty/per year



Paper Material Recycled
116.9 Tons



Enough to fill nearly 3.5 garbage trucks every year



Energy Use
112,891 Megawatt-Hours



Enough to power the MTA subway for almost one month

3. STATE OF HUNTER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

Hunter’s sustainability strategy and programming are modeled and guided by three flagship pieces of documentation. Chronologically, these flagship Planning documents are our: 10-Year Sustainability Action Plan, Single-Use Plastic Reduction Plan, and Executive Order #22.

Through coordination with Hunter Administration and Sustainable CUNY — these Hunter-driven Sustainability roadmaps, and State-driven executive mandates serve to set the College’s sustainability agenda and give guidance to its strategic development of programs and green initiatives.



The 10-Year Action Plan takes a landscape assessment and evaluation of the College’s sustainability engagement and operational footprint, and dives deep establishing short, mid-range, and long-term goals & objectives in 7 key pillars: Energy, Water, Transportation, Waste/Recycling, Sustainable Procurement, Sustainable Nutrition, and Sustainable Education and Outreach.

The Single-Use Plastic Reduction Plan takes a targeted approach to directly address the rapidly growing and global concern of single-use plastics and its impact to the environment. The Plastic Plan dually serves two purposes in 1) identifying and detailing best practices, strategies, and alternative materials that impact the College’s usage of single-use plastic and 2) developing a timeline to implement these recommendations

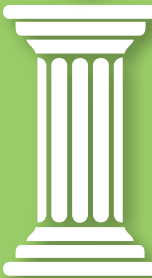
into the College’s general operations.

Executive Order # 22 (E.O. 22) issues compulsory directives, guidance, and a pathway enabling more visibility & accountability to Hunter College’s sustainability progress and sustainability performance. E.O. 22 consolidates all previously existing sustainability mandates & initiatives from the State, and aligns those comprehensive objectives with New York’s broader vision from the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The legislative mandate comes with new and updated goals, performance targets and commitments for institutions like Hunter College to achieve; including but not limited to, Zero Waste Planning, Electric Vehicle Fleet Conversion, Embodied Carbon Reporting and Green Purchasing.

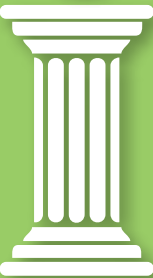
Hunter Green Flagship Planning and Regulatory Directive

Hunter Sustainability 10-Year Action Plan	Finalized February 2020
Hunter Single-Use Plastic Reduction Plan	Compiled May 2022
New York State Executive Order #22	Issued September 2022

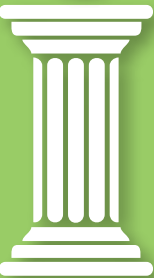
7 KEY PILLARS



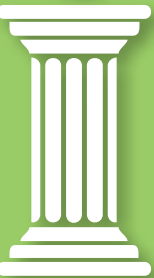
Energy



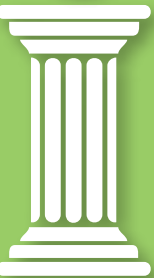
Water



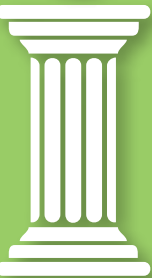
Transportation



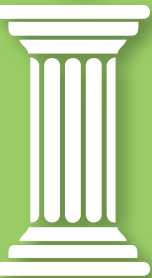
Waste and Recycling



Sustainable Procurement



Sustainable Nutrition



Sustainable Education & Outreach

4. 2020 – 2023

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS



From Fall 2021 to Spring 2024, Hunter College deliberately worked to elevate and introduce more accountability and transparency into its Sustainability actions. The expansion of new resources and collaborations were overseen by the Hunter Sustainability Council, and new projects and initiatives were delivered with enlightening results.

These celebratory successes over the years have authenticated the presence of sustainable values at Hunter, and the College’s continual efforts to bring more best practices into our campus sustainability engagement and operations.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Hunter College campuses were closed for most of the 2020 calendar year. From March – December 2020 the campus was open only to essential staff. The sustainability highlight activities for this report are therefore based starting from Fall 2021.

Sustainability/Hunter Green Website Launch

Release of a new college sustainability website with dashboards and other interactive tools to learn about how and what the college is doing to meet its sustainability goals; Obtaining information about our mission, team, current and past initiatives, how to get involved, and more. Our 10-year Sustainability Action plan can also be found here!

Campus Sustainability Awareness Survey

Circulated out to the campus and student body in Fall 2022 to hear their perceptions about our sustainability initiatives. The most popular need for improvement was campus visibility and promotion. The Battery Recycling Program and Buildings Energy-Efficiency ranked as needing the most attention.

Sustainability Course Inventory

A comprehensive catalog of sustainability- inclusive courses that can be found on Hunter Green’s website. It spans a variety of degree levels, academic departments, and courses related to the subject; ranging from Biology to Philosophy. It is updated every summer to ensure courses that are currently being taught are listed.



Hunter Green Labs Pilot Initiative

Launched in Spring 2024, recruited laboratories to create a greener lab experience across all of Hunter’s campuses. Those interested were presented with a pre-assessment form that garnered the state of their labs. Several labs have signed up and more are underway as they await the next steps. There are plans to engage with the Research Foundation as a stakeholder to promote the green procurement practices.



Food Scrap Collection Pilot

A March 2023 pilot in the West Building Cafeteria that was in collaboration with The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) and Hunter Food Services/Dining vendor. It was found that there is little to no composted waste from students. Students finish their meals and the cafeteria does not provide compostable utensils yet. Most diverted waste came from the kitchens. (During the pilot over 200 pounds of food scraps were diverted from landfill)!

Student food waste coaches educated the Hunter community on acceptable items for compost collection, and performed a visual audit of the types of compostables and food scraps discarded. Most compostable waste came from food truck vendors surrounding the campus. The next steps will involve targeting this third-party waste stream of outside packaging.

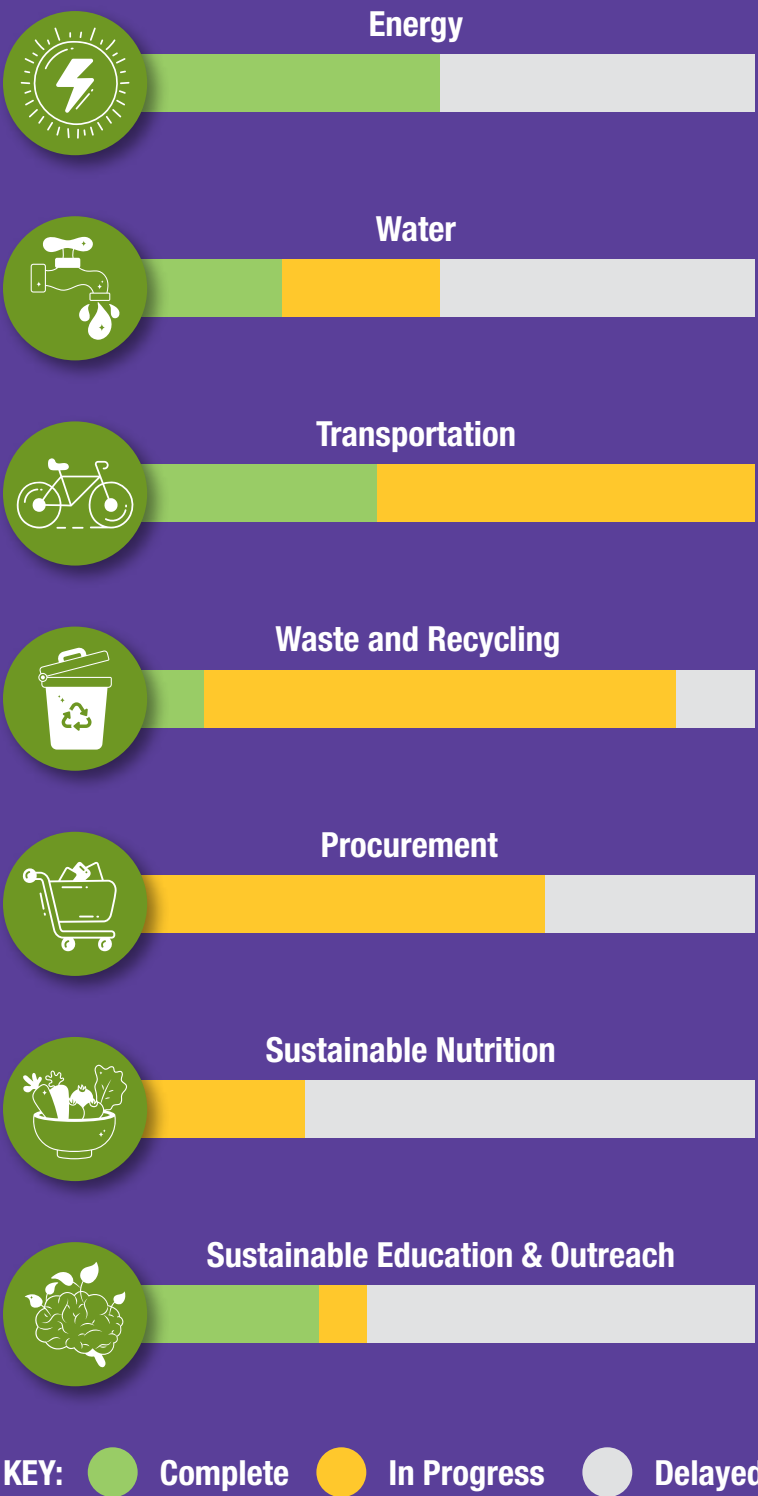


5. OUR 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The 10-Year Sustainability Action Plan establishes 44 goals and objectives to address our ecological footprint and improve our sustainability performance. The allotted ten-year timeframe spans from 2018 to 2028. Since the Plan’s adoption by Hunter College, twenty percent (22%) of those objectives have been achieved from start to finish. Our Sustainable Outreach/Education and Waste & Recycling focus areas gained the most ground and progress to-date. Yet — being just past the half-way mark of our ten-year timeline — let’s pick up the pace!

Institutional goal alignment, limited staffing and vulnerable infrastructure are our most chronic progress disruptors on the road to further developing and reaching those set of sustainable initiatives and goals Hunter has set for itself.

The Hunter Sustainability Council has taken a critical look at what has and has not worked on our ten-year plan progress journey, and plotted an agenda with several key strategies that ensures we meet the remainder of our goals and further demonstrate Hunter’s commitment to sustainability.



What it Means to Act BIG

Visibility is a critically important element to longevity and ensuring our campus sustainability performance meets and exceeds expectations. Initiatives that hold both marketable and promotional elements, yet still drive the innovation and integrity behind sustainable principles are prime ways to do that.

The pursuit of third-party Certifications and adoption of Sustainability Reporting frameworks positively demonstrate Hunter’s intentionality behind its sustainability commitments. These actions come with strong market and peer recognition and a proven portfolio in their ability to reflect and influence both change and expectations. Leveraging independent reporting frameworks and obtaining commendations that amplify existing efforts serve as a powerful stimulus for supporting sustainable decision-making at all levels.

Let’s Talk

Building trust and cultivating relationships go a long way in assuring the level of importance given to green initiatives today. Providing regular, transparent communication about our sustainable goals, our impact, and how sustainability is weaved into our campus processes and practices should be part of the Hunter Green brand. It invites opportunities for future collaborations and partnerships. Continuing to strengthen connections with stakeholders, sharing regular updates to keep stakeholders informed on significant developments, and encouraging interactions all serve to influence institutional processes and stimulate internal buy-in.

Habitual reporting, like this one, ensures communication (and importantly, transparency) remain an integral part to helping decision-makers establish and fully understand the connection between sustainability and organizational impact. That understanding fuels the dialogues and assessments of stakeholders to internalize Hunter’s sustainability commitments in a broader context, and understand where Hunter’s actions fall upstream and downstream in the City/State climate agenda — and in the sustainable global value chain.

Scaling Up and Out

When building a culture of sustainability, it takes a village. Enabling the development of a team of green peer educators (Eco-Reps) is an untapped potential that broadens the base of participation and helps to shift campus culture toward pro-sustainability behaviors.

Eco-Reps bring a meaningful addition to the Hunter community and secure a pathway for bringing about deeper organizational readiness to equip Hunter with taking on more ambitious sustainability and climate goals. Official peer level educators effectively help to institutionalize environmental stewardship within the student body and establish both a stronger presence, deliver more credibility, and maintain momentum behind Sustainability Council efforts. With an expanded network of Eco-Reps, more resources and engagement tools will become available, more “roadshows”, and more cross-collaborations are able to be put in place while providing a means of campus-wide and consistent educational messaging.

6. LOOKING AHEAD

There is no alternative to sustainability. The climate crisis has brought things to a critical juncture and governments and industries, at every level, are responding. As holistic and scalable conversions & operational directives take hold, here is a look-ahead peek into the latest policy-driven sustainable changes soon to come at Hunter, and other exciting sustainability news from around the campus! Hunter Green will continue to be an office of service prepping and ensuring Hunter's readiness to keep pace and nimbly integrate future policy requirements and regulatory changes.

All Eyes on Waste



By Summer 2024 a new Waste Diversion Plan will be developed for Hunter College. Encompassing every category of waste for which Hunter is responsible for disposing of, the new Waste Diversion Plan will identify and create specific actions that Hunter will take to achieve a 10% decrease in waste disposal between now and the next five years. The Waste Diversion Plan will further include a timeline for completing the first-ever campus-wide waste audit of the entire Hunter College portfolio! As part of the E.O. 22 and GreenNY Council goals, Hunter is charged with (and ready to take on) reducing our campus waste disposal by 10 percent every five years – until reaching a goal of 75 percent.

A New Degree



Starting Fall 2025, the Department of Geography and Environmental Science will offer a new Sustainability Studies minor! The degree minor will include a new three-credit course on sustainability science, a sustainability science colloquium, sustainability science capstone course, and two other sustainability-relevant courses that students can choose from a designated list. Hunter students will gain the ability to expand their knowledge base and experience, and enhance their opportunity to achieve employment in sustainability-related fields, encompassing environmental managers and specialists, environmental policy and planning analysts, and community development professionals.

Energy Master Plan



To address the climate crisis, CUNY reviewed years of thorough studies about how energy systems could be improved through its campuses, culminating in the 2023 CUNY Energy Master Plan for each campus. The Energy Master Plan is full of specific, implementable ideas for Hunter College. Now, CUNY and Hunter leadership must work together to decide which ideas to fund and implement.

Decarbonization Leadership







Hunter has been selected as part of a State and New York Power Authority (NYPA) program initiative that will develop a decarbonization action plan and create future shovel-ready projects to decarbonize the campus. Buildings represent 32% of all pollution in New York, and as one of the largest building owners, the Decarbonization Leadership Program will enable the State to cut on-site pollution from state entities and accelerate progress toward a cleaner building sector. Throughout the course of the Decarbonization program — NYPA, Hunter, and the consultant energy partner Ramboll, will build upon the work within Hunter's Energy Master Plan and provide scenario planning and conceptual phasing plans for how to decarbonize the campus. The Leadership project team will perform detailed systems evaluations, determine and analyze key decarbonization concepts, and conduct network and utility infrastructure investigations inclusive of space evaluations for thermal energy networks and new distributed energy resources (DER)! The Decarbonization Leadership program marks a momentous step toward impactful decarbonization and electrification projects for the Hunter College campus.









7. APPENDIX: 10-YEAR SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS TABLE

The 2018 10-Year Sustainability Action Plan builds on the goals and objectives from Hunter’s first 10-Year Plan (assembled in 2008) to adapt and prescribe new short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations for the College to pursue and implement over the next ten years. The goals within the 2018 Sustainability Action Plan address the 7 pillars originally identified and established by Sustainable CUNY in 2008, when CUNY campuses were first charged to convene a Sustainability Council and come up with individual action plans. The 7 pillars are identified as: Energy, Water, Waste and Recycling, Transportation, Sustainable Nutrition, Sustainable Procurement, Sustainable Education and Outreach.

KEY:  Complete  In Progress  Delayed/Not Started

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Energy	Inventory of Hunter LED Light usage		
Energy	Solar assessment and evaluation report for all Hunter roofs		
Energy	Integration of energy-saving operational features of campus vending machines		Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Energy	Annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory compilation for each Hunter campus		Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year







Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Procurement	A commodity mapping and opportunity list of existing green purchasing opportunity areas		
Procurement	Education & trainings tips sheet of green procurement practices		Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Procurement	Raise green procurement baseline to 28% of College expenses on applicable goods and services		Within the Computers and Cleaning Products category, green expenses comprise 28% of expenses- baselines for additional categories to be added in 2024-2025 academic year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Development of resources and engagement dashboard on the Hunter Green sustainability website		
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Inventory of Hunter College sustainability courses		
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Hunter Green sustainability tabling at the Welcome Week-Resource Fair		



Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Implementation of sustainability rooftop laboratory on the Hunter North roof	⏸	Initiative delayed until further notice
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Recognition of Sustainability Council student members as official Hunter Student Eco-Reps	⏸	Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Introduction of Arts Sustainability Exhibition as part of the EcoFair and Hunter Green Week programming	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Inclusion of Hunter Green sustainability column in the Hunter Gatherer newsletter	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Launch of Hunter Green social media	✅	
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Hunter Green 311 initiative for alerts and notifications of sustainability maintenance issues	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Sponsorship of Hunter Environmental Speaker Series — part of cross-promotion with other environmental events on campus	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Showcase of Hunter College sustainability courses	✅	
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Interactive digital “look-book” of sustainability-related courses and electives	⏸	Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Sustainable Education and Outreach	Campus-wide Sustainability Council campaign and roadshows bringing visibility to Hunter Green resources and services available on campus	🔄	Hunter Green presentations earlier delivered to Res Life and Faculty Delegate Assembly - more campaigns and roadshows planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Sustainable Nutrition	Food and wellness labeling/signage of dining hall menu choices	🔄	Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Sustainable Nutrition	Registration of Hunter College as a Greenmarket host	⏸	Initiative delayed until further notice
Sustainable Nutrition	Launch of grab-and-go produce market within the Hunter Cafeteria	🔄	Expansion of this initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Sustainable Nutrition	Addition of at least two seasonal menu dishes/offerings on the Cafeteria menu	🔄	Expansion of this initiative to be planned for a later reporting year

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Sustainable Nutrition	Bulk distribution service for dried snacks/goods (i.e., trail mix, granola, nuts, etc.) in the Hunter West Cafeteria	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Sustainable Nutrition	20% of produce (food and beverage) offerings within Hunter Cafeteria and Faculty Dining Room sourced locally by the year 2028	⏸	In discussion with Business Office to insert data disclosure requirements into future food service contracts
Sustainable Nutrition	Adopt local food sourcing minimums, organics, and recycled material content into food service contract stipulations for the Hunter Cafeteria	🔄	In discussion with Business Office to assess feasibility and language specifications within future food service contracts
Transportation	Research and assess procurement potential within the NYC OGS' vehicle marketplace for large-scale fuel efficient vehicles in the Hunter campus fleet	🔄	A condition assessment report provided by Public Safety for data collection and info on current maintenance status of campus fleet vehicles
Transportation	Raise awareness of Transit Discount Programs available to the Hunter community	🔄	A dedicated webpage published on the Hunter Green sustainability website with information and instructions on how to sign up for the NJ Transit discount program

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Transportation	Develop and advertise bi-annual transportation surveys to the campus community, to identify and facilitate Hunter incentives and educational tools for rider safety, visibility, and security	🔄	Transportation improvement survey e-distributed to all Hunter faculty and staff to evaluate alternative transportation and EV ridership potential within campus community
Transportation	Alleviate congestion during peak times with promotional campaign increasing usage of stairs	⏸	Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Transportation	Create a de facto position on the Sustainability Council for a representative from External Affairs Office	⏸	Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Waste & Recycling	Implement a campus-wide educational campaign of Hunter's recycling program	🔄	Expansion of this initiative to be planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Waste & Recycling	Increase the volume and visibility of recycling bins present on campus	🔄	Centralized waste & recycling stations rolled out Spring 2024 on East Building administrative floors
Waste & Recycling	Make the battery recycling program more visible	🔄	A campus-wide listing of all battery recycling locations posted on the Hunter Green sustainability website

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Waste & Recycling	Make double-sided printing the default setting on campus printers		As verified with ICIT, all new printer purchases are installed and pre-set to double-sided printing as the default setting
Waste & Recycling	Develop and launch a 30-Day Zero Waste Awareness Challenge at each campus		
Waste & Recycling	Develop a furniture recycling and exchange program		Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Waste & Recycling	Implement a comprehensive food waste collection solution in Hunter West Cafeteria		Food scraps collection pilot held in West Cafeteria Spring 2023 to assess frequency, type and volume of food waste generated within Cafeteria
Water	Creation of Hunter green space inventory — to identify future green roofs potential		Initiative to be planned for a later reporting year
Water	Water bottle-filling stations installed on each campus floor for more accessibility		

Pillar Area	Goal/Initiative	Status	Latest Action
Water	Installation of building sub-meters to track and analyze Hunter’s campus water usage by type		Initiative planned for the 2024-2025 academic year
Water	Increase the number of high-efficiency plumbing fixtures on campus to a minimum of 50% by year 2028		Master inventory compiled of all automatic and manual bathroom fixtures located on campus



THANK YOU!



Vice President, Administration

Thank you to the VP of Administration for the dedicated commitment and support of the Hunter Sustainability Council and our work.



Our Supporters

Thank you to the team of colleagues, advocates, and friends that have helped to make the Council's work possible.

Thank you for helping to elevate Hunter College's sustainability impact and taking part in building a better climate future.

GET INVOLVED

- Join the Sustainability Council
- Volunteer with Us
- Contact us at green@hunter.cuny.edu



Visit our website to learn more
hunter.cuny.edu/environment/hunter-green



green@hunter.cuny.edu
hunter.edu/environment/hunter-green

