

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE SUSTAINABILITY



Fiscal Year 2025 Report

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SUSTAINABILITY AT UMB

Office of Sustainability

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) leaders understand the importance of reducing our impact on the environment in a holistic way while carrying out our mission to improve the human condition and serve the public good of Maryland and society at-large. To achieve this, the [Office of Sustainability](#) was created by President Bruce Jarrell in 2021 to move UMB toward a more sustainable future.



“We care about the welfare of our people, planet, communities, and University.”



UMB'S CORE VALUES

RESPECT *and* INTEGRITY

WELL-BEING *and* SUSTAINABILITY

EQUITY *and* JUSTICE

INNOVATION *and* DISCOVERY

In August 2021, the University revised its core values to include well-being and sustainability. Being a catalyst for well-being and sustainability means:

Supporting work-life harmony
Promoting healthy behaviors
Protecting the environment
Using resources responsibly
Planning for the future

#UMBtotheCore

Sustainability Committee Restructuring

In July 2024, the Office of Sustainability transitioned its four working groups (Reduction, Resilience, Engagement and Education, and Green Labs) into one Sustainability Committee. Meetings take place quarterly and are offered in a hybrid format. Membership is composed of stakeholders and subject matter experts throughout campus.



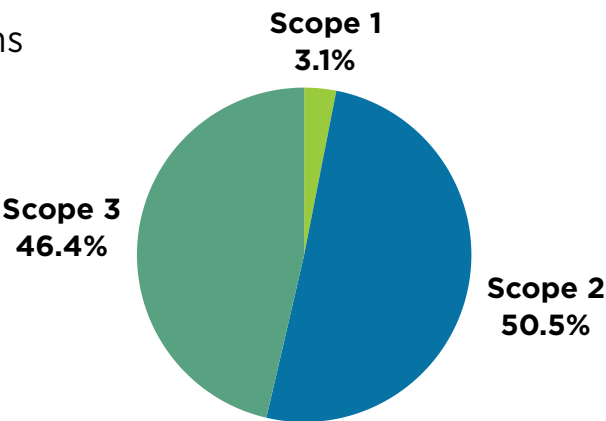
STARS Report

UMB received a [STARS Silver rating](#) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) submission highlighted sustainability efforts and success across academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration, and innovation and leadership. STARS is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university’s sustainability performance and uses self-reported data to assess progress.

FY24 Greenhouse Gas Report

UMB [reports annually](#) on Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions as part of the Second Nature Climate Commitment.

SCOPE 1: DIRECT EMISSIONS	1,632 MTCDE
SCOPE 2: PURCHASED UTILITIES	26,747 MTCDE
SCOPE 3: INDIRECT EMISSIONS (ALL OTHER)	24,537 MTCDE



Legislative Impacts

In FY2025, UMB began preparing to submit the first year of Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) data to the Maryland Department of the Environment in compliance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. This will be an annual requirement moving forward.

A graphic with a green and blue geometric background. The title '2025 Legislative Session Environmental Impact Summary' is in large green font. Below it, a blue text block explains the report's purpose. A list of relevant legislation follows, with two bills highlighted in bold. A legend at the bottom defines the abbreviations used.

2025 Legislative Session Environmental Impact Summary

This report summarizes the legislation from Maryland's 2025 General Assembly session. It identifies key environmental legislation passed during the session that impacts the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the work of the UMB Office of Sustainability.

List of Relevant Legislation:

- **SB0096/HB0277**
- **SB0256/HB0049**
- Other legislation that does not directly impact UMB, but does impact the environment

*SB = Senate Bill
*HB = House Bill

Additionally, UMB monitors the impacts of proposed bills each year during the legislative session. The Office of Sustainability is asked for input on bills that may impact buildings and infrastructure, landscaping practices, energy, and anything related to campus sustainability. The 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session passed two bills that impact UMB as it relates to the environment and/or sustainability. The Water Bottle Filling Stations bill, SB0096/HB0277, requires UMB to install water bottle filling stations as part of new fountain installations and renovations. The Building Energy Performance Standards Alterations bill, SB0256/HB0049, requires UMB to pay a submittal fee each year as part of our compliance with BEPS. Learn more about this past session's passed bills in the [2025 Legislative Session Environmental Impact Summary](#).

FY 2025 MILESTONES

Living UMB's Core Values:

Sustainability Awards, Achievements, and Highlights

At UMB, our journey toward sustainability is an ongoing and iterative process. Our achievements may take us down different paths to reach our goals. This year, we're proud to highlight the following milestones and awards that help us get closer to those goals.



CONTINUING OUR PROGRESS

Achieving Sustainability at UMB Through Collaborative Efforts

Apart from receiving awards and recognition, UMB's sustainability team is actively engaged in various working groups, cross-campus partnerships, and external committees. Through these initiatives, the Office of Sustainability at UMB is effectively transforming the university's sustainability goals into tangible and impactful outcomes.



The next few pages detail the progress the University has made on various projects and initiatives through cross-campus collaboration. As a small team, the Office of Sustainability relies on these partnerships to promote sustainable practices and reduce the environmental impact of UMB's operations. These efforts have not only contributed to a more sustainable future for the University, but have also inspired others to adopt more sustainable practices in their own lives.



Utilities and Emissions

Decarbonization Committee

The Decarbonization Committee was formed to coordinate efforts in support of decarbonizing UMB's operations to meet both required and voluntary goals. These efforts range from smaller deferred maintenance projects to large capital infrastructure projects. The group meets quarterly, and members include representatives from Operations & Maintenance, Design & Construction, Construction and Facilities Strategic Acquisitions, the Office of Sustainability, and Project Delivery.

Electrification of Davidge Hall

The new building air handlers use a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system, where each space in the building can be controlled with a fresh air intake machine. Since the VRF system covers both heating and cooling loads, UMB disconnected the building from district steam service, making [Davidge Hall a 100 percent electric building](#). Overall energy usage in the building is down by about 20 percent, and occupants say that the building has never felt more comfortable.



Green Labs ULT Freezer Tagging

Chilling up ultra low-temperature (ULT) freezers means adjusting the temperature from -80 to -70°C. The Office of Sustainability capitalized on interest in this practice of “chilling up” by putting magnets on ULT freezers throughout campus to promote energy conservation while maintaining research integrity.

Campus Planning and Design

New School of Social Work Groundbreaking and Geo-Exchange Well Drilling

UMB broke ground in October 2024 on its [new six-story University of Maryland School of Social Work building](#), slated to be the first net-zero emissions building within the University System of Maryland and downtown Baltimore. In early 2025, 42 geothermal exchange wells were drilled to provide a renewable source of heating and cooling to the building.



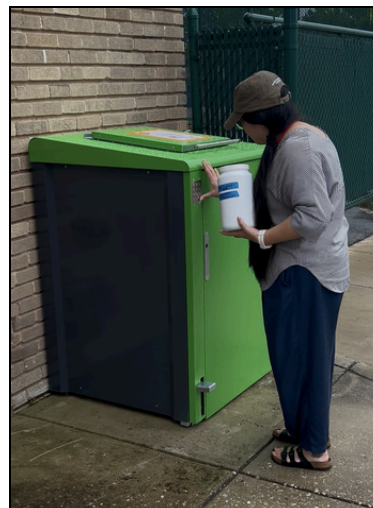
Tree Identification Signage

With installation help from Operations and Maintenance, the Office of Sustainability deployed tree identification signs around campus for 30 different species of trees. These signs serve an educational purpose for passers-by and help the university fulfill one of the requirements for becoming a Level I certified arboretum through ArbNet.

Waste and Procurement

End of Compost Pilot with Baltimore City

Through a USDA grant with Baltimore City's Department of Public Works, UMB started a community composting dropoff pilot in September 2023. This grant ended in June of 2025, and UMB has transitioned from the original Baltimore City awarded grant to an internal collection of food scraps through staff in Environmental Services. With financial support from the University Student Government Association, two heavy-duty enclosures were installed at the two dropoff sites at the SMC Campus Center and Community Engagement Center to provide additional security and prevent contamination.



De-Bagging Recycling

Beginning in early 2025, UMB began de-bagging its mixed recycling materials due to a change in requirements from UMB's vendor that collects mixed plastic, glass, and metal from campus. While these materials are still bagged within indoor waste bin collection spots, the bags are ripped open later in the process, with loose materials placed in large dumpsters for pickup by an off-site vendor.

Education and Engagement

2024 Campus Sustainability Month

Held every October, Campus Sustainability Month is an international celebration of sustainability in higher education. To celebrate in Fall 2024, the UMB Office of Sustainability hosted events including a Field Day with URecFit and Wellness, a Sustainability Town Hall, Meet the Founder with The Grid, Let's Grow Together Plant Workshop, and Campus Cleanup with Environmental Services.



Walking Wednesdays

Starting in 2025, the Office of Sustainability partnered with HR's Launch Your Life to begin group walks every other Wednesday at lunchtime.

While the program took place at the URecFit indoor track from February - April, the Office of Sustainability resumed the program in July, with walks taking place outdoors throughout UMB's campus and occasionally to the Baltimore Harbor. For one walk each month, the group is joined by Officer Anthony Summers and Comfort K-9 Poe.



Gathering at the Garden

A gathering at the MSTF Community Garden was held in March 2025 to plant new seeds and seedlings for the spring season. Herbs, vegetables, and flowers were planted, including tomatoes, radishes, green onions, dill, basil, sage, marjoram, bee balm, and mountain mint.



Education and Engagement

2025 Earth Month

Held every April, Earth Month is a time to raise awareness and create consciousness around the issues that affect our shared planet. To celebrate in Spring 2025, UMB hosted events including a Swap Party with HR's Launch Your Life, a Campus Cleanup with Environmental Services, a Meet the Founder event with The Grid, a Sustainability Town Hall, a Climate Health Symposium with the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, an Inter-Campus Event with local universities, and more. You can learn more about the Swap Party and Inter-Campus Event in the [Partnerships](#) section of the report (pg. 14).

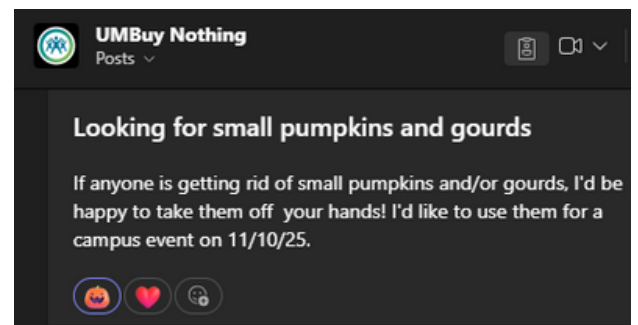


Bike to Work Week

Over 1,600 people registered across Central Maryland to participate in 2025, and for the first time, UMB was one of 18 pit stops for bike commuters. We were able to give away 29 shirts to participants and engage over 50 people.

Sustainability Community on Microsoft Teams

In early Summer of 2025, the Office of Sustainability merged the Microsoft Teams that it manages into one main [Sustainability Community Team](#). This new setup allows people to check out other communities they may not have been aware of. Current channels include Bike Commuters, Green Labs, MSTF Community Garden, SustainabiliTea, Sustainability Academics and Research, UMBuy Nothing, and Walking Wednesdays.



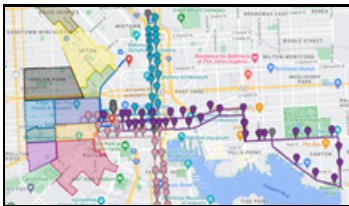
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Here are some of the resources the UMB community can take advantage of that the Office of Sustainability created in FY2025.



Climate Anxiety Resilience Hub

As the impacts of climate change continue to increase in severity and frequency, this hub contains tools and methods to help manage climate anxiety.



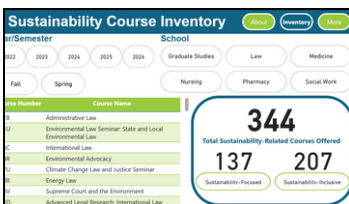
Environmental Justice Report and Resources

SEI Climate Corps Fellow Ben Eglash prepared an analysis and report on UMB's contributions to environmental justice (EJ) efforts in Baltimore. This webpage contains this report, as well as external links to additional EJ resources.



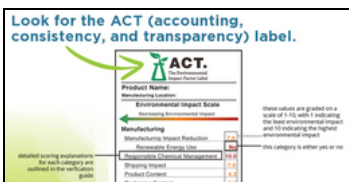
Know Before You Throw Tool

This interactive waste sorting tool allows users to search the item they are trying to dispose of and learn the best way to dispose of it on UMB's campus.



Sustainable Course Inventory Dashboard

The Office of Sustainability converted the existing Sustainability Course Inventory into an interactive dashboard where users can sort by year and semester offered, school, and whether the course is sustainability-focused or -inclusive.



Sustainable Lab Purchasing Guide

This guide offers helpful tips for individuals working in research spaces who assist with purchasing materials and equipment for labs at UMB.



Swag Guidelines

The resources offers suggestions to groups and organizations who are purchasing branded marketing materials, or swag, to hand out on campus.



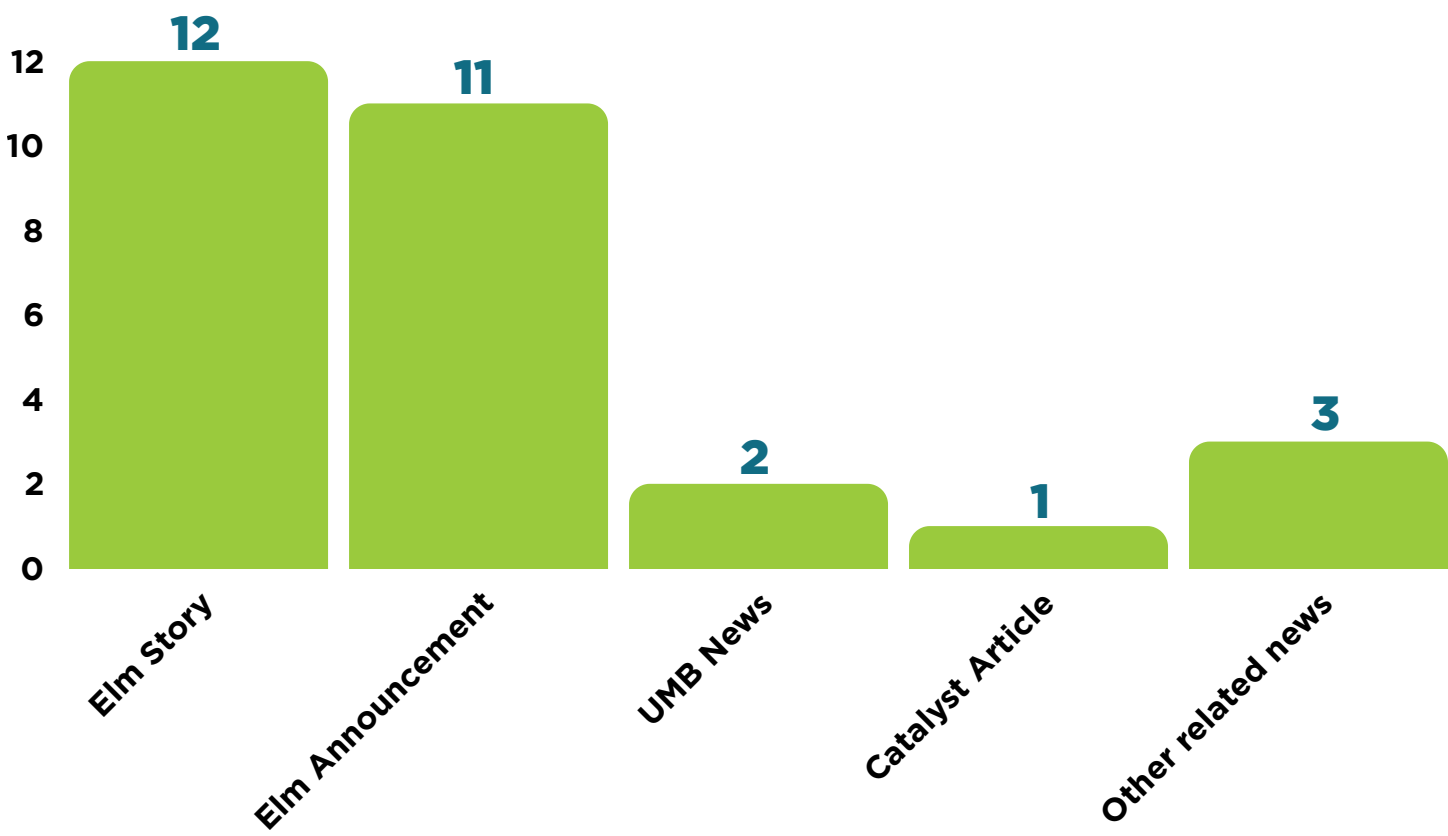
Zero-Waste Events Guide

This guide gives detailed instructions on how to host a zero-waste event at UMB, where 90%+ of the waste produced is diverted from the landfill/incinerator.

COMMUNICATIONS

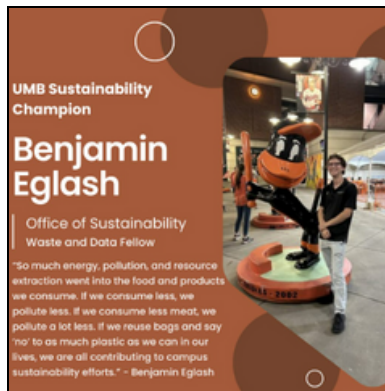
Sustainability News

The Office of Sustainability has been hard at work, updating the UMB campus community with the latest sustainability news. A total of 29 write-ups, including individual stories by the office and UMB's Communications and Public Affairs team, campaign summaries, sustainability series, and other announcements have been published, covering a range of sustainability-related topics.



Social Media

UMB's Office of Sustainability uses various social media platforms such as [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) to reach out to the community and share information. These channels enable the office to disseminate news from the office and its partners, as well as other community organizations outside of the office.



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INSTAGRAM POSTS

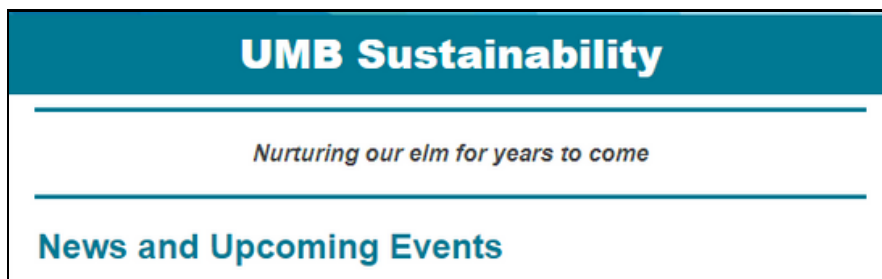
Newsletter

The monthly [Sustainability Newsletter subscription list](#) has grown by 26% since last fiscal year.



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**NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS**



35%

**OPEN
RATE**

PARTNERSHIPS

Swap Party with Launch Your Life

The Office of Sustainability partnered with Human Resources' Launch Your Life program for a Swap Party as part of Earth Month 2025. Participants brought plants, books, clothing, kitchen items, decor, and more. Any items not taken by the end of the day were donated locally or recycled.



Inter-Campus Earth Month Event

The Offices of Sustainability at Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, Towson University, and UMB collaborated to provide all local university students an opportunity to attend a panel composed of sustainability experts and network. Titled “(Y)Our Power, Our Planet: An Earth Day Conversation on Environmental Action,” the event featured topics like climate resilience, environmental justice, and student action.

MPH Students

In FY25, the Office of Sustainability continued to serve as an Experiential Learning partner with the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program, matching with two additional students to engage them in hands-on experiences during their time at UMB.



PARTNERSHIPS

Interprofessional Partnership

The Office of Sustainability continued its partnership with the [interprofessional Climate Change, Health, and Society consortium](#), including tabling at the Fall 2024 symposium and presenting to the CIPP650 course in Spring 2025.



External Cohorts

The UMB Office of Sustainability continues to have representation in various communities of practice, both locally and internationally.

Baltimore Colleges and Universities for a Sustainable Environment (B'CaUSE)

A group of sustainability professionals in higher ed sharing ideas to advance campus sustainability in the Baltimore area convened by the Baltimore Collegetown Network.

Reimagining the Harbor

Baltimore area institutions and local nonprofits convening to discuss strategies for creating a vibrant Downtown Baltimore.

Baltimore Zero Waste Coalition

Baltimore area institutions and local nonprofits convening via Baltimore City DPW to discuss best practices and partnerships for a Zero Waste Future in Baltimore.

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU)

Sustainability and Anchor Mission Huddles

Meetings for urban and metropolitan universities to discuss: "How do sustainability efforts and the anchor mission work together and reinforce institutional goals?"

AASHE Advisory Council

Meredith Diloia was selected for a two-year term on the AASHE Advisory Council, which brings together leaders from higher education, businesses, nonprofits, and government.

SUSTAINABILITY STAFF

Staffing Changes

At the end of FY25, Sustainability Specialist Meredith Diloia left the Office of Sustainability for a temporary re-assignment in the [Office of Project Delivery and Change Management](#). In her new role as a Program Specialist, Meredith is working on several process improvement projects in Facilities and Operations, including the implementation of a new project management information system (PMIS) for Design & Construction projects.



Fellows

The Office of Sustainability employed one student fellow from UMB in the Spring of 2025: Favour Ekeagwu from the University of Maryland School of Nursing.



Favour is passionate about helping others, and after graduation, she hopes to jumpstart her professional nursing career. To reach this goal, Favour studies hard every day, prioritizing showing empathy toward her patients and colleagues. She is committed to using her skills and passions to foster understanding, compassion, and care at UMB.

SUSTAINABILITY WORK IN FY 2026

Here is a snapshot of the projects, programs, and partnerships we're excited to report on for FY 2026!

Center for Climate Health and Entrepreneurship
Environmental Law Clinic Partnership
Decarbonization Planning
Air Travel Offsets Workshop
Zero-Waste Events and Waste Warriors
Updated Strategic Sustainability Plan
Updated Resilience Assessment
Rooftop Solar
Sustainable Maker Series
SustainabiliTea



THANK YOU!

The work that the Office of Sustainability accomplishes relies on collaboration with cross-campus partners and organizations outside of UMB. We'd like to list just a few of our partners and sustainability stakeholders in their collaborative efforts, and hope to continue working with them and expand our network in the years to come.

Center for Global Engagement

Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health

Construction and Facilities Strategic Acquisitions

Design and Construction

Environmental Health and Safety

Environmental Services

GreenSON

Human Resources

**Interprofessional Climate Change, Health, and Society
Consortium**

Office of Community and Civic Engagement

Office of Emergency Management

Operations and Maintenance

Parking and Transportation Services

Real Estate, Planning, and Space Management

Strategic Sourcing and Acquisition Services

Sustainability Committee Members

URecFit and Wellness

University Student Government Association

... and many more!