

Impact Report

Sustainable Creighton

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS



sustainable
CREIGHTON

Dear Creighton Colleagues, Students, Alumni, Friends and Community partners,

I am pleased to share the Sustainable Creighton Impact Report for the 2025-2026 academic year. This year, students, faculty, staff and community partners **advanced sustainability efforts** across our campuses, expanding renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing waste diversion, and strengthening opportunities for learning, engagement and leadership. These accomplishments represent **meaningful progress** toward our commitment to care for our common home and advance the mission of Creighton University.

The achievements highlighted in this report demonstrate how **sustainability is becoming increasingly integrated** throughout University life. Significant investments in clean energy and campus infrastructure reduced our environmental footprint, while faculty development programs and sustainability-related coursework expanded opportunities for students to engage with sustainability across disciplines. Student leaders, staff ambassadors and community partners contributed through service, innovation and collaboration, helping create a campus culture that values stewardship and shared responsibility.

What encourages me most is that this progress reflects the **collective commitment of our community**. Sustainability is not confined to a single office, project or initiative. Rather, it is increasingly expressed through how we learn, teach, operate, serve and lead as a Jesuit, Catholic university. These results demonstrate what is possible when individuals across our campuses work together with purpose, creativity and hope.

Thank you to the many students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners whose dedication made this progress possible. I am grateful for your partnership and encouraged by the momentum we continue to build together toward a more just, resilient and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Andrew Baruth, PhD



ANDREW BARUTH, PhD

Director

Office of Sustainability Programs



APRIL THOMPSON, PSM

Programs Manager

Office of Sustainability Programs

Operations

54%

reduction in carbon footprint since 2010

*including a **21% reduction** this year due to solar, geothermal, and electrifying our campus cooling with renewable wind energy*

- Expanded campus solar capacity by **262 kW** across the Omaha campus and on the ILAC campus in the Dominican Republic, reducing fossil-fuel reliance. 500 kW of solar is now installed across Creighton's footprint. That's enough solar capacity to power 75 U.S. homes.
- Diverted 13.3 tons of food waste (**46.3 tons since adoption**) and processed it into compost through a partnership with Soil Dynamics/Hillside Solutions. Creighton receives a monthly allotment of composted soil from Soil Dynamics, which is donated to a dozen nonprofits in the Omaha area.

500

kW of solar installed across Creighton's operational footprint

with 262 kW installed this past year

- Piloted **RecyclePal**, an initiative where students fill recycling bags in their residence hall room and place them outside their door on Thursday mornings for pick-up, much like homeowners and renters
 - **50 bags were picked up weekly** between Kenefick and Heider Halls, doubling recycling weights at these locations from the previous year
 - A **third of the residence hall rooms** regularly participated, with as many as half some weeks

186

geothermal wells added to campus

for electric heating and cooling of the new Magis sophomore residence hall

- Partnered with Cordia to become the first Omaha customer utilizing **CordiaClean**, a renewable electricity-powered chilled water service. The transition **reduces greenhouse gas emissions** associated with campus cooling **by approximately 85%**, advancing Sustainable Creighton's carbon reduction goals while providing reliable cooling to 28 campus buildings.

85%

reduction in cooling-related GHGs

- Recycled **183 pounds of expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) packaging** from the landfill through a partnership with the Omaha-based Plastilite Corporation. This initiative supports our goal of reducing hard-to-recycle waste and demonstrates how targeted material diversion efforts can be scaled through community partnerships.
- Added **4 electric vehicle chargers** from ChargePoint to the Omaha campus. Throughout this past year, these chargers helped avoid **7,676 kg of greenhouse gas emissions**. For the Feast of St. Francis mass, The Rev. Eric Immel, SJ, provided a blessing for EVs during our electric vehicle showcase.

8,090

pounds diverted from landfill

as part of the annual ReNest program in May

- Fostered a campus culture of sustainability by capturing, inventorying and donating reusable goods during ReNest, the student move-out period.
 - 8,090 pounds diverted from the landfill
 - Worked with **5 local partner organizations** with targeted essential goods
 - Had **38 unique volunteers** across the 51 solo-staffed shifts across campus



Recognition & Outreach

- Named a **“Green College”** by *Princeton Review*, with a strong score of 86 out of 99. Only colleges that earned a Green Rating Score of 80 or higher made the list, and Creighton is proud to be among them.

17

years designated TreeCampus
Higher Education

from the Arbor Day Foundation, with over **1,300 trees** on the Omaha campus

98,000

views across 8,600 users on the
SustainableCreighton Instagram page

Monthly themes included Food, Holidays, Circular Economy and Earth Month. Posts included Spotlights, Challenges, Competitions and Education.

Academics

- **7 faculty development seminars** helped instructors integrate sustainability into teaching across disciplines, from healthcare and business to theology and the humanities. Topics ranged from using film to AI's Energy Impact. Seminars attracted more than **200 faculty registration** and supported several evening events, including film screenings and public panels, which drew **500+ registrations** across faculty, staff, students and the community

2,000+

students enrolled in
sustainability-related
coursework

- **66 course sections** taught with the “Sustainability-Related” course attribute this year, covering **2,000+ students**
- Courses represented **78% of departments** in business, arts & sciences, law, nursing, pharmacy, continuing education and medicine





Fourteen Eco-Reps students, including **8 residents and 6 commuters**, maximized student engagement with sustainability through campus events and education.

- **Campus clean-up** with Keep Omaha Beautiful, removing litter and identifying cigarette waste hot spots.
- **16 students** attended a Bus with Us event to promote bus access and others taking a field trip to FirstStar Fiber Recycling Center to see where our campus recycling goes.
- **~1,000 pounds of food waste composted** at Christmas at Creighton.

20

staff members join the inaugural Staff Sustainability Ambassadors

- Expanded the **Sustainable Creighton Office Certification** to individual actions through the Staff Sustainability Ambassadors program. **Twenty staff members** engaged in initial meetings and a campus clean-up event.
- Launched **Bluejay Surplus**, a dedicated "gift economy" on Microsoft Engage where the Creighton community can share and claim items for free. With nearly **200 users**, the platform helps reduce waste, save department resources and build connections across our campuses.
- Promoted **JayPass**, free bus access in Omaha, leading to strong growth in usage and measurable sustainability benefits. From September to April (last full month of ridership), Creighton affiliates took **14,425 rides across 1,978 unique riders**, the equivalent of removing **17,826 miles** of gas-powered transport.
 - Ridership grew by 100 riders across 3,000 rides since last year

- Funded **7 Creighton Student Sustainability Action Fund (CSSAF)** projects this year, for a total of 24 projects since its 2022 launch.
 - Projects this year included an e-waste drive, the installation of a bike repair station, the 4th annual Sustainability Week in Phoenix and inaugural week in Omaha, and "sip-sustainability," a program designed to reduce plastic pollution within the unhoused population in Phoenix.
 - Over **\$31,000 invested** since 2022

\$11,000+
invested in student-led sustainability projects this year

- Empowered students to study abroad sustainably through **Global Engagement with Accountability: Empowering Student Action to Reduce Planetary Impact**.
 - 13 students received **\$200** to offset any in-country costs associated with more sustainable choices.
 - \$50 from each student (\$645) went to a United Nations carbon offset fund. They funded an offset of **43 tons of carbon emissions** through improved cooking stoves in the Nkhata Bay District, Malawi.



- Partnered with Canon USA to support **three interns** for the Omaha campus, including work on social media strategy, Eco•Reps, and an upcoming Green Labs program.
- Produced nearly **zero landfill waste for over 60 events** through a partnership with Sodexo, Student Life and the Office of Sustainability Programs, which provide reusable and compostable service ware for Creighton events along with compost collection. This ability to more simply host low waste campus events has helped them grow, including major campus events like Christmas at Creighton, the President's Picnic and Admitted Student days.