

In 2008, Iowa State announced the Live Green! Initiative. Successfully focusing on engaging students, faculty and staff in a sustainable future, the University achieved recognition including AASHE STARS* Gold certification and the Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges.

The decade since the start of Live Green has seen a growing awareness of the impacts of climate change, and national and international reports that demonstrate the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Faculty Senate and Student Government have both called upon the university to commit to reducing carbon emissions by increasing the use of reduced or no carbon fuel sources and reducing energy consumption through increased efficiency.

An Advisory Committee on Sustainability has developed a Sustainability Plan for Operations. The plan focuses on five areas of operations, based on two primary considerations:

1. Sustain our STARS Gold certification, and strive for the next level of Platinum.
2. Pursue sustainability opportunities through cost-effective measures.

The five focus areas of operations include: university energy use, building operations and maintenance, waste and recycling, water use and grounds maintenance.

The energy component of the plan achieves a 50% reduction of university greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 by ending the use of coal, improving building energy efficiency and tripling the use of renewable energy, with anticipated annual savings of over \$3 million. Plan action items include:

1. Convert the remaining coal boilers in the university power plant to use natural gas by 2025. The conversion will extend the useful life of the existing boilers, natural gas is currently less expensive than coal, and the conversion will result in annual savings with a four-year payback.
2. Establish a university energy policy to reduce building energy use by 5% from a FY 2012 baseline through operational changes such as temperature setbacks, building energy usage standards and energy efficient design and construction. Requires no capital costs.
3. Purchase renewable electricity through renewable energy credits to supplement what is cogenerated on campus. At current market prices the additional cost is insignificant and well within the normal variation due to weather.

Within the areas of building operations and maintenance, waste and recycling, water use and grounds, the development of university-wide plans and procedures will be completed with focus to improve sustainability of day-to-day operations and maintenance of all campus facilities (inclusive of general education, student affairs and athletics).

*Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System