

**2018  
2019**

# **SUSTAINABILITY** ANNUAL REPORT



M. Maitha



**FOGLIA FOUNDATION**  
Health and Recreation Center

# GREENING

## campus operations

Harper College is dedicated to reducing detrimental environmental impact across campus. Through campus upgrades, student coursework, community outreach and individual action, Harper strives toward carbon neutrality to ensure a healthy, sustainable future on campus and in our community. The information in this report covers the 2018 - 2019 academic year.

Harper College is committed to building and renovating existing buildings following LEED Silver standards. With the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center in operation, Harper now has four LEED buildings on its campus. The Health and Recreation Center (HRC) serves as a community hub for campus recreation and fitness. The HRC is also home to the Northwest Community Hospital Outpatient Center.

An additional electric vehicle charging station was added to Parking Lot 1, near the Foglia Foundation Health and Recreation Center. As a result, Harper College can accommodate up to four electric vehicles charging at once. During the 2018 - 2019 academic year, 64 unique drivers<sup>1</sup> visited Harper's four charging ports, saving a total of over 290 gallons of gasoline.

Harper College continues to improve the efficiency of its buildings. In spring 2019, Harper College completed a sub-metering project to add additional water meters. This project assists with the management of utility usage and increases overall campus efficiency. Harper's facilities also underwent monitor based commissioning in 2019. Monitoring based commissioning collects data from building systems and analyzes it to optimize efficiency. Findings from this report enable Harper's facilities to become more efficient by using less energy when it is not needed.

<sup>1</sup> "Unique drivers" determined by a distinct account number through the ChargePoint network.

<b>4</b> —	Campus buildings built to LEED Silver standards
<b>293</b> —	Gallons of gasoline saved with Harper's electric vehicle charging stations
<b>8</b> —	Sub-meters added to campus buildings

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# RESPONSIBLE

## waste disposal and reuse

Harper's Green Office Certification Program introduced composting in the fall of 2018. At the end of its pilot period, 15 offices were participating in compost collection, including Harper's main cafeteria and Early Childhood Lab School. 251 pounds of food waste were diverted during the 2018 - 2019 academic year. This campus composting initiative is a collaboration with Harper's chemistry department. Each semester, chemistry students run tests on the compost from the on-campus bins to determine essential nutrient content.

After celebrating Harper's 50th anniversary, 975 square feet of vinyl banner material, once displayed on campus, were upcycled into tote bags, lunch boxes and notepad covers to distribute as gifts. The material escaped a life in the landfill and the Harper community is able to use a piece of Harper history.

Until fall 2018, campus recycling initiatives had focused on indoor recycling. Additional need was identified outside and five new recycle bins were distributed in high traffic areas across campus grounds. With the placement of these new outdoor recycle bins, the campus community has environmentally friendly waste disposal options throughout Harper.

During Tech Week 2019, employees were invited to recycle personal electronics and batteries. The event produced 650 pounds of recycled electronics and 98 pounds of recycled batteries. Battery recycling collection is ongoing and serviced through Republic Services' Universal Waste Program.

251

Pounds of compostable material diverted from entering the landfill

5

New outdoor recycle bins added to campus grounds

650

Pounds of personal electronics recycled at Harper College Tech Week

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# ENGAGING

our campus community

Did you know Harper College has 1,509 trees on its campus? Throughout the 2018 - 2019 academic year, student volunteers collected data on all campus trees, including tree type, condition and height. The campus tree inventory is part of a larger partnership between Harper College Facilities Management (FM) and the geography department to develop a database using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This database of maps, created with drone technology, AutoCAD drawings, class projects and student interns, forms the foundation for campus sustainability projects, campus efficiencies and enhanced student learning experiences.

During the April 17th Drs. Kenneth and Catherine Ender Legacy Celebration, 1,200 participants helped ensure the event was as environmentally friendly as possible. The event incorporated BPI-certified compostable packaging and flatware, volunteers to help properly sort recyclable and compostable items, reusable linens used wherever possible and biodegradable latex balloons that break down at the same rate as an oak leaf. Many of the balloons were even reused for other events.

In fall 2018, 292 credit students participated in a sustainability and recycling survey. The survey aimed to assess sustainability participation and interest, as well as transportation habits of Harper College students. Nearly 83% of student respondents stated they were concerned or very concerned with environmental issues overall, and the top five priorities for increasing campus sustainability were to reduce Styrofoam use, increase renewable energy, increase energy efficiency, increase recycling and increase local food presence.

Thank you for taking the time to explore sustainability at Harper College and learn about our commitment to its continuity. Learn more about this exciting initiative on Harper's campus at [harpercollege.edu/gogreen](http://harpercollege.edu/gogreen).

<b>83%</b> —	The percentage of surveyed Harper College Students who were either concerned or very concerned about environmental issues
<b>1,509</b> —	Trees on Harper's campus: tree data recorded by student interns and volunteers throughout the 2018-2019 academic year
<b>85%</b> —	The waste diversion rate achieved at the Drs. Kenneth and Catherine Ender Legacy Celebration

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