

2018

SUSTAINABILITY

Annual Report

GREEN Campus

Harper College is committed to greening campus operations.

As a signatory of the **Climate Leadership Commitments**, a national network of colleges and universities striving toward carbon neutrality, Harper continues to track and report its progress toward reaching its **climate goals**. Harper partnered with Sightlines in the fall of 2017 to create data collection standards for continued benchmarking and data analysis. Fine-tuning of the greenhouse gas reporting process is ongoing to ensure relevance and accuracy.

Harper College participates in an **energy curtailment** program to help lower carbon emissions, protect the electrical grid and keep electrical costs down. Throughout the summer months, the College will reduce its electric load, if called upon, to alleviate stress on the electrical grid.

Harper continues to upgrade campus buildings to be **energy efficient**. Library renovations feature LEED Silver building standards, and Building Y's motion sensor installation project resulted in energy efficiency rebates totaling \$5,250 through ComEd.

Innovation and forward thinking allowed Harper's construction team to design vinyl construction banners with the intent to **upcycle** the material. Giveaways were created for building occupants and visitors from the banners that lined the construction fencing.

Recycling continues on campus with regular monitoring of bins and adding recycle receptacles to new campus locations. All of Harper's main campus bottle filling stations are now decorated with a poster urging users to utilize this **"Free Water"** resource to encourage **"Refills Not Landfills."**

Harper's renovated David K. Hill Library was built to LEED Silver standards.

**Enough.
For All.
Forever.**
Sustainability

Impact ↘

Harper College reduced its overall carbon emissions by **2.6%** since 2014.

Harper College curtailed **1,497 kW** during an energy curtailment test to relieve stress on the electrical grid.

140 motion sensors were installed in Building Y to reduce electricity consumption.

256 square feet of vinyl banner material were upcycled into bookmarks and luggage tags to celebrate Harper's new Library.

52 posters were placed on campus promoting Harper's bottle filling stations.

WASTE Reduction

Harper College is actively engaged in discovering innovative ways to reduce waste sent to the landfill.

During its second year of operation, 2,636 items were repurposed from the **ReUseIt Room**, Harper's office supply exchange space. This translates into a money **savings of over \$5,600** and the elimination of **1001 pounds of material** from entering the landfill.

Recycling has become a prominent part of the student experience during Harper's Ambassador School Tours. Student volunteers help participants in grades 5th - 8th **sort lunch waste** to build **good waste reduction habits** early.

Students from Harper's Student Activities Board created a **recycling video** to show before the feature film at the Center For Student Involvement's Free Movie Fridays. The video, paired with student **volunteers at all waste stations**, helps moviegoers **sort their concession waste** after the movie to capture bottles, cans and other recyclable material.

Since almost everything that is delivered to Harper comes in a cardboard box, Harper continues to collect and **recycle bulk cardboard**. **Scrap metal** from Harper's Welding and Manufacturing Labs is also collected and recycled.

Harper College **Facilities Management** partnered with Harper's **chemistry department** to build **compost bins** on campus. The new compost bins are located on the east side of campus and will be used by students in Harper's chemistry classes to **conduct research on compost**. This green campus project is starting in the classroom with small scale organic material collection with anticipated growth in the future.

Compost bins built on Harper's campus will collect organic material from students and staff.



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

Impact ↘

The ReUseIt Room repurposed **6,941** items, saved **\$14,900** and eliminated **2,400** lbs of material from entering the landfill since inception.

2,800 boxes and bottles were recycled during Ambassador School Tour lunches.

1,170 moviegoers took part in sorting recycling at Free Movie Fridays.

14 tons of cardboard and **9** tons of metal were recycled.

550 square feet of vinyl banner material were diverted from the landfill and upcycled as green giveaways.

3 composting test bins were built on campus to collect up to **81** cubic feet of organic material.

CAMPUS Engagement

Sustainability engagement on campus continues to expand.

Eleven offices became **Green Office Certified** during the 2017/2018 academic year, totaling 101 participating employees who are committed to greening the workplace. A new initiative began in January 2018. Each month, participants receive a **Green Office Tip of the Month** to help them along their green office journey.

The second annual **RePlantIt Free-For-All** offered free plants to employees. Harper faculty and staff shared their plant bounty and picked up new plants for their office or garden. One of Harper's adjunct faculty members, Jennifer Richardson, a master gardener, volunteered at the event giving expert plant advice. This sustainability event continues to engage Harper employees in **greening our campus and community**.

Earth Week 2018 featured many events celebrating our earth. It included a week-long **photo exhibit** with over 70 environmentally themed photos submitted by the campus community. Other activities included water taste testing, honey sampling, a campus soundwalk and tree planting all based on the theme **"Environmental Awareness through the Senses."** **Twenty-seven pounds of batteries** were recycled at Earth Week events.

Harper's **Community Supported Agriculture** (CSA) partnership continued throughout the year and participation increased with additional pickups of fresh peaches and Thanksgiving turkeys.

During Community Day in April 2018, the Sustainability Work Group hosted a **"Recycle Relay."** To emphasize the importance of sorting, participants spent 90 seconds separating materials into their appropriate bins, putting into practice **"reduce, reuse, recycle."**



Think Globally,
Act Locally

Student and staff volunteers plant trees on Harper's campus during Earth Week 2018.

Impact ↘

11 offices on campus became Green Office Certified with a total of 101 participants.

84 employees participated in the second annual RePlantIt Free-For-All, donating over 200 plants of a wide variety for home and office.

200+ participants took part in Earth Week.

4 trees were planted on campus by 25 students and staff.

46 staff and community members joined Harper's CSA partnership, receiving fresh vegetable, meat, peach and turkey deliveries.



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