

Sustainability at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

ACUI

July 2025

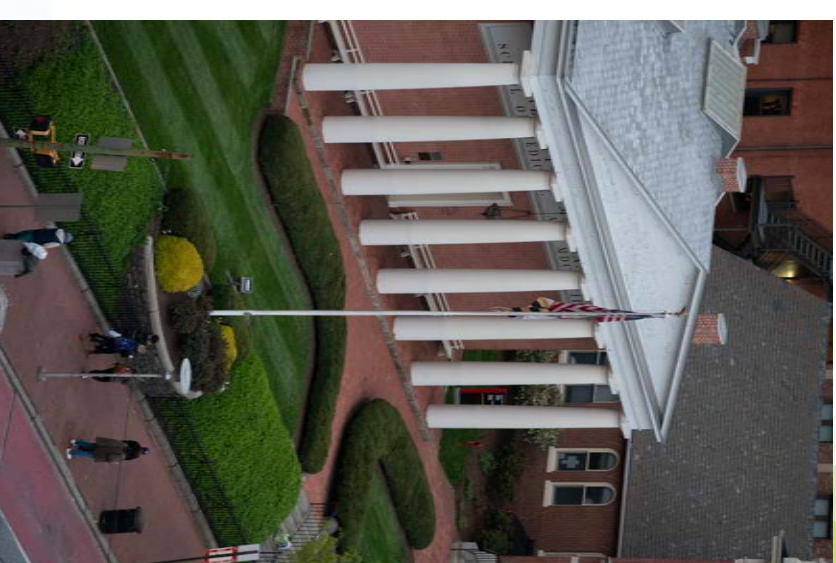


About the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

- Opened in 1807
- Maryland's public health, law, and human services university
- UMB enrolls nearly **7,000 students** in six professional schools — **dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work** — and an interdisciplinary **Graduate School**
 - **90** doctoral, master's, baccalaureate, and certificate programs
- Located in Downtown Baltimore, the campus consists of **71 acres** with **6.9 million gross square feet** of space in **60+ buildings**



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umaryland.edu/sustainability

UMB's Core Values and Mission



*Respect and Integrity | Well-Being and Sustainability
Equity and Justice | Innovation and Discovery*

Mission: *To improve the human condition and serve the public good of Maryland and society at-large through education, research, clinical care, and service.*



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Office of Sustainability Introduction

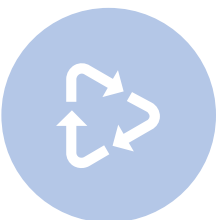
- **Founded in 2021**
- Focused on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in support of carbon neutrality
- Facilities-focused, but work extends beyond operations
- Building partnerships to execute the University's mission through the lens of sustainability
- Small (2 FTE)



Sustainability Strategic Plan: 2022-2026



UTILITIES AND
EMISSIONS



WASTE AND
PROCUREMENT



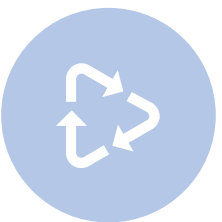
ENGAGEMENT AND
EDUCATION



CAMPUS PLANNING
& DESIGN



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Off-Campus Renewable Energy

- State of Maryland has a [Renewable Portfolio Standard \(RPS\)](#)
 - Requires the University System of Maryland (USM) to purchase a percentage of electricity from various Tier 1 and Tier 2 renewable sources
- UMB is part of an energy consortium that includes other USM institutions and has executed 3 Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)



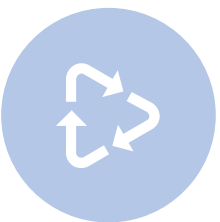
MEA Higher Ed Grant

- Received \$566,480 grant to support:
 - Another campus rooftop solar installation
 - Part 2 of our Carbon Master Plan for decarbonizing our winter heating load
 - A workforce development partnership with West Baltimore residents to learn solar installation skills





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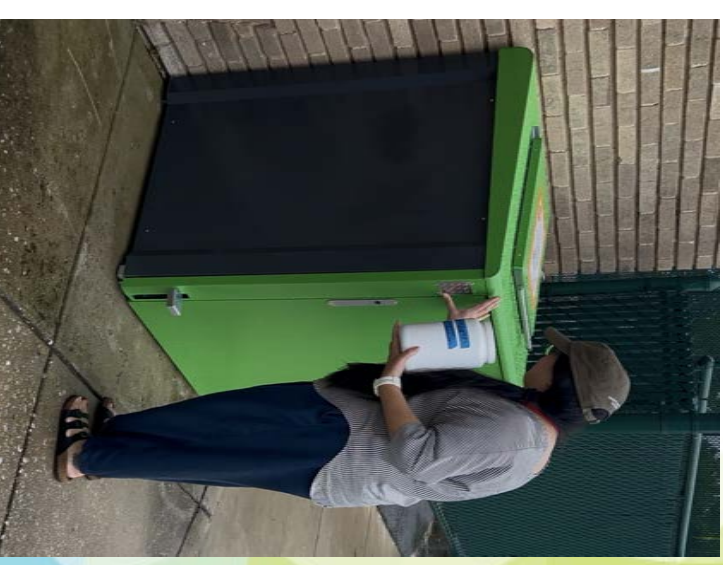
Self-Service Waste



- Centralized waste stations in place of individual desk-side bins
- Bin and signage standards throughout campus to prevent confusion
- Nearly 3,000 individual desk-side cans were removed

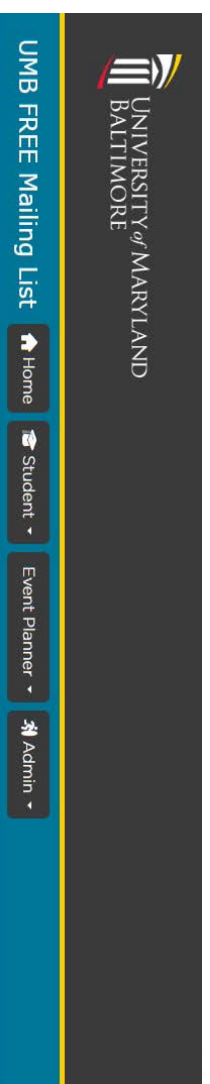
Community Composting Drop-Off

- Sites: Campus Center and Community Engagement Center



UMB FREE (Food Recovery + Environmental Eating)

- Aims to minimize food waste from events on campus and feed students
- Event planners/ hosts submit free food leftover from their events, and students are notified to come grab

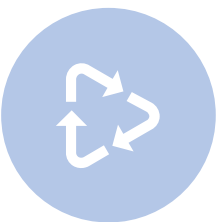


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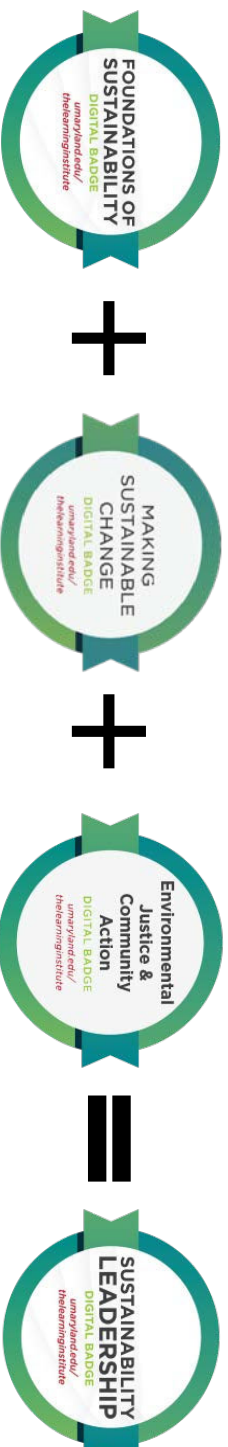
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Micro-Courses

- All 3 micro-courses are live through the Learning Institute
- If you complete all 3, you get a mega *Sustainability Leadership* badge



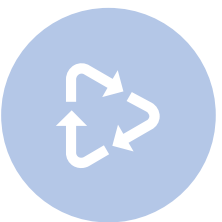
Resources

- Green Tip of the Month
- Monthly Newsletter
- Social Media
- Zero Waste Event Guide
- Sustainability Map
- Green Eats Map
- Campus Tree Inventory
- Sustainability Community on Microsoft Teams
 - UMBuy Nothing
 - Bike Commuters
- Know Before You Throw waste sorting tool





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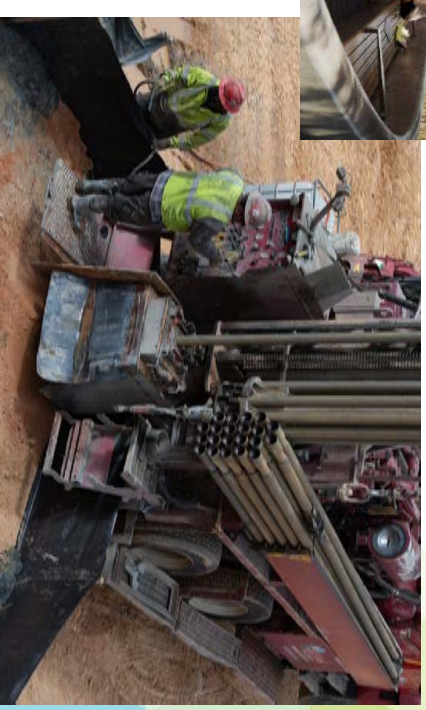
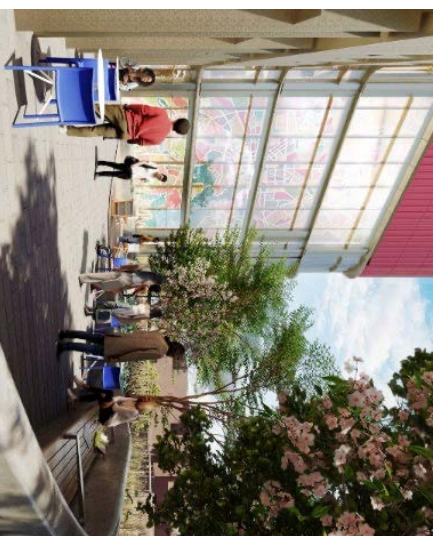
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New School of Social Work Building

- Aiming for LEED net-zero operational carbon
- High performance building envelope
- Geo-exchange wells
- Electric heat pumps
- Solar PV
- Native landscaping + rooftop garden for stormwater retention



Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Grant

- Planted 65 new trees on campus in Fall '22
- Held a tree planting volunteer event behind HSHSL

(Since then, we've been able to add 20 additional native trees through other partnerships)



AASHE STARS Silver Award



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The Elm is a publication of the University of Maryland, Baltimore

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UMB Earns First STARS Silver Rating for Sustainability

May 21, 2025 | Jen Badle

The report highlights the University's efforts across academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration, and innovation and leadership by the premier benchmark tool for sustainability.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has earned its first STARS Silver rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, highlighting UMB's sustainability efforts and success across academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration, and innovation and leadership.



Initial Steps

- Balancing timing of project/initiative implementation with STARS submittal
- Gap analysis
- Offices/departments you'll need to work with



Using STARS for Strategic Planning

- Areas to start reporting on in the future
- Areas for improvement/future planned initiatives
- Using STARS as a framework to guide program development



Sustainability Journey – Lessons Learned

- Learn from other institutions – no need to reinvent the wheel
- Tie initiatives to university's mission and values
- Importance of partnerships outside your department
- Change management
- Infiltrate – ask questions

