President Salovey announced Yale’s continued commitment to sustainability when he released the University’s second Sustainability Strategic Plan 2013-2016 one year ago. In his announcement he recognized Yale's long-standing and on-going efforts to address sustainability and called upon students, faculty, and staff to play an active role in doing more. He noted that the challenge is not technology, but rather changing our behaviors to match and amplify new technologies.

In the first year of implementing Yale’s second strategic plan we focused on developing leadership opportunities and increasing the capacity of individuals and departments to make sustainable choices in their every day decisions. Throughout this report, there is evidence of these efforts. From Green Certification programs to individualized professional school Sustainability Action Plans, Yale’s community of students, staff, and faculty are taking on the President’s challenge to “ensure that sustainable practices are at the heart of our university.”

This year’s Progress Report provides a snapshot of the important advancements that Yale has made toward achieving the sustainability goals laid out in the university’s three-year strategic plan. You can follow Yale’s progress toward fulfilling the action items in its strategic plan on our website.

We are confident that our current and future progress will continue to maintain Yale’s status as a leader in sustainability for institutions of higher education, and to ensure the longevity and health of our campus, community, and world.
25 Goals

**OVERVIEW**

**ENERGY & GHG EMISSIONS**
- Reduce energy & GHG emissions by 5%.
- Increase renewable energy produced on-site to 1%.
- Reduce fleet GHG emissions 80 MTCO2e per year.

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**
- Reduce paper & office supply purchases by 10%.
- Establish sustainable procurement standards.
- Develop sustainable IT disposal & purchasing standards.
- Achieve a 50% waste diversion rate.
- Set a target to reduce disposal of all materials.

**NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
- Develop & implement sustainable landscaping practices.
- Set a stormwater reduction target.
- Reduce potable water use by 5%.
- Reduce single occupancy vehicle use to & from campus by 2%.
- Increase participation in the pre-tax commuter benefits program by 25%.
- Earn a minimum of LEED Gold Certification.
- Implement the Sustainability Supplement to the Framework for Campus Planning.

**CAPACITY BUILDING & LEADERSHIP**
- Establish departmental & professional school Sustainability Action Plans.
- Promote sustainability as a core business value.
- Create a regional food alliance.
- Create sustainable ITS training & certification programs.
- Expand campus green certification programs.

**FOOD & WELL-BEING**
- Ensure that 37% of dining purchases meets sustainability criteria.
- Increase plant-based foods served in dining halls by 15%.
- Reduce sodium-content of dining-hall food offerings.
- Reduce the use of cleaning chemicals by 30%.
- Promote human well-being & ecosystem vitality.
Yale’s energy consumption increased slightly this year; however the University’s three year projection is on target to meet the 5% reduction target. In fiscal year 2014, New England experienced a colder than average winter when compared to recent winters which increased our demand for heating. If our steam consumption during the winter months was normalized for average weather, then it would have been approximately 5% lower than previous years due to our proactive energy initiatives to improve efficiency.

This year we have increased emissions by 34.12%

Additional strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Yale’s vehicle fleet are currently under review.

We recognize that our emissions reductions will likely not be a linear path downward over the course of the goal, but rather a combination of increases and decreases leading to an overall net reduction in emissions.
Yale is currently working with regional manufacturers, suppliers, and growers to increase purchasing power that promotes sustainable and healthy initiatives.

Utilized as a key tool to engage employees and students, participation in Yale’s green certification programs continues to increase.

Yale is home to 12 professional schools, each with a distinct culture and physical structure. Sustainability Action Plans that reflect these distinctions and the academic disciplines of the schools are in various stages of development. We are on-target to have a final plan for each school.
FOOD & WELL-BEING

SODIUM CONTENT, PLANT-BASED FOOD & SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

Yale Dining has increased its **PLANT BASED FOOD** served by **9%**

**37% SUSTAINABLY SOURCED:** local, eco-sensitive, fair, or humane.

Yale Dining is currently developing a method to calculate the average sodium consumption per student per day.

Aerosol and powder-based cleaning product purchases have been significantly reduced, however, the total volume of cleaning chemical purchases have increased by **1%**.

CLEANING CHEMICALS

2% in the amount of **Liquids** purchased

16% in the amount of **Aerosols** purchased

33% in the amount of **Powders** purchased

PROMOTE WELL-BEING

We have laid the groundwork for increased collaboration between well-being and sustainability initiatives university-wide.

Aerosol and powder-based cleaning product purchases have been significantly reduced, however, the total volume of cleaning chemical purchases have increased by **1%**.
CAMPUS PLANNING

All Yale staff and external consultants have been trained on how to use the Sustainability Supplement to the Framework for Campus Planning.

RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens and vegetated ground cover in place of mulch have been deployed across campus leading to a reduction in stormwater runoff, soil erosion, and maintenance.

GROUND COVER PLANTS

30,600

have been planted in place of mulch to increase water infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff.

LEED BUILDING CERTIFICATION

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<th>LEED NEW CONSTRUCTION &amp; RENOVATIONS</th>
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Yale’s portfolio of Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings and spaces continues to grow.

POTABLE WATER

In 2014, Yale increased its potable water consumption by 2%.
Urban Meadows

7 Urban Meadows covering 50,000 gross square feet were created across campus in fiscal year 2014.

They are designated areas where grasses are allowed to grow, and are only cut 2 times per year to promote natural regeneration of grasses & wildflowers.

Benefits:

+ Supports Biodiversity
+ Improves Water Quality
+ Reduces stormwater runoff
+ Prevents soil erosion
Yale community members used the ELI SURPLUS EXCHANGE website to REUSE OVER 4,000 ITEMS. Items exchanged included electronics, furniture, lab equipment and supplies, and office supplies.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS have been developed for the most commonly used break-room supplies.

Yale reduced the total amount of municipal solid waste, recycled materials, and organics leaving campus by 1%.

TOTAL MATERIALS

↓ 66 TONS OF MATERIALS

OFFICE SUPPLIES PROCUREMENT

Yale’s three-year paper reduction goal was 10%. Within the first year, we exceeded this target by 6%. Efforts to maintain this success are essential in the coming years.

What we actually saved:

- 1,414 Trees
- 32,250 Gallons of oil
- 3,400,000 kWh of Energy
- 594,100 Gallons of water

SAVED 30,941 reams

Office supply purchases have decreased by 10% FROM 2013 LEVELS

10% FROM 2013 LEVELS

2013

2014

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS
Yale Office of Sustainability
http://sustainability.yale.edu

Let’s make Yale better together

Made from recycled materials.