



2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan:

2020 Mid-Point Report

Submitted by the Campus Sustainability
Subcommittee of the Institutional Policy
and Planning Committee

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Mid-Point Campus Sustainability Report

Submitted by the Campus Sustainability Subcommittee of the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee

In May 2015, Skidmore College endorsed its first Campus Sustainability Plan. The 2015-2025 Skidmore College Campus Sustainability Plan includes five key focus areas: energy, food, waste, lands and grounds, and engagement. Working groups formed by members of the Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS) and other key stakeholders undertook significant research to develop challenging goals within each focus area to achieve by 2025. Since 2015, the CSS has published Annual Reports to document the College's progress and outline action steps toward our ten-year sustainability goals. In addition to celebrating our successes, these annual reports provide our community with a transparent account of our sustainability efforts and bring attention to the challenges we face. The purpose of routinely publishing and presenting our progress is to engage the community in conversations and actions that spark new ideas, partnerships, and solutions. Unlike the Campus Sustainability Annual Reports, this 2020 Mid-Point Campus Sustainability Report documents efforts from the last 5-20 years, and in many instances, forecasts our anticipated progress. Forecasted figures are informed by past performance, current trends, and future planned initiatives.

The CSS committed to a mid-point review process when the Skidmore community first considered adopting the 2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan. The mid-point review is a fundamental step in our long-term planning to allow the Skidmore community to respond to emerging priorities by adjusting, adding, or eliminating sustainability focus areas, goals, or metrics. This intensive review process requires a substantial commitment from a diverse group of stakeholders, much like the initial sustainability planning process. To conduct a thorough mid-point review, the CSS anticipated reconvening each working group to review the goals and metrics of the 2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan. However, it was clear that the review process could not be accomplished as our community shifted to the critical task of COVID-19 response and planning. Rather than conduct a mid-point review during the 2020-2021 Academic Year, the CSS presents the 2015-2020 Campus Sustainability Plan : Mid-Point Report. The CSS plans to engage in a full Campus Sustainability Plan review beginning in the Fall 2021 semester.

DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Recognizing environmental limits, and sharing the ethic that present actions should not “compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*,” the Skidmore College community embraces both the concept and practice of sustainability. We endeavor to enact environmentally responsible practices, grounded in economic and social equity, and through our actions to have a positive impact on our community and our planet.

Skidmore’s primary mission is education, and the College’s greatest impacts and achievements will be realized as consequences of the lives our graduates lead. As part of an ever-growing population on a finite planet, we are confronted with an increasingly urgent need to address the resulting environmental constraints and social challenges. Institutional adoption of sustainable practices, informed by an understanding of the complex, interconnected nature of living systems and their physical environment, provides the opportunity for each Skidmore community member to become educated and personally involved in addressing these challenges, and empowered with techniques and strategies that they might apply to make positive changes beyond Skidmore.

We invite Skidmore community members to engage in mindful consideration of their individual and collective ecological, economic, and social impacts, to examine their values, and to collaborate in demonstrating their values and principles through action. Teaching, learning and living in accordance with the tenet of sustainability fosters broad education and civic engagement of our community members, and prepares our students to be informed, active citizens and leaders in realizing sustainable futures. The health and wellbeing of future generations is dependent upon their success.

**Brundtland Commission*

SUSTAINABILITY BY THE NUMBERS, 2019–2020



of electricity sourced from renewable electricity sources



reduction in GHG emissions from our 2000 baseline



sustainable food

120

courses addressing sustainability



17

paid student staff

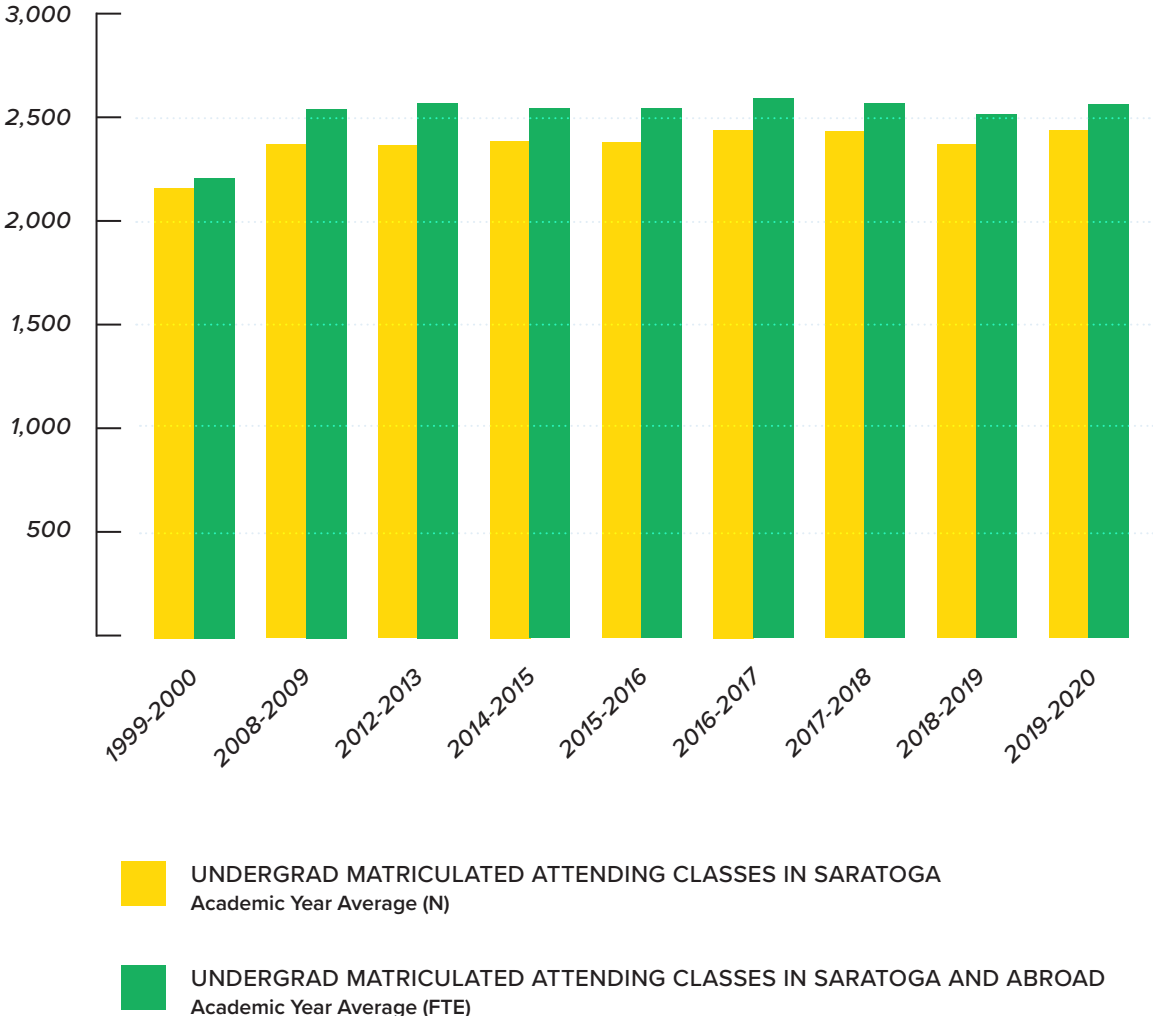


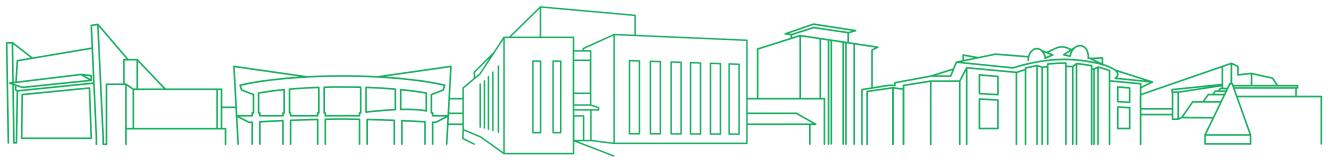
Campus Development

Skidmore’s campus population and building space are growing. As we review our progress toward our sustainability goals, it is important to acknowledge that we are striving to reduce resource use and environmental impact while our campus population and infrastructure grow.

CAMPUS POPULATION

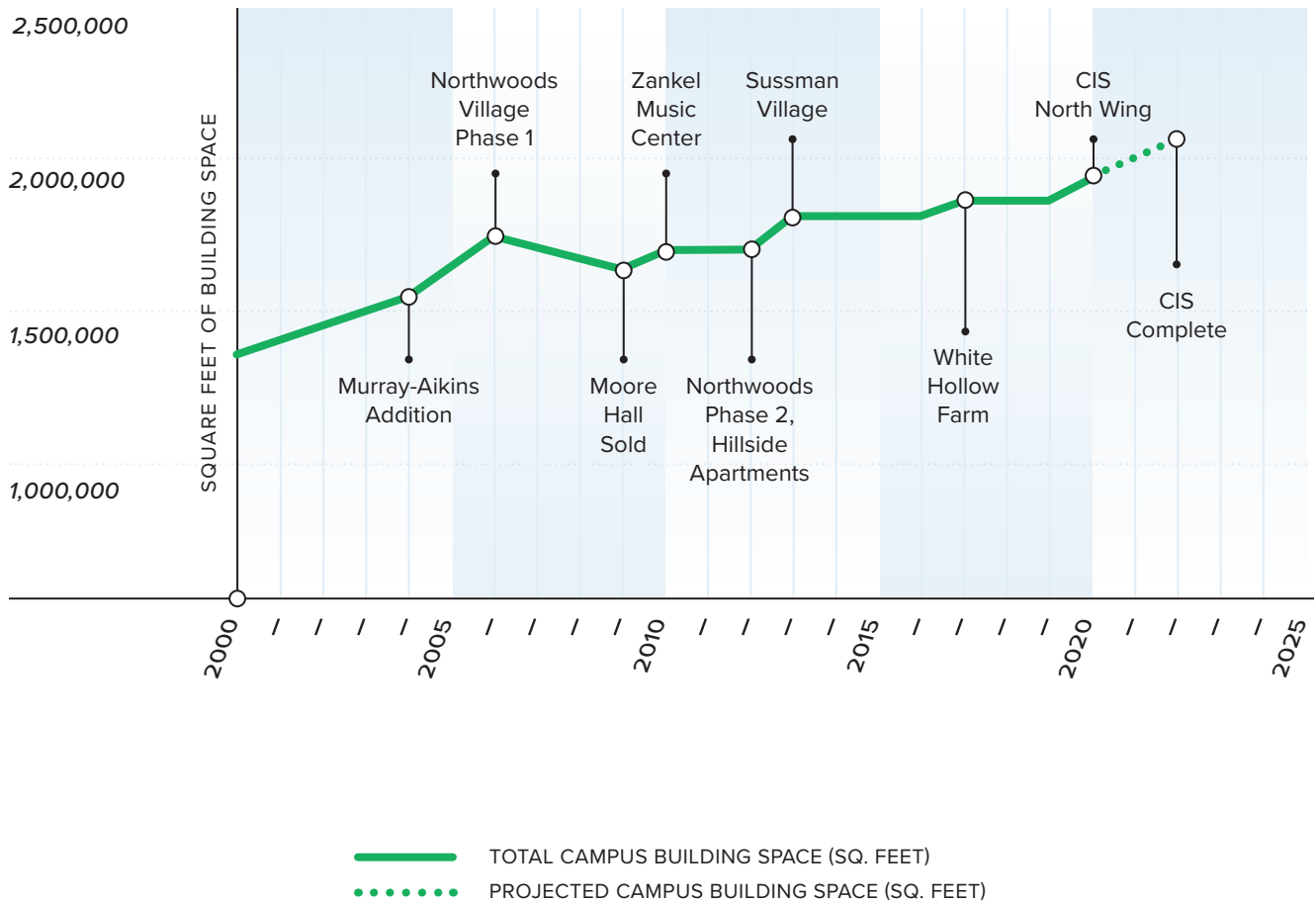
This report uses the average of Fall and Spring semester enrollment figures (headcount) for matriculated students attending classes in Saratoga to measure campus population. While this may not be a perfect metric, it allows for better comparison across years and decades. We exclude students studying abroad because they do not directly utilize the on-campus resources that we track and measure in this report. Skidmore’s 2019-2020 campus population increased by 2.3% compared to 2015 and 12.7% compared to 2000.

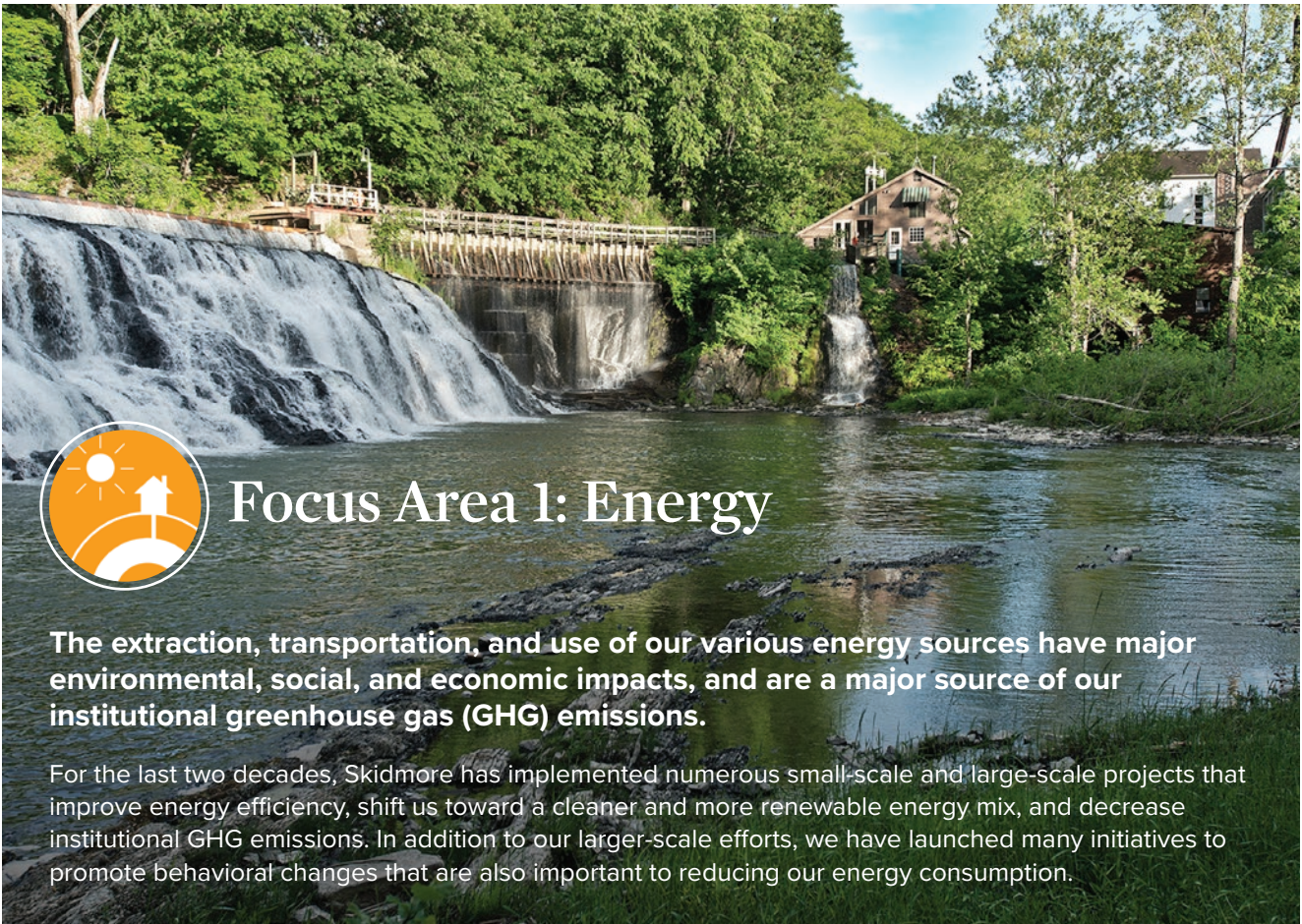




COLLEGE BUILDING SPACE

College building space has increased significantly since 2000 and since releasing the *2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan*. Skidmore owns and maintains about 1.97 million square feet of building space, representing a 6.5% increase since 2015 and a 38.5% increase compared to 2000. Future projected increases (indicated with the dotted line) represent new square footage from the Center for Integrated Sciences and account for building losses such as Harder Hall. This projection does not include other future projects such as the new Sports Center.





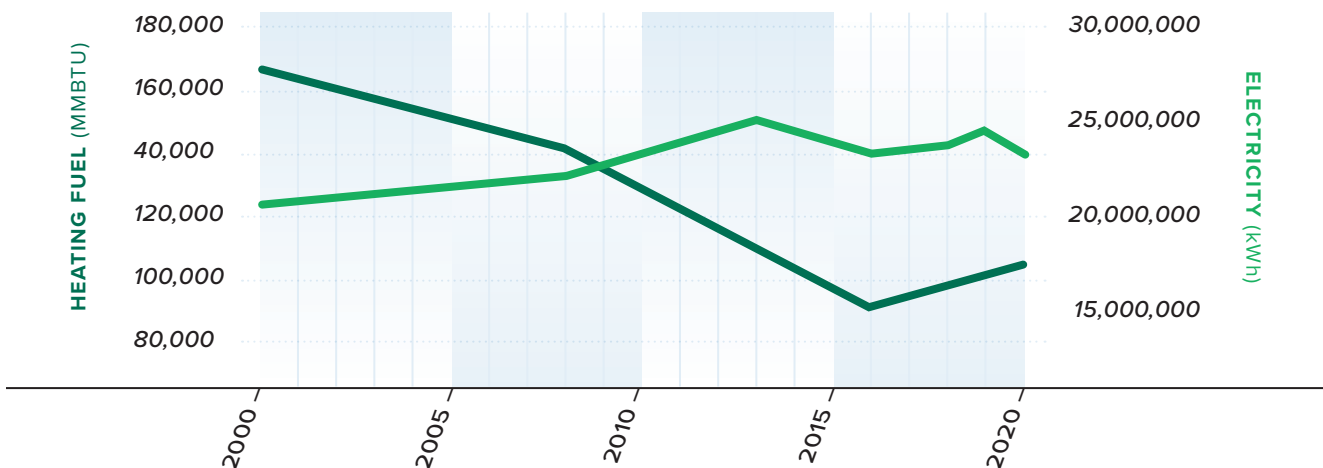
Focus Area 1: Energy

The extraction, transportation, and use of our various energy sources have major environmental, social, and economic impacts, and are a major source of our institutional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

For the last two decades, Skidmore has implemented numerous small-scale and large-scale projects that improve energy efficiency, shift us toward a cleaner and more renewable energy mix, and decrease institutional GHG emissions. In addition to our larger-scale efforts, we have launched many initiatives to promote behavioral changes that are also important to reducing our energy consumption.

CAMPUS ENERGY CONSUMPTION

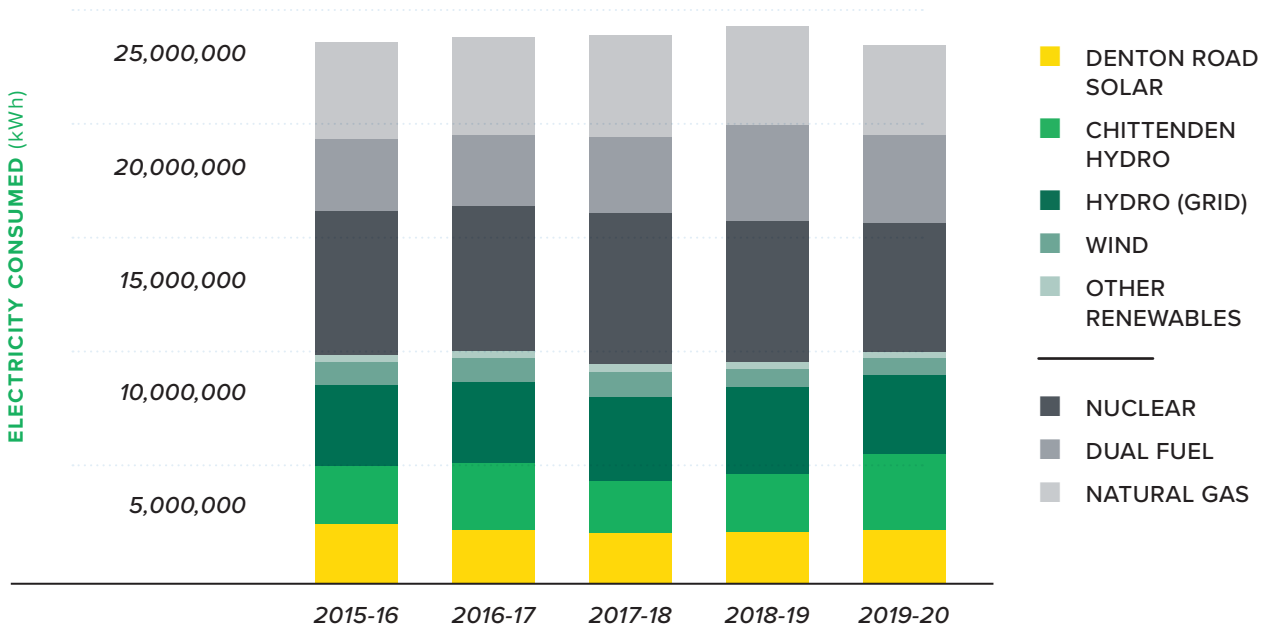
Although Skidmore's population and building space is growing, the College's investments in energy efficiency and conservation measures have reduced our fossil fuel use and limited growth in electrical consumption. Over the last two decades, Skidmore's investments in modernizing our heating systems (including decommissioning our centralized steam plant in 2008), shifting to cleaner fuels, expanding geothermal efforts, and constructing high-efficiency buildings have contributed to significant reductions in fossil fuel demand. Our moderate increase in electrical consumption is a significant accomplishment when considering the differences between our campus in 2000 and 2020. Skidmore now includes more lab equipment, more mechanical systems (including dozens of electric-powered geothermal pumps), larger server rooms, and substantially more personal electronics, all of which contribute to increased electrical consumption.



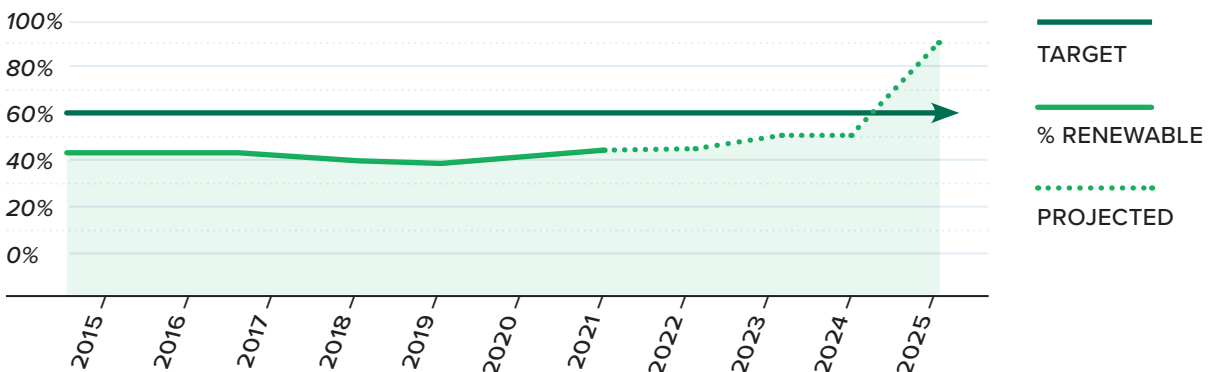
GOAL 1: 60% OF OUR ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

Current progress: The percent of electricity from renewable sources increased from 40% to 43% compared to FY'19.

Skidmore consumed 23,475,570 kWh of electricity in Fiscal Year 2020, representing a 3.4% decrease from the previous year. This reduction is likely due to the campus closure from COVID-19. Skidmore's solar array generated 2,362,892 kWh (10%), and the Chittenden Falls small-hydro facility generated 3,279,150 kWh (14%). The hydro facility generated 30% more electricity in FY'20 compared to the previous year. Annual weather fluctuations may have contributed to this increase, but the facility has also undergone a multi-year renovation that increased the generation capacity. The College received another 4,472,649 kWh (19%) of electricity from renewable sources (excluding nuclear) from our energy supplier. Skidmore does not claim the environmental attributes of the renewable electricity received through the grid from our energy supplier and therefore does not minimize our institutional GHG emissions.



Looking ahead, Skidmore hopes to exceed our goal of 60% renewable electricity by 2025. Skidmore is currently a member of the 21-campus New York Higher Education Large Scale Renewable Energy (NY HE LSRE) Consortium. The Consortium seeks to purchase electricity from new, large-scale renewable energy projects built within New York State. If successful, Skidmore will purchase 100% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2025 through virtual power purchase agreements, exceeding our 60% target.

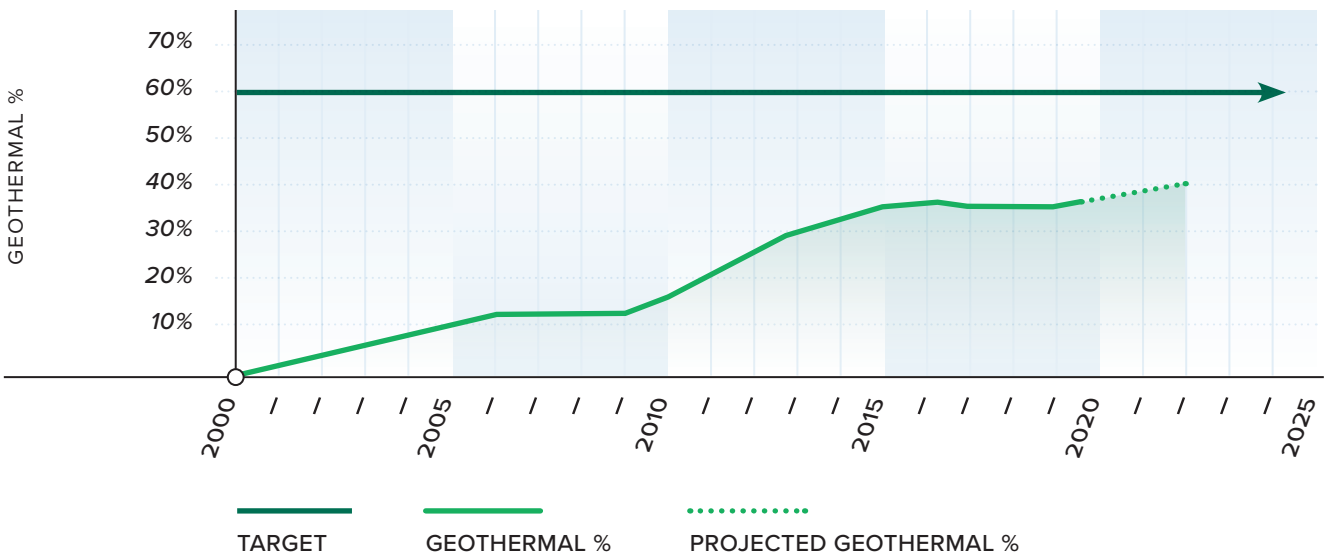
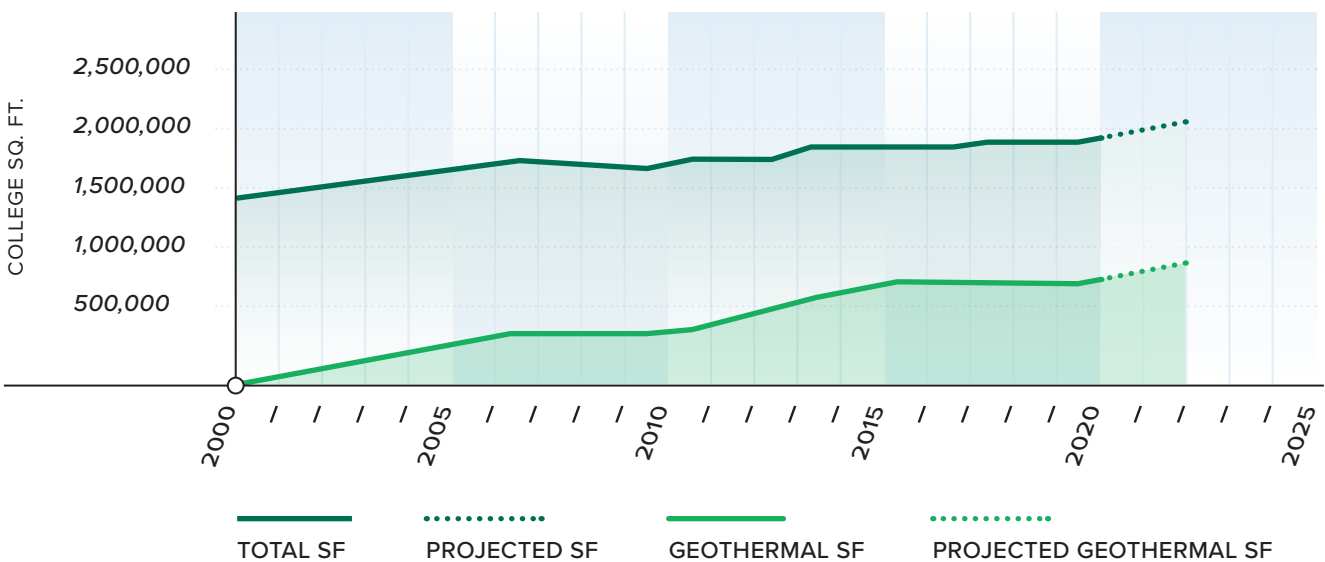


GOAL 2: 60% OF OUR HEATING AND COOLING FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

Current progress: Skidmore increased its percentage of college square footage heated and cooled with geothermal energy from 35% to 37% compared to FY'19.

Completing the CIS North Wing (58,000 square feet) and demolishing Harder Hall contributed to increased geothermal energy square footage. The addition of the Annex (32,000 square feet) offset some gains.

Looking ahead, Skidmore will heat and cool 40% of college square footage with geothermal energy once the CIS project is complete. This projection does not include proposed projects such as the new Sports Center, which would have a significant contribution to our renewable heating and cooling goal if conditioned with geothermal energy.

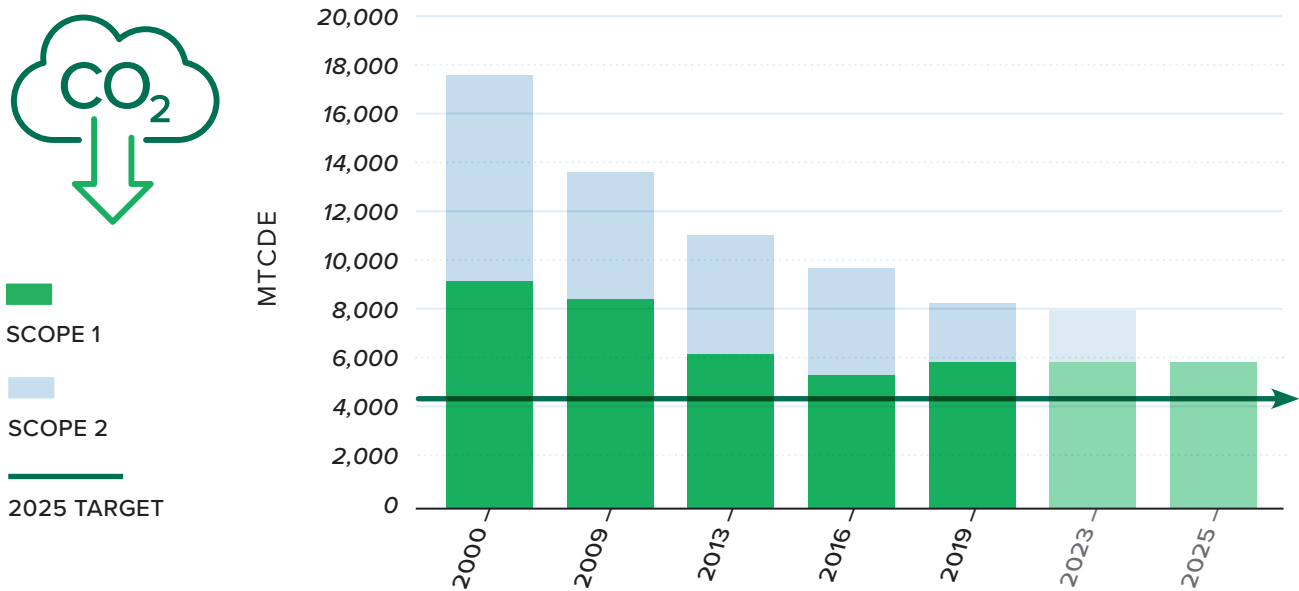


GOAL 3: 75% REDUCTION IN OUR SCOPE 1 AND 2 GHG EMISSIONS

Current progress: Skidmore has reduced scope one and two GHG emissions by 52% from our normalized 2000 baseline.

Skidmore’s investments in energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy have contributed to a significant reduction in scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions compared to 2000 levels. If the NY HE LSRE Project is successful, we expect to eliminate scope two emissions in FY’25. Eliminating scope 2 emissions would result in a 66% reduction in scope 1 and 2 GHG from normalized 2000 levels (assuming scope 1 emissions do not increase). Eliminating scope 2 emissions would leave Skidmore in a strong position to achieve our 75% reduction goal but will require targeted scope 1 mitigation efforts over the next four years. Possible scope 1 mitigation efforts include electrifying fleet and equipment, converting buildings to geothermal energy, investing in additional building efficiency enhancements, or reducing college square footage. Skidmore may also consider utilizing its undeveloped lands as a carbon sink. Managing lands for carbon sequestration purposes would allow Skidmore to offset an equal amount of scope 1 carbon emissions as our forested lands sequester in a year. It is critical to conduct a baseline carbon assessment of our forests quickly to serve as a point of comparison in the future.

Skidmore’s 2019 GHG Inventory is the first to report an increase in scope 1 emissions since Skidmore began comparing GHG emissions from our 2000 baseline. Construction efforts may have caused this increase and, therefore, may be temporary. However, we should be mindful of scope 1 trends. After two decades of substantial investments in our facilities, there are fewer “low-hanging fruit” project options to pursue that would provide significant scope 1 savings, and as our campus grows, we can also expect scope 1 emissions to increase.



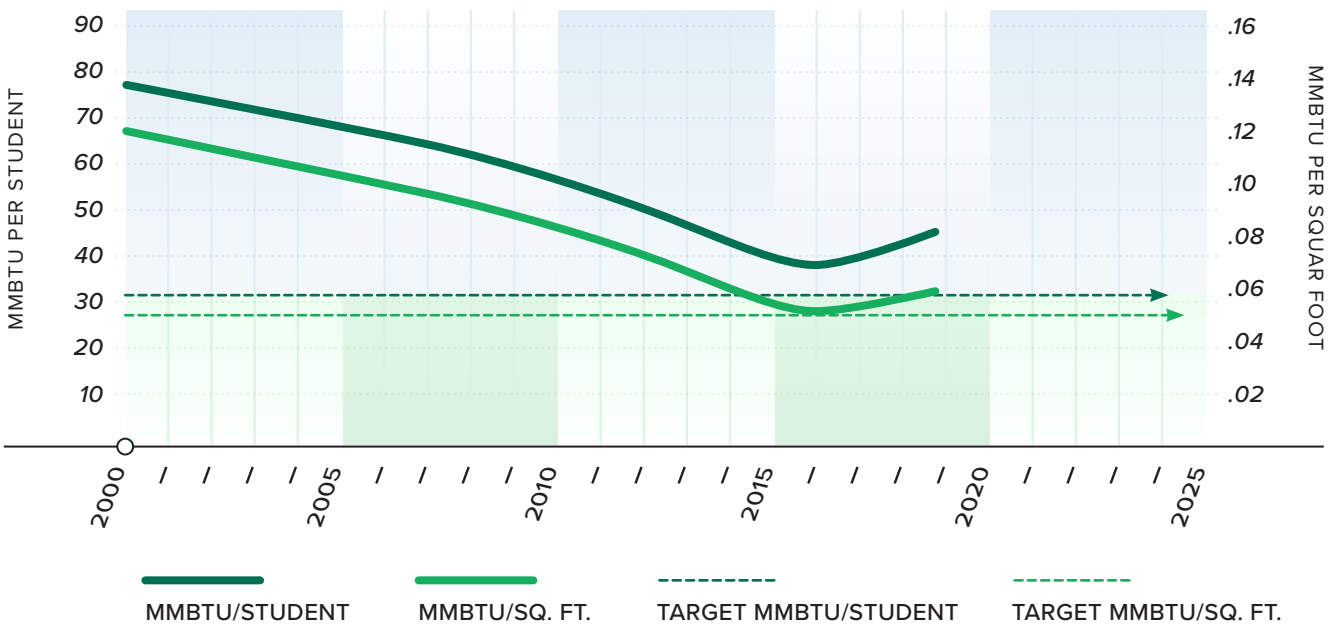
¹ Scope 1 represents direct emissions that are owned and controlled by the College, including emissions from heating and fleet fuels, fertilizer use, fugitive refrigerants, and animal husbandry. Scope two represents indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity.

GOAL 4:

60% REDUCTION IN ENERGY USE FOR HEATING AND COOLING PER STUDENT AND SQUARE FOOT

Current progress: We report a 42% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student (44.46 MMBTU/student) and 52% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per square foot (0.06 MMBTU/sq. ft.) from 2000 levels.

Our heating and cooling energy use per student and square foot have increased compared to our FY'16 levels. This increase is primarily caused by a 16% increase in natural gas use during Fiscal Year 2019, possibly due to ongoing construction projects. Overall, Skidmore is in a strong position, but will need to implement additional efficiency or geothermal projects to meet our 60% target by 2025.

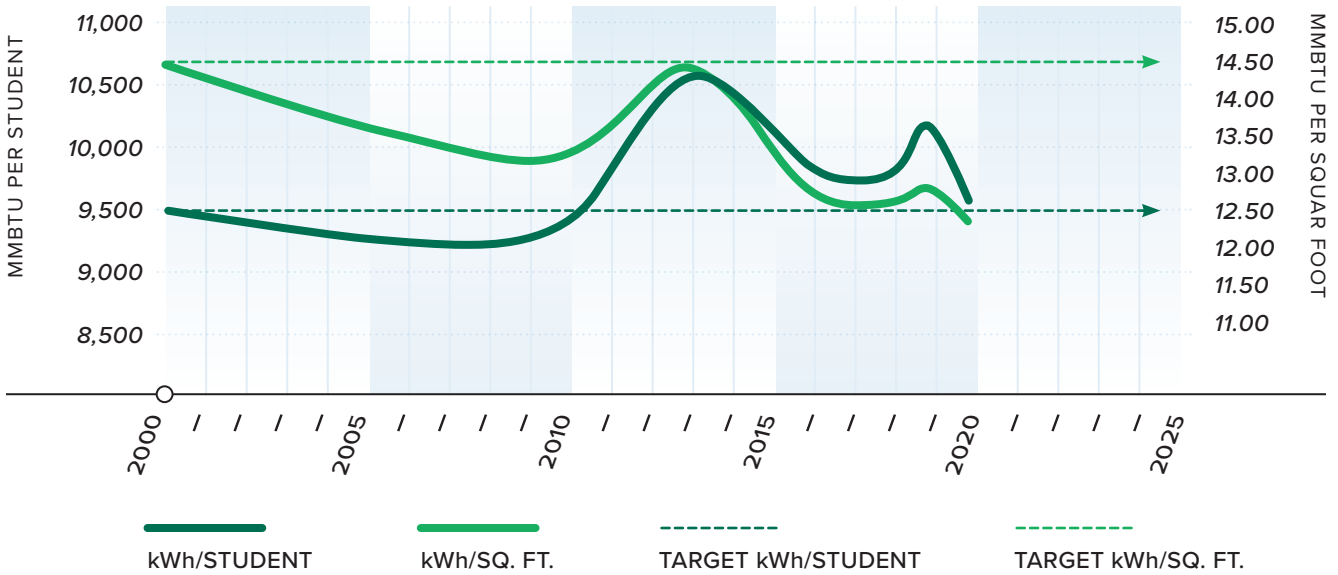


GOAL 5: MAINTAIN ELECTRICITY USE PER STUDENT AND SQUARE FOOT.

Current progress: 1% increase in electricity use per student (9589.69 kWh/student) and 15% reduction in electricity use per square foot (12.35 kWh/sq. ft.) from 2000 levels.

Skidmore is close to maintaining electricity use per student from 2000 levels. While there is a modest increase, it is important to recognize the campus community uses more electronic equipment and devices than in 2000 (e.g., laboratory equipment, server rooms, electric vehicle charging stations, computers).

It is a significant accomplishment to maintain consumption on a per-student basis, given the increased demand from campus users. Our strong position in electricity use per square foot is the result of campus efficiency and conservation efforts like building retrofits, lighting upgrades, and behavior change efforts.





Energy Efforts by Year

2015-16

- Installed a 54-panel solar thermal array on the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.
- Completed a LED lighting retrofit in the Williamson Sports Center swimming pool, saving 134,000 kWh each year.
- Improved the thermal envelope and installed super high efficiency heating and cooling systems in the Surrey Inn and Pine Cottage.
- Made numerous efficiency and conservation improvements to the Waring House, the new location of Admissions.
- Began constructing our third district geothermal field.
- Continued to explore energy metering opportunities in campus buildings.



2016-2017

- Completed construction of the North Campus district geothermal bore field.
- Installed its second electric vehicle charging station.
- Completed its fourth greenhouse gas inventory.
- Purchased a hybrid vehicle for Campus Safety.
- Purchased a hybrid vehicle that faculty, staff, and students may reserve for College travel.
- Piloted LED lighting in several campus buildings.



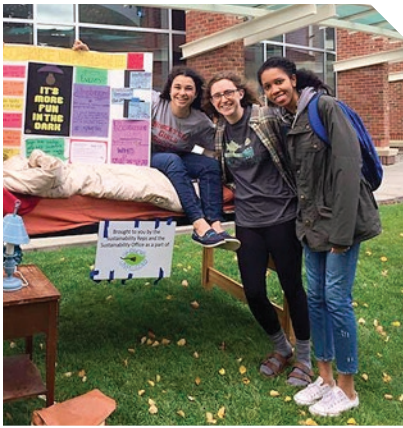
2017-2018

- Installed LED lighting in campus residence halls.
- Completed fourth institutional greenhouse gas inventory, allowing the College to identify future mitigation strategies.
- Upgraded the BikeMore fleet to provide higher quality experience for riders.



2018-2019

- Installed LED lighting in campus residence halls.
- Installed energy regenerating elevators in Jonsson Tower.
- Joined the New York Higher Education Large-Scale Renewable Energy Project consortium to investigate the feasibility of purchasing renewable energy from a large-scale facility through a virtual power purchase agreement.



2019-2020

- Received \$50,000 in grant funding from NYSERDA and National Grid to install three electric vehicle charging stations to meet the increasing demand for EV infrastructure.
- Initiated the North Campus geothermal system to support the North Wing of the Center for Integrated Sciences.
- Engaged student clubs in Skidmore Unplugged by creating new programming aimed at energy conservation beyond residence halls.

FUTURE STEPS

Future steps will, in many ways, be influenced by grant and incentive dollars and new, innovative partnerships, but possible strategies for meeting our energy goals might include:

- Implementing individual building metering with connection to a common, comprehensive dashboard.
- Converting Dana Science Center, Palamountain Hall, Bolton Hall, and/or Tisch learning Center to geothermal energy and connecting the systems to the North Campus geothermal bore field.
- Providing staff with professional development opportunities that will support the Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy, including LEED training and credentials.
- Retrofitting additional lighting systems across campus.
- Adjusting the Campus Building Temperature Policy;
- Converting the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theatre Building to geothermal heating and cooling and connecting the building to the Art Quad geothermal node.
- Developing additional campaigns, programs, and training to promote behavioral changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the Energy Working Group reconvenes, the CSS offers the following recommendations:

- Create a multi-year action plan to address Scope 1 emissions. The plan may address building efficiency upgrades, geothermal retrofits, fertilizer management strategies, fleet and equipment management strategies.
- Develop a strategy for expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure across campus, including a charging hub for Skidmore fleet vehicles.
- Consider options for electrifying building operations and facilities equipment to avoid the combustion of fossil fuels.
- Develop multi-year building metering plan to track energy use and identify energy savings through building management approaches.
- Maintain regular communication with the Land Stewardship Working Group to understand potential for using forest carbon sequestration to offset scope 1 emissions.



Focus Area 2: Food

Food production, processing, and distribution methods are integrally connected to ecosystem and human health. Skidmore is engaged in many initiatives to advance sustainable food purchasing, and the College is actively exploring additional opportunities to reduce GHG emissions from our food choices and support a just, sustainable food system by encouraging more transparency in our supply chain.

OUR GOAL: 25% SUSTAINABLE FOOD IN DINING SERVICES

Current Progress: Our sustainable food percentage remained at 11% compared to 2018.

Sustainable Food is measure by recording, researching, and coding every food item purchased for the Dining Hall in July, September, October, and April. Each product that meets one of the five sustainable food criteria is recorded as a sustainable food purchase and contributes to our annual food percentage. The result of our 4-month inventory is referred to as our annual sustainable food percentage.

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA BROADLY DEFINE SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Food items only need to meet one of the five criteria.

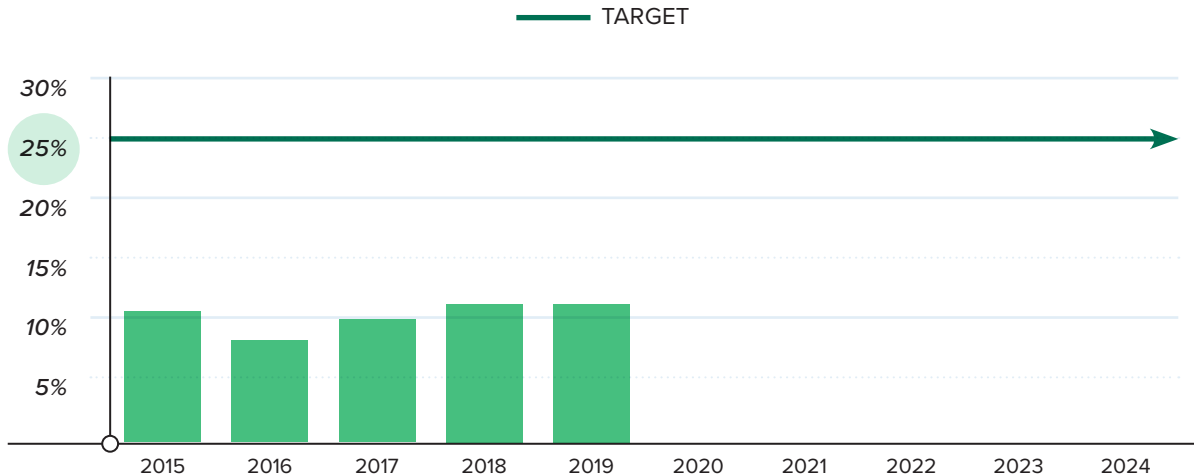
- **Local and Community-Based:** These foods can be traced to farms and businesses that are locally owned and operated (within 250 miles). Sourcing local and community-based foods supports the local economy and builds community relations. Foods travel fewer miles to reach consumers. Seasonal foods, when fresh, often have a higher nutrient content.
- **Fair:** Individuals involved in food production, distribution, preparation – and other parts of the food system – work in safe and fair conditions; receive a living wage; are ensured the right to organize and the right to a grievance process; and have equal opportunity for employment. Fair food builds community capacity and ensures and promotes socially just practices in the food system.
- **Ecologically Sound:** Farms, businesses, and other operations involved with food production practice environmental stewardship that conserves biodiversity and preserves natural resources, including energy, wildlife, water, air, and soil. Production practices should minimize toxic substances as well as direct and indirect petroleum inputs.
- **Humane:** Animals can express natural behavior in a low-stress environment and are raised with no hormones or unnecessary medication.
- **Conscientious:** Business operations are guided by the principles of sustainability. The Food Working Group will consider Certified Benefit Corporations and organizations that routinely publish Corporate Social Responsibility Reports proving consistent ethical and transparent business practices. Foods that contain ingredients that have been proven harmful to human health or are produced under egregious labor conditions are not considered Sustainable Food.

Adopted from the Real Food Calculator, 2014

PURCHASING TRENDS

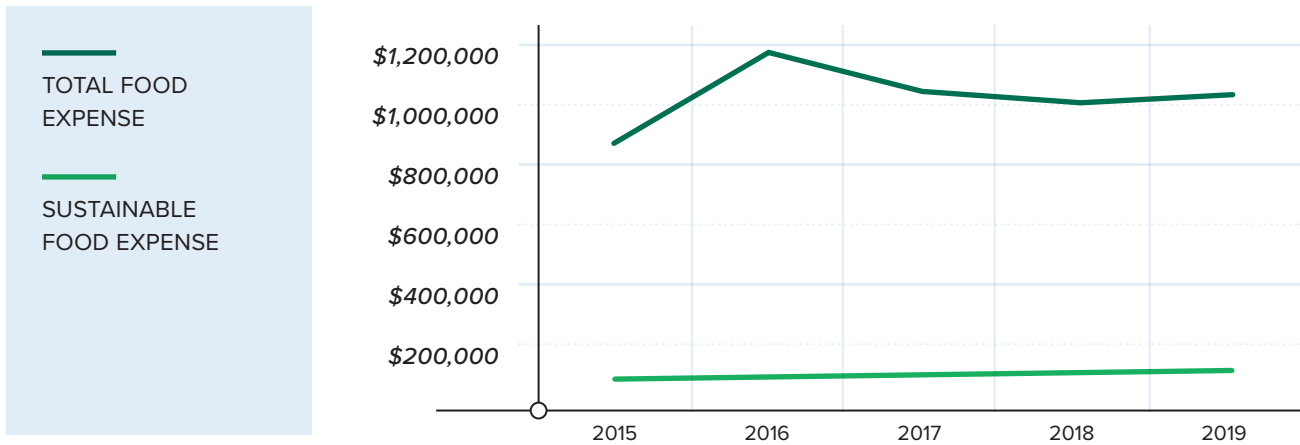
Skidmore's sustainable food percentage is very similar compared to our 2015 inventory. However, Skidmore's total food expenses are increasing, and therefore more dollars are going toward sustainable food items.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PERCENTAGE, 2015-2019



When compared to 2015, Skidmore spent \$23,000 more on sustainable food items. It is worth noting that the drop in our sustainable food percentage in 2016 (8%) was due to a reporting error. The Sustainability Office later learned that Sustainable Food interns received invoice packets from The Spa and Atrium Café, and these purchases should not be included in the Sustainable Food inventory. This error resulted in an overcalculation of food expenses but did not contribute to a proportional increase in sustainable food, reducing our annual sustainable food percentage.

FOOD EXPENDITURES, 2015-2019



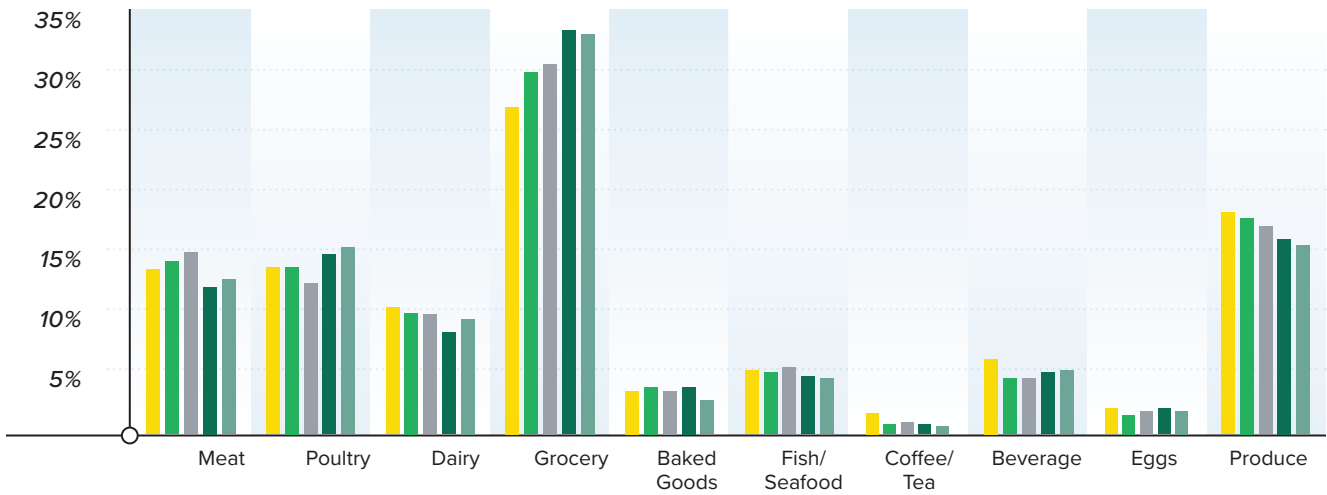
FOOD CATEGORY TRENDS

The distribution of Skidmore's annual food budget is changing. Over the last five years, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of our food budget going toward grocery items, while the proportion of our food budget going toward dairy and produce products is decreasing. These changes are noteworthy because the opportunity to purchase foods that meet our sustainable food criteria varies greatly between product categories. Historically, Skidmore's grocery purchases have had very low sustainable food percentages due to limited product options or cost. Conversely, there are many sustainable, cost-competitive products in the produce and dairy categories. If these purchasing trends continue, it will be critical to take advantage of every opportunity to shift purchases toward sustainable options in the categories with many affordable product options to offset the impact of increasing costs in categories with fewer sustainable options.

Purchasing data also shows a shift in the sustainable food percentage within product categories. The data shows a consistent reduction in the sustainable food percentage of our meat and baked goods purchases over time. In contrast, there is an increase in the sustainable food percentage of fish/seafood, produce, and eggs. The sustainable food percentage of the dairy category has fluctuated over time but remains strong. The sustainable food percentage of the grocery category has also increased over time. Although the percentage of our grocery purchases is low, this category has a disproportionate impact on the sustainable food percentage because it makes up a significant portion of the overall budget (32%).

ANNUAL FOOD SPEND PERCENTAGE BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



SUSTAINABLE FOOD PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Meat	12.69%	9.37%	6.04%	8.08%	7.40%
Poultry	1.27%	1.32%	1.16%	3.20%	3.47%
Dairy	36.93%	33.01%	35.41%	40.70%	33.81%
Grocery	2.56%	3.01%	3.34%	3.62%	4.08%
Baked Goods	16.35%	15.76%	13.74%	11.92%	2.71%
Fish/Seafood	6.36%	9.68%	34.17%	34.58%	47.77%
Coffee/Tea	96.31%	24.06%	31.59%	86.11%	87.91%
Beverage	.70%	1.43%	1.26%	1.62%	0.00%
Eggs	.11%	.76%	3.13%	4.98%	6.76%
Produce	9.84%	7.68%	10.58%	14.15%	15.42%



SUSTAINABLE FOOD BY VENDOR

Skidmore partners with small, mid-size, and large vendors and distributors to support our sustainable food goals. Managing purchasing relationships with such a wide variety of partners is a significant logistical challenge, and we commend Dining Services for engaging in this work.

The chart on page 19 lists all of the Dining Hall's food vendors since 2015 and reports each vendor's sustainable food percentage. The chart also includes the percent of the food budget paid to each vendor each year. This provides an understanding of how our food budget is distributed and each vendor's impact on our sustainable food percentage.

The five-year purchasing data shows that our partnerships with local farms and smaller distributors are often short-lived and typically make up a small percentage of our total food budget. We expect purchases from local farms and smaller distributors to constitute a small portion of the overall food budget, but the ephemeral nature of these relationships makes it difficult to advance our sustainable food percentage through local food purchasing. Longer-term relationships would enable Skidmore to plan with local farms to increase production to meet our institutional needs while simultaneously providing farms with more certainty. The frequent changes in vendors also create logistical and management challenges for Dining Services staff as new delivery schedules and norms need to develop between a vendor and the College.

It is also worth noting that the sustainable food percentage of our larger providers is not increasing at the rate necessary to meet our sustainable food goal. In some instances, this may be because vendors do not offer sustainable options. However, inventory data indicates our purchasing decisions often shift away from sustainable items over time. There may be several reasons why this is happening, including reasons out of Skidmore's control. However, to the greatest extent possible, Dining Services should create processes within its contracting and purchasing procedures to support our long-term sustainable food goals. Changes in contract language could hold vendors more accountable to their sustainable food commitments, and procedural changes within Dining Services will help us maintain existing sustainable food purchases over time, and ensure that intentional shifts to sustainable food items and vendors become integrated into daily choices and operational norms.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PERCENTAGE BY VENDOR

Vendor Name	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
9 Miles East					100.00%	0.06%	100.00%	0.01%		
Adventure In Foods	13.40%	0.61%	31.65%	0.39%	22.10%	0.46%	49.29%	0.67%	42.05%	0.66%
Antonucci's	8.33%	14.09%	6.65%	14.56%	15.93%	14.36%	16.41%	11.51%	21.41%	13.01%
Argyle Cheese Farmer	100.00%	0.03%	100.00%	0.01%						
Bartlette Farm					100.00%	0.06%	100.00%	0.08%		
BJ Farms	100.00%	0.04%	100.00%	0.00%						
Bimbo Foods	0.00%	0.82%	0.00%	0.57%	0.00%	0.44%	0.00%	0.51%	0.00%	0.49%
Black River Produce	95.14%	2.26%	69.65%	3.16%	67.10%	2.13%	80.10%	1.79%	85.09%	1.21%
Champlain Orchards							100.00%	0.31%		
D. Brickman	0.57%	0.72%								
Danascara Cheese	100.00%	0.02%								
Formisano	100.00%	0.45%	100.00%	0.36%	46.60%	0.24%	0.00%	0.30%	0.00%	0.22%
Headwater Food Hub							100.00%	1.10%	100.00%	1.40%
Heartland			0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.11%	0.00%	0.08%
Heidelberg Baking			100.00%	0.25%	100.00%	0.37%	100.00%	0.45%	100.00%	0.08%
Hill and Markes	10.06%	0.17%	0.00%	0.04%	0.00%	0.11%	0.00%	0.19%	0.00%	0.02%
Hillcrest Foods	7.56%	2.00%	9.12%	2.03%	7.81%	1.91%	4.10%	2.31%	0.00%	1.89%
John Boy's Farm							100.00%	0.26%		
Killcoyne Farm									100.00%	0.34%
Knight Orchards	100.00%	0.35%	100.00%	0.17%	100.00%	0.23%				
Lakeside Farms	99.93%	0.15%	40.41%	0.18%	100.00%	0.11%	29.75%	0.28%		
Mapleland			100.00%	0.02%	100.00%	0.02%				
Mastroianni	0.00%	0.41%	0.00%	0.20%						
Parillo Sausage	0.00%	0.28%	0.00%	0.12%	0.00%	0.13%	0.00%	0.15%	0.00%	0.23%
Pepsi	0.00%	1.47%	0.00%	2.22%	0.00%	2.77%	0.00%	3.35%	0.00%	3.86%
Perry Hill			100.00%	0.03%						
Pitney Meadows							100.00%	0.29%	100.00%	0.28%
Pleasant Valley					100.00%	0.03%	100.00%	0.03%	100.00%	0.09%
Premium Provisions			0.00%	0.18%	0.00%	0.17%	0.00%	0.08%		
Prestige	100.00%	1.66%	100.00%	0.20%						
Purdy and Sons	7.77%	2.09%								
Sea 2 Table	100.00%	0.08%								
Sheldon Farms			100.00%	0.04%	100.00%	0.03%				
Skidmore Community Garden	100.00%	0.24%	100.00%	0.16%	100.00%	0.06%	100.00%	0.10%	100.00%	0.20%
Stewart's	100.00%	1.75%	99.64%	1.00%	100.00%	1.50%	100.00%	1.61%	100.00%	1.69%
Sysco	2.98%	69.75%	3.43%	73.51%	4.67%	74.39%	4.31%	73.97%	4.26%	73.84%
Thomas Poultry	0.00%	0.48%	0.00%	0.31%	0.00%	0.38%	0.00%	0.54%	0.00%	0.24%
Tropicana			0.00%	0.25%						
Westside Kosher									0.00%	0.18%
Wm. H Buckley	100.00%	0.09%								

■ SUSTAINABLE FOOD %

■ % OF TOTAL SPEND

Sustainable Food Efforts by Year



2015-2016

- Updated the Sustainable Food metrics to include purchases from B-Corporations.
- Formalized a three-credit Sustainable Food Internship through the Sustainability Office, Dining Services, and Environmental Studies and Sciences Program to track Sustainable Food purchases and recommend new practices.
- Developed new relationships with local and regional producers.
- Piloted a Sustainable Food Day.
- Participated in the second annual New York Campus Crunch.
- Grew and served over 1000 pounds of produce from the Community Garden.
- Became a Marine Stewardship Council Chain of Custody certified institution.



2016-2017

- Implemented Low-Impact Dining, a weekly initiative to support sustainable food systems and reduce the ecological impact of our dining hall menu.
- Interns submitted research to Dining Services on supply chains, sourcing local food and seasonal availability, and sustainable alternatives for Skidmore's most frequently purchased ingredients.
- Created a new Dining Communications position to promote ongoing efforts.
- Visited local vendors and producers, including Antonucci's Wholesale Food and Produce Inc., Tiashoke Farm, a dairy farm in the Cabot Cooperative, a small family-run farm in the Green Acres Community Cooperative that provides sustainably-produced eggs, and Pleasant Valley Farm, a local family-run fruit and vegetable farm.
- Engaged with Pitney Meadows Community Farm to discuss partnership opportunities.



2017-2018

- Continued our Low-Impact Dining effort, a weekly initiative to support sustainable food systems and reduce the ecological impact of our dining hall menu.
- Hosted Njathi Kabui, chef, urban farmer, and food activist for a three-day campus residency that included class lectures, club visits, conversations with Dining Services staff, and a campus-wide lecture titled *Triple Consciousness and Sustainability*.
- Welcomed John Ubaldo '88 back to campus for a screening of *The Bullish Farmer*, a documentary that follows his journey from Wall St. to Cambridge, NY where he currently farms and advocates for food labelling standards, animal rights, and responsible agricultural practices.
- Established a relationship with Headwater Food Hub to purchase food from small- and medium-sized farms across New York State.
- Established a new student-led program to support the Low-Impact Dining initiative and improve communications regarding Skidmore's sustainable food efforts.
- Researched our community's values and perceptions of sustainable food, the availability of vegan and vegetarian options in the Dining Hall, and sustainable dining practices at peer and aspirant institutions through a collaborative student internship.



2018-2019

- Environmental Studies and Sciences capstone team assembled a portfolio of projects to assess various pathways and the feasibility of achieving our food goal.
- Served 275 people at the Community Garden's annual Harvest Dinner, a volunteer prepared dinner made from sustainable food items.
- Continued our Low-Impact Dining effort, a weekly initiative to support sustainable food systems and reduce the ecological impact of our dining hall menu.
- Visited The Farm Bridge, a local food packer in Kingston, NY to explore a possible partnership with Skidmore.

2019-2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the garden program and our dining hall initiatives were temporarily suspended.

- Ran the most successful growing season in the Skidmore Community Garden for 2019, growing and selling more than 1,400 pounds of food to the dining hall.

FUTURE STEPS

Strategies that may be implemented to achieve our Food goal include:

- Continuing to identify partnerships with local growers and distributors.
- Strengthening the purchasing partnership with local food vendors, specifically Headwater Food Hub.
- Working more closely with our largest food vendors to identify products that meet our sustainable food criteria and negotiate pricing for these products.
- Improving supply chain transparency with current vendors.
- Integrating Sustainable Food metrics and commitments into contracts with food vendors.
- Increasing awareness of sustainable food procurement in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MID-POINT REVIEW

As the Food Working Group reconvenes, the CSS offers the following recommendations:

- Shift specific, commonly-purchased staple food items to a sustainable option. This wholesale shift will reduce the complexity of managing sustainable food purchases that are only used on certain days or for special events and will have a high impact on our sustainable food percentage. Consider recommendations from student independent research projects and the 2019 ESS capstone project, *25 by 25: An Action Plan for Achieving 25% Sustainable Food Procurement at Skidmore College by 2025*.
- Develop an annual action plan that outlines specific shifts toward sustainable products. The plan should include the estimated budget impact to assess the feasibility of each potential change.
- Rather than develop more lenient sustainable food metrics, consider changes to how sustainable food expenses are measured. Consider increasing the impact of food expenses that meet multiple sustainable food criteria (e.g., purchases that meet two criteria measured at 1.5x total expense, purchases that meet three criteria measure at 2x expense) to represent the collective impact of these purchasing decisions.
- Integrate sustainable food criteria and purchasing expectations into contracts. Ensure the vendor is capable of providing records on invoices that state the origin or certification of products.
- Review the effectiveness of the Low-Impact Dining Initiative and the Sustainable Food Internship and consider re-launching the programs if there is support, resources, and a strong commitment from stakeholder groups.



Waste reduction is broad in scope in that it affects all offices and operations across campus, as well as the surrounding community and environment.

Skidmore produces general municipal solid waste, hazardous materials, as well as compost and recyclables. With such a large waste stream and many stakeholders, there are numerous opportunities for improvements. The following goals outlined aim to make improvements in different areas of the college.

GOAL 1: 60% DIVERSION RATE IN ROUTINE OPERATIONS

Current progress: The campus diversion rate increased from 34% to 41% from FY'19.

The campus diversion rate includes landfill and recycled material managed by the College between June 2019 and February 2020. Our waste hauler could not record the weight of front-load landfill containers in March, April, and May due to broken equipment. Campus move-out typically creates a significant amount of landfill material, and this influx often counteracts a stronger academic year diversion rate. Given the lack of move-out data, the CSS believes our reported diversion rate is inflated.

The tonnage figures reported are cumulative of the entire 2020 Fiscal Year. The CSS chose to provide tonnage data for the whole Academic Year report the volume of our waste streams more accurately. We acknowledge the landfill tonnage is underrepresented in this section.

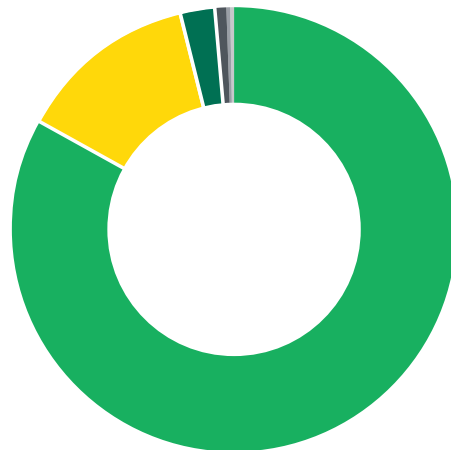
In total, Skidmore managed 662.5 tons of material in our waste and diversion stream in Fiscal Year 2020. This includes:

- Landfill: 378 tons (57%)
- Zero-Sort: 237 tons (36%)
- Dining Hall composting: 38 tons (6%)
- On-Campus composting: 7 tons (1%)
- Electronic recycling: 2 tons (0.3%)
- Light bulb recycling: .5 tons (0.08%)

Upon reviewing campus diversion streams, we find that Zero-Sort recycling continues to be our largest contributor to our campus diversion rate. The Dining Hall pre-consumer composting program also plays a significant role and could be scaled by incorporating post-consumer food waste in the future.

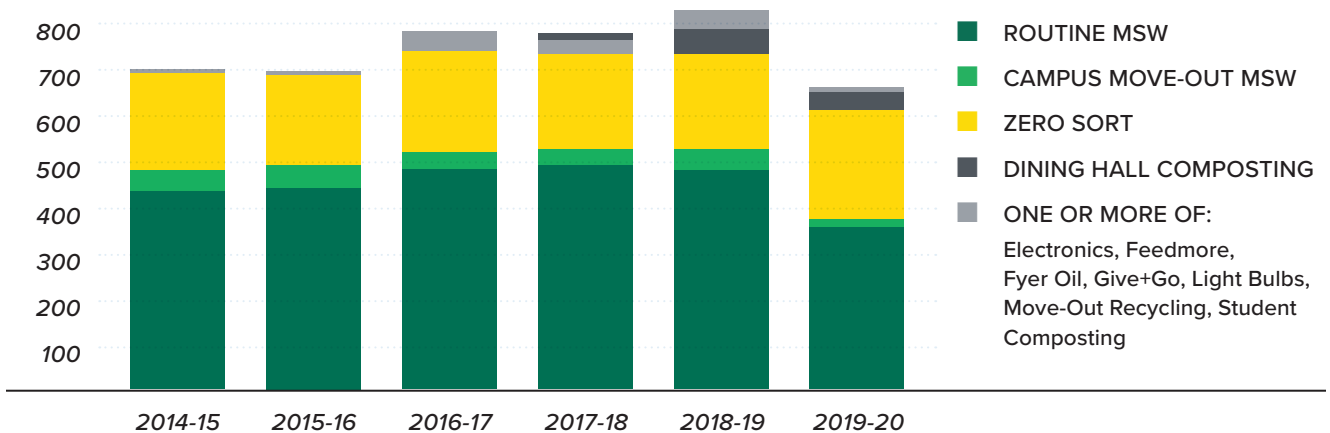
2019-2020 DIVERSION MATERIAL BY SOURCE

- ZERO SORT, 83.06%
- DINING HALL COMPOSTING, 13.25%
- STUDENT COMPOSTING, 2.4%
- ELECTRONICS, .84%
- MOVE-OUT RECYCLING, .29%
- LIGHT BULBS, .16%

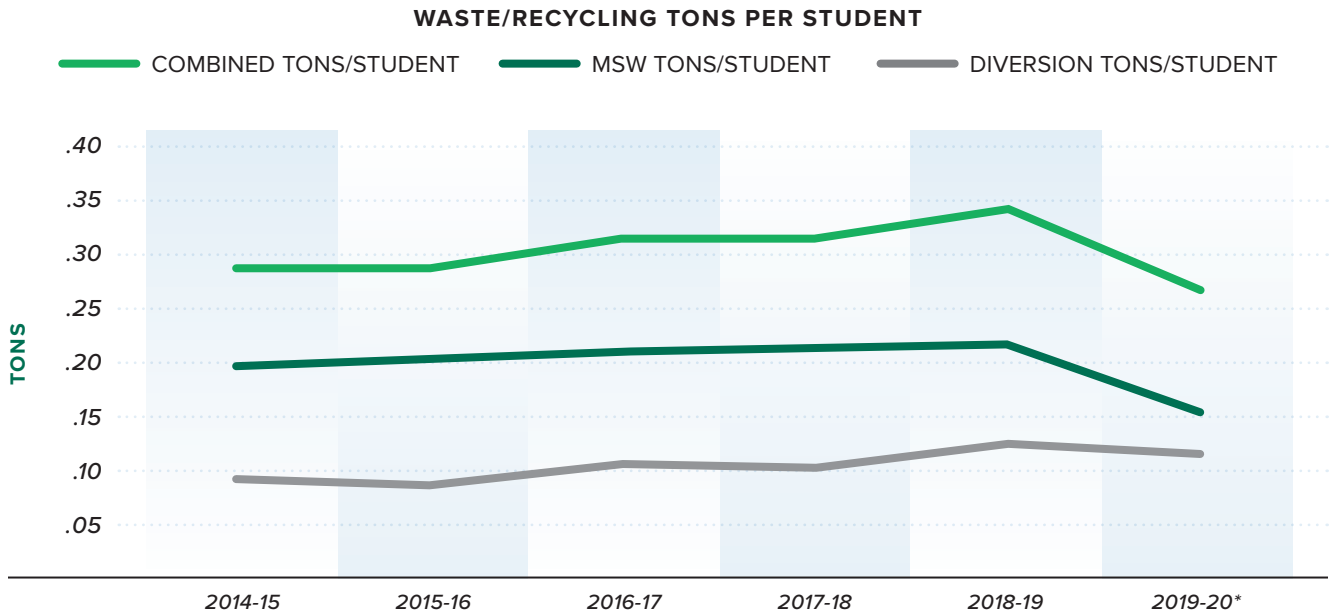


The five-year waste and diversion data shows a moderate but steady increase in landfill tonnage and overall tonnage each year (omitting 2019-2020 as an outlier). This increase presents a significant challenge to achieving our 60% diversion goal. The College has made substantial progress in our diversion efforts by expanding and launching new programs, but we are losing ground because of increasing landfill tonnage. As we consider approaches to meet our 60% target by 2025, the College should prioritize waste minimization in addition to waste diversion.

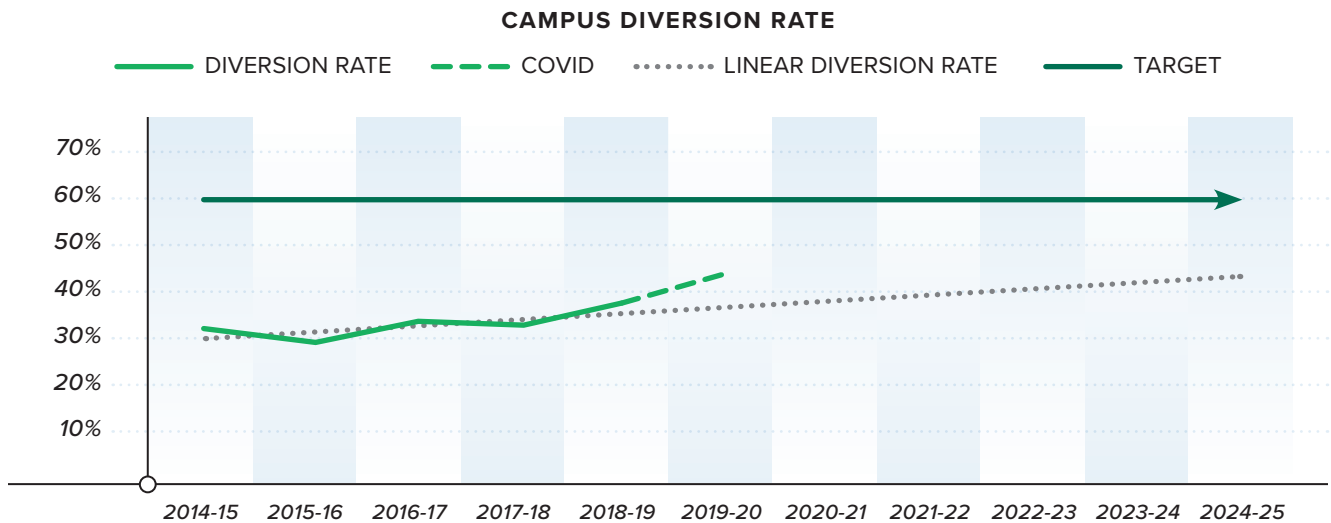
ANNUAL WASTE/RECYCLING TONNAGE BY SOURCE



For the first time, CSS is reporting waste and recycling tonnage per student to determine if our increasing campus population is causing the increase in overall tonnage. Reviewing five-year data indicates that both the landfill and recycling tonnage is increasing on a per-student basis. Diversion tonnage is increasing at a higher rate than landfill tonnage on a per-student basis.



Reviewing diversion rates over the last five years shows that Skidmore is making progress toward our 60% campus diversion goal. Efforts like updating signage and infrastructure, expanding the student-led composting program, launching the dining hall composting program, diverting unique materials, and our continuous education and outreach campaigns contribute to the increased diversion rate.



As we look toward 2025, Skidmore will need to identify additional strategies to meet the 60% diversion target. A multi-pronged approach is likely necessary. The Sustainability Office and Facilities Services should continue to collaborate to improve infrastructure (bins, signage, station locations), improve staff training, and bolster education and outreach efforts. Updated bins and signage will provide clear messaging about acceptable materials and improve user experience. Consistent staff training will ensure Facilities staff are informed of anticipated changes to our waste system and create space for valuable feedback about our waste program’s strengths and weaknesses. Facilities and the Sustainability Office should continue their education and outreach efforts and remain in close contact with our waste hauler to prepare for future changes.

Beyond adapting current practices, the College should consider new, systemic changes to our operations. Changes could focus on waste minimization efforts like shifting to more reusable materials, implementing paper reduction strategies, and adjusting waste management practices in office spaces. Together, these strategies may lead to a significant increase in the campus diversion rate.

GOAL 2: 50% DIVERSION RATE FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

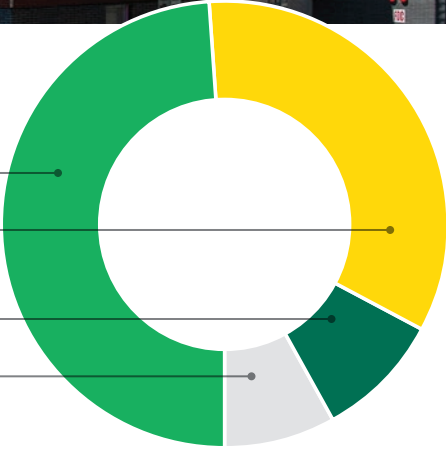
Current progress: 51% of the waste from the Center for Integrated Sciences construction project has been diverted from the landfill since 2018. Other construction and renovations projects have not been tracked.

The Center for Integrated Sciences will be Skidmore’s first LEED-certified building. Facilities Services has successfully managed the project’s waste stream to divert over 50% of the construction and demolition material from entering landfills. Skidmore’s new Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy requires all future campus projects to divert at least 50% of the construction and demolition material from landfills. The CSS will include the diversion rates of future campus projects in Annual Reports.



CIS WASTE AND DIVERSION STREAM

- LANDFILL | 269 TONS, 49%
- CONCRETE/ASPHALT | 184 TONS, 34%
- METAL | 50 TONS, 9%
- WOOD | 46 TONS, 8%



Waste Minimization & Diversion Efforts by Year



2015-2016

- Improved waste and recycling infrastructure in the Williamson Sports Center.
- Installed numerous water-bottle refill stations across campus.
- Conducted two campus waste audits.
- Composted over 11,000 pounds of food scraps and coffee grounds.
- Donated over 3,500 pounds of surplus food to a local food pantry.
- Implemented a campus-wide recycling education campaign.
- Constructed a larger-scale composting site to manage horse manure, lands and grounds debris, and coffee grounds from Dining Services.
- Provided opportunities to trade/donate unwanted items throughout the Academic Year.
- Expanded Give+Go efforts to include summer residents.



2016-2017

- Began composting lands and grounds debris, coffee grounds from dining services, and manure from our horse stables at the larger composting site on Daniels Road.
- Joined in the Post Landfill Action Network.
- Conducted a week-long food waste audit in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall to measure weekly food waste generation.
- Donated 45,000 pounds of material to local and regional organizations through Give+Go.
- Diverted an estimated 100 tons of material from the landfill during the Wachenheim Field renovation.
- Conducted a case study in the South Quad halls to determine strategies for increasing recycling rates in residential areas.
- Composted over 18,000 pounds of food scraps and coffee grounds.
- Donated 3,000 pounds of food to the local food pantry.
- Developed more comprehensive assessment methods to measure diversion rates.



2017-2018

- Composted landscaping debris, coffee grounds from dining services, and manure from our horse stables at our larger-scale composting site on Daniels Road.
- Participated in the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, and effort led by the SGA Sustainability Commission.
- Donated our artificial turf field to a local organization.
- Hosted a student-organized Zero-Waste Theme Dinner in the dining hall.
- Toured our local landfill to gain a better perspective on the impacts of waste generation on our local community, which was incorporated into campus outreach efforts.



2017-2018 (continued)

- Organized an apartment recycling competition to encourage recycling and composting practices in the Sussman and North Woods Villages.
- Tested several lid options on the waste and recycling containers in campus residence halls to determine their effect on diversion and contamination rates.
- Donated 40,000 pounds of material to local and regional organizations through Give+Go.
- Hosted the College's first Game Day Challenge during the Big Green Scream, where student staff from the Sustainability Office recycled 59% of the material from the event.
- Student clubs coordinated composting and recycling collection at Earth Day and Fun Day to encourage zero-waste events.
- Launched a successful pilot program to compost pre-consumer food waste in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, which diverted over 26,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill in two months.
- Students composted over 12,000 pounds of campus food scraps from sources including the Northwoods and Sussman Apartment Villages and Dining Services locations.
- Donated over 2,000 pounds of food to the local food pantry through FeedMore, a student club.



2018-2019

- Designed and implemented a more comprehensive campus-wide recycling program for student move-out.
- Composted landscaping debris, coffee grounds from dining services, and manure from our horse stables at our larger-scale composting site on Daniels Road.
- Diverted over 56 tons of food waste from the landfill through the pre-consumer compost program in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.
- Donated 40,000 pounds of material to the Backstretch, Trinity Alliance, and Capital City Rescue Mission through Give+Go.
- Hosted Game Day Challenge during the Big Green Scream, where students and staff from the Sustainability Office recycled 65% of the material from the event.
- Student clubs coordinated composting and recycling collection at Earth Day and Fun Day to bring attention to zero-waste event planning.
- Surveyed apartment residents to identify opportunities to improve the on-campus composting program.
- Composted over 15,000 pounds of food scraps and coffee grounds from the Northwoods and Sussman Apartment Villages and Dining Services through our student-led program.
- Donated over 4,000 pounds of food to the local food pantry through FeedMore, a student club.



2019-2020

- Organized several food-waste audits to inform future waste reduction strategies.
- Developed a pilot program to test new waste management strategies in office spaces.

FUTURE STEPS

Possible strategies for meeting Waste goals 1 and 2 include:

- Scheduling frequent meetings with our waste hauler to improve communication and enhance our waste programs.
- In addition to Give+Go and in collaboration with our waste hauler and Residential Life, develop a comprehensive move-out diversion program that will provide students with accessible Zero-Sort recycling containers near campus residences.
- Developing a comprehensive plan to divert construction and demolition material from landfills during all special projects.
- Incorporating resource management language in contracts and ensure contractors are following campus waste diversion guidelines.
- Continuing to update waste bins in residence halls.
- Identifying methods to accurately measure the amount of material that is donated by Skidmore College during campus renovations.
- Transitioning office and desk-side waste collection program to a more centralized program.
- Reducing our reliance on single-use items in dining and catering operations.
- Continuing outreach and education efforts, including training and campus campaigns about waste management and recycling for the campus community.
- Investigating the feasibility of reusable containers in catering and campus dining facilities.
- Composting post-consumer food waste in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.
- Expanding composting capabilities at our larger-scale site.
- Implement the office and desk-side waste pilot program.
- Providing avenues for students to borrow or sell items to fellow or incoming students to reduce the number of new items purchased, as well as ways for students to donate unwanted items to local organizations throughout the Academic Year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MID-POINT REVIEW

As the Waste Working Group reconvenes, the CSS offers the following recommendations:

- Integrate additional material streams into diversion rate calculations (e.g., metal recycling). If necessary, code specific materials under Special Projects.
- Report the diversion rate of each special project rather than the cumulative total for the year. List all projects where diversion rates were not tracked and include rationale.
- Clarify metrics for tracking waste diversion for construction and renovation. The CSS highly recommends following LEED guidelines.
- Consider developing a new waste goal focused on waste minimization in addition to waste diversion. These goals may include a percent reduction in overall tonnage or a percent reduction in tonnage per student.
- Outline a waste minimization action plan. The plan may include strategies to shift to reusable to-go and catering wares, reduce office printing, and establish a semester cap on free printing.



Skidmore currently owns about 1500 acres of undeveloped land distributed across multiple properties with different identities.

The North Woods, adjacent to the developed portion of campus, is used both by the College for teaching and research and by the Saratoga Springs community for education and recreation. Off-campus parcels include the Denton Road property, site of Skidmore’s solar farm, and several wooded properties to the north and west of campus.

The campus master plan, the *2007 Campus Plan: A Vision for the Future*, itself due for revision, outlines some of the potential future development that could be undertaken on the main campus and adjacent areas.



COLLEGE LAND INVENTORY

Skidmore owns over 1500 acres of land, mostly distributed across Saratoga County. Over 1250 acres (80+%) of College-owned property is undeveloped. The majority of Skidmore's undeveloped land is forested, but there are some parcels that include open fields and wetlands (e.g., Denton Road, Daniels Road compost site). Our undeveloped land is a major asset for the College, and each parcel offers unique educational and recreational opportunities. The future Land Stewardship Plan will consider the characteristics of each undeveloped parcel and determine the most appropriate management strategy.

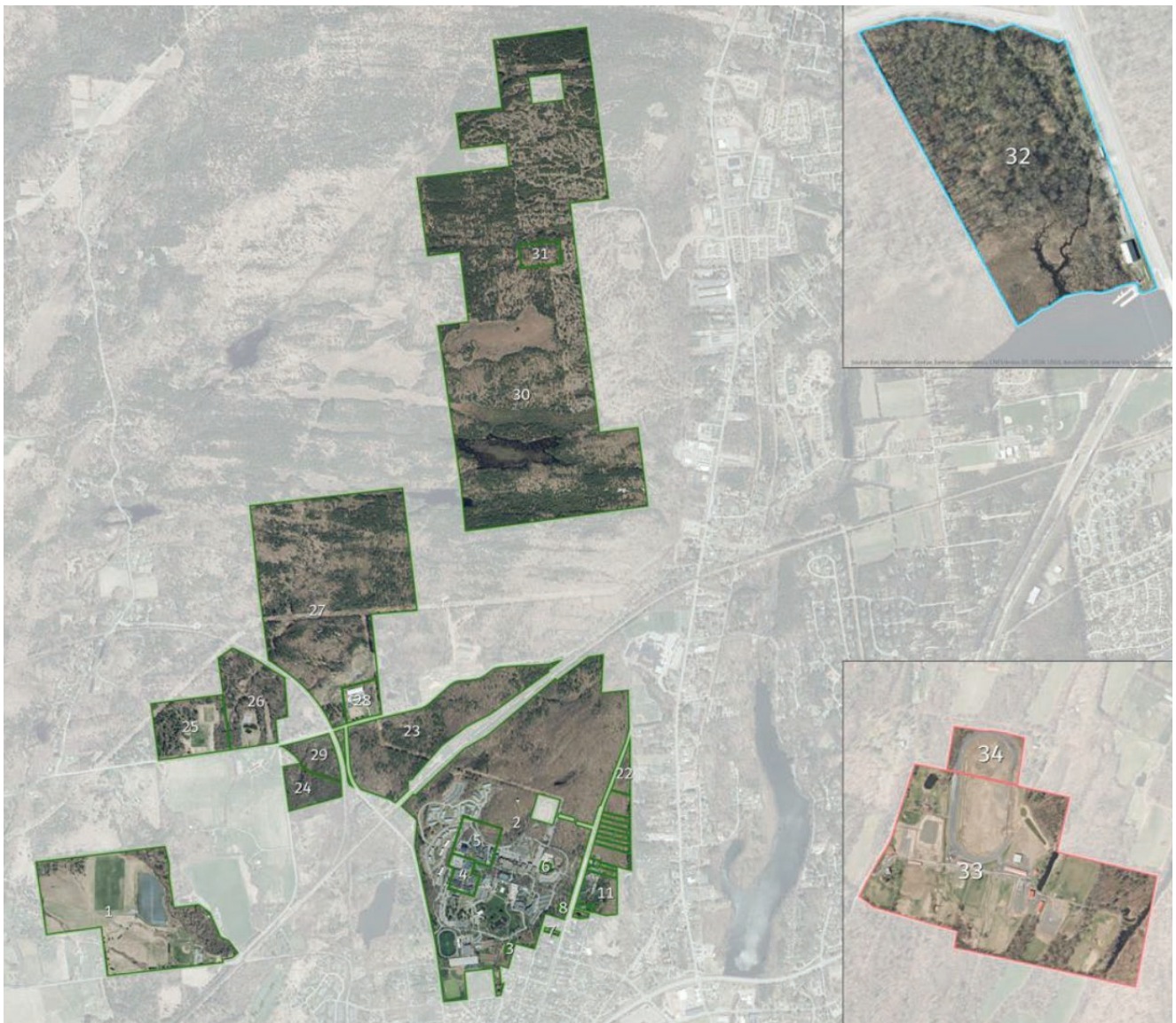
GOAL: CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE LANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OUR LANDS AND GROUNDS

Current progress: The Campus Sustainability Subcommittee continues to develop a comprehensive lands management plan for the College's undeveloped lands.

Skidmore continues to be deeply engaged in land stewardship effort, but the CSS has not completed a Land Stewardship Plan for our undeveloped lands. Over the last five years, Skidmore has increased its acreage of both developed and undeveloped land, including new properties like White Hollow Farm and additional acreage of undeveloped land north of the Van Lennep Riding Center. Each property has a unique character and may provide the Skidmore community with a variety of educational and recreational opportunities.

Although the CSS has not completed a Land Stewardship Plan, Skidmore is heavily involved in land stewardship efforts on- and off-campus. The North Woods Stewardship Program continues to manage and protect the College's 155-acre North Woods, and the program has expanded its scope to the 550-acre parcel of undeveloped land north of Daniels Road. Ongoing stewardship efforts on our new land include thoroughly ground-truthing to map property boundaries, identifying points of interest, mapping existing access paths, and identifying possible entry points. Skidmore faculty and students are already using this land for research and teaching. The CSS strongly recommends that the future stewardship plan integrate academic interests and promote the responsible use of our lands as a living laboratory.

Skidmore is also a founding member of the Palmertown Trail/Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trail Guidance Committee, a 13-member group consisting of municipal, county, private, and non-profit representatives collaborating to develop a trail network through the Palmertown Range. The proposed trail will extend from Daniels Road in Greenfield to Moreau Lake State Park. Skidmore has an opportunity to play an important role in this major community project. The College is a major landowner, and our property north of Daniels Road could serve as the southern terminus for the proposed main corridor trail.



SKIDMORE PROPERTY AND ACREAGE

1. Greenfield 100 Denton Rd.	120.1	18. Greenfield 966 No Broadway.	1.3
2. Saratoga Springs Glen Mitchell Rd.	296.9	19. Greenfield 968 No Broadway.	1.4
3. Saratoga Springs 145 State St.	0.5	20. Greenfield 970 No Broadway.	1.3
4. Saratoga Springs North Broadway Rear.	6.7	21. Greenfield 972 No Broadway.	4.4
5. Saratoga Springs North Broadway Rear.	11.9	22. Greenfield 974 North Broadway.	4.5
6. Saratoga Springs North Broadway Rear.	0.5	23. Greenfield 491 Clinton St.	81.2
7. Saratoga Springs 791 North Broadway	0.7	24. Greenfield 15 Bloomfield Rd.	13.7
8. Saratoga Springs Glen Mitchell Rd.	0.4	25. Greenfield 205 Daniels Rd.	31.4
9. Greenfield 842 North Broadway	1.0	26. Greenfield 185 Daniels Rd.	39.0
10. Greenfield 900 No Broadway.	0.9	27. Greenfield Daniels Rd.	200.0
11. Greenfield 920 Glen Mitchell Rd.	10.4	28. Greenfield 145 Daniels Rd.	10.0
12. Greenfield 952 North Broadway	1.5	29. Greenfield Daniels Rd.	12.0
13. Greenfield 954 North Broadway	1.2	30. Greenfield 495 Braim Rd. Rear.	549.7
14. Greenfield 956 North Broadway	5.2	31. Greenfield 433 Wilton Rd. Rear.	7.0
15. Greenfield 960 No Broadway.	1.7	32. Saratoga Springs Meadowbrook, Rd.	14.7
16. Greenfield 962 No Broadway.	1.4	33. Stillwater 28 Brickhouse Rd.	93.8
17. Greenfield 964 No Broadway.	1.5	34. Stillwater Brickhouse Rd. Rear	8.2

Land Stewardship Efforts by Year

To encourage and practice better stewardship of our land, Skidmore:



2015-2016

- Became a Tree Campus USA institution.
- Built an additional boardwalk in the North Woods to improve safety and minimize soil erosion.
- Removed over 80 invasive plants from the developed portion of campus and replaced them with native species.
- Continued management and removal of several large communities of Japanese knotweed.

2016-2017

- Developed a Lands and Grounds Working Group.
- Continued to develop a new North Woods field guide.
- Mapped protected species in the North Woods and created a management plan to protect these communities.
- Renewed its Tree Campus USA certification.
- Continued management and removal of several large communities of invasive species, including Japanese knotweed, burning bush, Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard.



2017-2018

- Convened the Lands and Grounds Working Group to assess the College's undeveloped land.
- Mapped points of interest and existing trails on the College's new land to gain a better understanding of the property and current uses.
- Completed a new North Woods Field Guide.
- Developed an internship to map, inventory, and monitor campus trees.
- Mapped protected species in the North Woods and created a management plan to protect these valued communities.
- Renewed its Tree Campus USA certification.
- Continued management and removal of several large communities of invasive species, including Japanese knotweed, burning bush, Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard.



2018-2019

- Convened the Lands and Grounds Working Group to assess the College's undeveloped land.
- Posted signage in Skidmore property boundaries.
- Rebuilt a small bridge in the North Woods with student volunteers.
- Mapped the perimeter of over 500 acres of undeveloped land.



2018-2019 (continued)

- Continued efforts to map, inventory, and monitor campus trees.
- Renewed its Tree Campus USA certification.
- Continued management and removal of several large communities of invasive species, including Japanese knotweed, burning bush, Japanese barberry, and garlic mustard.

2019-2020

- Joined the Palmertown Guidance Committee to support the community conservation initiative that will connect Saratoga Springs to Moreau Lake State park via a 13-mile trail surrounded by thousands of acres of conserved land.
- Improved North Woods trail accessibility and safety by installing water bars, small bridges, and re-grading trails.
- Extended an existing boardwalk to improve trail access.

FUTURE STEPS

Future strategies to support our lands and grounds efforts include:

- Developing additional maps of Skidmore properties where needed.
- Providing input to the campus master plan and advocate for the inclusion of Skidmore undeveloped lands in the overall plan.
- Engaging various stakeholders in conversations about the recreational, academic, and operational potential of Skidmore's wooded parcels.
- Creating a process for faculty and others to use our land for research and teaching, and tracking how land is utilized by the campus community.
- Implementing the Pollinator Meadow pilot program to test the long-term management strategy for the Daniels Road compost meadow. Consider scaling the program to other college parcels.
- Enhancing student engagement, possibly in partnership with other organizations, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, to implement the recommendations put forth in our stewardship plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MID-POINT REVIEW

As the Lands and Grounds Working Group reconvenes, the CSS offers the following recommendations:

- Expand the scope of Lands and Ground focus area to include the developed portions of campus and create goals focused on landscape management, tree management, biodiversity, canopy cover, heat island effect, or integrated pest management strategies. Consider the role of the CSS's Campus Tree Advisory Committee to support and advise land management on the developed portions of campus.
- Leverage the collaboration between Skidmore and the Palmertown Guidance Committee as we consider academic and recreational uses on our undeveloped lands.
- Consider land management strategies that support carbon sequestration to offset scope 1 emissions.
- Consider afforestation on certain properties.



Focus Area 5: Engagement

We must ensure that our community holds a deep and intersectional understanding of sustainability and that collectively we are aware of the progress already achieved on campus and beyond. We must strive to be recognized as an institution that values and practices sustainability in our daily operations and decision-making.

While Skidmore offers more than 120 courses that touch on sustainability in some way, we will continue to offer new educational opportunities and increase our communication efforts to promote sustainability initiatives across campus and in the greater community.

Our engagement efforts are easily visible but hard to measure. There are numerous opportunities to engage in sustainability through coursework and labs, attending campus events, and volunteering in any given week. Sustainability is being woven in the fabric of our institution, demonstrated in recent accomplishments like the North Campus geothermal project and the Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy. These institutional efforts demonstrate Skidmore's growing commitment to integrating sustainability into each College decision, and the everyday actions of individuals show that sustainability is indeed a value deeply ingrained in many.

GOAL: MAKE SUSTAINABILITY AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF SKIDMORE'S IDENTITY AND A VALUE THAT IS INTEGRATED INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE COLLEGE

Community Engagement Efforts by Year



2015-2016

- Included sustainability as a key goal in *Creating Pathways to Excellence: The Plan for Skidmore College 2015-2025*.
- Launched a successful crowd-funding campaign to support our sixth solar thermal project.
- Applied to the New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) Energy to Lead Competition, an effort that engaged students, faculty, staff, and local businesses.
- Applied to NYSERDA's Reforming the Energy Vision Challenge.
- Presented Skidmore's innovative approach to energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy utilization at the Association for the Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education national conference.
- Provided targeted educational resources about our Zero-Sort recycling program to Skidmore community members.
- Developed an interactive campus sustainability map.
- Developed a 3-credit sustainable food internship.
- Hired 25 students to work with the Sustainability Office in paid student leadership positions or academic internships, and engaged numerous other students in campus events and volunteer opportunities.
- Produced videos that feature campus sustainability programs.
- Partnered with local groups to host sustainability-related events and discussions on campus.
- Developed Sustainable Service Day to engage students, staff, and faculty in service opportunities on campus, and with local and regional organizations.



2016-2017

- Submitted our first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's and received a Silver rating.
- Maintained membership as a Leader in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Campus Challenge.
- Received a 94 out of 99 in Princeton Review's Green College's assessment.
- Became a Leader in the New York State REV Campus Challenge.
- Launched a new sustainability lunch series for faculty members to discuss sustainability-focused research and teaching.
- Utilized the Community Garden for placed-based environmental education and a long-term wasp research study led by a faculty member in the Biology department.
- Student leaders co-organized Saratoga's March for Science rally with Saratoga Springs residents.
- Offered over 30 tours and presentations to current students, alumni, and community members.





2016-2017 (continued)

- Organized a coalition-building workshop for student leaders to provide tools for effective organizing and collaborations between campus groups.
- Hired 24 students in the Sustainability Office to lead campus programs and complete academic internships.
- Engaged students in weekly campus events and volunteer opportunities.

2017-2018

- Organized over 120 community engagement opportunities, including campus events, volunteer opportunities, class lectures, and campus tours through the Sustainability Office.
- Maintained its membership as a Leader in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Campus Challenge.
- Received a 94 out of 99 in Princeton Review's Green College's assessment.
- Earned a position on Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges list (#34).
- Received recognition in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's 2017 Sustainable Campus Index.
- Enacted a sustainable procurement policy that guides purchasing decisions for office and janitorial paper, college electronics, fleet vehicles, and cleaning supplies.
- Developed and installed our first campus sustainability dashboard in Case Center to provide a new pathway to explore campus sustainability efforts.
- Presented at the Capital District Youth Climate Summit at the Hudson Valley Community College Tec-Smart facility.
- Researched Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) and Environmental, Social, and Governance Investing (ESG) with the Responsible Investment Working Group, as charged by President Glotzbach.
- Used the North Woods for living-learning labs for multiple disciplines.
- Utilized the Community Garden for placed-based environmental education and a long-term wasp research study led by a faculty member in the Biology department.
- Organized a week-long campus residency with dancer/choreographer, Jodi Sperling, whose works include Ice Cycle, a performance expressing the fragility and dynamism of the Arctic.
- Hired 24 students in the Sustainability Office to lead campus programs and complete academic internships.





2018-2019

- Organized over 100 community engagement opportunities, including campus events, volunteer opportunities, class lectures, and campus tours through the Sustainability Office.
- Organized, in partnership with Sustainable Saratoga, the inaugural Saratoga Sustainability Fair. The event was attended by over 300 members of the public and included a keynote lecture, an expo hall with over 30 community organizations and student groups, concurrent workshops, an EV car show, and campus sustainability tours.
- Maintained its membership as a Leader in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Campus Challenge.
- Launched an “eco-partment” certification program in the Sussman and Northwoods Village apartments.
- Received a 94 out of 99 in Princeton Review’s Green College’s assessment.
- Earned a position on Princeton Review’s Top 50 Green Colleges list (#34).
- Hired 24 students in the Sustainability Office to lead campus programs and complete academic internships.



2019-2020

- Reimagined the Sustainability-representatives to be Sustainability Interns, who develop projects with campus partners and engage the campus community.
- Hired 17 students in the Sustainability Office to lead campus programs and complete academic internships.
- Coordinated over 60 community engagement opportunities, including volunteer opportunities, educational tabling events, class lectures, and campus tours.
- Hosted social media Earth Week programming through April 2020 in campus shut down.
- Maintained its membership as a Leader in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Campus Challenge.
- Received a 94 out of 99 in Princeton Review’s Green College’s assessment.

FUTURE STEPS

To ensure sustainability is an essential feature of Skidmore's identity, we will:

- Engage key stakeholders across campus to develop key metrics for our Engagement goal.
- Develop a designation for sustainability-focused and sustainability-related courses in the College course catalog.
- Complete the College's second AASHE STARS report.
- Conduct a campus sustainability literacy assessment.
- Conduct sustainability surveys within the greater community to assess the perception of Skidmore and its relationship to sustainability.
- Integrate sustainability into student orientation.
- Integrate sustainability into new employee orientation.
- Establish the Sustainable Workplace Program to meaningfully connect with campus staff and faculty.
- Design and implement creative communication materials for the College's sustainability projects and initiatives, including informative campus signage.
- Identify methods to track community engagement and participation in sustainability.
- Collaborate with the Career Development Center to support students entering the workforce and identify methods to track how sustainability efforts have influenced the lives and decisions of students after graduation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MID-POINT REVIEW

As the Engagement Working Group reconvenes, the CSS offers the following recommendations:

- Define specific, measurable engagements goals that can be tracked over time. Targets could include increasing the number of sustainability-focused and sustainability-related courses offered each year, improving campus sustainability literacy survey scores, or increased interest in sustainability among committed students.

Looking Ahead

In the 2020-2021 Academic Year, the Campus Sustainability Subcommittee will launch the mid-point review of the *2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan*. The review process is integral to the 10-year *Campus Sustainability Plan*. Engaging in a thoughtful, intentional review process will ensure the Campus Sustainability Plan reflects our collective campus community's goals and aspirations and allows the CSS to adjust to emerging priorities.

To begin the review process, the CSS will reconvene the Focus Area Working Groups (energy, food, waste, lands and ground, engagement) that developed the goals and metrics of the *Campus Sustainability Plan*. Each working group will include faculty, staff, and students with expertise, interest, or decision-making authority for the particular focus area. These working groups will review past efforts and current trends to inform future efforts. The working groups may draft amendments to the goals and metrics of the Plan when necessary.

The CSS will simultaneously engage the broader campus community by inviting individuals to review the *2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan* and share feedback and suggestions as we consider amending the Plan. The CSS anticipates pursuing multiple engagement strategies, including tabling events, online surveys, in-person roundtable discussions, and facilitated dialogues. The Focus Area Working Groups will incorporate community feedback to finalize their recommendations and proposed amendments to the *2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan* for review by the President's Cabinet and the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2015-2025 CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Campus Sustainability Subcommittee offers the following recommendations as the College prepares for the mid-point review of the *2015-2025 Campus Sustainability Plan*:

- Consider establishing a Green Revolving Fund to support future sustainability projects that may have an extended ROI. This fund could play an important role in advancing infrastructure projects now that the College has fewer "low-hanging fruit" opportunities that typically yield quick energy and cost savings.
- Include a water focus area in the Campus Sustainability Plan. Records show a significant increase in water consumption, including a 28% increase in water use per student compared to 2008-2009 levels. This focus area could also include water reduction targets and goals to support water quality and reduce runoff.
- Request that all working groups develop action plans that outline specific steps to achieve our 2025 goals and designate responsible parties for each future action item. These detailed plans will help create more accountability and distribute the responsibility among departmental leaders and decision-makers.
- Begin reporting Skidmore's investments in ESG funds to the extent possible to highlight the College's commitment to responsible investment strategies.
- Restructure the Campus Sustainability Subcommittee to include members with expertise and decision-making authority within the Campus Sustainability Plan's focus areas, and community members whose roles closely align with the economic, equity, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Conclusion



The 2020 Campus Sustainability Report: Mid-Point Review offers a comprehensive review of our progress and trajectory toward our 2025 campus sustainability goals. We hope this report leaves the Skidmore community with a sense of pride. Our progress is the product of leadership, commitment, and hard work at all levels of the institution. For two decades, students have provided strong leadership and called on Skidmore to pursue and implement creative strategies to advance our campus sustainability efforts. Faculty, staff, and administrators continue to integrate sustainability into their classrooms, research, work areas, and decision-making more broadly, which collectively has enabled Skidmore to implement large-scale initiatives across the institution. We have much to celebrate, but we also recognize there is more work ahead. In most cases, we are trending toward our 2025 goals, but we also need to re-double some of our efforts to meet our long-term targets. We hope this report and the mid-point review process will support the campus community as we plan and implement the next wave of sustainability initiatives at Skidmore.



CREATIVE
THOUGHT
MATTERS