

# 2025 Sustainability Report



## **Sustainability at SUU:**

Any practice that contributes to the preservation of financial, natural, and human-made resources. The goal of Sustainability is responsibly meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

# New Beginnings

## Dear Campus Community

Fiscal Year 2025 has been a year of new beginnings. [\*\*Policy 13.20\*\*](#) was officially passed making the Sustainability Committee an official university sponsored committee. This shows the university's interest and commitment to sustainability. Additionally, the university hired a Sustainability Specialist, creating the first non-student sustainability position in 12 years. This position is responsible for the operations of recycling on campus and organizing events, programs and initiatives around sustainability. Along with this position the recycling program moved from Outdoor Pathways to custodial to work with and along the custodial staff rather than being an independent entity. Thanks to a grant awarded to SUU by Union Pacific, we have been able to buy new and improved recycling bins, create "how-to" videos, and improve our recycling, gardens and other sustainability initiatives.

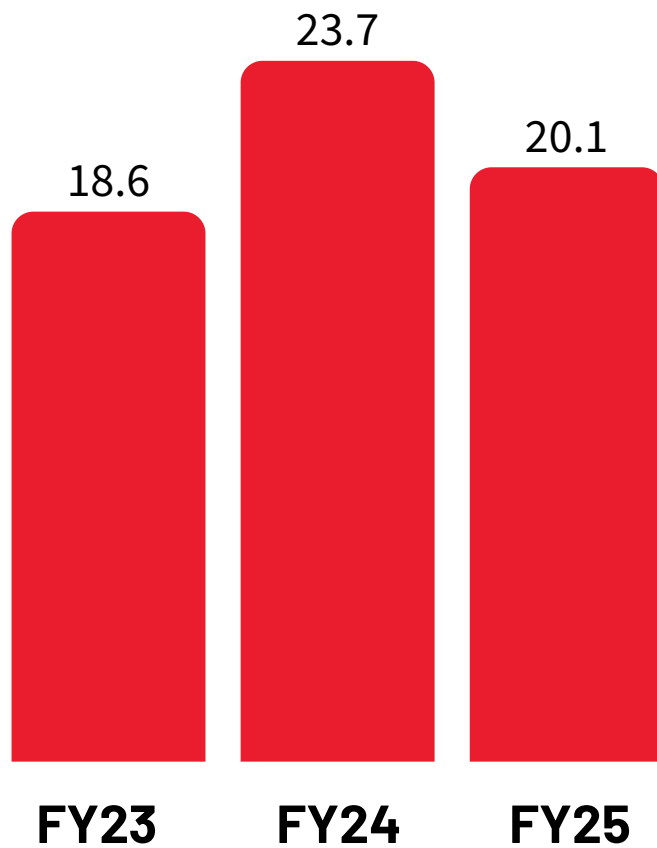
Other notable new beginnings of FY25 include:

- The launching of a monthly Sustainability Tour Series, delving into a different category of sustainability every month and educating attendees on what SUU is doing and how they can get involved.
- The Community Garden Club finished their first growing season running both the Community Garden and the new HOPE Garden.
- New categorized recycling signs to help educate about recycling and contamination.
- A new textile club, which teaches students how to make and repair their own clothing, was started as a sister club of the Sustainability and Community Garden Clubs.
- The launch of the [\*\*Green Office Program\*\*](#) to encourage campus offices to create sustainable practices within the workplace and compete for the title of most green office.
- A second seed library was started in the Frehner Museum of Natural History.
- An update [\*\*SUU's Sustainability Webpage\*\*](#)
- More found in the following pages.

While each of these new beginnings is celebration-worthy, they are just the paving stones of what we hope to accomplish in the years to come. We want to show that sustainability isn't just about protecting the environment, it is also about the health and wellbeing of our people. We also want to prove that sustainable practices are not an expensive investment, in fact they are the most fiscally responsible strategy. Last of all, we hope to hold true to the University of the Parks title and to make SUU a leader in good stewardship.

**Sincerely, The SUU Sustainability Committee**

# Recycling



## 3rd Year of Tracking Tons Recycled

We have now completed our third year of monitoring the volume of material SUU Recycles. Although our figures increased in the second year, the absence of a second student worker during the spring—due to the shift from Outdoor Pathways to custodial—led to a decline in the third year.

This year, we also learned the waste management company SUU hires cannot provide weight data for the quantity of trash SUU produces. This has complicated our ability to set goals since we cannot determine a recycling-to-trash percentage. This presents a challenge, but SUU aims to work on addressing this moving forward.



## New Public Recycling Bins with Improved Signage

Two years ago, we eliminated the majority of public recycling bins due to significant contamination issues. However, with enhanced educational efforts, clearer signage, and funding from Union Pacific for improved bins, we have begun to thoughtfully place recycling bins in public locations again. We hope this will encourage usage as recycling destinations, rather than mere garbage receptacles.

Further enhancements include updated signage specifically for paper and metal-only bins, a collaborative online checklist for pickups, and the sale of aluminum cans to our local Robinson Recycling. Although there are currently no local options that accept cardboard, paper, or plastics, we are investigating on-campus recycling options to create profit and reduce waste.



# Community Gardens

181.33<sup>lbs</sup>

Produced from the new HOPE  
Garden given to HOPE Pantry  
for students in need

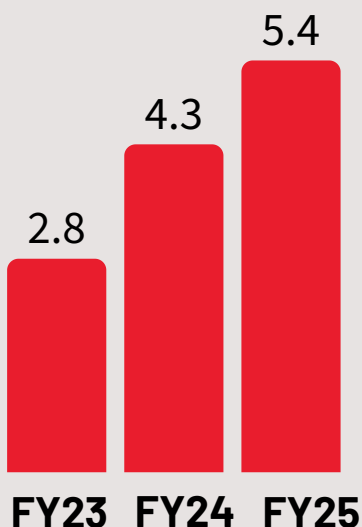


81

Volunteers

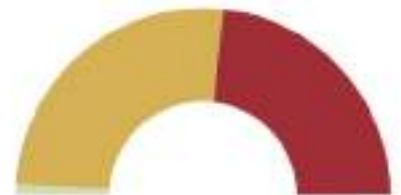
470

Volunteer hours



## Compost

This year we composted more scraps from the SUU's dining kitchen than ever! 5.4 tons. This does not include the large amount of leaves that are brought to us from the SUU grounds crew, livestock manure given by the SUU farm, or food scraps that the community and new restaurant partners such as Fed Up Kitchen bring. This was also the **first year the dining kitchen composted more scraps than they threw away** a major milestone for us!



- Incineration or Landfill  
4.9 tons • 46%
- Industrial Uses  
0 lbs • 0%
- Composting  
5.4 tons • 51%
- Feed Animals  
0 lbs • 0%
- Feed Hungry People  
460.9 lbs • 2%

# Sustainability Events



## Sustainability Tour Attendance

September/ Gardens	10
October/Transportation	10
November/Recycling	12
January/Energy	10
February/Conservation	5
March/Landscaping	5

## Garden Event Attendance

4th Annual Harvest Festival	30+
Garden Cook Off	10
Crop Planning Workshop	17
Drip Irrigation Workshop	6
3rd Annual Earthday Celebration	50



**53**






Pledges to walk or bike to school every Wednesday in March & April



**2000+**

Attended the 4th Annual Bargain Bash

# STARS: A Campus Sustainability Report Card

Report Levels						<b>SUU</b>
<b>Pts. required</b>	198.05	151.45	104.85	58.25	N/A	<b>55.699</b>
<b>Overall Score</b>	85	65	45	25	N/A	<b>23.9</b>






## SUU's Scores

Category / Impact Area	Est. Pts. Earned	Pts. Available	%
<b>Academics (AC)</b>			<b>33%</b>
Curriculum	14.852	37	
Research	3.079	17	
<b>Engagement (EN)</b>			<b>27%</b>
Campus Engagement	5.75	25	
Public Engagement	8	25	
<b>Operations (OP)</b>			<b>16%</b>
Buildings & Grounds	6	20	
Energy/Climate	6.26	26	
Food & Dining	0.5	10	
Procurement & Waste	1.5	20	
Transportation	0.15	10	
<b>Planning &amp; Administration (PA)</b>			<b>22%</b>
Coordination & Planning	4	11	
Investment	0	7	
Social Equity	1.501	14	
Wellbeing/Work	4.107	11	
<b>Innovation &amp; Leadership (IL)</b>	0	10	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55.699</b>	<b>233</b>	



This year for the first time, SUU completed an initial assessment of where we stand using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This is the most widely used sustainability framework in higher education, with 386 participating institutions.

Our score was 23.9 points, just below the bronze threshold. 2.5 of those points came directly from the Sustainability Specialist role. While we currently rank lowest among reporting Utah schools, we believe our actual performance is stronger and that we are missing points simply due to lack of documentation.

Utah Schools	Score	Rating
<b>SUU</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Westminster</b>	46.11	
<b>Weber State</b>	66.74	
<b>USU</b>	58.26	
<b>U of U</b>	70.92	
<b>BYU</b>	65.14	
<b>UVU</b>	Working on it	N/A
<b>SLCC</b>	Working on it	N/A
<b>Utah Tech</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Snow College</b>	N/A	N/A



# Future Goals

**As we continue growing SUU's sustainability efforts, here are several ongoing and upcoming initiatives we're excited about:**

- Expanding the Sustainability Tour Series and increasing student and community participation.
- Improving both campus gardens and exploring the possibility of hiring a student garden coordinator.
- Seeking additional grant funding to support future sustainability projects.
- Reviewing and updating the Sustainability Minor curriculum.
- Organizing and tracking sustainability-related academic courses.
- Beginning to separate and sell aluminum cans to Robinson Recycling for revenue.
- Exploring new local recycling options and ways to generate income from recyclable materials.
- Assessing the feasibility of on-campus recycling for materials like plastic and cardboard.
- Creating a Sustainability Wall in the Student Center to promote programs, events, and initiatives.
- Finalizing educational videos on recycling, composting, and food access.
- Establishing a formal Sustainability Office.
- Expanding our composting efforts, with plans to begin sales in the near future.
- **Launching a Bike Committee with the goal of achieving SUU's designation as a Bike Friendly University (BFU).**



University	Bicycle Friendly Designation Ranking
USU	Gold
U of U	Gold
BYU	Silver
UVU	Bronze
Utah Tech	Denied but working on it
SUU	Working on it

# Acknowledgments

We Would Like to Sincerely Thank,

**Darin Clower** of SUU's Dining Services, as well as **Barry Pearson** of SUU's Grounds Crew, **Morgan Christensen** of the SUU Valley Farm, and the whole CTI Video Production team for their continued support of our sustainability goals. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge SUU Vice Presidents **Tiger Funk** and **Daneka Souberbielle**, for being willing to invest time and resources into improving campus sustainability efforts.

We also extend our gratitude to contributing community members including **Red Acre Farms** and local restaurant partners **Fed Up Kitchen** who have played a crucial role in expanding our composting program.

Finally we would like to thank **Union Pacific** for their generous donation in support of SUU's recycling and community garden work. We really appreciate you all!

Sincerely,  
the SUU Sustainability Committee

**Stephen Jackson &**  
the CTI - Video Production Team



**Tiger Funk**  
VP, Campus Operations



**Daneka Souberbielle**  
VP, Community Outreach  
& Engagement



**Darin Clower**  
Campus Executive Chef



**Morgan Christensen**  
SUU Farm Manager



**Barry Pearson**  
Director of Grounds & Gardens