

**Towson University**  
**Sustainability & Environmental Mitigation Initiatives**  
**May 01, 2009**

1. American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Activities

- Signed commitment in September 2007 and completed/reported GHG inventory in September 2008;
- Developing an action plan to become carbon neutral to be complete and reported by September 2009;
- Coordinating action plan with update to Campus Master Plan (smart growth principles) and energy conservation/reduction planning. For more information on the campus master plan go to: [www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/facilitiesplanning/masterplan.asp](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/facilitiesplanning/masterplan.asp);
- Developing all new construction and renovation projects to achieve minimum LEED's Silver level certification;
- Reengineered the campus solid waste /recycling collection systems, see details below;
- Expanded University mass transit offerings in 2008 to off-campus student and faculty residential districts. This resulted in an increase in ridership from 4,500 passengers a month in November 2007 to over 13,000 passengers a month in April 2009. Currently, over 20,000 passengers ride the on-campus shuttle each month; and

To access the university's climate commitment and green house gas inventory go to:  
[www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/greeninit/climate.asp](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/greeninit/climate.asp)

2. Solid Waste Management and Recycling Activities

- Developed comprehensive solid waste management and recycling strategy for campus in 2008, which included a plan to move from a decentralized collection system to a more centralized collection system via precinct solid waste/recycling collection depots. The new depots are under construction and are planned to be completed by September 2009;
- New strategy included evolving the university recycling collection containers from multi-stream to single-stream. 2,700 new single-stream interior and exterior containers were purchased and placed inside buildings and across campus to provide comprehensive coverage;
- Created a new "RecycAll" brand for campus based on single-stream recycling that is the basis for new educational outreach programs for students, faculty and staff. For more information go to: [www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/); and
- Implemented new recycling system which has the university on pace to almost triple the quantity of recyclables collected and almost double its annual avoided landfill tipping fees, which are estimated to be close to \$100,000.

3. Energy and Water Use Reduction and Conservation Activities

- Developed and communicated Energy Conservation Guidelines to, and for use by, the entire campus community;
- Establishing a campus-wide energy conservation and reduction plan to comply with Senate Bill 267, and advance the ACUPCC (carbon footprint reduction);
- Established a minimum LEED silver rating all new major construction and renovation projects;

- Continued collaboration with a university affiliated research and development company to test new solar technology on campus; and

For more information on all of the energy and water use reduction activities go to:

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/energyconservation/>

#### 4. Storm Water Management and Enhancement Activities

- Completed a strategy to restore all stream segments on campus to slow and better manage the flow and quality of storm water for campus and the adjoining community. Currently, the streams on campus serve as a conduit for close to 1,000 acres. To date the two stream segments that handle the greatest volume of drainage have been restored with the following results:

##### **Towson town Garage Addition—Stream Restoration (Towson Run)**

Drainage area: 340 acres (upstream downtown Towson); total impervious area is estimated at nearly 80 % (based on run-off curve number)

- Length of concrete channel removed: 400 linear feet
- Length of stream restored: 762 linear feet
- Acreage planted (riparian): 1.7 acres

##### **Towson University Glen—Stream Restoration (Glen Tributary)**

Drainage area: 59 acres; total impervious area is estimated at nearly 80% (based on the run-off curve number)

- Length of stream restored: 800 linear feet
- Acreage planted (riparian): 1.15 acres

- Construct a new main academic campus subsurface storm water management facility as part of the College of Liberal Arts project to address the new building, 9 existing buildings and multiple parking lots that constitute 13 acres of impervious area not previously managed. This acreage will now be treated and managed in accordance with current quantity and quality standards and requirements; and
- Achieve a net gain in green, pervious area through smart growth development, i.e., convert surface parking to building sites and additional green space.

#### 5. Campus Sustainability Educational and Outreach Activities

For more information on all the educational and outreach activities go to:

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/howtogogreen/programs.asp>

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/howtogogreen/campusgroups/>

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/recycling/howtogogreen/>