



SUSTAINABLE COLUMBIA

2020 Mid-Year Update

INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

Navigating the COVID-19 crisis has, in many ways, brought people closer together despite the necessity for physical distancing. As a society, we have quickly invented new ways of working and communicating, proving the resilience of the human spirit and our need for connection. We recognize these silver linings as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

As Columbia's first campus-wide sustainability plan will come to a close in 2020, the Office of Environmental Stewardship has begun the planning process to build its next iteration of a 10-year plan encompassing all four of Columbia's campuses. The new plan will provide a roadmap for the University to take progressive, urgent action around climate change.

Plan 2030 will expand upon the first sustainability plan and include content in the following operational focus areas: Campus Energy; Transportation; Sustainable Construction and Design; Retail Tenant Alignment; Sustainable Events; and Water. Two new committees have also been created: an Earth Institute faculty committee to propose new ways for the Columbia campus to serve as a living lab, and a student committee to propose and lead strategies that integrate sustainability into campus culture.

This *2019-2020 Sustainable Columbia Mid-Year Update* is a snapshot of the progress we have collectively made towards realizing the University's 2017-2020 goals. We have traditionally released a progress report in April to honor Earth Day, and this Mid-Year Update will serve that purpose this year. A complete progress report will be released early next year with updated statistics and accomplishments from 2020.

Stay safe and well.



David M. Greenberg
Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations

Environmental Stewardship collaborated on 3 student capstone projects.



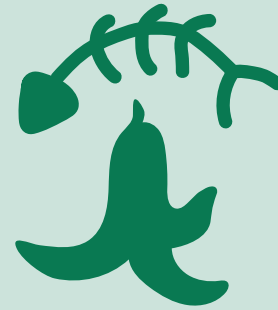
Only 11% of material from the academic portfolio was sent to landfill. 8% was recycled, and 81% was sent to a local Waste to Energy Plant.



Columbia has exceeded its goal of cutting at least **35%** of its carbon emissions by 2020.

Columbia Print switched to TreeZero paper for all black-and-white jobs in 2019, saving about **42** metric tons of CO₂ per year.

Columbia has committed to **carbon neutrality** by 2050 or sooner.



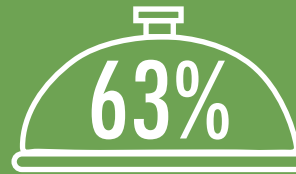
Columbia collected over **443,000** pounds of organic material for composting from the Residential portfolio and Dining services.

Columbia Transportation won "Best Overall Program" from the Association



for Commuter Transportation (ACT) at its annual conference in 2019.

Columbia Event Management's new Sustainable Living menu reduces GHG emissions from the baseline menu by



7 working groups have convened to begin planning for the next 10-year strategic plan: Plan 2030.

66 → 247

Registrations for Columbia's Smart Commuter initiative, a program for those who choose sustainable commute modes, has almost quadrupled since the announcement of the program.

Columbia is credited with

100%

renewable electricity through its purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

There are now over 190 active "Green Leaders" in the Sustainable Leaders Network (SLN) Workspace Certification Program.

