



PLU was among the 12 charter signatories for the ACUPCC agreement. We are committed to being carbon neutral by 2020. Initial projects include carbon offsets for study away, energy conservation through infrastructure improvements, and a third geothermal project for heating and cooling.

American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment

PLU was the first university in the nation to submit our Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Our Gold ranking can be found at www.aashe.org, along with a complete assessment of our sustainability initiatives.



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"Sustainability in Action" map on reverse side

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www.plu.edu/sustainability



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FSC 000000000



Ideas for improvement are always welcome. Resources for improving sustainability can come out of PLU's Sustainability Office or the Sustainability Committee, which is a group of staff, students, and faculty that springboards sustainability initiatives. In 2007 an ASPLU resolution created a green fee fund to encourage student led sustainability projects. GREAN, RHA and ASPLU also offer support.

Culture

Walking through campus, you will notice bottled water is nowhere to be seen, tiny "can the cans" line office desks, and faculty in the bike co-op service the community's bicycles, and spaces like the SurPLUs store and the Fred L. Tobiasson Outdoor Learning Center are open year round.



In 2009 PLU completed its first biennial greenhouse gas inventory. Since then, there has been a reduction in the net CO₂ emissions of over 17%. This has been partly due to reductions in natural gas, and electricity through the use of smart strips and solar panels. PLU is also implementing efficiency upgrades in our historic buildings and now has 4 LEED certified Green buildings. Finally, PLU is a bike friendly campus with bike racks and its very own bike co-op to assist students with any bike troubles.

Built Environment

What is Sustainability?

"Sustainability at PLU focuses on three key components:

- Care for people,
- Care for the planet
- Prosperity, both now and in the future.

These are values that emphasize the inseparable interrelationships between communities to ensure that our present way of life does not degrade that of future generations, but leaves the world a better place for all"

– PLU2020 Plan

ACADEMICS	BUILT ENVIRONMENT	CULTURE

PEOPLE

PLANET

PROSPERITY



SUSTAINABILITY
FOR PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



PLU offers a wide assortment of interdisciplinary classes, ranging from economics to biology, which include principles of sustainability. PLU also offers a major in environmental studies. If you are interested in conducting research, there are three annual sustainability fellowship grants awarded for student-proposed projects.

Academics

Intro to the ABCs

The purpose of the ABCs is to integrate the academics, built environment, and campus culture of the university with the triple bottom line of sustainability (people, planet, prosperity). Academics can span from in the classroom to co-curricular activities. The built environment includes both buildings and landscapes. Campus culture is set through our events and programming around the campus community.



PLU SUSTAINABILITY MAP

WALKING TOUR



GREEN BUILDINGS

- Anderson U.C.
- Neeb
- Morken
- Phillips Ctr.

PLU has 4 LEED certified buildings. Our Carbon Action Plan commits to pursuing LEED certification for all future building projects.

WHY BUILD GREEN?

The average commercial building's operating costs are three times more than the initial capital costs. Investing in efficient buildings on the front end can save enormous amounts of energy, water, and money over the life time of the building.



HABITAT

- Fred L. Tobiason Learning Ctr.
- Morken Prairie
- South Campus
- Tree Campus USA

The Fred L. Tobiason Outdoor Learning Center exemplifies our drive to create a campus that functions like a living laboratory, supporting experiential learning, interaction with the outdoors, while also providing for habitat corridors and our human needs for open green spaces.



RESPONSIBLE ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- Conservation
- Geothermal
- Solar Electricity

Existing systems include a 7.2 kW photo voltaic array and two closed loop geothermal systems. Our study away programs also participate in an innovative carbon on-setting program to support sustainability efforts in communities we visit. In pursuit of our 2020 goal of carbon neutrality we plan to construct a geothermal system, offsetting nearly 1/3 of our total natural gas usage.



- Repair
- Rental
- Classes

Get your ride fixed, or rent one of ours.

Find us our on the back side of Harstad!



WATER CONSERVATION

Our water resources are precious.

- Bio swales, rain garden, and wetland areas
- LID sequestration techniques
- Student Resolution to ban bottle water
- "Take Back the Tap" campaign
- Subsidized reusable water bottles
- Easy to access filtered water stations
- Military stops, low flow aerators, and educational outreach



SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE



SURPLUS STORE



ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION



DINING SERVICES



COMMUNITY GARDEN



GARFIELD STREET

- Walkable
- Transit Center
- Local Business

The PLU campus is on the edge of a vibrant community and the heart of this community is Garfield Street. Home to many restaurants, two coffee shops, a hobby shop, holistic health salon, a corner store, the post office, a regional transit center, the PLU Bookstore and the new mixed-use residential commercial Garfield Station. These local businesses make the walk able community we hope to foster possible.

