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

Sustainable Practices

- Eco friendly inks and sustainable paper.
- FSC

PLU was the first university in the nation to submit its 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.

American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment

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.

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 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

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

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

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.

BIKE COOP
- Repair
- Rental
- Classes

Get your ride fixed, or rent one of ours. Find us on the back side of Harstad!

WATER CONSERVATION
- Bio swales, rain gardens, 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

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 walkable community we hope to foster possible.

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.

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

Our water resources are precious.

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