Kansas State University Sustainability

**Environmental Sustainability** is: Making responsible decisions that support human well-being in the present and future, and that also preserve the viability and functionality of ecological services vital for human survival.

### Indoor Water

**What K-State does**
- Steam Heat/Cooling System
- Repairing costly leaks
- Replacing outdated systems
- Usage Level Monitoring
- Reported Monthly by Facilities
- Currently ~950,000 a year in water

**What Others are Doing**
- Composting at the Union & Dining Centers
- waste reduced by 39.8 tons in 2012
- Local Foods
- meat & dairy from Call & Weber Halls
- direct communication
- Waste Minimization
- leftovers re-used
- donations to Flint Hills Breadbasket
- New Dining Center
- dish machine with a pulping function
- K-State's Green Guard
- official governance structure
- New Mexico State's Oxford Hunger Banquet
- raise student awareness
- Guilford College's Compost Tea
- used as fertilizer on campus farm to cycle nutrients
- Stanford University's Local Foods
- support 30 small farms within 250 miles
- Arizona State's Seasonal Foods
- reduce emissions from transport to exotic foods

### Food

**What K-State does**
- Outdoor Water and Grounds
- Adopting a Native Plant landscaping policy
- Intend to replace lawsns with productive community gardens
- Support student research in sustainable landscaping
- Have a campus-wide arboretum
- Plans to install bio-retention cells in critical storm water flow points
- Use permeable concrete in sidewalks and parking lots
- Investing in modern irrigation technology for controlled management

**What Others are Doing**
- Steam Heat/Cooling System
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- Usage Level Monitoring
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**What Others are Doing**
- New Construction
- Keeping up with sustainable standards in areas
- Remodeling Efforts
- Classrooms being remodeled for a design that is more useful and functional
- Energy efficient technology is being installed
- K-State 2025 Sustainability Plan
- Shows plans for retrofitting through multiple areas

### Waste

**2015 RECYCLE MAINIA RECYCLING RATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

K-State and the other five universities all participate in the national Recycle Mania competition. Recycle Mania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. The table shows the current recycling rates as of week 8 2015 (Recyclemania 2015).

### Conclusion

- K-state Should expand their storm water management with rain gardens and rain water capture systems. Additionally, they should work on native landscaping techniques similar to the xeriscaping process.
- K-State should work to switch all of their restroom facilities to a low flow fixtures that don’t jeopardize pressure. K-State should also look at installing waterless urinals in all men’s restrooms to majorly cut down on water cost. Lastly the should focus on student education on water use, to help shave a large sum of money off the utility bills.
- K-State should form an official governance structure similar to that of Colorado State University. Additionally, they should work to involve students in the sustainable practices. An easy way to do this is start by using reusable beverage containers & compostable service ware.
- K-State should look into utilizing their compost program to make a compost tea to help with grounds budget. We should also explore the use of reusable service wear in all dining options on campus.
- K-State should start exploring the most economical way to retrofit our aging buildings to maximize our sustainability footprint.

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6Leviard Kennedy (Manager at Kramer Dining Center). 2015. Personal communication. April.