

UNIVERSITY OF  
**DENVER**

APPENDIX A

Sustainability



## Sustainability Statement

The University of Denver takes very seriously its responsibility to serve as a vital steward of its campus environment. A significant role of a University is to be a repository for the knowledge of prior generations to the benefit of future generations. This premise aligns well with the basis of the movement towards sustainability; meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Moreover, a great University's core purpose is provide a place for the advancement of knowledge, and therefore the University of Denver pursues the research and successful implementation of ideas and practices that reduce the consumption of non-renewable resources, increase the diversity and strength of our environment, and promote a productive atmosphere for learning.

In terms of those items that are relevant to this Land Use plan, The University of Denver over the past two decades has successfully incorporated a variety of standards into it facilities and operations that have contributed towards a more sustainable environment including:

- A commitment to build in a manner which promises centuries of service by these facilities.
- The selection of construction materials that serve particularly well relative to the thermal dynamics of the Denver climate, as well as the continual use by tens of thousands of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and guests.
- Intensive examination of building systems to provide long term energy efficiency while increasing user comfort and productivity.
- Facilities standards that reduce the use of potable water, pesticides, and volatile ingredients in cleaning supplies.
- The consolidation of the University's primary educational facilities on one campus, thereby maximizing the efficient use of its land.

The following Sustainability Fundamentals are embraced by this plan. After each, a few examples are given on how this updated Land Use plan supports them:

**Continue to improve and demonstrate institutional practices that increase the sustainable use of resources.**

- The recent success of the Ricketson Law building achieving a Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification has led to a policy of approaching all future University construction projects with the objective of submitting them to an independent professional review for sustainability and the goal of typically achieving a Silver Certification for all construction on our University Park Campus.
- The University will take advantage on a case-by-case basis of innovative approaches to construction that promise a critical combination of longevity, maintainability, and performance that aligns with the criteria advocated by the United States Green Building Council's LEED program. As of the writing of this update, the University is pursuing a LEED Platinum certification for its ISAID addition to Cherrington Hall. This project's scale lends itself to exploring such advanced systems as a geo-thermal field and radiant-panel heating and cooling.
- While the University has already achieved a remarkable reduction of its reliance upon fossil

fuels relative to its peers, this plan embraces research into the effective deployment of wind and solar power options to further reduce reliance upon fossil fuel sources for electrical needs.

- The University continues to consolidate water quality and water detention features so as to remediate the environmental impacts of storm water run-off on a collected scale.

**Promote the continual improvement of the campus environment for the health and safety of the University community.**

- Access to fresh air and natural light have proven to increase health and well-being. The architecture of the university continues to emphasize that the majority of spaces in its buildings that are regularly used have operable windows and the Land-use plan here emphasizes that buildings should be sited in such manner as to take advantage of views and natural air circulation patterns.
- The Land-use plan advocates the reduction of the number of small surface parking lots by consolidating parking to strategically located structured facilities to both increase the amount of green space on campus, and curtail convenience short trip driving within the campus.

- The plan provides a framework for increasing the ease of navigating campus access and the variety of alternate transportation options. The plan encourages the continued development of the University's shuttle bus program, it advocates strengthening the pedestrian linkages to the recently completed RTD University of Denver Light Rail Station, and it highlights the importance of developing the Promenade concept so as to provide efficient and attractive bicycle and pedestrian movement across the campus.

**Enhance both the vitality and educational qualities of the University's ecological environment.**

- The plan highlights the need for a variety of exterior spaces to encourage opportunities for learning between classes. Such spaces thrive on the vigor of the plantings that define them and therefore require careful attention to the quality of soils, irrigation, and species selection relative to the particular micro-climates involved.
- Parallel to the this plan, the University's Alter Arboretum has pursued investment in the variety of tree species on the campus both to enhance the biological sciences learning environment, as well as to research how tree species adapt to the Denver climate. The tree identification and elaboration of the Arboretums self-guided tours provide opportunities for reinforcement

of the value of a life-long commitment to the environment.

**The expansion of Sustainability Principles throughout the campus community. As the plan touches upon such diverse activities as mail distribution to food service options, the Land Use plan is a significant component to reinforce the integration and foster the development of sustainability within the broader context of the campus.**

- The plan supports the goal of approaching food service on a campus wide scale.
- The plan encourages campus wide trash and recycling programming in coordination with both the Facilities Department and student led organizations.

The above comprises only a portion of how the Land Use plan supports the over arching goal of the University to continually improve its stewardship of our environment. The University of Denver is committed to foster the development and demonstration of effective measures to promote the sustainable use of our resources as part of its educational mission.