



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

Office of Sustainability

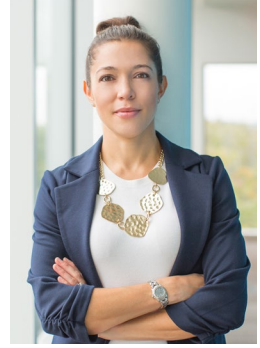
FY22 CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT

Campus Sustainability Report

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Amanda King

Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President of Sustainability



The Bentley University Office of Sustainability is pleased to present this progress report highlighting the university's progress in sustainability during the 2022 fiscal year, July 2021–June 2022. The close of fiscal year 2021 marked the end of implementation of Bentley's first Sustainability and Climate Action Plan. The plan, written in 2010, provided a roadmap to a 70% reduction in the university's carbon footprint by 2020—a milestone on Bentley's path to carbon neutrality by 2030—among other sustainability goals. Bentley's first climate action plan was written after the university signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007. The commitment was signed in recognition that climate change poses material risks for business, society and our local and national economies. Through the commitment, Bentley and 729 other colleges and universities set carbon neutrality dates, interim greenhouse gas reduction targets and committed to both teaching sustainability throughout the curriculum and increasing research on sustainability topics.

In fiscal year 2021 the Office of Sustainability launched its next sustainability and climate action strategic planning process, which lasted through fiscal year 2022 and is detailed in this progress report. This work culminated in the completion of a five-year [Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#).

This progress report details the sustainability and climate action planning process and the university's sustainability accomplishments during this time. We hope you enjoy reading our fiscal year 2022 Campus Sustainability Progress Report.

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Progress Overview

Operational Goals

76%

Carbon Footprint

- **Goal:** Carbon neutrality by 2030 (baseline year: 2008).
- **Update:** Bentley has achieved a 76% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

37%

Waste Diversion

- **Goal:** Divert 60% of the university's waste through recycling and composting.
- **Update:** Bentley has achieved a 37% waste diversion rate.

0%

Water Usage

- **Goal:** Reduce water use by 5% (baseline year: 2013).
- **Update:** Bentley has maintained a 0% increase in water use, despite an increase in built space and landscaped areas.

28%

Drive Alone Commutes

- **Goal:** 25% of Bentley University employees and commuting students use low-carbon transportation options for some of their commutes.
- **Update:** 28% of Bentley University employees and commuting students use low-carbon transportation options for some of their commutes.



Strategic Action

In February 2021 the Office of Sustainability launched the university's second sustainability and climate action planning process. This campus-wide, participatory process engaged 60 faculty, staff and students across four strategic priority committees. An additional 150 faculty, staff, students and alumni attended ideation and feedback sessions throughout the process.

Four strategic priority committees met for five months:

- Buildings and Energy Systems
- Transportation and Mobility
- Lifelong Learning Engagement
- Materials Management

Committees were charged with synthesizing information collected during a campus-wide ideation session, developing five-year goals and strategies for their focus area and creating criteria on which to evaluate draft goals. To increase community engagement, draft goals were tested in focus groups in March and June, where faculty, staff and students provided feedback on each goal and the overall process.

Committees used campus feedback to reshape goals and then worked to ensure that all plan goals met the following criteria:

- Promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Implementable within five years
- Enhances the university's resilience to climate change impacts
- Aligns with Bentley's mission

An advisory board of Cabinet members, sustainability leaders at peer institutions and key faculty and staff provided oversight and feedback on the plan's goals, strategies and process.

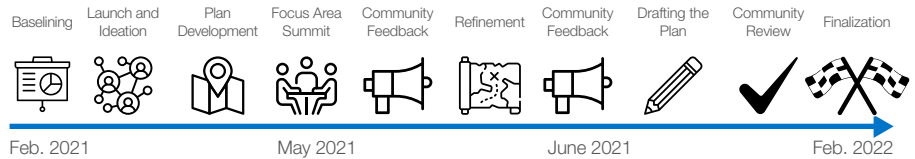


**Read Bentley's
STARS report:**



The Office of Sustainability announced the plan at a “soft launch” in February 2022 and refined and finalized the plan through the end of the spring semester in preparation for an official launch and celebration in September 2023.

Planning Process Timeline



Read the Full
Plan Here





Climate Action and Energy

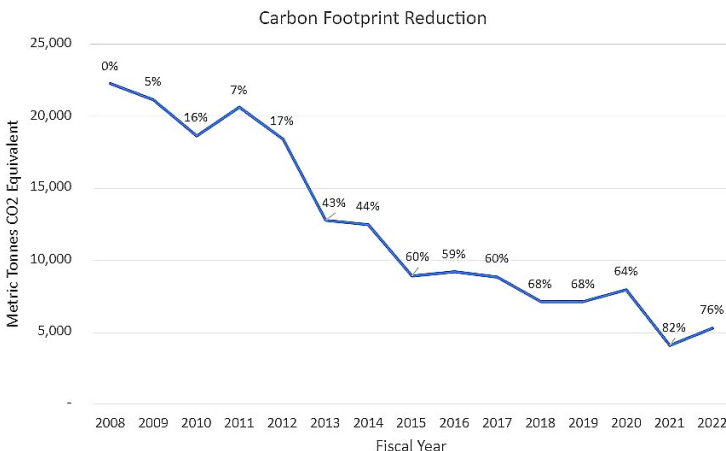
Greenhouse Gas Reductions

In fiscal year 2022, Bentley emitted a total of 5,299 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCDE) of greenhouse gas emissions, 76% below the university's 2008 baseline. As noted in the graph below, this is a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions from fiscal year 2021. This is due to additional COVID-19 restrictions being lifted and a shift back to pre-pandemic operations. For example, Bentley's study abroad program ran in full, faculty and staff air travel resumed to pre-pandemic levels and campus buildings were utilized more.

The campus' carbon footprint reduction success thus far is the result of a four-pronged approach:

- 1 Continuous campus-wide energy efficiency upgrades to reduce fossil fuel use.
- 2 Investment in onsite renewable energy—a 500KW solar array on The Bentley Arena.
- 3 Investment in Verified Emissions Reductions Credits (VERCs) to offset emissions from air travel.
- 4 Investment in offsite renewable energy via Green-e certified Renewable Energy Certificates.

The university will continue to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities in its quest for carbon neutrality by 2030.



Energy Efficiency

Green Revolving Fund

The university's Green Revolving Fund (GRF) was established in 2017 with a generous gift from trustee Nick Stavropoulos '79. The fund provides financing for implementing energy and water efficiency projects that generate cost-savings and reduce the campus' environmental impact. Cost-savings from completed projects are reinvested in the fund. The fund currently boasts a 41% return on investment. The GRF is a valuable tool for the university to employ in its efforts to reduce building energy use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Green Revolving Fund is governed by a committee comprised of faculty, staff and students. In 2022, the Green Revolving Fund Committee approved funding for three projects, increasing energy efficiency in four of the university's residence halls:

- North Campus Boiler Replacement (hot water upgrade)
- Forest Hall Boiler Replacement (hot water upgrade)
- Falcones Magik-Pak Replacement (heating and cooling upgrade)

The three projects completed in fiscal year 2022, listed above, have less than a 5-year payback period and provide an average return on investment (ROI) to the Green Revolving Fund of 35.5%

Community Resiliency Efforts

In fiscal year 2022, the university actively supported the City of Waltham's application to the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program to collaborate on addressing the climate resiliency issues faced by the city. In April 2022, the City of Waltham applied for an MVP grant to address flooding in Chester Brook, a stream in Waltham which is close to Bentley's campus.





Transportation

Establishment of the Shuttle Advisory Committee.

In spring 2022, the university established a Shuttle Advisory Committee via a partnership between the Procurement and Campus Services department and the Office of Sustainability. This committee has representation from faculty, staff and students who are passionate about improving the shuttle experience for the community. The committee has been charged with providing insights, feedback, and recommendations on Bentley Shuttle operations, based on the context of ridership experience. The committee meets twice a semester and serves in an advisory role, reporting to the shuttle management team.








Waste Minimization

Overall waste generation for fiscal year 2022 was lower than pre-COVID levels but has increased over the last two years. In fiscal year 2022, Bentley's diversion rate was 37% overall due to strong compost and recycling programs. From a waste minimization standpoint, Bentley still struggles with the use of many single-use, disposable items due to COVID precautions.

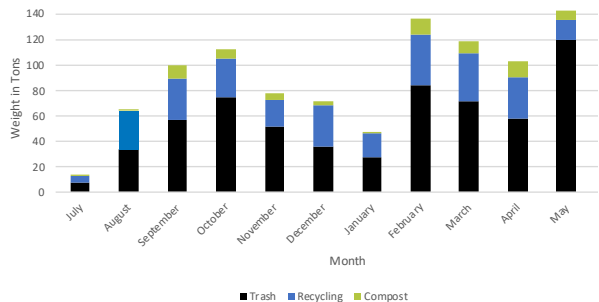
Recycling & Diversion Progress Report

Prepared For: Bentley University
Time Period: July 2021 - June 2022

Breakdown

	Zero-Sort.....	307 tons
	Compost.....	73 tons
	Trash.....	631 tons
TOTAL.....		1,011 tons

Waste In Tons
Fiscal Year 2022



Reorientation of the Waste Minimization Task Force

In Spring 2022 the Waste Minimization Task Force (WMTF) was re-established after a hiatus during COVID. This task force has representation from key internal Bentley departments dealing with waste and external vendors. The new mission of the WMTF is to begin to tackle the goals set forth in [Bentley's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#). The first project that the task force is working on is a waste reduction plan for the university.



Give 'N Go

In May 2022, Bentley celebrated Give 'N Go's tenth year by diverting 7,981 pounds of reusable items from the waste stream and into the hands of those in need. Give 'N Go is the sustainable move out program for Bentley students. This program encourages students to donate unwanted belongings as they move off campus at the end of the academic year. The program was relaunched in Spring 2022 after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. Donated items included clothing, kitchen supplies, books and food that was not opened. The collected goods were donated to Goodwill Northern New England and Healthy Waltham.



Education and Engagement

Academics

Guest Lectures

Each academic year, the Office of Sustainability provides guest lectures for faculty on various sustainability topics. In fiscal year 2022 the Office of Sustainability collaborated with faculty members to provide 25 guest lectures in both the business and the arts and sciences disciplines.

Co-Curricular Education

Student Sustainability Leadership Program

The Student Sustainability Leadership program cultivates professional skills and provides students with hands-on learning opportunities, which are integral to Bentley students' professional development considering the increasing emphasis on sustainability in the business world. The student team works together to provide strategic support for the Office and work on professional development skills. In fiscal year 2022, the major accomplishments of the group include:

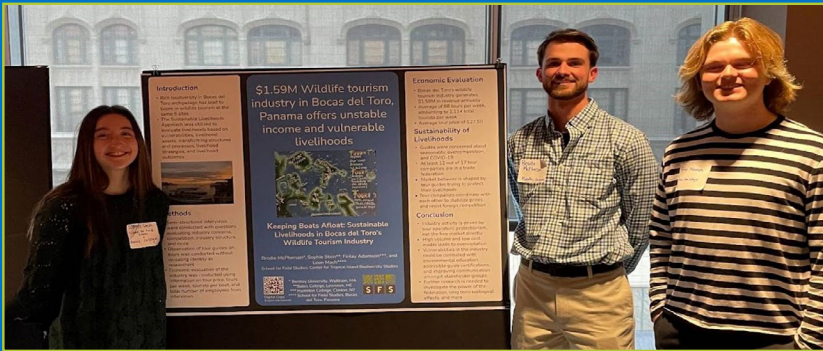
- "Wastle" Student Center Takeover: A play on Wordle that educated the community on plastic pollution.
- Finalized the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan: The students ran a feedback session that collected valuable insights from the community on finalizing this important document.
- Continued to strengthen the Office of Sustainability's presence on campus through social media and in person events.
- Launched the Student Educators program: A peer-to-peer education program providing training and engagement for students on waste minimization topics.

Delongchamp Fund

The Delongchamp Family Fund was established in 2015 to support undergraduate professional and co-curricular activities associated with studying sustainability and exploring business' triple-bottom line: people, planet and profit. The fund was designed to allow students to explore experiential learning opportunities that might otherwise be inaccessible due to cost. Since 2018, the Delongchamp Fund Committee has awarded 46 students with funding to attend conferences, supporting entrepreneurial efforts and supplementing unpaid internships.

Brodie McPherson

Thanks to an award from the DeLongchamp Fund, I was able to attend the Southeast Environment and Recreation Research Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. At this conference, I presented a poster on research that I conducted while studying abroad in Panama that detailed the socioeconomic and environmental challenges that come along with unsustainable wildlife tourism development. This conference was an amazing experience both personally and academically. We were able to use the poster session, which was less formal and more conversational than a conventional research presentation, to network with students and academics who are also interested in sustainability issues.



Research presentation at 2022 Southeast Environment and Recreation Research Conference, Asheville, NC



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