

UVA ECONETWORK



2020-2030 Sustainability Goals

Specifics regarding these goals can be found on the Office for Sustainability website [here](#).

Major Components:

- Carbon Neutrality by 2030
- Fossil Fuel Free by 2050
- Water use, reactive nitrogen emissions, and significant waste reductions
- Increase in sustainable food purchasing
- Commitment to educating and engaging the UVA community on sustainable principles
- Collaborating with the community to advance sustainable, equitable, and healthy places for all

Carbon Neutrality by 2030

UVA has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, joining the trend across the country (read more about this announcement [here](#)). This effort will be led primarily by UVA's Facilities Management department, including Operations and the Office for Sustainability. UVA would like to achieve this primarily without utilizing offsets, as they can be a rather controversial method to claim carbon neutrality (read more about that controversy [here](#)). Major changes will likely include efficiency upgrades to

the heating and cooling plants, increasing the amount of renewable energy on UVA's portfolio, as well as building efficiency upgrades. Specific plans to achieve this goal are still underway, but the most recent information can be found [here](#).

- **What is carbon neutrality?**
 - Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions eliminating carbon emissions or by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal.
- **Some other universities that have achieved carbon neutrality:**
 - American University
 - Colgate University
 - Middlebury College
 - The University of San Francisco
 - Bowdoin College
 - Bates College
 - Colby College
 - Colorado College

Fossil Fuel Free by 2050

Becoming fossil fuel free by 2050 is actually the much more progressive goal, and thereby much more difficult to accomplish. As of March 2020, there are many questions left unanswered as to how it will be achieved. This does not mean, however, that there is no hope in achieving it, as there are devoted professionals addressing it from many angles. The addition of this goal also advises many of the decisions that are being made in becoming carbon neutral by 2030, favoring solutions that not only reduce carbon emissions, but will help to completely eradicate them in the future (such as electrifying our bus fleet rather than using more efficient fossil-fuel-burning busses).

You can read more about UVA's actions regarding the other goals in the pages specified to UVA's water use, sustainable food, etc.

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