UMass Chan MEDICAL SCHOOL | Office of Sustainability

2026–2030

Office of Sustainability Strategy

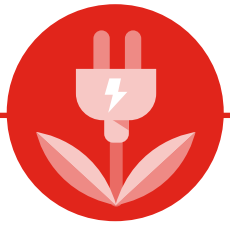
Together for a Healthy Planet

Scan the QR code to get involved!

TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

THE VISION FOR SUSTAINABILITY AT UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

Become a leader in sustainable development and decarbonization through resilient and equitable energy transition, responsible management of resources, and fostering stewardship of the environment.



DECARBONIZATION & RESILIENCY

Decarbonize UMass Chan enhancing the resilience of campus and infrastructure to climate impacts, and improving energy efficiency across all operations.

NATURAL RESOURCE USE

Manage resources responsibly by optimizing the efficient use of natural resources and minimizing waste.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Address the disproportionate impact of environmental issues on marginalized communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Foster environmental stewardship through active community engagement and education, and empowering participation in sustainable practices.

INTEGRATED PLANNING

Integrate sustainability principles into all planning and design processes to reduce environmental impact and promote resource and energy efficiency.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Strive to align sustainability with sound financial practices by maximizing long-term cost savings, reducing operational risks, and ensuring the responsible use of university resources.

Decarbonization & Resiliency

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OUR VISION

Over the next five years, UMass Chan will reduce energy use per square foot by 25% through building upgrades and sustainable design improvements. A long-term plan for transitioning to cleaner energy sources will be developed, ensuring reliable campus utilities and supporting the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

A **25% reduction** from a 2004 baseline of energy use per sq.ft (EUI) by 2030 would avoid over **425 million** kBTUs consumed, enough energy to power 12,140 homes for one year.

1 FIND AND FIX ENERGY WASTE

Conduct in-depth energy audits to uncover savings opportunities.

2 CHART THE PATH TO NET ZERO

Create an advanced roadmap to cut carbon emissions.

3 TRACK PROGRESS, STAY ON TARGET

Develop a system to measure and verify energy savings and results of energy projects.

4 GO GREEN, GO RENEWABLE

Expand renewable energy and heat pump generation across campus.

Natural Resource Use

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OUR VISION

Over the next five years, develop and implement a sustainability and resiliency design framework with clear guidelines on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable materials—ensuring project managers and contractors build a greener campus.

A **10% reduction** of water use from baseline of 2019 by 2030 would save **14,843,075 gallons** of water.

A **10% reduction** of municipal solid waste from baseline of 2019 by 2030 would avoid **258 tons** sent to landfill or incineration.

1 REDUCE WASTE SIMPLIFY RECYCLING

Improve waste reduction programs with centralized trash, surplus reuse, and clear bin standards and signage.

2 UNDERSTAND AND IMPROVE WATER USE

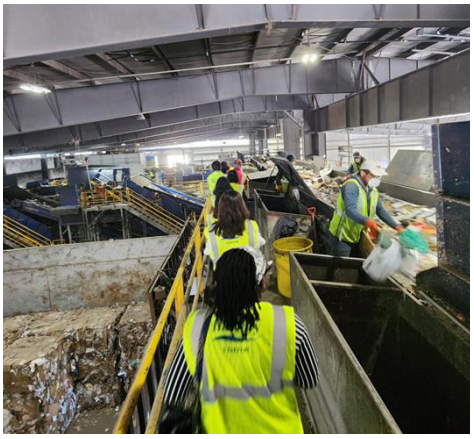
Conduct a campus-wide water audit to identify conservation opportunities.

3 WORK TOWARD ZERO WASTE

Develop and implement a plan to minimize waste and maximize recycling and reuse.

4 USE SMART TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Identify and invest in innovative solutions to conserve resources more effectively.



Environmental Justice

TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

OUR VISION

Over the next five years, create an environmental justice program that ensures campus planning considers the unequal impact of environmental issues on marginalized communities—driven by education, awareness, and community engagement.

Over **80%** of **Worcester's** census block groups meet Massachusetts state criteria for **environmental justice: low income, high minority, and linguistic isolation**.

Median household income is **<=65%** of the state's median.

Minorities make up **>=40%** of the population.

>=25% of households lack English proficiency.

1 ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bring together voices to guide environmental justice efforts.

2 DEFINE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Create a shared understanding tailored to the UMass Chan community.

3 BUILD A RESOURCE HUB

Develop a comprehensive guide to support environmental justice initiatives.

4 IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Develop a clear system for communication and reporting.

5 LISTEN AND LEARN FROM THE COMMUNITY

Conduct a needs assessment to understand local environmental challenges.

Environmental Stewardship

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OUR VISION

Over the next 3 years, develop and launch a robust campus community-based sustainability education program that engages at least 10% of the campus community through workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities focused on sustainable practices such as recycling, green labs, energy conservation, and local biodiversity.

Formed in 2023, **Pollination Association** achieved Bee Campus certification in 2024 by piloting pollinator habitats, hosting seed events, and creating the university's first integrated pest management plan. Since then, UMass Chan facilities added a pollinator hillside meadow and secured a grant for electric landscaping equipment.

1 CREATE A SUSTAINABILITY BRAND

Develop a communication strategy that makes sustainability accessible and inspiring across campus.

2 BUILD A SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION SERIES

Offer workshops, trainings, and events to empower the community with practical sustainability knowledge.

3 MAKE SUSTAINABILITY FUN AND COMPETITIVE

Launch gamification and challenge-based programs to encourage action through friendly competition.

4 GREEN OUR LABS AND OFFICES

Implement a program that helps campus workspaces adopt more sustainable practices and reduce their environmental impact.

Integrated Planning

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OUR VISION

Over the next five years, develop and implement a sustainability and resiliency design framework with clear guidelines on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable materials—ensuring project managers and contractors build a greener campus.

UMass Chan Medical School is advancing a long-term **strategic energy roadmap** with **National Grid** that aligns **efficiency**, **electrification**, and **decarbonization** to maximize savings and resilience. The **2025–2027 roadmap** sets clear energy goals and positions energy as a strategic asset supporting a sustainable future. This coordinated approach strengthens campus planning and delivers **system-wide impact**.

1 A GREEN CAMPUS FRAMEWORK

Implement sustainability and resiliency guidelines to shape future development.

2 PRIORITIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ensure energy use and efficiency are key factors in campus planning decisions.

3 STANDARDS FOR ENERGY & EMISSIONS

Develop consistent guidelines for modeling energy use and greenhouse gas impact.

4 TEAMWORK APPROACH

Align with strategic plans of regulatory, community, and utility partners.

4 CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Create a framework to integrate environmental justice into campus development and master planning.

Fiscal Responsibility

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OUR VISION

Over the next five years, align sustainability with sound financial practices by maximizing long-term cost savings, reducing operational risks, and ensuring the responsible use of university resources through data-informed planning and investments.

UMass Chan's **Surplus Program** has **saved** thousands of pounds of materials from the trash by making usable items available for continued use, while also generating **revenue** by auctioning select items to external users. The **Surplus Exchange** provides a digital platform for students, faculty, and staff to **redistribute** surplus items within the campus community, promoting **sustainability** and **cost savings**.

Visit **umassmed.edu/sustainability/natural-resources/surplus-exchange-2026** *to help us keep usable materials out of the trash.*

1 MEASURING IMPACT

Quantify and track savings from sustainability projects.

2 LEVERAGE EXTERNAL FUNDING

Continue to leverage incentive, rebate, and grant programs to build and strengthen sustainability projects and programs.

3 CRADLE TO GRAVE

Implement lifecycle cost analysis for capital projects to ensure accounting for full lifetime costs from cradle to grave.

4 EFFICIENT GAINS

Continuously evaluate program costs and seek efficiencies.

5 SUSTAINABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT

Track cost avoidance from reuse and donation programs.