



## Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

### ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

#### College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The college or university has in place is willing to provide a link to or copy of a non-discrimination policy. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

### U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Name of President/Chancellor: **Dr. Katherine P. Frank**  
(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: **University of Wisconsin-Stout**  
(As it should appear on an award)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

**Katherine P. Frank** Digitally signed by Katherine P. Frank  
Date: 2024.02.05 11:54:33 -06'00'

Date: **2/5/2024**

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)



## Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: University of Wisconsin System

Name of Nominating Authority: President Jay Rothman

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Jay Rothman

Digitally signed by Jay Rothman

Date: 2024.02.05 14:04:04 -06'00' Date:

2/5/2024

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

## SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: October 31, 2026

### Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



## Wisconsin Post-Secondary Institution Application

### Nominee Application

Postsecondary Institution Name: University of Wisconsin-Stout  
Category of Nomination Postsecondary: Public four-year university

Address: 712 S. Broadway City: Menomonie State: WI Zip: 54751 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UWStout>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uwstout>

Top official (IHE= President/Chancellor): Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Dr. First Name: Katherine Last Name: Frank Position/Role (President/Chancellor): Chancellor Email: [chancellor@uwstout.edu](mailto:chancellor@uwstout.edu) Phone: 715-232-2441

Lead Applicant (if different) Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Mrs. First Name: Kadi Last Name: Wright Position/Role (Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director): Sustainability Manager Email: [wrightk@uwstout.edu](mailto:wrightk@uwstout.edu) Phone: 715-232-5254

#### Check all that apply:

Public

Non-Public

Two-Year

Four-Year

Community College

Career and Technical

Urban

Rural

Suburban

#### Provide percentages if any are relevant to your school, district, or institution:

Pell Recipients: 24.9%

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch:

Minority: 17.3%

Special Education:

Graduation Rate: Undergraduate: 51.9%, Graduate:

91.2%

Attendance Rate:

#### Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 7,226 Number of Schools: 2 colleges with 5 schools and a graduate school Buildings: 47

Campuses: 1

### Questions and Narrative

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

(X) Yes ( ) No Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

As the first-ever higher education recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige Award, UW-Stout follows the Baldrige performance excellence criteria that uses performance metrics to improve overall performance. The seven



categories include leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resources focus, process management and business results. As part of these benchmarks, UW-Stout reviews performance metrics associated with greenhouse gas emissions and student self-reporting health and wellness.

Additionally, in 2007, UW-Stout became a Charter Signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (now the Second Nature Carbon Commitment). In doing so, Stout committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 and is accelerating sustainability research and education on our campus. This commitment helped create Stout's strategic sustainability planning process resulting in the annual university-wide [Campus Sustainability Action Plan](#) and the annual tracking of GHG emissions.

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

(X) Yes ( ) No Award(s) and year(s):

- 2023: Placed 47<sup>th</sup> in Campus Race to Zero Waste Diversion Category, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2022: Placed 53<sup>rd</sup> in Campus Race to Zero Waste Diversion Category, 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2021: Placed 42<sup>nd</sup> in Campus Race to Zero Waste (Formerly RecycleMania) Diversion Category, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2020: [League of American Bicyclists'](#) Bike Friendly University Bronze Level (Renewed)
- 2020: Placed 29<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2019: [Placed 24<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament](#) Diversion Category and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2018: [Princeton Review Green Colleges List](#)
- 2018: [Placed 34<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament](#) Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2017: [Princeton Review Green Colleges List](#)
- 2017: Placed 44<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2016: Placed 28<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2016: League of American Bicyclists' Bike Friendly University Bronze Level
- 2015: AASHE STARS Silver Rating (2015-2018)
- 2015: Placed 31<sup>st</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2014: Association of College Unions International (ACUI) [Facility Design Award of Excellence](#) for UW-Stout's [Memorial Student Center](#)
- 2014: Placed 27<sup>th</sup> in RecycleMania Tournament Diversion Category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Universities of Wisconsin
- 2013: AASHE STARS Silver Rating (2013-2016)



## **Pillar I: Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs**

UW-Stout is a Charter Signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (now the Second Nature Carbon Commitment). Stout's Enduring Goals further exemplify our sustainability commitment. Enduring Goal #6 states, "Provide an environmentally sustainable campus that includes safe, accessible, effective, efficient and inviting physical facilities." In addition to the [Sustainability Office](#), our campus has [seven sustainability committees and workgroups](#).

**Reducing GHG Emissions:** UW-Stout tracks and reports emissions on an annual basis to SIMAP. [Located here](#) is our most recent emissions data, factoring in Scope 1, 2, and 3 (not including commuting) emissions. This data includes on-campus stationary sources, fleet vehicle mileage, refrigerants, fertilizers, purchased electricity and renewable energy credits, air travel, personal vehicle mileage, trash, compost, wastewater, purchased paper, T&D losses, and FERA. From FY09 to FY22, Stout attained a 33% reduction in these emissions. The increase in emissions from FY21 to FY22 was due to [FERA \(Fuel- and Energy-Related Activities\)](#) now being a scope 3 emission factor in the calculations and was not included in previous emission reports. A sustainability wall in our [Memorial Student Center](#) helps individuals learn about our commitment to sustainability, including tips for a sustainable lifestyle and reducing GHG emissions.

### **Energy & Facilities**

**Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** In 2018, UW-Stout completed a \$1.5M LED lighting retrofit in eleven campus buildings and numerous parking lots, walkways, and outdoor building lights. Stout replaced 15,225 fixtures with expected savings of \$88,946 and a reduction of 417 metric tons of GHG annually. In 2019, through a partnership with Xcel Energy, a student intern was funded to audit campus lighting with the goal of increasing energy LED efficiency. Stout used this data to prioritize more LED retrofits. Seven of nine residence halls have updated LED lighting, and University Housing will complete the remaining halls during their planned renovation. University Housing reports a \$17 per resident reduction in average annual energy costs since FY19. Stout incorporates renewable energy projects such as solar powered sidewalk crossings, [bus shelter](#) lighting and more. Through funding from the Stout Student Association's Green Fee in 2018, a 10.8 kW solar array was installed on the roof of Merle Price Commons, and in [2021](#) an additional 45 kW solar array was installed.

In 2023, Stout completed [an energy project spanning four main categories](#): LED lighting upgrades, envelope weatherization improvements, new destratification fans installed in the Sports & Fitness Center, and solar panel installations. This project budget was \$2.9M, with annual savings of \$173,000, and an annual carbon emissions reduction of 1,431 metric tons with a 16-year payback. Solar arrays were installed on Jarvis Hall Tech Wing and General Services (approximately 400 kw). The project is projected to reduce annual campus electric energy purchases by 9% and natural gas usage by 2%. Additional solar panels are included in the Heritage Hall renovation project (2025), which will further contribute to a reduction in campus electrical energy purchases. Stout, working with other UW institutions and the Universities of Wisconsin, is working on a Virtual Power Purchasing Agreement/Renewable Energy Purchase to acquire clean energy to meet projected purchased power needs.



Additionally, UW-Stout actively participates in Focus on Energy (FOE), Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program. To date, Stout has earned \$169,376 in FOE incentives for completing energy efficiency projects. Stout is reinvesting these funds into energy efficiency projects such as the planned installation of two EV charging stations. Stout's administrative procedures require campus to seek out and apply for incentives from FOE during all renovation, construction, and energy upgrade projects.

**Appliances Audit:** A student audited all break room community appliances in 2020-2021, as well as personal appliances, providing a [snapshot of energy use](#) in each academic building. This prompted the current development of a new policy that in 2024 will provide guidelines related to using personal appliances on campus and replacement of campus-owned appliances over a multi-year timeline.

**Sustainable Construction & Renovation (SC&R):** The SC&R committee works with facilities management and state partners to incorporate sustainable construction practices into new construction and renovation projects. UW-Stout implements a green construction checklist based on LEED, WELL, and AIA sustainable building standards. The checklist principles interweave required [DFD Guidelines](#) to track all items during the planning process. Stout is currently applying this to the [Heritage Hall renovation project](#) and will continue to incorporate it into future projects. Additionally, through the Heritage Hall renovation project, a reduction in campus's building footprint will occur.

**Heating Plant Retrofit:** In 2020, UW-Stout eliminated the use of coal and moved to natural gas central heating system as our primary heat source. This project reduced annual emissions by an estimated 1,716 to 5,720 tons. In 2023, a more efficient variable frequency drive draft fan was installed, reducing our electricity consumption in steam production for the campus even more.

**Monthly Electricity Reports & Energy Dashboard:** Building supervisors receive automated [monthly electricity reports](#) allowing them to see how much electricity the building and occupants consumed during the past month with a comparison to the previous year. In addition, an online [Building Dashboard](#) shows real-time electricity usage in 30 campus buildings to further engage our students, faculty, and staff in UW-Stout's energy consumption. The Building Dashboard shows electricity consumption data in kWh, dollars spent, and CO2 emitted for each building and the campus. Facilities Management (FM) uses this data to decide on capital spending and troubleshooting daily issues. FM also has used this data to assist students with capstone projects to show how best they can help save energy.

**Electric Mower:** In 2023, the SSA Sustainability Council and Facilities Management funded and purchased Stout's first electric mower, replacing a campus gas mower. This mower is estimated to save campus approximately \$12,000 in maintenance costs and has an estimated 2,000 hour longer lifespan.

### **Water Quality & Conservation**

Every other year, UW-Stout performs a [water quality test](#) in all buildings through a joint program involving Safety & Risk Management (S&RM) and FM. FM conducts water flushing programs to help maintain water quality and exercise valves. Additionally, 89% of our drinking fountains have bottle refilling dispensers that utilize a charcoal filter to filter water and help reduce waste by encouraging refillable water bottles. University Dining Services works to reduce water use in their kitchens, by





utilizing water efficient dishwashers. Our Grounds Department only irrigates 8.4% of our outdoor areas and touchless faucets are used in campus restrooms to reduce water consumption.

**Stormwater Management:** Annual reports to the Wisconsin DNR verify continued compliance with Stout’s MS4 permit for a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. Parking lots have several stormwater retention areas to better manage stormwater. Stout expanded this initiative with the addition of porous concrete on campus to reduce the impervious surfaces and decrease stormwater runoff. Through a public education and outreach program Stout shares the importance of [reducing storm water pollution](#). Additionally, parking lots are continuously swept to reduce debris that is carried into the storm drains; in 2022, 65 tons of debris were removed, contributing to collection of more than 330 tons in the last five years.

### **Ecologically Beneficial Uses of Grounds**

**Salt Management (SM):** The Grounds and Custodial Departments are trained in SM to reduce the use of road salt on campus walkways, on proper equipment calibration, and on how to use a salt brine to treat walkways before snow events. In 2024, UW-Stout plans to implement a winter sidewalk and staircase closure plan for pedestrian safety and to assist in decreasing our salt application even further.

**Outdoor Classroom & Natural Habitat:** The Outdoor Classroom is used by the Environmental Science program for restoration education; general science courses; and plant, ecology, wetland, soil science, hydrology, and restoration courses. It is a three-acre site on campus comprised of a wetland strip and an upland mixed deciduous forest. This space provides a nearby site for students to work on invasive management, site surveying, and planning among other hands-on real-world applications, including capstone projects. The site allows students to explore long term monitoring projects, and conduct plant and insect habitat restoration. A 1/3-acre prairie natural habitat is also located on campus and contains a variety of native plants that both provide habitat for native insects and help students learn ecological techniques. The prairie also absorbs substantial snowmelt during the spring.

### **Waste Reduction**

**Waste Collection Stations:** In 2011-12, Stout created an administrative procedure for reducing waste. This procedure mandated campus-wide [waste collection stations with three bins](#) – No Sort Recycling, Organics for Compost, and Trash for Landfill – paired with educational signage.

**Campus Race to Zero Waste Tournament (CR2ZW):** Each year Stout competes in [CR2ZW](#). In 2023, Stout placed #2 in the Universities of Wisconsin and #47 overall in the [diversion category](#).

**New Opportunities and Best Stewardship Practices:** Stout continues to collaborate with [Cascades](#) to find a new life for shredded office paper. The Waste Reduction Workgroup performs audits on our recycling path from campus to transfer stations to the material recovery facility.

**Waste Reduction Training:** UW-Stout provides waste reduction training to help mitigate landfilled waste. Waste training videos specific to [new on-campus students](#) and [new employees](#) teach [how to recycle and compost at UW-Stout](#). To reinforce waste sorting concepts with new students, waste training is provided at key gatherings such as the [Backyard Bash](#), [Great Stout Cookout event](#), and



freshman orientation. In addition, recycling audits are conducted with targeted classes. Through these audits, students get [hands-on experience](#) analyzing a recycling dumpster and determining contamination percentages. Overall, students assist in gathering data to better understand waste sorting, educational needs, learn more about common contamination items on campus (e.g. instant noodle cups), and how to better identify item types.

**Waste Reduction in Dining Operations (UDS):** UDS offers compostable to-go food packaging and tableware and has a “[Green to Go](#)” reusable container program for students to utilize reusable to-go containers and utensils for free. Customers using their own mug or cup at dining operations receive a discount. UDS recycles their fryer oil into biofuel and strives to reduce food waste by utilizing detailed food management software to accurately predict customer counts and quantities needed for recipes.

**Surplus Department:** The Surplus Department strives to be a zero-waste operation by providing opportunities for the reuse and recycling of campus-owned items, and the public can purchase items [like computers and office furniture](#). Surplus also recycles e-waste, batteries, and printer cartridges with an E-Cycle Wisconsin registered recycler. Campus diverted 29,184 items at 215,992 lbs. from the landfill and reclaimed 724 items at 15,452 lbs. for reuse in FY23. In summer of 2023, to divert [94,000 lbs. of rubble from the landfill](#), a two-story, 1,540-square-foot house built in 1910 and owned by the university was auctioned off and relocated by the buyer.

**Spring Move-Out Event:** UW-Stout offers a [Spring Move-Out Event](#) for off-campus students. Habitat for Humanity and the City of Menomonie partner with Stout offering a drop-off site to donate furniture, clothing, non-perishable food, and more. We try to recycle items that cannot be reused before landfilling items. In 2023, three [box-truck loads](#) of donated items were brought to Habitat for Humanity in Eau Claire.

**Hazardous Waste:** Safety & Risk Management (S&RM) manages the hazardous waste program in conjunction with the Chemical Management program. Per EPA definitions, UW-Stout is a “Very Small or Small Quantity Generator” of hazardous waste, depending on yearly waste stream fluctuations.

**Textbook Rental Program:** [The Textbook Rental Program](#) is managed by the Instructional Resources Service (IRS) and is completely supported through student fees. Students save about \$1,150 a year on textbooks costs. About 85% of all textbooks at Stout are now digital. For the books that are still printed, after they are withdrawn, IRS resells to the used book markets. The books that are unable to be sold are provided to students for free or are continued to be used through a partnership with a non-profit called Books for Africa (BFA). BFA collects the books and ships them to schools and libraries throughout Africa that do not have adequate numbers of books, resulting in a tremendous humanitarian boon to schools overseas while saving campus money.

### **Sustainable Transportation**

**Sustainable Transportation Committee:** The committee oversees the infrastructure and programming to encourage campus to use sustainable transportation for commutes to campus. Currently, the committee is implementing a 5-year sustainable transportation plan that identifies ways to reduce emissions by biking, walking, ridesharing, and using our transit system. Eight action steps have been





implemented, including assisting in creating the first version of the Universities of Wisconsin [sustainable travel practices webpage](#). Furthermore, UW-Stout's Sustainability Manager has helped lead the Universities of Wisconsin Sustainability's Transportation Working Group. The group has worked on putting together a Universities of Wisconsin EV Charging Toolkit with best practices and resources to assist the universities in implementing charging on their campuses.

**Transit System:** UW-Stout partners with [Dunn County Transit \(DCT\)](#) to provide [community and campus bus transportation](#). Stout contributes financially to DCT's operating budget to allow all members of our campus to ride the buses free of charge. Stout contributes on average 90% to DCT's ridership per year. DCT provides a tracker app that shows the bus is in real-time, making transit more convenient.

**UW-Stout Rideshare:** An [online rideshare application](#) that matches individuals who commute to campus or will be traveling. Stout also offers a reduced-price parking permit or free daily parking permit for twelve days as an incentive for employees who carpool to campus.

**Biking:** Designated a [Bike Friendly](#) University (Bronze Level) in 2016 and 2020, Stout strives to make the campus bike friendly with bike racks campus-wide, along with [two skateboard parking](#) locations, and during inclement weather, [sheltered spaces](#) and bike [lockers](#) are available. Several [bike repair stations](#) located around campus allow for minor repairs. Stout's [bike rental program](#) provides bikes to students. They are required to watch designated bike safety videos and take a [safety quiz](#), following which they are outfitted with a bike, helmet, lock, and safety lights. The program has 18 bikes available for rent and has had a waitlist for the past two years.

## **Pillar 2: Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff**

### **Contaminant Controls, Ventilation, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

Our Chemical Hygiene Program includes controls on ordering hazardous chemicals, as well as proper use training and specifies chemical inventory procedures and ventilation testing for lab fume hoods and local exhaust systems. FM takes a multi-pronged approach to IPM to strive for the most reasonably environmentally sensitive resolution. Annually, we evaluate our plans for IPM strategies. We prioritize management controls at the cultural and physical levels first, such as training and informing staff to minimize food sources and ensuring building enclosures minimize pest entry areas. If/when a pest concern is discovered, actions are taken to identify the severity and type of pest to determine an appropriate response. Chemical applications are kept to a minimum. When determined necessary, we coordinate with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party professional for targeted treatments on building exteriors to minimize pests, based upon the type of pest and its lifecycle. We don't utilize chemicals in locations directly accessible to occupants. Products used are applied per recommendations and as minimally as possible. We do some trapping via mechanical means when required to avoid chemical use.

### **Air Quality, Moisture Control, and Thermal Comfort**

Safety & Risk Management (S&RM) conducts indoor air quality investigations upon request. In addition, S&RM works with Facilities Management (FM) to plan ventilation needs, and mechanical ventilation equipment is considered a priority when using capital funds for facility renovations, specifically high



efficiency air filtration equipment and variable volume air handlers. The FM department monitors both the moisture as part of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services and the thermal comfort in indoor spaces. FM has humidity control equipment for in-house emergency responses to water release incidents. The HVAC professionals track, adjust and repair temperature and humidity. Lastly, UW-Stout has been a tobacco-free campus since 2010. Smoking or use of any tobacco product is not permitted in any facility or on the grounds of our campus.

### **Chemical Management**

Through a collaboration with S&RM, FM, Surplus, and Student Life & Services, Stout has a comprehensive chemical management program. FM uses low toxicity Green Seal and EcoLogo certified cleaning products in custodial operations. S&RM has a chemical redistribution program that places unwanted surplus chemicals with departments that can use them. The Hazard Communication Program, coordinated by S&RM, requires each employing unit that uses or stores hazardous chemicals to obtain Safety Data Sheets (SDS) from the manufacturer or distributor. The Universities of Wisconsin Chem Manager+ program (Jaegger inventory software and ChemWatch SDS software) is used for campus labs and is managed by S&RM. In addition, FM uses the MV3 online system to keep an inventory of all chemicals used.

### **Access to Outdoors**

**Stout Adventures:** [The Stout Adventures](#) outdoor program provides opportunities for students, employees, and the community to get involved in outdoor activities and opportunities, including the ropes course, the [on-campus Challenge Course](#), [guided trips](#), and the ability to [rent outdoor equipment](#). UW-Stout also runs clinics for trip planning and safety. Overall, from Fall 2022-Spring 2023, Stout had 4,284 contact hours with participants on trips. Although contact hours on trips are most impactful, Stout Adventures in 2022-2023 went far beyond that to include 1,100 reservation participants and 237 items rented.

**Student Organizations:** Several student organizations and clubs provide outdoor opportunities for students. Some examples include Alfresco Outing, Bow Hunters, Cycling, Disc Golf, Fly Fishing, Golf, Running and Jogging, Ski and Snowboard, Spikeball, Ultimate Frisbee, and the Waterski Team.

### **Health & Counseling Services**

**Counseling Services:** [UW-Stout Student Counseling Center](#) provides individual, group, and couple's counseling; consultation; crisis appointments; alcohol and drug education services; and outreach presentations. They have licensed [mental health staff and graduate-level interns](#). In 2022-23, 743 unique clients were served with 4,645 contact hours. The Student Counseling Center provides [outreach and presentations](#) to the campus community to promote mental health awareness and trains others on how to recognize and respond to mental health concerns in order to reduce the stigma around mental health. Additionally, the [UW-Stout Clinical Services Center](#) strengthens relationships in the Menomonie area by providing marriage and family therapy services to the community at an affordable cost. The Center also provides comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations for individuals on campus and in the community. Furthermore, through the Heritage Hall renovation project, an intentional consolidation of mental health services and academic programming will occur to better serve campus and community.



**Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Education Services:** The Student Counseling Center offers virtual *CHOICES* classes to students who have received their first underage drinking citation, providing students information and skills to promote safety and prevention related to alcohol. They also provide one-on-one individual sessions for students who receive their second underage drinking citation. Drinker's Check-Up (BASICS) provides students with an opportunity to discuss and explore their alcohol use in a non-judgmental environment. Additionally, the Chancellor's Coalition on Alcohol and Drugs is comprised of campus and community members who promote a safe and healthy learning environment that encourages responsible legal behaviors and decisions regarding AOD use.

**Mindfulness & Relaxation:** The Zen Zone located in Student Counseling Services is a space available for individuals to relax. The area includes a massage chair, light boxes, coloring pages, a self-help book library, and more. The library also has a [sensory space](#) with noise reducing chairs, shades for light control, white noise machine and other sensory tools. Added to the library in 2022 is a reservable reflection room for yoga, prayer, meditation or quiet.

**Student Health Services (SHS):** SHS, operated by Prevea Health, provides both medical services (e.g., urgent care, reproductive and mental health, LGBTQIAA+ and transgender care, laboratory services) and preventative services (e.g., vaccines, physical exams, TB screenings) for domestic and international students. Students can access the local Prevea Urgent Care year-round when the clinic is closed. The Wellness Peers Reaching Out (PRO's) provide tabling events, programs to groups, and large-scale events such as the Wellness Fair on a variety of health and mental health topics. The Student Health Promotion manager coordinates with Dunn County Health Department on preparedness topics.

### **Faculty & Staff Health Promotion**

**Campus Wellness Committee (CWC):** The committee promotes and supports organizational and individual wellness through education and prevention efforts by offering yearly programs and events that emphasize health awareness, disease prevention, and positive health behavior change. CWC also plans and hosts several campus and community events including the [Wellness Fair](#). The Wellness Fair hosts more than 50 campus and community vendors and has more than 500 participants that attend annually.

**Well Wisconsin:** Well Wisconsin is a partnership program between the State of Wisconsin and WebMD. Certified Health Coaches are available for supportive confidential one-on-one conversations. Employees who receive State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance are eligible yearly to receive a \$150 gift card for completing a biometric screening, an online health assessment, and a wellbeing activity. The program's goals are to bring awareness to personal wellness and establish a culture for improving community health. In 2023, UW-Stout placed third among all UW institutions with 41.73% of the eligible employee population completing the required program elements.

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP):** UW-Stout has a free, confidential EAP through Kepro that is available to employees and anyone living in their household. Assistance includes mental health care, financial consulting, legal advice, and other resources that promote a healthy work/life balance. Professional counselors are available by phone and in-person locally.



**Employee Success Committee (ESC):** The ESC implements strategies and coordinated initiatives to improve employee retention and achieve campus climate goals that align with the university’s strategic plan, People Process Culture (PPC) principles, and the [Malcolm Baldrige](#) criteria for performance excellence and valuing people. The five PPC principles are respect, innovation, excellence, prosperity, and community.

**Events and Outreach Committee (EOC):** The EOC is Stout’s campus-based volunteer committee that plans and offers activities promoting cross campus community and collaboration. Types of events offered include social wellness (e.g. Stout Trivia Night), physical wellness (e.g. after-hours bicycle rides through town), and community wellness (e.g. Farmer’s Market Lunch).

**Well-being Collaboration:** UW-Stout and Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) joined forces in the fall of 2023 to share resources to help strengthen the well-being of our employees. The goal is to empower employees by providing development opportunities that address the various dimensions of well-being, ensuring that employees succeed both personally and professionally.

**University Recreation (Urec):** The [Fitness Center](#) offers memberships to faculty, staff, and immediate family members. All students have free access. Urec organizes several [regular events](#) including the [Poker Walk](#), [Homecoming Race](#), and Chair Yoga. Chair Yoga is also offered weekly to employees, and beginning in the 2023-2024 school year has been offered for the first time to local CVTC employees as well. An online catalog of more than 50 classes is available for employees. Additionally, workout space is available in the [Multi-Purpose Room and the outdoor track](#) for faculty and staff to recreate at no cost.

**January Professional Development:** During professional development programs each January, emotional and physical development are emphasized through a series of well-being offerings for all employees. Participation for 2023 totaled 832.

### **Family and Community Involvement**

**Sports & Fitness Center (SFC):** UW-Stout strives to provide opportunities for everyone to access wellness opportunities that support physical and mental wellbeing. Urec offers community memberships to utilize the multi-purpose room, golf room, and racquetball courts. Community members can access our climbing wall, equipment rentals, and Challenge Course. Stout Adventures offers a Youth Climbing League, Story Time and Climb, Birthday Party program, and Ropes Course Exploration. The SFC is home to many events for user groups such as the Menomonie School District, Special Olympics, Menomonie City Recreation Department, local police/fire department, non-profits, and camps. In 2022-2023 there were 224 bookings, totaling 835 hours of community reservations (not including UW-Stout events and reservations) in the Sports & Fitness Center.

### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)**

Sustainability can only be achieved through greater social awareness and cultural understanding. The identities of students and employees are multifaceted and intersectional. UW-Stout actively engages with and views diversity as critical to the university's identity. Stout aims to cultivate an environment fostering and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accountability, at every level of university life. The learning environments at Stout provide students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds the



opportunity to thrive and fulfill their academic, personal, and professional potential in an increasingly diverse global environment. Each of the four shared governance groups—Faculty, Academic Staff, University Staff and the [Stout Student Association](#)—have EDI subcommittees focused on inclusive work and learning environments. In 2019, the first Associate Dean of Students was hired to support and implement EDI across the campus. In 2022, Stout established an [EDI unit](#) and hired an inaugural Assistant Chancellor of EDI. This commitment to EDI, paired with a sustainability strategic plan, positions Stout for meaningful integration of conversations and educational opportunities at the intersection of equity and environment.

### **Food and Nutrition**

**University Dining Services (UDS):** A UDS [registered dietitian](#) provides [nutrition education](#), counseling and guidance for students, and guest information. UDS offers robust accommodations for students with medically documented [diet restrictions, allergies, and intolerances](#), and all dining and retail operations have vegetarian and vegan options. In addition, UDS works with vendors to provide high-quality, nutrient dense foods, using local ingredients when possible and offers a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and protein sources for students to plan balanced meals. UDS encourages the use of its [online menu database](#) to help customers make informed choices. Partnerships with local vendors as educational resources, in addition to building working relationships with the Stout Student Association’s Sustainability Council, create more sustainable offerings. Additionally, UDS received the [Regents University Staff Excellence Program Award](#) in 2023, honored for their professional and excellence in serving students.

**UW-Sprout Campus Garden:** The [Garden](#) provides fresh, local, and sustainably grown food to campus. [UW-Sprout staff](#) and [volunteers](#) grow and harvest produce to be utilized in UDS meals and salad bars, expanding the local food selection. Students can volunteer at the garden to receive free produce. During the 2023 growing season, volunteer time totaled 230 hours.

**Helping Hand Food + Pantry:** Strives to provide healthy and filling food options along with quick and easy meals and snacks. The pantry also carries school supplies and personal hygiene products. From September 2022 to September 2023, there has been a 46% increase in pantry usage. In 2023, during UW-Stout's Giving Week Food Drive, more than 2,000 items were donated to the pantry by 34 departments. During this week, \$5,000 in support was also given by donors through [Stout Gives Back](#).

## **Pillar 3: Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

### **STEM, Civic Skills, and Green Career Pathways in Curriculum**

As Wisconsin’s only polytechnic university, UW-Stout prioritizes a multi-pronged approach that includes curriculum, career-focused experiential learning, professional development of faculty and staff, and data tracking to ensure effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

### **Academics/Curriculum**

At the undergraduate and graduate level, learning at UW-Stout prioritizes three educational tenets: applied learning, career-focused education, and collaborative learning via internal and external



partnerships. To that end, [Stout Core courses](#) (the General Education program), program technical courses, and [Stout's experiential learning requirements](#), provide a broad context for student learning across all disciplines and prepare students to be members of a diverse team, contribute to a democratic society, and tackle complex problems in any field. The following academic offerings at the graduate and undergraduate level, including degrees, micro-credentials, and diverse modes of delivery, highlight Stout's cross-disciplinary commitment and successes in sustainability-related offerings.

**[M.S. Sustainable Management:](#)** This fully online program is offered as part of a unique partnership with UW-Stout, UW-Green Bay, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside and UW-Superior with administrative and financial support from UW-Extended Campus. The program combines coursework in business, sustainability, and environmental management. Graduates are well-versed in both business and science, with skills including: communication about complex issues; ability to analyze the relationship between human activity and various environments; application of performance metrics for decision-making; understanding the role and impact of the built environment; evaluation of social and political impact of sustainability; development of organizational leaders in sustainable organizations; and ability to impact the design of products, processes, energy production and use, minimize waste and prevent pollution.

**[B.S. Environmental Science:](#)** This program prepares students for careers in environmental health and protection, and the sustainable management of our natural resources. Students in the program choose from four concentrations specialized areas (Aquatic Biology, Environmental Health, Human Dimensions, or Natural Resource Conservation). Additionally, many graduates choose to continue their studies through [UW-Stout's Professional Science Masters \(PSM\) in Conservation Biology](#).

**[B.S. Packaging:](#)** UW-Stout offers the only packaging program in the state, and sustainability is embedded in its curriculum with industry partnerships. Packaging students in the [Great Northern Corporation Collaboration Experience](#) course worked with Stout's Graphic Design students on [sustainable packaging designs](#). Students in the industry-sponsored course were able to present their final projects to industry professionals. In 2022, for the second year in a row, packaging teams won first and second place in the annual [Flexible Packaging Association Student Design Challenge](#). In 2023 students won two first place finishes and one third place finish in the [International Molded Fiber Association challenge](#) where seven students, through cross-collaboration from five majors including video production, graphic communications, mechanical engineering, packaging, and graphic design and interactive media, created new, sustainable solutions for three consumer products.

**[B.S. Plastics Engineering:](#)** The program covers product and mold design, materials science and advanced processing techniques and students gain skills in creating biodegradable and compostable plastics.

**[B.S. Construction:](#)** UW-Stout offers the only [ACCE-accredited](#) Construction program in the state. Students are required to take PHYS-190 Statics and Sustainability for the Built Environment which addresses energy use, sustainability of construction materials, climate change, and renewable energies. With funds secured by Assistant Professor Mona Afifi, via an Ignite Grant, Stout construction students helped develop the [Integrated Building Information Modeling for Sustainable Construction](#) platform. Students worked on real construction projects and gained experience in advanced building information modeling tools and sustainable construction applications.





**B.F.A. Industrial Design & B.F.A. Interior Design:** UW-Stout offers the largest number of Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in the state, and sustainability curriculum is embedded in several aspects of each degree. The Industrial Design courses cover design methodology, aesthetics and form, ergonomics, interface and interaction, design for manufacture, sustainability, and contemporary design issues. The Interior Design program blends fine art, design, and technical disciplines, which lead to careers that create meaningful, life-enhancing, and safe interior environments, including sustainable design.

**Sustainability and Well-being Certificate & Design for Sustainability Certificate:** The Sustainability and Well-being Certificate is an online graduate certificate that provides students with the fundamentals of sustainability and well-being, the behavior and development of organizations, and the principles of corporate social responsibility. The Design for Sustainability Certificate is a graduate level certificate; students can utilize a designer's perspective for problem-solving and innovation using foundations in design thinking, circularity, and regenerative design. They learn to apply environmental and social justice ethics to professional practice and demonstrate knowledge of sustainability principles and methodologies to further explore and apply learning to any industry or effort.

**Sustainability Minor:** The minor is built around a core of sustainability-focused courses that apply the topic broadly and demonstrate its relation to all careers. During the capstone experience, student projects are completed (as described below).

### **Career-Focused Experiential Learning**

UW-Stout requires experiential learning (applied learning) for all programs. Experiential learning is defined as formal, supervised learning experiences, with direct and active faculty involvement; specified goals and learning objectives; application of theory; and evaluation of learning outcomes. These experiences rely on students applying the knowledge and information acquired through research, simulations, and/or faculty instruction to real world problem solving. At UW-Stout, experiential learning opportunities include capstone courses, co-ops/internships, practicum, service learning, student teaching, field experiences, study abroad, and student research. The following section highlights sustainability-related experiential learning examples.

**Cooperative Education and Internship Program (CEIP):** UW-Stout is proud of its 99.4% career outcome rate of graduates. This includes outcomes directly into employment or into graduate school upon graduation. One of the factors that fosters such a high outcome rate is the integration of co-op/internships/field experiences within all majors. The national award-winning program has been driving outcomes for the past 40 years. From the data collected of the 1100+ students who participated in the CEIP program in 2021-22, there is a focus on Career Readiness, both personally and professionally.

- 97% reported understanding workplace professionalism
- 96% relayed increased confidence in their professional abilities
- 91% stated they developed leadership skills
- 93% believed they gained a competitive advantage over students who did not complete a work experience.



During 2021-2022, 127 experiences were recorded from eight unique programs (Applied Science, Applied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Environmental Science, Packaging, Plastics Engineering, Risk Control and Safety Management, and Conservation Biology), across 13 U.S. States and one international location. These experiences included a wide range of organizations (e.g. industries; local, state, and national governmental agencies) and addressed agriculture/food, land conservation/restoration, manufacturing/lab/research and healthcare products, services, needs and programs.

To highlight the student success in sustainability in the CEIP program, a packaging major student completed a sustainability focused experience with Boston Scientific, a medical packaging company based in Minnesota. Due to her co-op experience, she was an award recipient for the CEIP Outstanding Co-op Student of the Year Award in 2022 and was hired before graduation. External funding was leveraged to provide six students with co-op experiences focused on larval fish identification. This was part of a larger award provided by Xcel Energy. Several rare fishes inhabit the lower Chippewa River, but little is known about their reproduction. Students first attended a larval fish workshop at the Stone Lab (Ohio State University), then sampled the Chippewa and Red Cedar rivers through the spawning period. Successful reproduction of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) was documented for the first time. Students gained rare, marketable skill sets while the Wisconsin DNR gained valuable information toward sustainable management of these waterways. Additionally, students through co-op experiences and internships have gained experiences as a Conservation Corps Crew Member, Biological Technician for Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife, and Environmental Health and Safety Intern. Projects have included invasive species removal and mapping, native fish population sustainability studies, native prairie management and restoration, plastic waste reduction, increased community-level recycling, and endangered mussel population mapping.

**Environmental Science and Sustainability Minor Capstones:** Sustainable solutions to real-world problems are developed through partnerships with private, public, and/or industrial sectors of society. Projects are taken from the ideation phase to the completion of the required final documentation. The design of a triple-bottom-line solution is emphasized. In this course, senior-level students engage in interdisciplinary problem-solving projects with community and campus partners.

**Plastics Engineering Research Capstone:** Funding from EVCO Plastics supported [five plastic engineering](#) senior capstone projects. The students researched the viability of using recycled materials in plastics products while interacting with experts at EVCO Plastics.

### **Research**

Environmental and sustainability related research occurs across academic programs and often incorporates working with organizations, the community, and others to address environmental issues and sustainability opportunities. In fulfillment of the mission as a polytechnic university, UW-Stout strives to ensure students have an opportunity to be engaged and involved in research being conducted by campus.

**Water Research:** In 2023, UW-Stout received [\\$463,266 in funding](#) from the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin (FCW) in support of applied water research and academic opportunities. In the past two years, Stout has received \$871,220 in funding from FCW. FCW funding allows Stout to do applied



research with students and focus on understanding and generating solutions to the biggest problems affecting the region. Funding received in 2023 has gone towards continuing Stout's [watershed monitoring project](#) and will support efforts to examine effectiveness of previous restoration work and expand efforts to determine the root causes of toxic algal blooms affecting the region's lakes. The funding will also go towards continuing Stout's soil moisture monitoring work, building off of a previously funded FCW project called [Crop Per Drop](#). Applied Mathematics and Computer Science students will assist in constructing an automated weather stations and placing them in crop fields to collect weather and plant related data to test best practices and help inform [Chippewa Valley Bean's](#) agronomy team.

**[UW-Stout's Center for Limnological Research & Rehabilitation \(CLRR\)](#):** CLRR's mission is to help revive lakes by working with regional lake partners to treat and apply applications to reverse overfertilization and other damages causing algae growth. The center works towards improving all aspects of water quality, including the quality of life of the animals and people who use the lakes. Students who intern for CLRR gain valuable research experience through a paid internship by assisting with water sampling and testing.

#### **[Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Engage Engineering Students' Interest in Renewable Energy](#)**

**[Concepts](#):** Students in mechanical engineering and computer and electrical engineering programs collaborated on building concepts. Students learned about the design process, regulations, and key participants in Wisconsin's residential construction who focus on environmental conditions, project-based energy load calculation, and load offset through renewable energy systems. A research paper was presented at the 2022 conference of the American Society of Engineering Education.

#### **[Linking Applied Knowledge in Environmental Sustainability \(LAKES\) Research Experience for Undergraduates](#)**

This National Science Foundation funded research program addresses phosphorus pollution, particularly in the Red Cedar watershed and Lakes Menomin and Tainter. The [interdisciplinary](#), multi-year research grant integrates several disciplinary areas of faculty and student expertise and seeks collaboration with community, government, and rural partners. The grant features a focus on recruiting and mentorship of underrepresented student researchers (first-generation, female, and other underrepresented minority students). Additionally, the research generates [new knowledge](#) regarding complex social, economic, and ecological dynamics surrounding phosphorus pollution and its impacts, as well as potential mitigation strategies.

**[UW-Stout's Emerging Center for Rural Opportunity, Prosperity, and Sustainability \(CROPS\)](#):** provides the infrastructure to synthesize cross-disciplinary research, coordinate and align community organization goals and communications, aid in information dissemination, and convene farmers, community and university members, and experts around the theme of rural prosperity and environmental sustainability. Work integrates the social sciences and STEM.

#### **[Professional Development & Data Tracking](#)**

An interdisciplinary group of faculty and staff work on sustainability within curriculum. The vision is to incorporate high-level sustainability courses into every program on campus and to maintain the high quality of General Education sustainability-related courses. Starting in 2021, UW-Stout adopted



definitions for sustainability related courses ([Sustainability-Focused and Sustainability- Inclusive](#)) to track and assess sustainability and related attributes (e.g., enrollment, student attributes, instructors, etc.) across the curriculum.

### **Civic Knowledge & Engagement**

UW-Stout values collaboration and engagement with the Menomonie community. Stout is active in community boards, committees, projects, and initiatives. Stout’s Community Outreach Committee is comprised of 20 Stout employees who serve on community boards or committees, such as the Boys & Girls Club, Junior Achievement, Downtown Menomonie, and the Menomonie Area Chamber and Visitor Center. The committee meets regularly to ensure updates regarding activities at the university and community are shared and opportunities for collaboration are identified and acted upon. University leadership also meets regularly with city leaders to provide updates and collaborate on initiatives.

**Boys & Girls Club:** UW-Stout Students give back to the community in a variety of ways including involvement at the [Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Chippewa Valley](#). Mentoring builds relationships that help children to feel confident and build self-esteem. Support from board members, including Chancellor Frank, donors, and student workers, helped make the 2022 expansion of a [new middle school program possible](#).

**City Ash Trees:** Through collaboration efforts among UW-Stout's business administration; engineering technology, technology education and packaging programs; City of Menomonie; and local schools, ash trees cut down in Menomonie are going to be given new life through a three-year project. City ash trees cut down because of the emerald ash bore will be used to create new toys designed by local children and UW-Stout students. The finished project will then be donated to local children.

**Student Organizations & Student Government:** Students gain civic knowledge and engagement opportunities through numerous student organizations and clubs. Many have outward community service and engagement activities, and several have a specific focus on sustainability (e.g., Alfresco Outing Club, Ducks Unlimited, GreenSense, and Natural Areas Club). Perhaps Stout’s most significant civic learning opportunity is student government, the Stout Student Association (SSA). Enshrined in state statute, SSA participates internally through the campus shared governance processes. SSA also turns their attention outward, representing student body interests on the city, county, state, and federal levels. SSA has one standing committee specifically dedicated to sustainability. The SSA Sustainability Council (SC) works to advance campus sustainability and advocates with external policy makers. The most significant role of the SSA SC is to directly manage the campus Green Fee. The Green Fee was created and authorized by a campus-wide student referendum in 2014. The SSA SC oversees this fee, soliciting and evaluating project proposals. Since 2014, students have committed more than \$525,000 to a range of sustainability-related projects.

### **Summary Narrative: An Overview Encompassing All Three Pillars**

The University of Wisconsin-Stout is deeply committed to green sustainable campus culture. Since becoming a charter signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment in



2007, the university has invested in sustainability research and education and worked diligently with students, staff, and the community to achieve campus carbon neutrality by 2050.

For 16 years, UW-Stout has infused environmental sustainability into campus operations and programming and created a culture of sustainability with our students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors. Our Sustainability Office and seven sustainability committees are composed of dedicated stakeholders who strategically plan UW-Stout's sustainability goals, make our campus more energy efficient, reduce landfill waste, incorporate green building principles into building renovations, enhance our sustainable transportation options, and integrate sustainability into the curriculum across all disciplines. The university partners with numerous operational departments – Student Centers, University Housing, University Dining Services, Facilities Management, and many more – to reduce our environmental impact and emissions. Due to the large-scale commitment across stakeholders, our culture embraces sustainability, environmental advocacy, and high-impact practices. Overall, leading campus to a 33% reduction in Scope 1, 2, and 3 (not including commuting) emissions since FY09.

UW-Stout is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of our students and employees. We maintain safe and comfortable campus facilities through exceptional air and water quality, thermal comfort, and environmental chemical management and have a campus-wide ban on tobacco. Our award-winning University Dining Services (UDS) promotes health and wellness by providing fresh, high-quality, nutrient-dense foods to our students, faculty, and staff. UDS offers vegan, vegetarian, and culturally diverse menu options, and prioritizes produce obtained by local sources, including our on-campus Stout Garden. Stout also prioritizes emotional and physical wellbeing through a range of programs offered by Student Counseling Services, Student Health Services, University Recreation, Human Resources, and our Wellness Committee. Stout also partners with our surrounding community to increase health and wellness through our annual Wellness Fair and our open-concept fitness facilities.

UW-Stout recognizes that effective adaptive environmental and sustainability education requires a comprehensive approach within and outside the classroom. In partnership with industry, alumni, faculty, staff, and students, UW-Stout is committed to academic sustainability efforts and continuous improvement. The result is ongoing committee work and initiatives throughout our institution and community. Additionally, examples of said commitment are highlighted through UW-Stout's master's and bachelor's degree offerings that incorporate sustainability into the curriculum including sustainable management, environmental science, packaging, plastics engineering, construction, industrial design, and interior design; along with sustainability focused certificates and minors including the sustainability and well-being certificate, design for sustainability certificate, and sustainability minor.

Finally, and most importantly, Stout students are unceasingly passionate about mitigating the effects of the climate crisis and have propelled sustainability efforts in many ways. The Stout student government has funded numerous energy reduction, waste reduction, transportation, food, and sustainability education projects and programs through their Green Fee and Alternative Transportation Fee. Students have interned with the Sustainability Office and worked with many sustainability committees to find and implement sustainability-based solutions across campus and in the surrounding community, reducing the campus environmental impact. Due to Stout's polytechnic mission, students have also been at the



forefront of applied learning, research and internships, which contribute to and expand the educational outreach on sustainability throughout the campus, community, and planet.

Sustainability is woven into UW-Stout's fabric and infused into the campus operations, curriculum, and programming offered to students, faculty, and staff. It is integral to the university's Enduring Goals to use data-driven decision-making to drive continuous improvement, as reflected in our identity as the only four-year university to have ever received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the only polytechnic university in Wisconsin. UW-Stout will continue to push the boundaries of sustainability and continue to expand on these practices within the institution, community, and region as students spread this knowledge by entering the workforce and driving substantive change.