



Sustainability Initiatives



Student LEAF



The **Student Leadership for Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)** is a student-run committee that oversees an annual budget averaging nearly \$190,000 for sustainability projects on

campus. The mission of Student LEAF is to empower students in transforming the campus community to a more sustainable culture. This program is unique among universities where most sustainability funds are directed by faculty and staff. We receive our project proposals from students, faculty, and staff and our fund is supported through a \$1/credit hour student fee. With this unique structure, we are able to gauge the sustainability needs of UNC from those who live, work, and learn here on campus every single day.

McKinstry Energy Auditing Contract

In 2015, UNC began contracting with McKinstry, an energy services company, which is our second energy performance contract. As a direct result of this energy-savings project and other efforts by UNC's facility team, UNC will be presented with an award from Xcel Energy on April 2nd for most energy saved using a self-directed program. McKinstry is also supervising two UNC interns developing our Sustainability Reporting plan for the AASHE STARS assessment and has been implementing a behavior-focused energy efficiency program on campus for the last three years called powerED.

Student Clubs and Projects

The **'Switch Energy Alliance' club** is a new student club focused on transitioning from fossil fuel dependence to renewable energy and working on energy efficiency. They are currently monitoring and auditing our fume hoods in the science building, which can be a huge energy sink.

Earth Guardians club is part of a Nation-wide Network and is currently working on a big Zero Waste initiative in conjunction with dining services.

There is also a new club forming around permaculture gardening that will also be associated with a Learning Community in Lawrenson Hall focused on gardening and food security. We also have students conducting sustainability research and projects for their senior capstone courses, internships, and directed studies courses.

UNC Sustainability in the News

Bear-in-Mind Podcast

Episode 56 - Solar Flower Power!

UNC Student L.E.A.F. president, Zak King and vice-president, Max Wike, discuss upcoming environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions found on campus and within the community.

▶ unco.edu/bear-in-mind

Greeley Tribune

University of Northern Colorado's Student LEAF aims to make campus more sustainable one step at a time.

▶ <https://bit.ly/2EdajuM>



Sustainability Accomplishments

Student LEAF

Since inception as a class project, LEAF has invested **over \$1 million** in sustainability projects, such as:



water bottle filling stations



LED lighting retrofits



bike rack stations

In Spring 2018 we launched a pilot project in one section of ENST 100, Introduction to Environmental Studies, which is a general education course with about **350 students per year**. Student groups are proposing campus sustainability projects and we expect to continue this engagement in future offerings of the class.

McKinstry Energy Auditing Contract



Since 2016 and compared to a baseline of 2015, UNC has achieved a cost avoidance of **\$1.6M** and **28% in total energy savings** through the energy-savings project and ongoing low- and no-cost measures.

Alumni



Alumni from LEAF and our UNC environmental programs are working hard to further **sustainable environmental management efforts all over the state of Colorado**, in industries ranging from oil and gas, to parks and wildlife, to environmental education.

One of the founders of Student LEAF currently runs the sustainability program at Pikes Peak Community College, and another now works in the sustainability office of Denver Water.

Energy Savings Award



As a direct result of actions taken in response to the McKinstry audits, UNC will be presented with an award from Xcel Energy on April 2nd 2019 for **most energy saved using a self-directed program**.

Managing our Ecological Footprint



Since we began auditing our carbon footprint in 2015, we have **reduced our emissions** from about **70,000 to 45,000 mT of CO2** with continued savings every year.



In addition to contracting with the city of Greeley's public transportation department to provide **free shuttle bus service** throughout campus and to the largest off-campus student housing complex, a fleet of **100 cruiser-style bicycles** is available for students to use for free to travel around campus.



UNC installed a small **10kw solar array** on top of McKee Hall in 2008. The cost was offset with an Xcel energy rebate of 50 percent of the \$100,000 cost and a Governors Energy Office \$10,000 grant. In addition, we were recently awarded a \$500,000 grant that will be combined with \$50,000 internal seed funding for a **new solar array system** that will be unveiled in September.