Salisbury Unive rsity

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2021

BACKGROUND

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change has warned: “With 3,100 miles of tidal shoreline, much of which includes sensitive ecosystems, Maryland is disproportionately vulnerable to sea-level rise, one of the major consequences of climate change.” Heat waves, severe weather events and episodic droughts are other scenarios if greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked. Climate change poses a threat to human health, infrastructure, utilities and natural resources.

Following more than a year of collaboration through information gathering, trend analysis and focus group discussions with faculty, staff, students and community V œ ˜ Ã Ì ˆ Ì Õ i ˜ Ì Ã] - > • ˆ Ã L Õ À Þ 1 ˜ ˆ Û i À Ã ˆ Ì Þ ... > Ã `i Û i • œ « i ` w Û i goals in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. One of these goals is to “Enhance Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability.”

As a regional comprehensive University, SU’s mission emphasizes and supports how we can contribute to the sustainability of the local Eastern Shore community. To advance our mission and values, the University continues

Objective: Promote economic sustainability by GZRCPFKPI GHHGEVKXGPGUU CPF GH,EKGPE[RTCEVKEGU and promoting a transparent process for strategic planning and budgeting.

Strategies:

- Evaluate and ensure the linkage of unit-level strategic plans to the University Strategic Plan.
- Explore ways to integrate the University's Strategic Plan goals into the performance management process (PMP) and the institutional academic and administrative review process.
- Set and communicate institutional priorities with respect to the University's Strategic Plan, including budget allocations necessary to achieve them.
- Û>•Õ>Ìi œÕÀ VÕÀÀi˜Ì >`“ˆ˜ˆÃÌÀ>ÌˆÛi >˜` w˜>˜Vˆ>• ÃÌÀÕVÌÕÀiÃ >˜` w˜` œ««œÀÌÕ˜ˆÌiÃ vœÀ ˆ“«ÀœÛi` ivwVˆi˜VÞ] ÃÕV… >Ã Vi˜Ì>•ˆâˆ˜} œÀ ÃÌÀi>“•ˆ˜ˆ˜} Ãˆ“ˆ•>À organizational functions, sharing services, and implementing other initiatives to ensure responsible Ã«i˜`ˆ˜} >˜` ˆ“«ÀœÛi œÕÀ ÃÌiÜ>À`Ã…ˆ« œv wÃV>• resources.
- Continue to emphasize shared governance to promote transparency in the budgeting and decision-making process, and implement ways to make communication between all stakeholders and }ÀœÕ«Ã ÜˆÌ…ˆ˜ Ì…i -1 Vœ““Õ˜ÌÌÞ “œÀi ivwVˆi˜Ì >˜` effective.
- Investigate responsible and sustainable investing opportunities for University and University-related funds.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

In 2007, Salisbury University signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a

„ Solar Photovoltaic Parking Canopy – The 541.8 kW DC carport generates 765,000 kilowatt hours annually and ˆ˜V•Õ`iÃ wÛi i•iVÌÀˆV Ûi…ˆV•i V…>À}ˆ˜} ÃÌ>Ì`œ˜Ã° ,Ûœ`i` carbon dioxide emissions translate to approximately 509 acres of trees planted or 261 metric tons of unconsumed coal.

„ Bee Campus USA – -1 Ü>Ã ViÀÌˆwi` Ì…ÀœÕ}… ÌiiiÌ·i Campus USA program for our commitment to create sustainable habitats for pollinators. Our commitment includes the creation of a committee to oversee the institution's pollinator conservation and education efforts, development of a campus pollinator habitat plan, as well as awareness and education initiatives.

„ Bicycle Friendly University – In 2018, Salisbury University was named a bronze level Bicycle Friendly University through the League of American Bicyclists. We are committed to promoting and providing a more bikeable campus through continual evaluation and improvement of engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning.

„ 'PGTI['H,EKGPE[$WKNFKPI #WFKVU s In 2019, SU Vœ˜ÌÀ>VÌi` ÜˆÌ…> Vœ“«>˜Þ Ìœ «iÀvœÀ“ i˜iÀ}Þ ivwVˆi˜VÞ audits on a number of campus buildings. From this audit, a list of recommended projects will be created to guide for future projects.

„ LED Lighting Upgrades – Since 2014, the University's i˜iÀ}Þ ivwVˆi˜Ì •ˆ}…Ìˆ˜} Õ«}À>`iÃ …>Ûi ÀiÃÕ•Ì`ˆ˜ combined annual reduction of 1,040,911 kWh in electricity consumption.

„ Mechanical/HVAC Upgrades – Mechanical and HVAC equipment upgrades since 2014 have resulted in annual reductions totaling 921,768 kWh of electricity, 2,647 CCF of natural gas and 400 gallons of heating oil.

„ Laboratory Fume Hoods – Upgrades to the ventilation controls of the Henson Science Hall fume hoods allow for Lœ…}Ài>ÌiÀ Ài•ˆ>L•ˆÌÞ >˜` i˜iÀ}Þ ivwVˆi˜VÞ] >Ã Üi•• >Ã improved indoor air quality.

„ Green Fund – The unique program, designed to improve environmental sustainability at SU by giving students a say in how their sustainability fees are spent, has reached an annual funding level of $190,000. Past «Àœ•iVÌÃ ˆ˜V•Õ`i ivwVˆi˜Ì •ˆ}…Ìˆ˜} Õ«}À> and pollinator friendly plantings, renewable energy demonstration equipment, educational initiatives, and research projects.

„ Food for the Flock Food Pantry – In 2018, the University opened an on-campus food pantry to assist students facing homelessness and food insecurity.

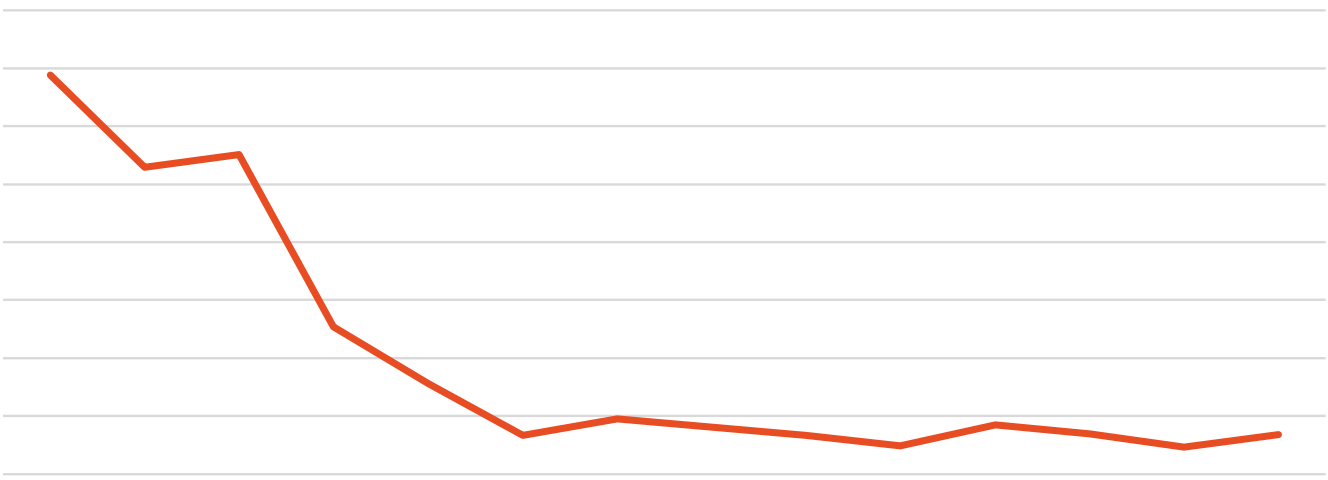
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This Climate Action Plan provides a detailed look at the steps we have taken toward being a better steward of the environment. It also provides an opportunity to get a better understanding of Salisbury University's plans to increase our own efforts as well as our education on how we go about creating a more sustainable future. Our planet is a sacred asset, and we have a responsibility to do our part to protect it for future generationm5tio0J EM5 /P <</ imprstudhavdevT* ve a responsibility to fpresponsibility to

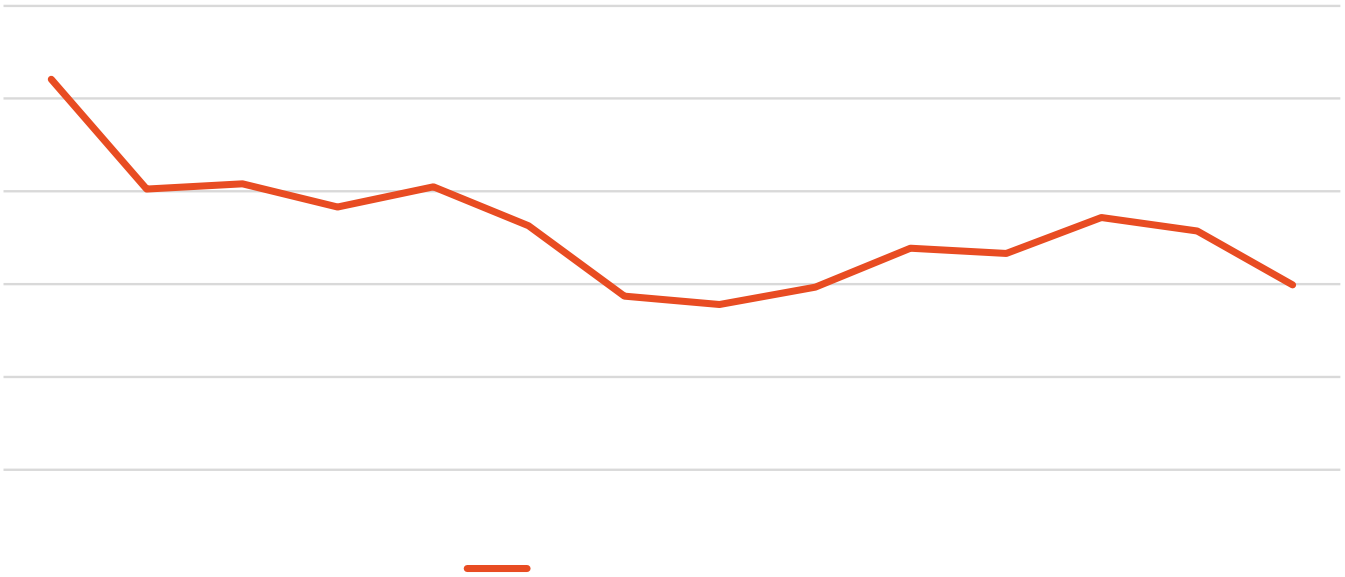
Strategies continued:

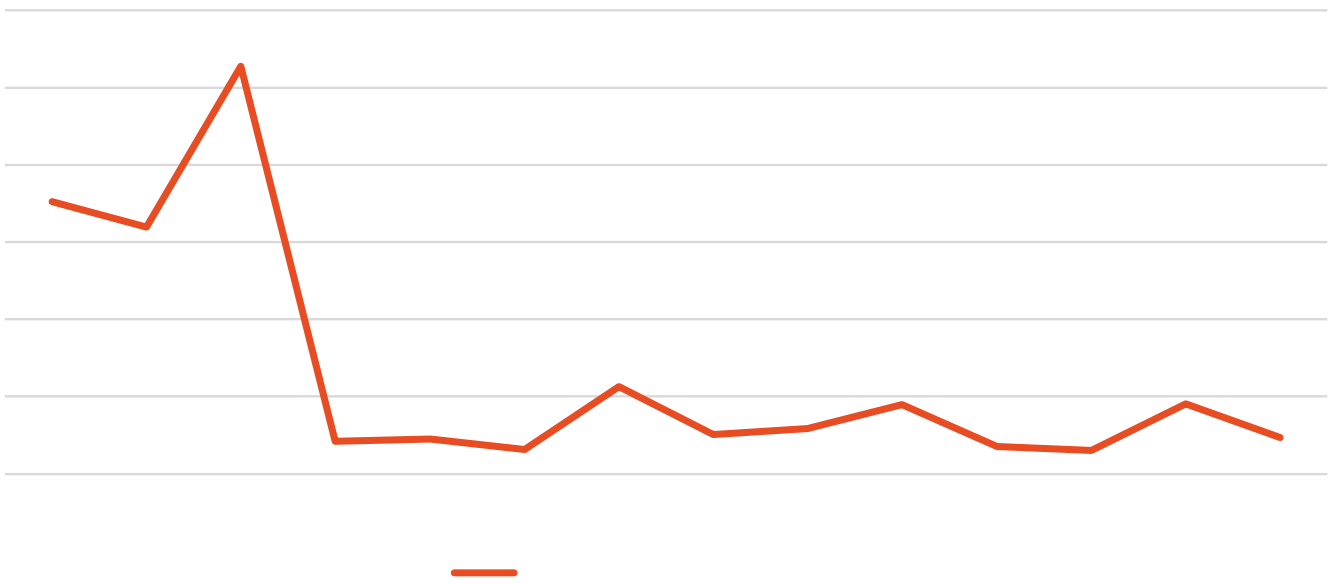
- Increase the use of clean and renewable energy.
  - Install additional solar photovoltaic systems on campus to generate clean energy on site.
  - Subscribe to and support off-site community solar facilities.
  - Increase the percentage of purchased electricity derived from renewable and carbon neutral sources.
- i Û i • œ « … Õ “ > ˜ L i … > Û ˆ œ À “ œ ` ˆ w V > Ì ˆ œ aimed at reducing the use of electricity.
  - Continue education and outreach efforts to increase awareness and inform decisions.
  - Develop methods to incentivize individual University divisions and departments to reduce their electrical consumption.
- Purchase off-sets for remaining emissions from electricity.

Responsible Departments: Energy Manager and Campus Sustainability



GOAL 6: Reduce Emission from Solid Waste





SU's Climate Resilience Strengths/Assets and Vulnerabilities

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RESILIENCE-SPECIFIC GOALS FOR THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

GOAL 1: Improve Stormwater Management

Short-Term Goal:

- Perform watershed assessments and identify water quality problems and opportunities for restoration.

Mid-Term Goal:

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Long-Term Goal:

- Implement the restoration projects needed to meet the MDE 20% restoration requirements and maintain compliance with the University's MS4 Phase II General Permit.

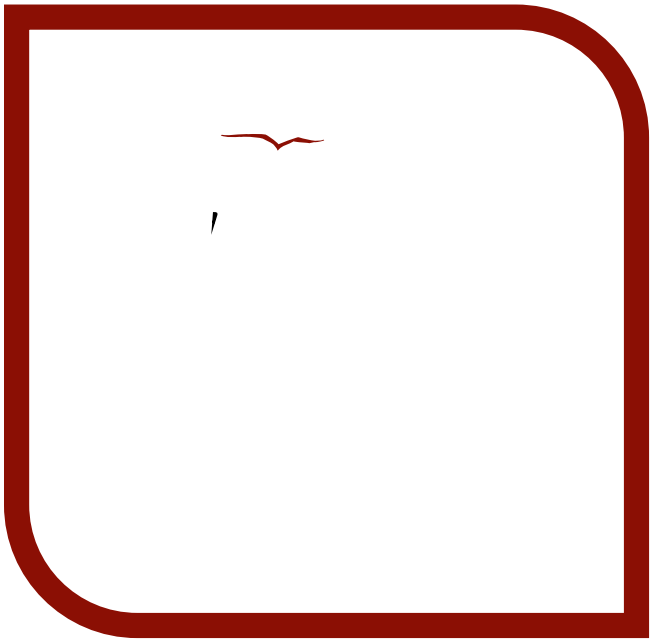
GOAL 2: Increase Food Security and Resilient Food Distribution and Storage Systems

Short-Term Goals:

- Re-assess campus community to identify food insecurity.
- Develop communications plan to contact potential off-campus partners of Food for the Flock.

Mid-Term Goals:

- Utilize off-campus partnerships forged in order to expand operations.
- Implement regular evaluation of program and partnerships.
- Seek alignment of Food for the Flock with other on-campus services.

Long-Term Goals:

- Further align Food for the Flock with other on-campus services, including a new centralized location to house all.
- Continue working with off-campus partners to create a network of services in the general Eastern Shore region.