

UTHealth Houston - Sustainability Policy and Practices

Section I Policy

1. **Purpose:** The initiatives described in this policy are intended to provide the scope, direction, and expectations underlying UTHealth Houston's Policy on Sustainable Practices and to identify best practices to facilitate compliance with this policy.
2. **Principles:** This policy confirms UTHealth Houston's commitment to stewardship of the environment and promotion of the principles of energy efficiency and sustainability and is compliant with UTS 169 Sustainability Practices.
3. **Policy Statement:** The UTHealth Houston's commitment to energy conservation goals, reductions in carbon emissions, and sustainable design evident in existing practices, and the institution will continue to implement well-thought-out initiatives that increase efficiencies, reduce emissions, and promote sustainability practices that contribute meaningfully to the environment, while still achieving excellence in higher education. The UTHealth Houston's decisions and actions regarding sustainability practices will be guided by its Mission Statement, and will be reflective of budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory, and programmatic requirements, while continuing to further the mission of the institution.
4. **Delegation of Authority:** The Board of Regents has delegated authority to the Chancellor to promulgate policy promoting sustainable practices. The Chancellor has delegated authority (a) to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs to implement U. T. System policy regarding sustainability, and (b) to each institutional president to further define and implement measures for sustainable practices at the respective institutions, all within budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory, and programmatic requirements.
5. **Administration:** The UTHealth Houston Sustainability Core Team consists of members from Facilities, Planning and Engineering (FPE), Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management (SHERM) and Auxiliary Enterprises (AE). The Core Team meets Quarterly and facilitates (semi-annual) Sustainability Committee Meetings. The Sustainability Committee shall consist of the Core Team and employees from each of the university's faculty, staff and student leadership committees and each of the 6 schools. The Core Team and/or Committee shall review and make recommendations to the President regarding the sustainability policy on an ongoing basis with the goal of integrating informed and evolving practices for sustainability. The Committee will provide a means for the ongoing participation of students, faculty, and administrators in further development of the Policy on Sustainability Practices.
6. **Institutional Policy:** UTHealth Houston is committed to promote sustainability practices that contribute meaningfully to the environment, to the reduction of energy and carbon emissions at our facilities, to recycling efforts that have an impact on the environment as all can be maintained under budgetary constraints and legal, regulatory, and programmatic requirements.

Section II Practices:

7. **Efficiency Practices Report (Project Management/Utilities):** UTHealth Houston will update Energy and Water Management Plans to reflect energy consumption reduction goals as of FY 2011 over the baseline levels established by the Energy Utility Task Force in 2001. The institution will report annual progress on their Energy and Water Management Plans by means of the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) template. At a minimum, the following guidelines will be used and recorded for Capital or Major Renovation Projects:
 - a. Energy efficiency design and construction principles of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1 or the International Energy Conservation Code as established by SECO.
 - b. Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA): The planning and design process for major projects will include consideration of life cycle cost along with other factors in the project planning and design process, recognizing the importance of long-term operations, maintenance, total cost of ownership of UTHealth facilities, budgetary constraints, and programmatic requirements.
 - c. Baseline Consumption: (PM/Utilities) A measurement and verification plan will be prepared prior to the completion of construction of a new building or major renovation, directed toward establishing an energy service consumption baseline during the first 12 months of occupancy.
 - d. Energy Audits (Utilities): Subsequent energy consumption audits every three years will document 20% variances to the baseline levels.
 - e. Water Conservation: Institutions will require rainwater and gray water harvesting systems for non-potable use for new buildings where practical and within program budgets. A copy of his analysis will be maintained in the project records.
8. **Alternative Energy Practices – (PM):** With a goal of reducing nonrenewable energy consumption, UTHealth Houston will evaluate alternative energy designs for new major capital projects (exceeds \$10MM).
9. **Climate Protection Practices – (Energy Manager):** UTHealth Houston will pursue the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while maintaining enrollment accessibility for every eligible student, enhancing research, promoting community service, and operating campus facilities more efficiently.
10. **Sustainable Transportation Practices – (AE/Campus Mobility):** To the extent practical, UTHealth Houston will encourage and develop sustainable transportation practices such as carpooling, use of public transportation, use of fuel-efficient or alternative fuel fleet vehicles, flex schedules, and telecommuting.
11. **Waste and Recycling Management – (O&M/EHS):** UTHealth Houston will record and monitor annual waste and recycling quantities, implement procedures to reduce campus waste, and set a goal to increase campus recycling each year.
12. **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Practices – (FPE/AE Procurement):** UTHealth Houston will encourage suppliers to demonstrate environmental stewardship. Within the parameters of reasonable business justification and applicable laws and regulations, each institution will (a) utilize its purchasing power to advance the development of sustainable technologies; (b) evaluate the total cost of ownership, including purchase prices, operating costs, maintenance, collection, recycling, and disposal; and (c) encourage environmentally preferable practices when selecting suppliers.

13. **High Performance Buildings – (PM):** UTHealth Houston will strive to achieve a high performance building comparable to a U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certified rating or higher whenever possible, excluding laboratory and acute care and patient care facilities, within the constraints of program needs and budget parameters. U. T. System recognizes and commends the early leadership and accomplishments of LEED® as a green building certification program; however, that certification currently comes with a significant cost in documentation. Therefore, U. T. System strives for a high-performance building standard comparable to LEED® for new major capital projects. Money for certification documentation is better spent obtaining more energy-efficient building systems. Further study will be conducted before similar sustainable design policies for laboratory and acute care and/or patient care facilities are adopted.
14. **Sustainability Awareness and Training – (FPE/EHS/Public Affairs):** UTHealth Houston will incorporate its policy on sustainability into applicable existing training programs.
15. **Curricula Integration – (SHERM, UT School of Public Health Faculty Leadership Council Members):** UTHealth Houston will strive for excellence in sustainability education by integrating sustainability concepts into curricula, increasing faculty and student awareness of sustainability issues, and producing graduates who will carry the mission of sustainability into the state, the nation, and the world.
16. **Endowment Transparency – (PM/FPE Finance)** The University of Texas / Texas A&M Investment Management Company shall disclose to the public information as required pursuant to Section 552.0225 of the Texas Government Code regarding “Right of Access to Investment Information” (private investment information) and the Texas Public Information Act. UTHealth (PM/Finance) will accurately track, record and be prepared to report the usage/expenses of all projects that utilized endowment funds (PUF).
17. **Student Involvement – (UT SPH / SIC / VP Facilities):** UTHealth Houston will support student participation in sustainability decision making, including the Sustainability Steering Committee and student volunteer programs to increase environmental awareness.
18. **Community Outreach - (SHERM, UT SPH / Public Affairs):** UTHealth Houston will share with outside communities the knowledge generated from sustainability research, education, and practices, with the goal of promoting a global culture of sustainability.
19. **Annual Plan and Reports – (Core Team/Sustainability Manager)** The UTHealth Houston Core Team / Sustainability Manager will complete an annual plan and report detailing the impact of the institution’s sustainability efforts. The report will address as a minimum those items in Sections 7 through 18 above. The Sustainability Manager will maintain responsibility for determining the format and data for any additional report information to be submitted in the annual reports to the presidents.