

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

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The following is an overview of activities conducted by the Office of Sustainability. If you would like additional information please feel free to contact Brandon Bishop at bishopbj@whitman.edu, or at (509) 522-4439.

Institutional Sustainability Ratings:

AASHE Silver STARS Rating: Whitman College received our first full rating by the Sustainability Rating and Tracking System. This benchmarking system is managed by AASHE and is utilized by the Princeton Review, Sierra Club, and other higher education sustainability ranking organizations. In our first full sustainability review our institution received a Silver Stars Rating. In this first ranking Whitman received a score of 51.20 placing us in the middle of the pack for similar sized institutions. In our comparative cohort Colorado College received a Gold rating at 66.79 and Pomona College received a Gold rating at 68.35.

Sustainability Rated by the Sierra Club & Princeton Review: This year the college was ranked 200 out of 227 institutions by the Sierra Club. We were additionally included in Princeton Review's Guide to 375 Green Colleges. This represents a first step in our recognition as a leader within sustainability. It is our hope that as we advance our Climate Action Plan we will see an increase in our institutional rating by AASHE STARS. This rating will lead to increased rankings by third party entities like the Princeton Review, and the Sierra Club.

Recognition by the EPA: Whitman College was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency through the EPA Green Power Partnership. In offsetting 100% of our electricity use through the purchase of renewable energy credits and onsite solar generation we beat institutions like Lewis and Clark with our total green energy usage. In addition to receiving an award for the most green energy use within the Northwest Conference, Whitman College was admitted to the EPA Green Power Leadership Club.

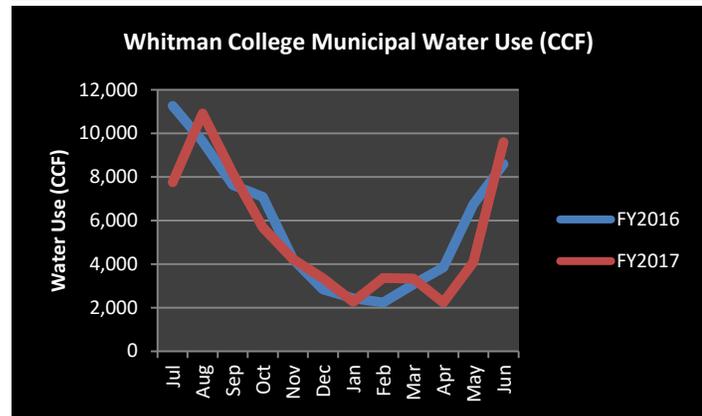
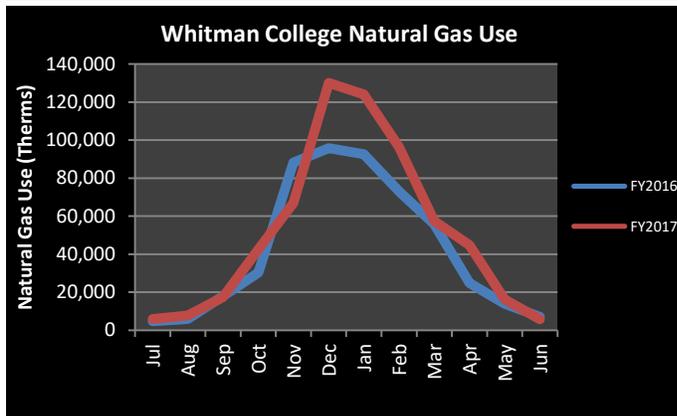
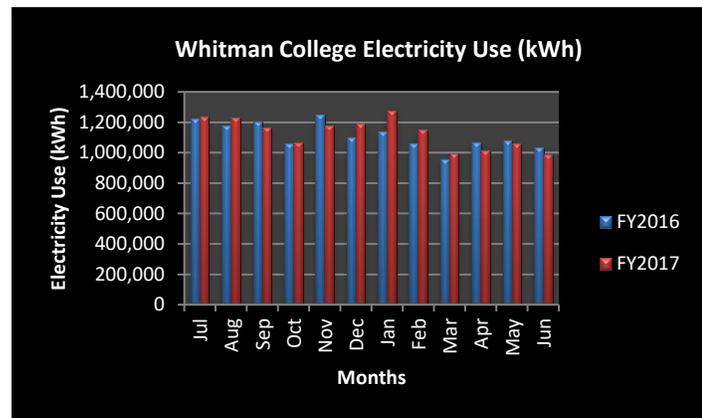
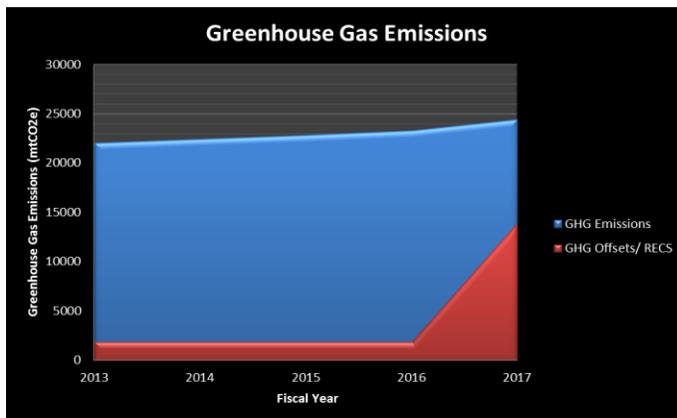
Chamber of Commerce: Whitman College was awarded the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Smart Business Partnership Award for Large Business. This Smart Business Partner award recognizes large and small businesses that practice outstanding commitment to sustainable business practices. This is the first time Whitman College has been selected as this awards recipient.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Utility Use:

In FY2017 Whitman College produced 24,526.5mtCO₂e, utilized 13,341,288kWh of electricity, 615,612 therms of natural gas, and over 64,995CCF of potable water at a total cost of \$2,026,411. The total environmental externalities attributable to our greenhouse gas emissions totaled \$809,374 utilizing the DICE-2R model.

In FY2017 the college offset 100% of its electricity use and was recognized by the EPA Green Power Partnership. In order to meet our 50% reduction by 2020 the college began purchasing carbon offsets for natural gas for FY18. Within FY17 our RECS accounted for roughly 13,936.3 mtCO₂e. Our offsets reduced attributable greenhouse gas emissions from 24,526.5mtCO₂e to 10,590.2mtCO₂e.

As specified within the Climate Action Plan (CAP) the institution has set a goal to offset all natural gas utilization and electricity use through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits and carbon offsets by 2020. To meet our natural gas offset commitment with the institution will need to increase offset allocations from \$34,999 to \$40,500 for FY19. If REC and carbon offset markets remain stable this increase will allow the institution to meet CAP 2020 goals of offsetting 50% of institutional greenhouse gas emissions.



Student Programming and Collaboration:

Earth Week: The Office of Sustainability coordinated with student clubs, ASWC Sustainability, and the Environmental Interest House to put on programming events throughout Earth Week. These events focused on behavioral change, transportation, decreased emissions, and student recognition.

Mt. Trashmore: The Office of Sustainability worked with the Physical Plant to place a weeks' worth of the college's trash on Cordiner Halls lawn. The display included infographics about the college's waste stream. We also had representatives from the City of Walla Walla and the Sustainable Living Center present to answer questions about sustainability efforts within the Walla Walla Valley. All waste was weighed and sorted by volunteers to demonstrate the volume of waste that could have been diverted from the landfill. This activity was coupled with an informational campaign related to campus waste.

Green Leader Program: The Office of Sustainability hosted a Sustainability retreat at Johnston Wilderness Camp for students involved in sustainability clubs, organizations, and leadership at Whitman College. The retreat was an effort to encourage collaboration amongst student organizations and to unify sustainability priorities for the academic year.

Student Organizations: It is the goal of the Office of Sustainability to attend a minimum of one club meeting per semester of all student sustainability clubs and organizations. The Office also works to attend all ASWC Sustainability meetings. Currently the Office is working with the Society of Physics Students to convert a truck into an electronic vehicle for the Zero Waste Program.

Food Week: The Office of Sustainability is currently coordinating with ASWC Sustainability and CCC to put on a week around sustainable foods. This programming will take place in November.

Sustainability Conference: The Office has worked with ASWC to encourage students to attend regional and national sustainability conferences. In May of last year the office took four students to the WAHESC conference at Gonzaga. This year the program will work to take students to a similar joint Washington/Oregon conference at Portland State University

Overview of Office of Sustainability Efforts:

Lighting Retrofits: The Office of Sustainability conducted an LED lighting retrofit of Baker Faculty Center. This lighting retrofit is slated to pay itself back in 1.5 years. The Office of Sustainability is working with an intern in the 3/2 program on the analysis of a lighting retrofit of Penrose House. In addition to these smaller retrofits the Office is currently working with Maintenance on proposals for lighting retrofits within Jewett Hall, Reid Campus Center, and Maxey Auditorium. The Office is also conducting a

pilot program to assess LED upgrades of campus light poles. It is recommended that an institutional policy/directive address an aggressive phase out of halogens and incandescent lightbulbs. Furthermore, the office recommends a uniform policy on purchasing of lighting supplies in order to centralize objectives and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

LEED Certification: The Office of Sustainability is working closely with our design and construction team on elements of the new Dining Hall and Residence Hall. We are currently going through the design review process on both buildings in order to assess all elements of the construction process in order to meet all LEED requirements and institutional environmental goals. The Office is also providing analysis on certain elements and making recommendations throughout the construction process.

Building Sub metering: This summer the building sub metering project for Lyman Hall was placed on hold due to the cost of metering. The Office is currently assessing options and seeking a bid for alternative metering options.

Energy, Water, Waste and Emissions Benchmarking: The Office has constructed a complex yet rudimentary database of all campus utilities and waste in an effort to more accurately measure campus use and expenditures; but also to better assess opportunities for savings. The institution currently operates behind the curve on comprehensive utility management failing to utilize best practices and technology.

Renewable Energy: The Office of Sustainability actively assesses REC pricing trends and opportunities for renewable energy development. The Office has actively applied to two renewable energy development grants. The college was denied both grants due to the age of building roofs and technical limitations of our electricity metering. Currently we are working with other schools within the State of Washington to evaluate best options for the development of rooftop solar and to stay apprised of the ever changing legal landscape related to renewable energy.

Sustainability Advisory Committee:

The committee has rebuilt its full membership including faculty, students, and staff and is holding regular meetings. The committee recommended the adoption of a vehicle idling policy to meet the standards laid out within the Climate Action Plan in May. The committee also voted to generally endorse the ASWC Zero Waste Plan. The committee just received an update on campus sustainability efforts and will begin a focus on components of the Climate Action Plan at its next regular meeting.

A more comprehensive sustainability report is available. Please email bishopbj@whitman.edu if you would like a copy.