

our green story

A 32-unit solar thermal array heats the Regional Fitness Center pool, reducing our CO₂ emissions by 30,000 pounds each year.

Two solar photovoltaic systems on campus convert sunlight into electricity and generate more than 30,000 kWh annually.

Two on-site 1.65 MW wind turbines produce 10 million kWhs of electrical power annually, meeting 60% of the electrical needs for the Morris campus. The first turbine is owned by the West Central Research and Outreach Center, the second by the Morris campus.

The Morris campus expects to reduce carbon emissions by 10,000 metric tons per year using wind and biomass—an 80% reduction.

A biomass gasifier plant at the Morris campus uses local, natural resources—from corn cobs to mixed prairie grasses—to heat and cool the campus. The system is expected to displace 70% of the fossil fuel previously used for heating and cooling and will infuse approximately \$500,000 into the local economy yearly.

40% of the Morris campus fleet is hybrid. Each year, Morris is working to decrease the carbon footprint of the campus fleet.

Composting for all organic items is available in the Dining Hall, Turtle Mountain Cafe, and the Green Prairie Community. Items are composted on campus, and the nutrient-rich soil that results is used for campus landscaping and gardening.

In 2013, the campus recycled more than 200,000 pounds of aluminum, tin, plastic, glass, and electronics waste as well as cardboard, glossy paper, office paper, and news print.

To clear our sidewalks during the winter, Facilities Management uses granite chips, potassium acetate, and urea, which are less aggressive and corrosive than sidewalk salt. These materials do not leach into soils, so they also stay out of our groundwater.

In the last three years, Morris has diverted over 65 tons of food waste. It will continue to divert over 20 tons of waste each year!

At Morris, it's easy to make the green choice—sustainability is so deeply ingrained in our everyday lives that we don't always think about the scope of its reach. For more than 100 years, our campus has been grounded in a mission of environmental sustainability, and this mission touches all aspects of university life. Both our pivotal successes and everyday victories spring from the ground up and make this place truly extraordinary!

GREEN ACCOLADES

Morris is on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Top 30 On-site list of largest green power users. We create energy!

#31 on the Sierra Club's list of Cool Schools 2014, and the most highly ranked Minnesota school on the list.

#17 on the "Greenest Universities" list by BestColleges.com.

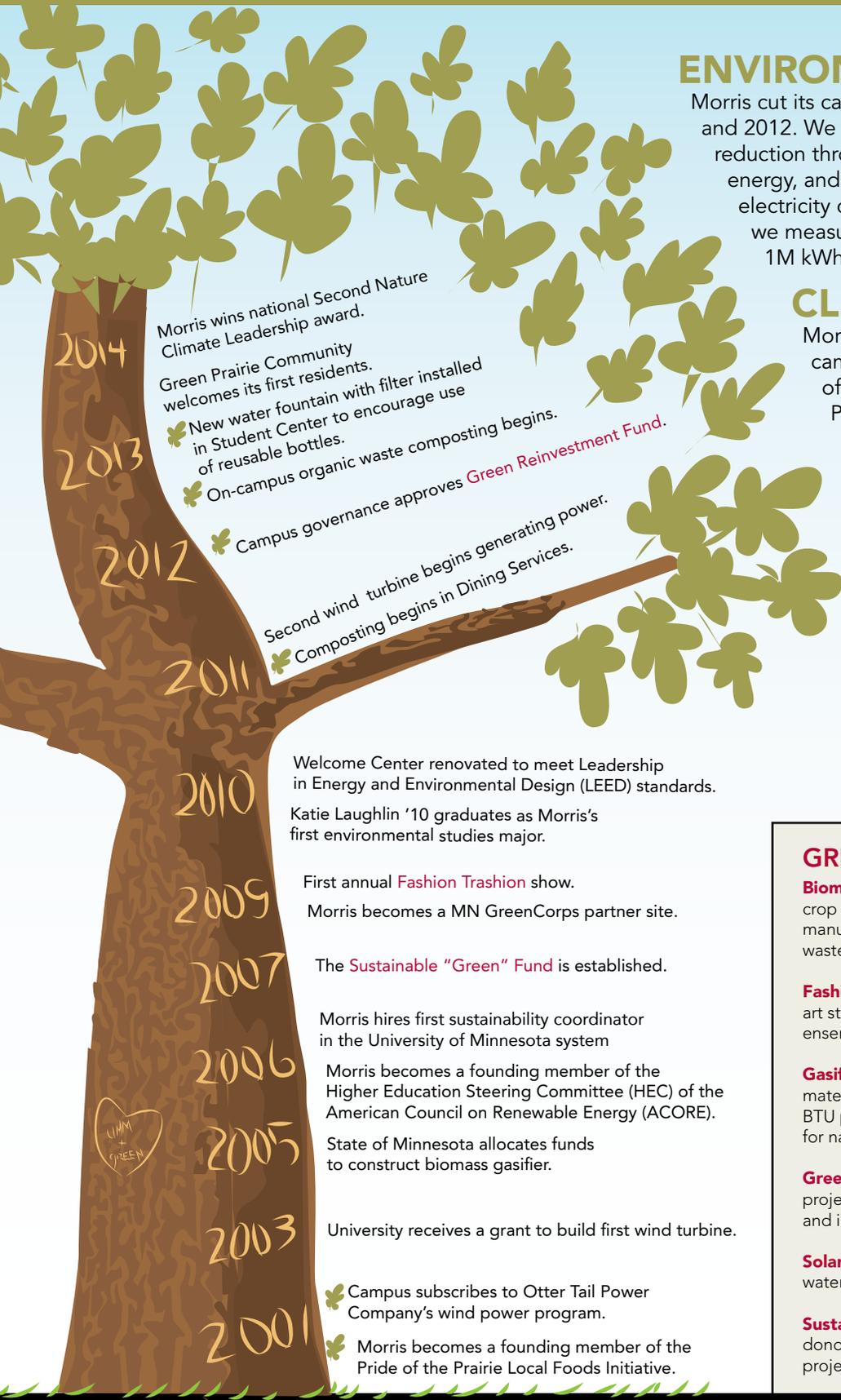
Listed in the *Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges*.

Second Nature 2014 Climate Leadership Award winner.

We are one of the institutions to receive an Association for the Advancement of Sustainability (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) gold certification.

Home to four past and present Udall Scholars and three National Wildlife Federation fellows.

For a full list of our green accolades, visit morris.umn.edu/sustainability/recognition.



ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Morris cut its carbon footprint significantly between 2005 and 2012. We achieved our significant carbon-footprint reduction through a combination of wind, biomass, solar energy, and conservation efforts. About 60% of campus electricity comes from wind. Between 2005 and 2012, we measured a reduction in electricity usage of about 1M kWhrs.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Morris has a goal of carbon neutrality for the campus by 2020. It is a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and a charter member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS). We earned a Gold rating in 2012, and were one of the first 20 schools in the country to do so.

Between 2005 and 2012 we were able to reduce our carbon footprint by 40%. We now produce more energy than we consume—twin U of M turbines produce over 10M kWhr per year.

- 2014 Morris wins national Second Nature Climate Leadership award.
- 2013 Green Prairie Community welcomes its first residents.
New water fountain with filter installed in Student Center to encourage use of reusable bottles.
On-campus organic waste composting begins.
- 2012 Campus governance approves **Green Reinvestment Fund**.
Second wind turbine begins generating power.
Composting begins in Dining Services.
- 2011
- 2010 Welcome Center renovated to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.
Katie Laughlin '10 graduates as Morris's first environmental studies major.
- 2009 First annual **Fashion Trashion** show.
Morris becomes a MN GreenCorps partner site.
- 2007 The **Sustainable "Green" Fund** is established.
- 2006 Morris hires first sustainability coordinator in the University of Minnesota system
- 2005 Morris becomes a founding member of the Higher Education Steering Committee (HEC) of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE).
State of Minnesota allocates funds to construct biomass gasifier.
- 2003 University receives a grant to build first wind turbine.
- 2001 Campus subscribes to Otter Tail Power Company's wind power program.
Morris becomes a founding member of the Pride of the Prairie Local Foods Initiative.

GREEN GLOSSARY

Biomass: Renewable organic matter such as crops and crop residues, perennial grasses, wood, algae, animal manure, and the organic parts of municipal and industrial waste.

Fashion Trashion: Annual fashion show staged by studio art students in which each student crafts and models an ensemble made entirely of reused materials.

Gasification: A thermal process that burns organic materials in a low-oxygen environment, producing low-BTU producer gas, or syngas. Syngas can be substituted for natural gas in a furnace, turbine, or engine.

Green Reinvestment Fund: A student-initiated funding project that helps Morris make sustainable technological and infrastructure investments.

Solar Thermal Collector: Solar energy device that heats water.

Sustainable "Green" Fund: An annual fund that enables donors to support renewable energy and sustainability projects on campus.

Student-led effort

1950 Opening of the West Central School of Agriculture establishes the campus as one rooted in environmental stewardship.

ENGAGED STUDENTS

Morris students are doing amazing things on campus and in the community. Morris is home to the Center for Small Towns, which connects students and communities to create sustainable solutions. The Office of Community Engagement connects students to more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service each year.

Here are some examples of what students have been up to lately:

- Working with public schools to begin composting efforts
- Gathering leaders for a "State of Water in West Central Minnesota" conference
- Engaging with community members to increase awareness of the climate and create a clean energy future



EATING GREEN



GARDEN!

Students run two on-campus gardens to help supply produce to campus dining and farmers markets.



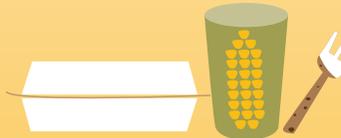
SKIP THE TRAY!

We save energy and water by not using trays in the Dining Hall. And, we cut our food waste in half!



EAT LOCAL EVERY DAY!

Sodexo Dining Services partners with Food Alliance Midwest to bring local, sustainably raised fruits, vegetables, and meats to campus dining facilities.



GREEN TO GO!

Forks made from potatoes, cups made from corn: our to-go items are entirely compostable.



COMPOST!

Containers at the Dining Hall and Turtle Mountain Cafe allow diners to compost organic waste like banana peels, apple cores, and even paper!



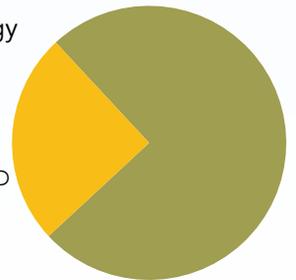
SUSTAINABLE ACADEMICS

Sustainability is an important part of our academic offerings and is integrated into most of our disciplines.

Here are some examples of courses offered at Morris:

- Chemistry for the Curious Citizen: The Role of Chemistry in the Environment and Everyday Life
- Environmental Science and Place-Based Education
- Topics in Writing: The Environmental Imagination: Reading and Writing about the Natural World
- Making Environmental Public Policy
- Sociology of the Environment and Social Development
- The Physics of Sustainable Energy
- Bottomdwellers in an Ocean of Air
- The Chemistry of Sustainable Energy
- Environmental Ethics
- Introduction to Conservation Biology

$\frac{3}{4}$ OF DISCIPLINES
OFFER AT LEAST ONE
SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED
COURSE



GREEN LIVING

In 2013 Morris opened the doors to its newest residence hall, the Green Prairie Community. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified, this facility is an innovative living and learning environment that complements the campus's focus on environmental sustainability.

FACULTY LEADERS

Morris faculty members are pursuing research and projects across the spectrum of sustainability issues:

Ed Brands, environmental studies, works on water-resources policy and human and animal sanitation.

Sheri Breen, political science, studies seeds as they relate to sovereignty and property ownership.

Donna Chollett, anthropology, developed a community-food assessment for a regional community.

Arne Kildegaard, economics and management, studies the economic impacts of different renewable energy systems and ownership structures.

Jess Larson, studio art, instituted Fashion Trashion, an upcycle fashion show.

Ted Pappenfus, chemistry, works on sustainable materials for solar cells.

Ray Schultz and **Siobhan Bremer**, theatre arts, have directed environmental-theater productions on campus, including *As You Like It*, which featured recycled costumes, set, and props, and *Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island*, a children's play with environmental themes.

Peter Wyckoff, biology, studies the impacts of invasive species and climate change in the forests at the prairie-forest border in Minnesota.



CYCLING EMPLOYEES

Faculty and staff have the option to participate in a bike commuter program. Look at the impact they've had in just 2.5 years!



10, 237 miles biked



366 gallons of gas saved



7,093 lbs of CO₂ reduced

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

600 East Fourth Street
Morris, MN 56267

888-866-3382
morris.umn.edu