

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

our green story

Morris routinely appears on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Top 30 on-site list of largest green power users.

Morris is #33 on the Sierra Club's list of Cool Schools 2015.

Morris has held AASHE STARS Gold status since the program began in 2012.

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

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 range from the ground up and make this place truly extraordinary!

LIVING GREEN

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

A 3kW solar photovoltaic system on the south side of the science building allows students to analyze fixed panels versus panels that follow the sun.

20kW solar photovoltaic system is directly connected to our Green Prairie Community residence hall.

Two onsite 1.65 MW wind turbines produce 10 million kWhs of electrical power annually, contributing 60% of the electrical needs for the Morris campus. In total, 70% of our electricity comes from renewable sources through our on-site and grid purchases.

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

By using wind-generated electricity instead of thermal-generated electricity, the campus avoids using at least 300 gallons of water per MWh, which annually totals 1.5 million gallons of water, from aquifers, rivers, and lakes.

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.

80,000 bees now living in three hives on campus, in partnership with Morris Area High School and West Central Research and Outreach Center

In 2015 the campus recycled nearly 200,000 pounds of aluminum, tin, plastic, glass, and electronics waste as well as cardboard, glossy paper, office paper, and news print.

More than 40% of the campus fleet is made up of hybrid vehicles.

Composting for all organic items is available everywhere on campus. The campus Dining Hall is zero waste. All hand towels in restrooms are composted.

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.

BREATHING GREEN

800 NUMBER OF INDOOR PLANTS ON CAMPUS

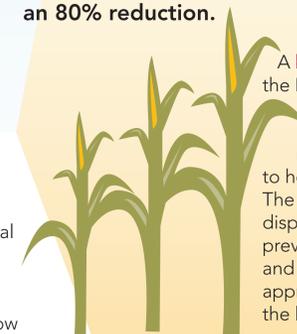
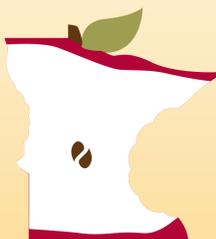
EATING GREEN

SKIP THE TRAY!
We save energy and water by not using trays in the Dining Hall. This also discourages us from picking up more food than we can eat.

EAT LOCAL EVERY DAY!
Dining Services brings local, sustainably raised fruits, vegetables, and meats to campus dining facilities. The Dining Hall used 2,400 pounds of produce harvested from Crocus Valley, the student organic garden, in 2015.

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!



- 2016 Campus implements TerraCycle Plastic Program and Trex plastic bag recycling.
- 2015 Morris earns Environmental Initiative-Community Action Award. Morris becomes one of the first U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees.
- 2014 20kW Solar photovoltaic system installed near Green Prairie Community. Morris wins national Second Nature Climate Leadership Award. 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.
- 2013 Campus governance approves Morris Green Reinvestment Fund.
- 2012 Second wind turbine begins generating power.
- 2011 Composting begins in Dining Services.
- 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 UMM Sustainable "Green" Fund is established.
- 2006 Morris hires first sustainability coordinator in the University of Minnesota system. Morris becomes a founding member of the Higher Education Steering Committee (HEC) of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE).
- 2005 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.

Student-led effort

1910 Opening of the West Central School of Agriculture establishes the campus as one rooted in environmental stewardship.

In the last four years Morris has diverted more than 123 tons of food waste. It will continue to divert more than 40 tons of waste each year!

