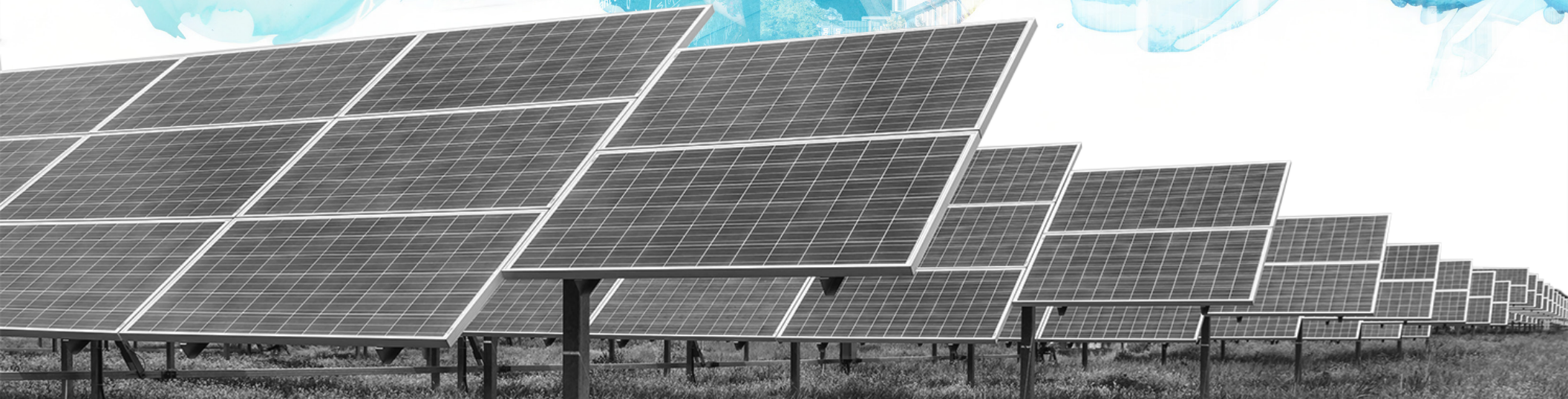


ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY | 2025

January Engagement Summary



Foreword

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I know that we can come together to understand, plan, and take action that is needed to protect these walls and spaces, but more importantly, the people that pass through them.

JENNIFER COWLEY | UTA PRESIDENT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 1992, global leaders convened for the “Earth Summit”, the first international gathering that provided consensus on creating action to create a “new charter” to set new norms to guide the transition towards sustainable development. Perhaps an even smaller known fact is that it was a Texan President who signed this declaration that promised to deliver the framework that ensured any further economic development would need to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We at UTA quickly followed suit, and shortly after the Earth Summit, began establishing our own programs to ensure that our actions here on campus would help contribute towards a more sustainable future for all.

In the more than 20 years that have followed, paralleling the evolving global sustainability landscape, our goals at UTA have significantly advanced. Over the next year, we will gather groups of leaders made up of faculty, staff, and students to envision the physical development of UTA’s future in the Campus Master Plan. At the same time, we have also chosen this time to launch our new Energy Efficiency Plan (EEP). This document will update our goals around a variety of topics and will provide a pathway towards sustainable energy resources by 2040. This plan will also act as our main policy document to ensure that the development outlined in our Campus Master Plan is synergistic with our sustainability goals. The Energy Efficiency Plan will outline actions that can be taken, but also the accountability and structure of people needed to deliver those actions. Finally, it recognizes that dramatic action comes with a price, most likely more than our historical development, and will look to outline, attract, and structure projects in alignment with new investment opportunities.

This plan is an exciting opportunity to shape a better future for ourselves and our region. I encourage you to not only contribute today, but in all the days that follow, in helping to craft and act upon the plan as it takes place and continues to evolve over the next few years.





Establishing our roots

A timeline of sustainability at UTA

vi

1994

Campus-wide recycling program receives presidential approval

1990

2004-05

Tarrant County Corporate Recycling Council
Environmental Vision Awards for recycling

2006

Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine
Top 100 four-year colleges for Hispanics ranking granted

2007

University Sustainability Committee forms
AASHE membership begins
Composting program receives multiple awards
American Association of State Colleges & Universities Recognized as trailblazer in “closing the gap” between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white students

2008

Green roof on campus, receives multiple awards
Preliminary carbon footprint analysis completed
National Wildlife Federation Exemplary rating in Sustainability

2009

Maverick Office Green Team launches

2000

2010	EPA Food Recovery Challenge participation begins
2011	AASHE STARS Bronze achieved Organic community garden created Engineering Research Building achieves LEED Gold PV panels at College Park parking garage in operation
2012	The Green at College Park receives multiple awards College Park Centers achieves LEED Gold The Center for Metropolitan Density established Public transit 2-year pilot project announced EPA Food Recovery Challenge Certificate of Achievement
2013	North Texas Commission Working for Clean Air Award: Best University AASHE STARS Silver rating achieved
2014	EPA First of three Leadership Awards for Food Recovery Challenge granted (2014, 2018, 2021)
2015	Launched Institute for Sustainability & Global Impact Partnered with Zipcar for on-campus car-sharing First GRI Report launched
2016	AASHE STARS Silver rating achieved CAPPA is established
2017	First Bike Share Program launched Sierra Magazine Named "Cool School" for sustainability efforts on campus
2018	EPA Sun Belt Conference largest green power user NACUBO Excellence in Sustainability Award
2019	STARS NTx + NTCRA Outstanding Composting Program UNU-IAS Acknowledged Flagship Project Strategic Plan is updated

2010



2020	UNU Honorable Mention for work on SDG6 for the Upper Trinity River Water Quality Report Card Strategic Plan is updated President announces eight DEI commitments
2021	THE Impact Ranks 1st UNU-IAS Sustainable Cities Challenge ESD Contributions Texas Tier 1 Designation #1 in Texas awarding degrees to African-American students
2022	THE Impact Ranks 8th AASHE STARS Silver rating achieved US News & World Report Ranks third in Ethnic Diversity NACUBO Excellence in Sustainability Award

2020




Introduction TO THE PLAN

What is the Energy Efficiency Plan (EEP)?

Limiting global temperature rise to 2.7 degrees F/1.5 degrees C is still possible, but only if we act immediately. The latest global findings indicate that the world needs to peak on greenhouse gas emissions before 2025 at the very latest, and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. In order to do so we must immediately transition our existing systems and move towards a future where demand is lowered and energy supplies are low-carbon. This requires upgrading our existing building stock, and increasing overall energy efficiency, but also changing behaviors, policies, and even financing tools to implement the changes we need now. This plan looks to examine the future growth of the campus and also dig into existing operations, to identify the concrete strategies that are needed to achieve both short and long-term goals surrounding climate action. In this way, the EEP will identify a robust framework for change.

There is an emphasis on resilience in addition to diversifying the University's energy resource supply as this plan recognizes that the impacts of climate change are also already happening. This plan looks to understand the immediate vulnerabilities at UTA and turn them into intentional opportunities for both adaptation and mitigation of climate impact.

Change is at the center of the EEP; it will not only identify which exact actions are needed but will look at the people and resources that they need to achieve these goals. This plan recognizes that a shift needs to occur, and that a policy framework is needed to support this effort and to empower sustainability champions across UTA and the DFW region.



The Solar Situation

Being outside for any length of time in the heat can not only be uncomfortable, but it can be extremely dangerous, and hard surfaces like concrete and asphalt can make the ambient air temperature feel even hotter. It can be daunting living in a state that is already subject to extreme heat to learn that projections show that the Dallas-Fort Worth area will experience an average of nearly 80 days over 95 F by 2044, with five weeks of that time expected to be over 100 F.

While the sun has often been one of the more problematic celestial friends we have, it's important to remember that it also keeps us warm in the winter, boosts our moods and immune systems, gives life to plants, and is an abundant source of free, clean energy - energy that can be harnessed and used to cool our buildings, power our electronics, and give our grid stability when other systems fail.

Throughout this plan, there will be strategies to change the dynamic of UTA's relationship with the sun and find ways to not only tolerate the heat, but to thrive in it.



WHAT

Identify strategies & changes needed
in order to reach our goals

WHEN

2040

WHY

To improve environmental, social,
and economic resources for the next
generation of UTA students

HOW

Through collaboration,
communication, & innovation

**THE BIG
PICTURE**



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PHASE 1

Preparation & Kickoff

- Project Planning
- Engagement Planning
- Communication Plan



PHASE 3

Goals & Strategies Development

- Focus Group Workshops
- Preliminary Goals & Strategies
- Follow-up Surveys



PHASE 5

Presentation & Approval

- University Leadership Presentation
- Approval of the Energy Efficiency Plan



PHASE 2

Data Collection & Analysis

- Benchmarking & Research
- Engagement
- Data Collection
- Energy & Emissions Baseline



PHASE 4

Plan & Tools Development

- Metrics and Supporting Policies
- Financing the Plan
- Implementation & Tracking



Kicking Off

xii





An Engaging Discussion

While the Energy Efficiency Plan is specific to UT Arlington, climate change is a challenge that extends beyond our campus. UTA must be a leader in addressing the challenges of climate change in our educational programs, research, operations, finance, and community engagement.

Through four interactive sessions with more than 100 participants, the kick-off workshop looked to identify the opportunities, barriers, and major areas that this plan must deliver success in.

In alignment with the Strategic Plan and Master Plan, the Energy Efficiency Plan will complement the University's ability to thrive in the changing landscape of higher education as a leader, innovator and problem-solver tackling one of society's most pressing challenges.



Participants left us with a clear understanding that this plan must take action in the following:

CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY!

Recognizing the hard work and achievements of UTA to date

REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE: A HEALTHY CAMPUS IS A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Preventative measures are the most important for protecting the campus overall

DEEPEN THE COMMUNICATIONS FABRIC OF UTA'S SUSTAINABILITY STORIES

Enhance visibility through signage, art, and student activities

EXPAND ON WASTE LEADERSHIP TO TACKLE THE FOOD-WATER-ENERGY NEXUS

Create programming that integrates UTA dining services, waste management practices, and state of the art energy solutions

CREATE A PHYSICAL GROUNDING POINT FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK

Collaboration needs an intentional home to bring together researchers and students across different department

GET AGGRESSIVE ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION

Prioritize the strategies (and financing!) needed to deliver action on energy security

INNOVATE THROUGH RESILIENCE!

Climate change needs new technologies and ideas in order to protect the plan immediately. Utilize the brainpower at UTA to turn vulnerabilities into opportunities

STRENGTHEN THE REGIONAL IDENTITY OF SUSTAINABILITY

Did you know DFW is the first net-zero airport in the US? Or that UTA will be collaborating on the World Cup's sustainability actions in Dallas? UTA and its partner need to create a clear brand identity that puts sustainability front and center

Workshop Takeaways

During the engagement workshops, noteworthy themes were expressed by students, staff, and stakeholders. These insights have been instrumental in shaping the Energy Efficiency Plan, ensuring that it aligns with the specific needs and objectives of the UTA community.

Groups convened across campus to discuss the implementation of energy initiatives, research in technology, large-scale changes in policies related to sustainability, behavioral changes, and funding for these endeavors.

These discussions have directly informed the creation of this plan, allowing it to now be used as a flexible and adaptable decision-making tool to guide infrastructure, facility, and operational changes over time.



Did you know..?

The University of Texas at Arlington ranked No. 14 among American colleges and Universities in an international measure for sustainability, according to the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.



SOCIAL IMPACT

Highlight UTA as an exemplar university
for research in sustainability



OPERATIONS & FINANCE

Utilize environmental impact in
operational and financial decision-making



HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

Retrofit and design high-performance
buildings across campus



ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Shift to low-carbon energy infrastructure



Key Themes



FOOD & WASTE

Reduce food and waste by moving towards circular economy



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

Position the DFW region as a leader in sustainability and innovation



CULTURE & COMMUNICATION

Enhance the role of sustainability in culture & communications through story-telling and collaboration



MOBILITY

Shift to sustainable mobility patterns

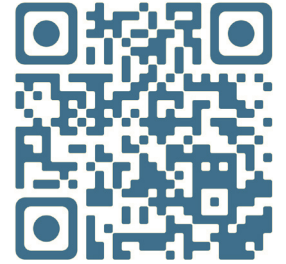
NEXT STEPS

Survey

We invite stakeholders to participate in shaping the future of climate action on our campus through an online survey. This input is invaluable as we seek to assess specific goals and strategies for mitigating climate change and promoting sustainability within our community. Survey respondents have the opportunity to provide feedback on current initiatives, identify areas for improvement, and contribute ideas for innovative solutions. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and perspectives as we move forward in our commitment to sustainability at UTA.

TAKE THE SURVEY

Click
or
Scan

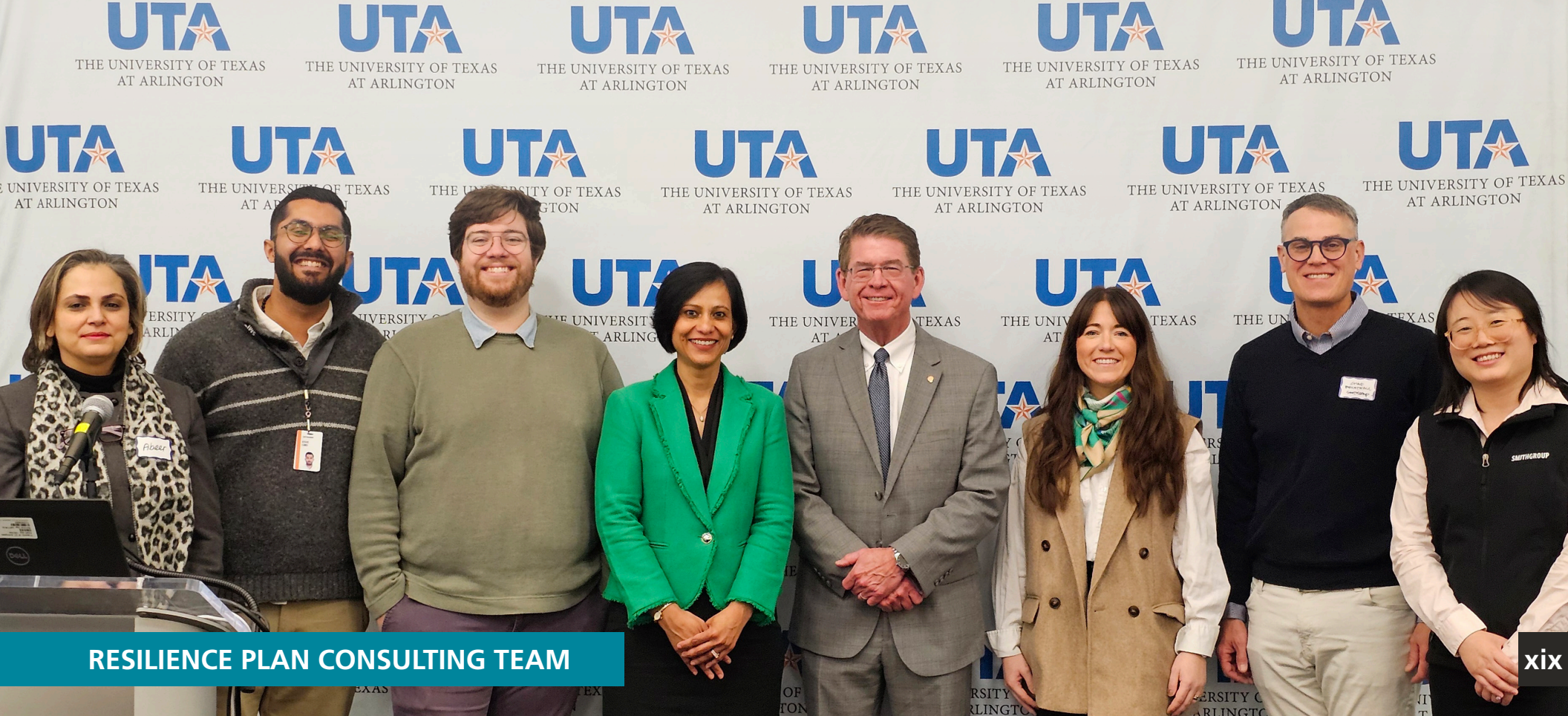


xviii



Survey Goals

- Get stakeholder feedback about suggested strategies
- Understand timeline feasibility for implementation
- Incorporate any additional feedback into final plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The consulting team would like to extend our thanks to the incredible team at UTA, as well as the students, staff, and community members who volunteered their time and insight for progressing this important effort.

We affirm that inclusion and diversity enable us to be agents of change in an evolving world.

JENNIFER COWLEY | UTA PRESIDENT

We demonstrate leadership through innovative research and operational efficiencies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth while simultaneously addressing climate change.

JOHN HALL | UTA VICE PRESIDENT

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