



A Sustainability Leader for the SUNY Community



Enrollment:
4,264 FTE

Institution Type:
Public College

Institution Size:
46 buildings
2.6M sq.ft.

Region:
Westchester County



A History of Sustainable Leadership

The State University of New York at Purchase is leading the way in sustainability and energy use reduction at higher education facilities. Since 1967, the college has been committed to the environment and continues to amplify its effort with campus-wide initiatives, dedicated full-time positions related to energy management, and detailed action plans.

The Road to Efficiency

In 2007, college President Thomas J. Schwarz signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment and became the first certified college in Westchester County's Green Business Partnership, a coalition of local organizations committed to sustainability. By 2013, campus sustainability efforts were robust, and an energy manager was hired to oversee these initiatives and involve the college in programs like the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA's) Clean Green Campuses and the New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE).

The college is updating its climate action plan and participates in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking and Assessment and Rating System (STARS) reporting protocol. In the last Executive Order 88 assessment, the college was in the top 10 best performing SUNY schools for energy reduction.

Reducing Their Carbon Footprint One Step at a Time

Several initiatives are underway to further reduce the carbon footprint and achieve long-term energy and sustainability goals on campus. Through participation in the New York Campuses' Aggregate Renewable Energy Solution, SUNY Purchase is collaborating with 20 higher education institutions on a large-scale renewable energy aggregation effort supporting the State's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050.



“Clean Green Campuses has had a lasting impact on Purchase College campus by providing continued assistance and a platform for innovative energy solutions. The program supports our mission to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of the college and help to reach our goal of being climate neutral. Joining Clean Green Campuses helps to demonstrate our commitment to clean energy on campus and to the greater Purchase community.”

*– Angie Kim,
Sustainability Coordinator*

Another impressive project underway is a combined heat and power (CHP) and energy storage demonstration, wholly sponsored by a \$1 million grant from the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, with additional contributions from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Brenmiller Energy of Israel.

“It is both a development and a demonstration project,” said Steven Wilkie, the NYPA engineer who heads the project. “The intent of the project is to develop and assess the performance of the technology and serve as a reference point. Under the agreement with the college, developers and customers interested in the technology will have the ability to tour the facility when it comes online.”¹

The project will use CHP technology in the physical education building to provide electricity and thermal energy. Unused excess energy will be sent to a thermal storage unit that can extract and store heat. When needed, the energy will be used for electricity and to heat the building, domestic water, and the facility’s pool.

To achieve additional energy reductions, SUNY Purchase has a systematic approach to updating its building management system to provide greater energy efficiency and comfort to building occupants. While many lighting and HVAC systems have been upgraded in the last several years, the college plans to continuously replace aging mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment to maximize efficiencies and expand its submetering effort to more accurately measure energy usage.

The College expects these actions will lead to the reduction of its energy usage intensity an incremental five to ten percent by 2025 as measured against a 2020 projected baseline. Based on the 2018 data, these goals are on track: energy use was reduced by 14% compared to the previous year. Through campus-wide cooperation, these new initiatives will help the college maintain sustainability and act as a model to the community and other higher education institutions.

SUNY Purchase continues to integrate energy efficiency and clean energy technology as their building footprint expands. Two new buildings currently under construction, an academic building and a new dorm that will house 300 students, will be built to at least LEED Silver standards.

Ready to join? Get started today.

Learn how at nyserdera.ny.gov/clean-green-campuses.

¹ American Power Association article (<https://www.publicpower.org/index.php/periodical/article/nypa-participates-thermal-storage-project>)



NYSERDA