

2017

# Macalester Sustainability Tour brochure 2017

Macalester College Sustainability Office

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## Recommended Citation

Macalester College Sustainability Office, "Macalester Sustainability Tour brochure 2017" (2017). *Sustainability Documents*. 11.  
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## 1 PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Macalester College has taken a leadership role in sustainability for higher education. In 2000, President Michael McPherson signed the Talloires Declaration, the first official commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. In 2007, President Brian Rosenberg signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which commits Macalester to becoming climate neutral (i.e. no net greenhouse gas emissions). In 2012, Rosenberg signed the Commitment to Sustainable Practices of Higher Education Institutions on the Occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This declaration expressly connects Macalester's history of internationalism with our strong commitment to sustainability. In fall 2012, Rosenberg signed the Real Food Campus Commitment, which requires the college to purchase 30 percent "real food" by 2020. "Real food" refers to food that is local or community-based, fair and humane, and ecologically sound.

## 2-3 HIGH WINDS FUND AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION HUB

The High Winds Fund is engaged in neighborhood partnerships that support the livability of the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. To promote living near work, the fund provides financial assistance for faculty and staff members who purchase houses within one mile of campus by offering matching grants up to \$4,500 for home improvement projects. In addition, High Winds provided financing to establish the HOURCAR hub, a pay-by-the-hour car share program; NiceRide, a Twin Cities-wide bike share program; a bike fix-it station; a ZAP station, a bike commuter counter; and a neighborhood organics recycling station. These programs are located adjacent to campus.

## 4 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Macalester College installed two electric vehicle charging stations on campus. The stations are used by staff, faculty, and community members. The college received a federal and Xcel Energy grant to cover the cost of one station and installation. Macalester purchases wind energy from Xcel's Windsource program for the stations.

## 5 FACILITIES SERVICES

Facilities Services has shown significant leadership in implementing sustainability projects involving campus buildings and grounds. Projects include green building and energy efficiency projects, managing the campus commitment to Zero Waste by 2020, and maintaining the grounds in a sustainable manner. The most recent Facilities sustainability initiatives include the creation and implementation of our Sustainable Landscape Master Plan, supporting the growth of composting on campus as a piece of our Zero Waste goal, and energy recommissioning of existing buildings.

## 6 PARKING LOT STORM WATER PROJECT

Through a grant provided by the Capitol Region Watershed District, the runoff water of the parking lot is diverted to a basin with special stilt plants to infiltrate storm water, decreasing the amount of pollutants reaching the Mississippi River.

## 7 MULCH

Macalester Urban Land and Community Health (MULCH) is a student organization with a mission to educate Macalester and the surrounding community about urban agriculture and gardening. MULCH maintains a garden on the Macalester campus and provides fresh produce to student members and Café Mac, the campus cafeteria.

## 8 ECOHOUSE

Macalester's EcoHouse is a student residence renovated to be more sustainable and to provide student research opportunities. The house has a range of green features including extensive insulation, energy-efficient appliances, wise water use, solar-thermal heating, and recycled construction materials.

## 9 INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

ITS purchases all Energy Star hardware to save energy, and buys products from vendors that promote sustainability. We virtualize servers to minimize physical devices in the data center. Print release in the Library and Digital Resource Center reduces paper waste by curtailing accidental printing. Old electronics are broken down and recycled by a certified materials recycling vendor. We buy recycled laser toner cartridges refilled with environmentally safe toner. We recycle computer packing materials, including styrofoam, cardboard, paper and plastic bags.

## 10 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Environmental Studies Department serves as the academic cornerstone of sustainability work at the college. In 1973 Environmental Studies became an official program and in 2004 it became an official department of the college. The department has supported campus sustainability through classes, events, newsletters, internships, study abroad programs, and campus-wide projects.

## 11 OLIN-RICE / ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Facilities Services recommissioned Olin-Rice Science Center, the largest energy user on campus. The lights and vent hoods were placed on occupancy sensors to ensure that the building is only heating or cooling spaces when needed. The electric motors in the heating, cooling, and ventilation (HVAC) system have also been changed to more efficient variable speed drives. These adjustments save the college over \$50,000 in energy costs annually.

## 12 PRAIRIE

Prairies once covered more than a third of Minnesota. The prairie recreated here was established in 2004 by students and alumnus Tom Ibsen '93, based on an idea from an environmental studies senior seminar. The area includes 70 species of upland and lowland prairie plants that provide food and shelter for animals. Prairie plants are low-maintenance perennials that are adapted to the Minnesota climate. The plantings help to slow and neutralize pollutants flowing from the parking lots into the storm drain, which leads directly into the Mississippi River.

## 13 WIND TURBINE

The Senior Class Gift of 2003 financially supported the installation of a 10kW urban wind turbine. Despite its small size, it is a valuable project for studying household-scale renewable energy applications in urban spaces.

The Class of 2008 directed its class gift to a Sustainability Fund to advance the college's environmental initiatives including climate neutrality, zero waste, and clean energy efforts. Alumni have continued to support the Sustainability Fund.

## 14 VEGETARIAN COOPERATIVE

The Veggie Co-op, located on the second floor of the stadium, houses 20 Macalester students. Co-op members buy and prepare all of their food in an effort to live as sustainably and cooperatively as possible.

## 15 KATHARINE ORDWAY NATURAL HISTORY STUDY AREA

The 280 acre Ordway Field Station is adjacent to the Mississippi River in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, 17 miles from the Macalester campus. It was established in 1967 and includes habitats such as tall grass prairie, oak savannah and woodlands, aspen woodlands, seasonal and permanent ponds and springs, and a backwater lake. The campus office is Olin-Rice 210.

## 16 LEONARD CENTER

The Leonard Center houses Macalester athletics and the Health and Wellness office. When the old recreation center was demolished, 93.3 percent of the 15,171 tons of demolition waste was reused or recycled. The former fieldhouse is now a horse stable, and other building materials were reused in several other projects. The college hired sustainability consultants to assist in the design of the new building, and the final design promotes significant energy reductions.

## 17 WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

The Sustainability Office and wellness staff have collaborated to try and bridge the gap between health and sustainability. Some of the wellness activities Macalester offers include: Well-being Wednesday, Mindfulness and Physical activity classes, Campus Farmer's Market, Blood Drive, and the annual Wellness 5k during Family Fest.

## 18 LIBRARY

The library maintains Digital Commons @ Macalester, Macalester's open tronic publishing service. Library staff work to raise faculty and student awareness of their rights as authors to choose to publish in open access journals. The library makes available copies of high-demand textbooks purchased by the Mac Student Government.

The library collects discarded, clean one-sided paper to be used in the "Onesies Notebook" project, where used paper is bound and distributed as notebooks. All incoming first-year students receive a onesie, along with information on sustainable printing. The library coordinates reuse of books weeded from its collection or donated from the campus community via Better World Books. Library-sponsored events, including the annual Library Technology Conference, are catered using only compostable or recyclable materials.

## 19 BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

MacBike's Bike Share program allows students and staff to check out free bicycles from the circulation desk in the library.

## 20 BIKE FRIENDLY

In November of 2016, Macalester was officially awarded the Silver Bike Friendly University designation. The designation gives a positive indication as to how Macalester is doing in terms of cycling and gives the opportunity for future improvements in cycling.

## 21 CAFÉ MAC

Bon Appétit, the food service that runs Café Mac, is a leader in environmental accountability and incorporating sustainability objectives into its business through programs such as Seafood Watch, the annual Eat Local Challenge, Farm to Fork, and Low Carbon Diet. Café Mac also supports the student organization MULCH. In addition, all take out containers are compostable.

## 22 MACCARES

MacCARES is a student organization that stands for Community Action for Resiliency, Environmentalism, and Sustainability. The organization meets once a week to work on student sustainability projects that are implemented across campus. Past MacCARES initiatives include campus-wide composting and the establishment of the Sustainability Office.

## 23 SUBSIDIZED METRO TRANSIT PRODUCTS

Subsidized Stored Value products that can be added onto a Go-To Card are sold to the Macalester community at the Information Desk located in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center. This program, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, is part of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

## 24 MARKIM HALL / LEED PLATINUM

Markim Hall, home of the Institute for Global Citizenship, is a LEED Platinum building. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a green building rating system and platinum is the highest rating possible. The design for this building includes green building attributes such as native landscaping, daylighting, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency. Markim Hall also offers programs that institute values of sustainability through The Civic Engagement Center, The International Center, Academic Internship Program, and The Lilly Program for Vocation & Ethical Leadership.

## 25 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Values of sustainability are implemented in both CEC departmental operations and program offerings. Relationships with local environmental organizations are nurtured as opportunities for community-based learning courses, student research, off-campus student employment (work study), and volunteering. An "Action Fund" provides funding for students' projects designed with a local community partner. The CEC employs a student employee focused on environmental and sustainability issues.

## 26 POLLINATOR FRIENDLY

In April 2016, Macalester College became the first pollinator-friendly college in Minnesota. The college has committed to discontinuing the use of the neonicotinoid pesticides, creating pollinator-friendly habitats on campus, and educating both Macalester and the broader community about pollinators. Macalester has brought honey bee colonies to Ordway Field Station to educate the community about bees and to support the imperiled bee population.

## 27 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Publications staff within Communications and Public Relations are helping offices across the college to plan greener publications and are working with the Sustainability Manager and Procurement Office to establish new guidelines for sustainable printing.

## 28 DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURAL LIFE

The Department of Multicultural Life promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion at Macalester, to help foster a sense of belonging on and ownership of the campus. We believe that a commitment to sustainability begins with this shared sense of ownership for the environment. By raising awareness of the related values of sustainability and multiculturalism, the DML supports sustainability efforts at Macalester and more broadly. Creating an inclusive community that recognizes the social and historic experiences of marginalized peoples will encourage a shared responsibility toward both human and natural resources.

## 29 THE SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

The Sustainability Manager and Sustainability Project Coordinator support Macalester's sustainability efforts with the help of student workers. Since 2008, the office has been working to increase sustainability in both the college's operations and academics through overseeing the implementation of the Macalester Sustainability Plan. The office also funds sustainability-related projects through the Campus Sustainability Small Project Fund.

In addition to the Sustainability Office student workers, student workers in departments across campus perform sustainability-focused work through the Sustainability Student Worker Network. This network provides a weekly opportunity and meeting space for students working on sustainability to share ideas, troubleshoot, and collaborate. Additionally, the Sustainability Staff Network connects staff across campus in regards to sustainability efforts.

## 30-31 GREEN ROOF

A student-led group installed the college's first green roof on the "fishbowl" between Turck and Doty residence halls in spring 2006. Later in the year, they received a \$10,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and installed a more extensive green roof atop Kagin Commons. These plants reduce storm runoff and heating and cooling loads on the building. The green roofs also increase roof lifespan and filter pollutants out of the air.

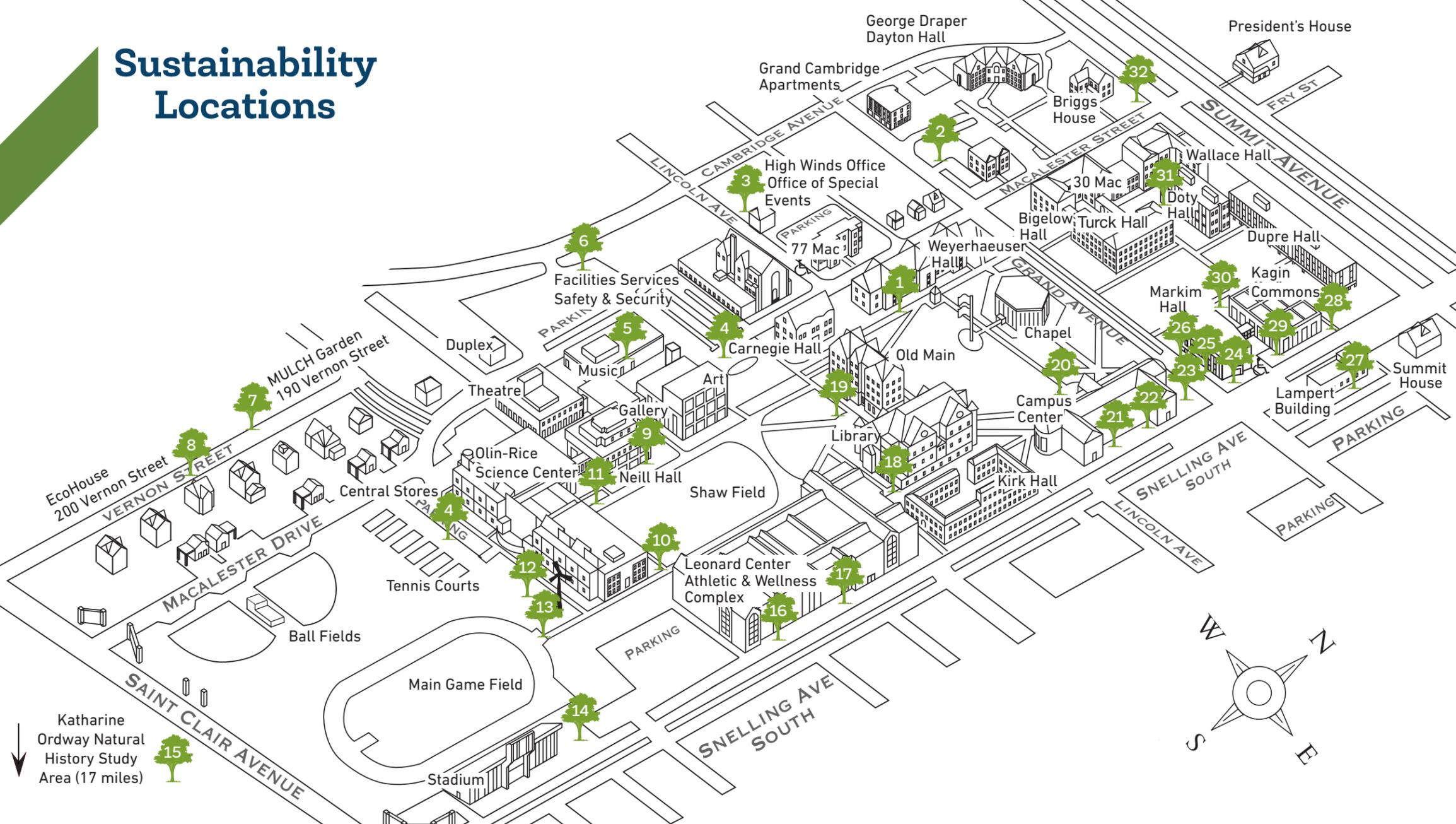
## 32 ZAP

ZAP is a bike commuting program which provides a means of tracking bike usage for those at and around Macalester. This ZAP reader program was funded by the Sustainability Office, WHAM, and The High Winds Fund.

*This tour was first designed by Megan Crawley '09 and Andrew Meeker '09 as a part of the Environmental Leadership Practicum course in 2007.*

# Sustainability Locations

# Macalester Sustainability Tour



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| 7 MULCH   | 21 Café Mac                            |
| 8 EcoHouse  | 22 MacCARES                            |
| 9 Information and Technology Services                     | 23 Subsidized Metro Transit Products   |
| 10 Environmental Studies Department                       | 24 Markim Hall / LEED Platinum         |
| 11 Olin-Rice / Energy Efficiency                          | 25 Civic Engagement Center             |
| 12 Prairie  | 26 Pollinator Friendly                 |
| 13 Wind Turbine   | 27 Communications and Public Relations |
| 14 Vegetarian Cooperative                                 | 28 Department of Multicultural Life    |
| 15 Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area (17 miles) | 29 The Sustainability Office           |
|   | 30-31 Green Roof                       |
|   | 32 ZAP                                 |



**MACALESTER**

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