



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Sustainable Development Goals

Report | 2024

Committed to Sustainability

"The University of Georgia remains committed to the best practices in sustainability, experiential education, research, and community engagement."

Jere W. Morehead,
22nd President of the University of Georgia



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Research	
Engagement	
Teaching	
Operations	

Introduction

What began as a commitment to inspire the next generation grows stronger each day through impactful research, hands-on learning, and global outreach. The University of Georgia is committed to tackling the world's grand challenges, from combatting poverty, hunger, and infectious disease to fostering innovation, economic growth, and a more secure future for all. The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a call to action that align with the defining commitments of the University of Georgia.





1 No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Embark@UGA

Embark@UGA is a campus-based initiative to engage students who have experienced foster care, homelessness, and/or are at risk of homelessness. Embark@UGA connects students to an individualized support network designed to help them navigate UGA by connecting them with campus and community resources that are reflective of their unique needs and circumstances. Embark@UGA is part of a statewide network that seeks to increase college access and retention for homeless or foster care youth in all University System of Georgia or Technical College System of Georgia institutions.

**"Embark@UGA has been the community that I never really had. I've been with Embark for a few years and I know that I can turn to Embark for help if/when I need it, whether it be someone to talk to, help with finances (rent, therapy, car), etc."
– Graduate Student, School of Social Work**



Institute for Nonprofit Organizations

Housed in the School of Social Work, the Institute for Nonprofit Organizations administers a master's degree, seminars, and workshops for the nonprofit community, supports research opportunities and a graduate certificate program that is open to students in any major. More than 500 graduates of the certificate and master's programs have gone on to successful careers in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

\$1.3M

secured the School of Social Work and Family and Consumer Sciences to provide education and outreach to increase utilization of Earned Income Tax Credit



Student Emergency Support Funds

Emergency Support Funds are available to assist currently enrolled UGA students by providing financial support when they need assistance with unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses. Students will receive funding from a variety of Emergency Funds across campus.

The Emergency Support Fund addresses specific temporary student needs such as:

- Medical bills
- Replacement of essential personal belonging due to natural disaster, fire, theft, etc.
- Car repairs
- Personal safety needs (e.g. changing a lock)
- Medications or other health-related costs
- Mental health care
- Rent, utilities, or other essential household expenses



Small Business Development Center

With 18 locations across the state, the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center's goal is to enhance the economic well-being of Georgians by providing a wide range of educational services for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

2,182 businesses launched

15,514 new jobs created

\$1.25B raised in loans and equity

by UGA SBDC in the past 5 years



1 NO POVERTY



2 Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Food Product Innovation and Commercialization Center

The FoodPIC Center is internationally recognized for the development of innovative food products and for the implementation of cutting-edge science and technology. It works to assist companies in developing new food products efficiently and economically and with high probability of success.



Dining Services Let All The Big Dawgs Eat Food Scholarship

The Let All the Big Dawgs Eat Food Scholarship Initiative is a need-based scholarship that awards meal plans to University of Georgia students each fall, spring, and summer semesters that was founded in 2014 to help address the food insecurity crisis at UGA. Administered by UGA Student Affairs and funded by private donors, the UGA Foundation, and UGA parents and families, the scholarship allows students to concentrate on academic success without the worry of securing their next meal.



UGA Dining Services offers a variety of vegetarian and vegan options at all dining halls daily, ensuring all students have access to fresh, healthy meals that fit their needs. Vegetarian and vegan options are marked with the following symbols on daily menu tags throughout the dining halls.



USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut research is part of the U.S. government's strategy to fight hunger and poverty around the world. Through the Peanut Innovation Lab and similar programs, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) taps into the expertise of top U.S. universities to give farmers tools they need to adapt to climate change and feed a growing population. By addressing challenges in food production, safe processing, nutrition, and gender equity, the Peanut Innovation Lab helps partner countries become more food secure.



CAMPUS KITCHEN: BY THE NUMBERS

492,646 pounds of food recovered

95,737 pounds of food donated to local agencies

112,000 meals prepared and distributed to local residents



Campus Kitchen at UGA

A program created by the UGA Office of Service-Learning in 2012, Campus Kitchen at UGA exists to spotlight sustainable solutions to hunger and food waste and to showcase a mutually beneficial University-community partnership. Through Campus Kitchen, student leaders and volunteers transform unused food from grocery stores and fresh produce from UGarden, UGA's student community farm, into nutritious meals and groceries that are delivered to older adults and human service agencies in Athens, Georgia.

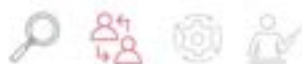


2 ZERO
HUNGER



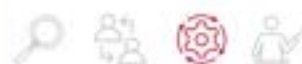
3 Good Health & Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



BeWellUGA

BeWellUGA is a central mental health and well-being resource for the UGA campus community with free well-being and prevention programs, events, and services hosted by UGA Well-being Resources. #BeWellUGA offers classes and services geared towards helping UGA students thrive physically, mentally, and socially. Well-being Resources hosts BeWellUGA Week in September, where students have the opportunity to learn about services offered and engage in fun activities to promote mental well-being.



Student Care and Outreach

The mission of Student Care and Outreach is to coordinate care and assistance for all students, undergraduate and graduate, who experience complex, hardship, and/or unforeseen circumstances by providing individualized assistance and tailored interventions.

8,000+

students served by SCO from
2023 to 2024



UGA Campus Safety Measures

The new measures, totaling more than \$7.3 million, include a permanent 20% increase to the UGA Police Department budget to continue to recruit and retain the very best officers through more competitive pay and to add additional campus safety personnel. Other measures will include more security cameras and lighting upgrades as well as adding license plate readers and the installation of combined security camera-blue light call box systems in strategic locations across campus. The RideSmart program, which provides a 50% discount on Lyft rides for UGA students, is being extended four hours per day and will now operate from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., and Campus Safety Ambassadors are on duty from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am, each day of the week, working as the “eyes and ears” for other police department personnel.

\$7.3M

invested in new safety measures
across campus in 2024

“The protection of our students, faculty and staff at the University of Georgia is always top of mind for me and our senior administration, and we are continually evaluating our safety programs.”

- President Jere W. Morehead



Precision One Health Initiative

Housed within the College of Veterinary Medicine Precision One Health is committed to studying the intricate connections among genetics, the environment, and lifestyle factors and their effects on disease prevention and treatment. The main goal of the initiative is to develop personalized healthcare strategies that provide individuals with the most effective treatment options at the right time. The mission is centered on personalized medicine, which includes risk assessment, exploration of significant biological mutations, vaccine and drug development, and selection of customized therapies based on molecular profiling.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



GradFIRST

Launched in Fall 2022, the GradFIRST seminar series supplements discipline-specific training in graduate students' academic programs with focused professional development and engagement/networking opportunities with faculty and other graduate students across UGA's campuses. Providing an onboarding seminar for new graduate students ensures that regardless of background or academic discipline, students will have access to the resources and information that can support their success at UGA and beyond.



Center for Latino Achievement and Success in Education (CLASE)

Using a multidimensional, cultural-historical framework focused on reducing academic achievement gaps, CLASE provides professional development and resources for K-12 educators, outreach support through mentoring and tutoring, program support in developing a pipeline to post-secondary education, and research to inform educators on ways to improve teaching and learning.

13,400

teachers in 37 districts across Georgia have been trained by CLASE since 2014



Sustainability Certificate Program

The Interdisciplinary Sustainability Certificate is the 3rd largest certificate at UGA supplementing undergraduate and graduate students' disciplinary depth with the knowledge, skills, values, aptitudes, and attitudes necessary to address complex sustainability problems. Through courses, seminars, capstones, and portfolios, students develop the key competencies that help them innovate sustainable solutions in a wide range of disciplines.



In 2023, the certificate program hosted over 260 active students from 64 academic majors across UGA.



\$10M

grant over five years to improve middle school education on GenAI in STEM



National GenAI Center

In October 2024, the University of Georgia received a five-year, \$10 million grant to fund generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) education in middle schools. In collaboration with Vanderbilt University, Educational Testing Service, and Albany State University, the National Center on Generative AI for Uplifting STEM+C Education (GENIUS Center) will facilitate the teaching and learning of science through development of GenAI learning agents to both improve competence in STEM subjects and demonstrate how to use GenAI tools responsibly.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Women's Staff Leadership Initiative

The Women's Staff Leadership Institute (WSLI) is an annual program that offers a select group of current University of Georgia employees the opportunity to explore their own leadership identities, develop their careers, and support one another in issues that women leaders face in higher education administration. The Women's Staff Leadership Institute is aligned with the Women's Leadership Initiative launched in 2015 by President Morehead and the Office of the Provost. The institute is administered through Human Resources' Learning & Development Department with the support of executive sponsor Jennifer L. Frum, Vice President of Public Service and Outreach.

"Programs such as the Women's Staff Leadership Institute create spaces for our leaders to come together from across campus, enhancing collaboration, learning, and growth for all."

- Juanita Hicks, Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Human Resources



Institute for Women's Studies

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies fosters the interdisciplinary study of women and gender, and provides, through teaching and research, information on the complex ways knowledge, experience, and social systems are shaped by gendered norms and assumptions. Our teaching and research emphasize gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, sexuality, and different abilities as categories of analysis.



CENTERING INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES



Innovation Bootcamp

As part of the University's Innovation District Initiative, the Innovation Bootcamp program is built to be truly inclusive and represent the diversity of our campus and community. These sessions deliver tailored training in order to equip attendees with the key skills needed for success in an innovative, entrepreneurial environment.



Cohorts meet weekly over the course of seven weeks, engaging in topics such as how to find your "why?", developing a pitch, finding funding, and marketing basics.



Women and Girls Conference

The biannual Women and Girls in Georgia Conference was established in 2007 to encourage and highlight research by, for, and about women and girls in Georgia, in all their diversity. Hosted by the Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Georgia, the conference brings together academics, activists, and community members to share expertise, strengthen networks, and strategize for positive social change in Georgia and beyond. Hosted most recently in October 2024 with an emphasis on "Southern Futures," topics at the conference included community history projects, housing equity, eco-performance activism, abortion pedagogy, reimagining science, and the experiences of black single mothers.



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 Clean Water & Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



River Basin Center

The River Basin Center connects freshwater science to management and policy to promote the sustainable management of aquatic resources and ecosystems. River Basin Center faculty, staff, and students work on aquatic management issues around the globe, but the center maintains an emphasis on the southeastern United States.

\$5.45M

secured in active grants from external funders



Trash Traps

The Storm Water Systems device installed in Trail Creek near Dudley Park is a fairly simple concept — the trash trap sits atop the creek collecting debris that floats at the surface, and the two arms protruding from the side funnel trash into the trap. The specific device is called the Banadlong Bandit Litter Trap, and it's designed to be affordable and portable, fitting in the back of a pickup truck when disassembled. The trap captures floating debris, specifically plastics, while still allowing the creek to flow unimpeded. Because the trap is on the surface of the water, it does not interfere with aquatic wildlife movement. The trap captures litter that falls into the creek, which prevents it from reaching larger bodies of water like the Atlantic Ocean.

864.79

pounds of litter collected to date at UGA Tanyard Creek and Chicopee Trail Creek

10,062

individual items collected to date at UGA Tanyard Creek and Chicopee Trail Creek



Georgia Water Resources Conference

Since its inception in 1989, the biennial Georgia Water Resources Conference (GWRC) has provided an open forum for the discussion of water policies and management strategies, as well as the results of research and technical studies. The Georgia Water Resources Conference is organized by the UGA River Basin Center, funded by the Georgia Water Resources Institute and other sponsors, and fueled by the innovation of our participants.



70+

rain gardens installed on UGA's Athens Campus to enhance water quality in the Upper Oconee watershed



UGA Extension Water & Drought

UGA Extension looks at the many prisms of water in all teaching, research, and extension programs. Extension agents educate farmers, homeowners, 4-H'ers, community leaders and businesses through workshops, activities and projects. They offer soil and water testing services, landscape steward programs and frequent publications tracking the current status of drought in Georgia and other water-related issues.



6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 Affordable & Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Agrivoltaics Initiative

The Agrivoltaics Initiative housed in the Odum School of Ecology invites stakeholders in the transition to renewable energy to help improve the lives of all Georgians. It aims to solve the technical, ecological, legal and agricultural challenges of solar production while addressing the need for renewable energy and preserving our state's agricultural industry. Agrivoltaics combines farming with solar energy production, offering a way to create stronger, more resilient communities.



Energy Savings

UGA reduced its energy use intensity per square foot by more than 22% since 2007 through investments in the campus energy infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades in campus buildings, and energy efficient design in new construction and renovations. Energy use in UGA facilities is responsible for an overwhelming majority of the University's overall greenhouse gas emissions, so energy conservation and renewable energy are critical components of UGA's Sustainability Plan.

99,500

million BTU in energy savings in FY2024

\$1.76M

saved as a result of energy efficiency programs in FY2024



Energy Informatics

UGA researchers have pioneered the field of energy informatics, which uses big data analysis to optimize energy use systems in skyscrapers, universities, factories, and among other large-scale energy users. Recently, they have turned their attention to greenhouse growing, with a 30% reduction in the cost of crop production.



The teaching component of this class (MIST4550/6650) engages students involved in the MIS major program, the interdisciplinary sustainability certificate, and the informatics certificate. This class is in high-demand and fills up every semester.



Solar Tracking Demonstration Project

Georgia Power owns and operates one megawatt of their solar resource on UGA property through a research partnership with the university. The energy generated feeds directly to the grid, while UGA retains the solar renewable energy credits (SRECs). The array generates over 1,600 MWh per year, offsetting about 0.5% of UGA's consumption of electricity from the grid.



**7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**



8

Decent Work & Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Workforce Development

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government assists communities as they plan for the future and increase their capacity to build a strong workforce to meet employer needs. Partners include state entities, local governments, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and employers.

242

distinct community-based projects in
FY2023

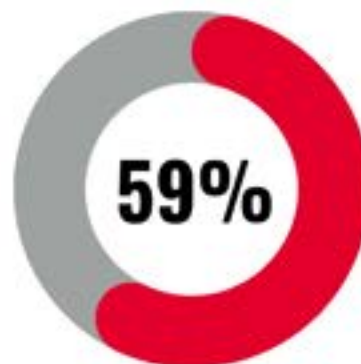
159

counties across Georgia
impacted by local initiatives in
FY2023



Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program

By providing support to University of Georgia undergraduates with the greatest financial need, the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program is a powerful tool for removing barriers and opening doors to higher education. More than 1,530 students have received scholarships since the program was established in 2017.



of Georgia Commitment Scholarship
recipients come from underrepresented
backgrounds



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The UGA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program supports free tax preparation services to the Athens community and across Georgia, improving family economic well-being and stability. These efforts are combined financial literacy interventions that create an opportunity to engage in applied research and experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

\$3.8M

economic impact in FY2024



Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach

"The goal of CenHTRO is to be a global leader in human trafficking research, policy, and programming innovation. I am proud of our faculty, staff, graduate assistants, as well as our partners across the globe who continue to work diligently to reduce human trafficking."

- Dr. David Okech, CenHTRO Director

The Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach (CenHTRO) works to implement effective anti-trafficking policies and innovative programs that protect victims, prevent trafficking, strengthen prosecution, and enhance partnership while also equipping the next generation of human trafficking researchers with competencies that can enhance social justice for trafficking survivors and victims. CenHTRO works in 10 countries on five continents.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Innovation District Initiative

The UGA Innovation District is a community of people, programs, and places working together to foster an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and learning. It brings together bright minds from disciplines across campus to take on challenges from multiple angles, shape discoveries into marketable solutions, and educate tomorrow's creators to be skilled, experienced, and versatile.

\$531M

national impact precipitated by
UGA startup programs



Zero Waste Initiative

Zero Waste UGA (ZWUGA) is an interdisciplinary experiential learning initiative to foster a culture of sustainability through waste reduction. The UGA campus will function as a living laboratory to support teaching, research, service and outreach, student engagement, and operational innovations toward a circular economy. Students, faculty, staff, and external partners will work together to significantly reduce landfilled waste through projects implemented during this 3-year program.





Innovation Gateway

Innovation Gateway helps UGA researchers move their research breakthroughs into the marketplace through licensing and startups. UGA is one of the nation's number top universities for new products developed by industry partners, with more than 850 products that range from crop varieties to vaccines and software introduced to the marketplace.

#1

UGA's ranking in FY2022
among US universities
for number of
commercial products
created from its research
by industry partners



Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems

The Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS) advances the integration of natural and conventional infrastructure systems to strengthen society's long term resilience to flooding, sea level rise, drought, and other disruptions. Through collaborative partnerships, IRIS empowers communities and businesses to discover wise infrastructure solutions that deliver a broad array of social, economic, and environmental benefits.

"We use high-performance computers to understand the physics of oceanic and nearshore circulation. This work can alter the paradigm in how the US and other countries mitigate coastal riverine flood hazards and risk beyond traditional engineered infrastructure."

- Dr. Matthew Bilskie, IRIS Researcher and Assistant Professor in the UGA College of Engineering

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequalities within and among countries.



ALL Georgia Program

The ALL Georgia Program supports rural students at UGA throughout their academic journey. We connect rural students with a network of resources and offer engaging programming focused on academic enrichment, mentoring, leadership development, and community building. In partnership with the Office of Student Financial Aid, ALL Georgia also coordinates the ALL Georgia Scholarship Program, providing financial aid for six outstanding UGA students from rural Georgia areas each year.



Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

The University of Georgia has been named a recipient of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the 11th consecutive year. Presented by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the HEED Award reflects the university's deliberate efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive learning environment. This includes initiatives and programs that assist first-generation, rural, low-income, underrepresented, and underserved students; veterans; and students from Athens-Clarke County.





Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center's primary commitment is to assist the University of Georgia in educating and serving students with disabilities who qualify for admissions. While the mission is to ensure equal educational opportunities as required by the ADA and other legislation, the DRC strives to promote a welcoming academic, physical, and social environment for students with disabilities at UGA.



The DRC hosts three distinct services that have proven helpful in accommodating a variety of student needs: 1) the Test Accommodations Office, 2) the Assistive Technology Lab, and 3) Alternative Media Services.



Pride Center

The mission of the University of Georgia's Pride Center is to foster an inclusive, informed community for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Price Center strives to recognize the intersectionality between identities, work toward equity, make space to celebrate one another, and create space for everyone to feel like they belong. Programs such as Dawg Ally and Pride Ambassadors help foster a more educated, welcoming campus community.



QSTONE seeks to create a fun, inclusive, and comfortable environment for Black, Indigenous, and POC LGBTQIA+ UGA students to gather and discuss similarities and differences, and host socials, biweekly meetings, and cultural celebrations.



10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11

Sustainable Cities & Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Center for Community Design and Preservation

The Center for Community Design & Preservation (CCDP) serves as the Public Service and Outreach office for the College of Environment & Design. We provide opportunities for our faculty and students to engage in real-world projects and put their academic pursuits into practice. Through a Public Service Request system, we respond to a range of requests for assistance, from residential landscape design problems via our Student Job Board to large-scale community improvement challenges incorporated into CED studios and coursework.



Community Planning

The University's Carl Vinson Institute of Government works with communities to plan for growth and address challenging environmental issues. The Vinson Institute has completed 20 strategic visioning plans for communities in Georgia, including one regional plan in northwest Georgia that included two Tennessee communities.



Environmental and natural resource planning services include facilitating regional water councils, assessing local and county wide infrastructure resources, and identifying strategic uses of natural resources in eco-tourism and community development.



E-Mobility Initiative

The mission of the Georgia Network for Electric Mobility is to accelerate electric transportation innovation across the state to support economic growth for all Georgians through industry partnership, multidisciplinary research, workforce development, and community engagement. From electric buses to mobility scooters, e-mobility makes low-emission transportation more accessible to more people.



reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to diesel buses



decrease in yearly maintenance costs per bus



Campus Sustainability Grants

The annual Campus Sustainability Grants program is available to all UGA students and invites project proposals that advance sustainability through education, research, service, and campus operations. Successful projects address UGA's strategic priorities and integrate social, environmental, and economic solutions. Over the last 11 years, the program has supported more than 100 student-led projects on campus and in the community.



To date, \$490,000 has been awarded to fund 128 student-initiated projects on campus and in the local community.



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 Responsible Consumption & Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



New Materials Institute

The UGA New Materials Institute is advancing a paradigm shift in waste management: that a material's useful end-of-life should be considered at the design stage and that Green Engineering principles should be part of this process. NMI faculty are committed to creating safer, environmentally-healthy products, as well as systems that generate less waste.



Swap Shop

Swap Shop at UGA encourages reuse, repair, and circular economy practices at no cost to campus community members. Keeping the items we bring into our life for their entire lifespan—and then more—is essential to solve the waste crisis we are currently facing. Swap Shop at UGA is a place to trade personal items, which keeps usable goods out of landfills and recirculates them back to the campus community.

1,483 lbs

of material diverted from the landfill in 2023



Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors

Faculty in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Interiors bring a range of expertise that spans merchandising and residential design to polymer, fiber, and textile science. Its Innovative Materials Research Team is working to develop sustainable alternatives to traditional plastics, textiles, and materials.



The Department collaborated with Waste Reduction to implement a campus-wide clothing and textile recycling program, with collection bins stationed at the Miller Learning Center, Barrow Hall, Dawson Hall, and Lamar Dodd.



Compost Program

Dining Services, in partnership with the Facilities Management Division and the Office of Sustainability, has diverted food waste from the landfill since 2014. This food waste is pulped and transported to Athens-Clarke County Commercial Composting Facility, where it is composted and sold back to community members and partners.

10,000+ lbs of compost collected across campus per week



MAINTAINING CIRCULAR WASTE STREAMS



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Georgia Climate Project

The Georgia Climate Project is a multi-year effort and state-wide consortium of universities, colleges and partners working to improve understanding of climate impacts and solutions in Georgia and advance four strategic priorities:

1. Synthesizing what is known and analyzing what is not in order to improve understanding of climate impacts and solutions in Georgia.
2. Fostering a constructive, nonpartisan discussion about how climate change affects Georgia and what can be done about it.
3. Working with partners to enable Georgians to take practical steps to respond to climate change and its impacts.
4. Bringing together experts working to understand and act on climate.



Carbon Emissions Tracking Dashboard

As part of the Drawdown Georgia project, researchers at the University of Georgia have partnered with faculty from other leading institutions to identify solutions to reduce the state's carbon footprint. Strategies include boosting solar farms, adopting electric vehicles, retrofitting buildings, implementing nature-based forestry solutions, and reducing food waste.

48%

reduction in gross carbon emissions from 2010 to 2022

5

LEED Gold Certified buildings across campus



Green Zone Initiative

UGA established a new 81-acre Green Zone in 2023 located on the central campus around Tate Student Center and Sanford Stadium. The goal of this Green Zone was to pilot the use of "electric-only landscaping equipment" and other green practices to reduce emissions and noise, and improve air quality and health and well-being. As one of the University's data driven Clean Energy projects, the project is keenly focused on measuring the benefits of these innovations to the campus community, and communicating lessons learned to other higher education institutions. Expansion of the Green Zone to north and south campus is underway.



\$25M+

invested in one of North America's largest electric bus fleets since 2019

33

electric buses transporting 40,000 students across campus per day



Clean Energy and Climate Solutions Program

As part of the Drawdown Georgia project, researchers at the University of Georgia have partnered with faculty from other leading institutions to identify solutions to reduce the state's carbon footprint. Strategies include boosting solar farms, adopting electric vehicles, retrofitting buildings, implementing nature-based forestry solutions, and reducing food waste. A notable push has been made towards the electrification of the bus fleet on campus, with the University receiving and matching multiple grants received from the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority and the Federal Transit Authority.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.



Circularity Assessment Protocol

The Circularity Assessment Protocol (CAP) is a hub and spoke model that provides a snapshot of a city's circularity that can provide data for local, regional, or national decision-making to reduce leakage of waste (e.g., single-use plastic) into the environment and increase circular materials management.

14 & 51

countries

cities

working in partnership with the
Circularity Assessment Protocol
to collect data



Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research

The Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research site (GCE LTER) was established by the National Science Foundation in 2000. The study domain encompasses three adjacent sounds (Altamaha, Doboy, Sapelo) on the coast of Georgia, U.S.A., and includes upland (mainland, barrier islands, marsh hammocks), intertidal (fresh, brackish and salt marsh) and submerged (river, estuary, continental shelf) habitats. GCE LTER researchers seek to understand how these ecosystems function, how they change over time, and how they might be affected by future changes in climate and human activities.

"Getting the Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER grant renewed was particularly gratifying, as it represented a true team effort and lots of people put in a lot of hard work."

**- Merryl Alber, Professor
and Director of the UGA Marine Institute
on Sapelo Island**



Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provides research, education, training, and science-based outreach to assist Georgia in solving problems and realizing opportunities for its coastal and marine environments. By advancing research, education and training, and outreach, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant promotes the economic, cultural, and environmental health of Georgia's coast.



In 2023, the Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant provided 2,670,000 seed oysters through our hatchery program at a value of \$27,565.58, to 9 aquaculture businesses in SC, GA, and FL.



Skidaway Institute for Oceanography

The UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography is a multidisciplinary research and training institution located on Skidaway Island near Savannah. The Institute was founded in 1968 with a mission to conduct research in all fields of oceanography. In 2013, the institute was merged with the University of Georgia. The campus serves as a gateway to coastal and marine environments for programs throughout the University System. The Institute's primary goals are to further understand marine and environmental processes, conduct leading-edge research on coastal and marine systems, and train tomorrow's scientists.



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 Life On Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat deforestation, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls to provide overnight academic field studies for students in public, private, and homeschool learning in grades K-12. Youth indicate that as a result of their experience, they have an understanding that their behaviors have an effect on the environment and feel a greater connection to nature.

119,289

volunteer hours served during
the 2022-2023 year



Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Housed at the UGA Tifton Campus, the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health supports efforts to detect pests, respond to new introductions, document changes, and manage the health of ecosystems. Solutions to these problems require collaborations that transcend traditional disciplinary, departmental, institutional, and agency approaches, as well as state and national borders.

The Center integrates science-based resources with information technology applications including:

90

websites for environmentally conscious organizations

73

smartphone applications for iOS and Android devices



Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies

A unit of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies spearheads native plant restoration, conservation, education, production, and safeguarding. At the Center, graduate students, interns, volunteers, and science and conservation staff propagate Georgia native plants for use in habitat restoration, endangered species recovery, and introduction to the gardening and green industry community.



Since the inception of the Certificate in Native Plants program in 2007, over 700 individuals have enrolled, with 184 earning the certificate.



Bee Campus USA and Tree Campus USA

304,920

total square feet of habitat created or enhanced on campus in 2023

With pollinator benefit in mind, the University of Georgia helped to create and enhance the following habitats: flower garden, vegetable garden, natural area with tree snags and stumps, bare areas for ground nesting species, meadow, pollinator friendly lawn, native milkweed plantings, invasive/exotic plant species removal, native pollinator-friendly tree, shrub, and hedgerow planting, rain garden/bioswale, roadside/rights of way, and school garden. In total, UGA hosted 17 habitat projects that enhanced or created over 7 acres of pollinator habitat.



15

LIFE ON LAND

16

Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Mandela Washington Fellowship Program

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, UGA annually hosts 25 young leaders from across Africa for six weeks of civic engagement leadership training. During their time at UGA, fellows interact with the Athens community and build connections to aid their community development projects at home.



Center for Social Justice, Civil, and Human Rights

The UGA Center for Social Justice, Human, and Civil Rights works with University and community partners to foster a fair and inclusive society. Founded in 2013, it brings attention to historic civil and human rights struggles, encourages scholarship that examines oppression and inequality, sponsors educational events, and mentors future social justice leaders.



15 faculty members representing three colleges and schools across the university participate as research fellows with the Center for Social Justice, Civil, and Human Rights.



Center for the Study of Global Issues

The University's Center for the Study of Global Issues (GLOBIS) fosters educational and research activities focused on economic, political, and sociocultural change and development. GLOBIS conducts research and educational activities that examine recent global economic, political, and socio-cultural trends and the human problems associated with these trends to furnish a basis for forecasting the future and forming public policy.



Since its founding in 2020, over students have participated in research with the GLOBIS Human Rights Research Lab



J.W. Fanning Institute of Leadership Development

The J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, a unit of Public Service and Outreach at the University of Georgia, is dedicated to strengthening communities, organizations, and individuals through leadership development, training, and education. The Institute is named for UGA's first Vice President for Services, Dr. J.W. Fanning. His legacy of leadership development is embodied in the Institute's dedication to developing leaders of all ages, in every community, from all walks of life.



PROMOTING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



RCE Greater Atlanta

RCE Greater Atlanta is acknowledged by the United Nations University as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. RCEs support multistakeholder implementation of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level through education and training. RCE Greater Atlanta brings together universities and colleges from across the Greater Atlanta region with nonprofit, community, government, and business partners.



Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Since 1927, UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government has worked with public officials throughout Georgia and around the world to improve governance and people's lives. Its more than 150 faculty and staff provide technical assistance, training, and technology solutions to Georgia's state and local governments, as well as governments around the world.

\$225M

dedicated to 142 projects across the state to improve neighborhood assets



Archway Partnership

The Archway Partnership connects Georgia communities with UGA and other higher education resources to address critical locally-identified needs and opportunities. Archway Partnership communities have addressed issues related to economic development, education, workforce development, leadership, health and welfare, overall quality of life, and more.



In 2022, the Archway Partnership was awarded the C. Peter Magrath Award for Community Engagement, the highest award for public service from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.



Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification For Community Engagement

The Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement is a way for Colleges and Universities in the US to gain recognition for institutionalizing community engagement. Campuses must apply for the classification, which is offered every 2 years. The classification has been the leading framework for institutional assessment and recognition of community engagement in U.S. higher education for the past 19 years with classification cycles in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020, and now 2024.



University of Georgia has received the Elective Classification for Community Engagement since 2010.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



