Welcome to the U!
This self-guided tour will show you how your school is implementing sustainable practices to create a greener future

The U is committed to a future that will help create healthy social, economic, and environmental systems that persist over many generations. At the Sustainability Office, we help the University integrate sustainability practices throughout operations, research, and education. Use this map as you walk, scoot, skate, or ride across campus to explore the various sustainability projects and acquaint yourself with parts of the University you might not otherwise visit.

To learn more about campus efforts, visit sustainability.utah.edu.

Let’s get started!

1. Presidents Circle
As the oldest portion of campus and its formal gateway, Presidents Circle honors the long history of the University of Utah. Here you will find the oldest example of architecture alongside a collection of fascinating trees, part of the State Arboretum of Utah. In April 2015, the U received Tree Campus USA recognition. Learn more at tinyurl.com/UT-arboretum.

2. S.J. Quinney College of Law
The new S.J. Quinney College of Law aims to achieve platinum certification, the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED). Law school faculty and students personally reviewed building codes, water law, health department rules, and state guidelines, and they also helped imagine creative solutions for the new building, such as ultra violet patterns that look like spider webs in the windows to reduce bird collisions. The building emphasizes sustainability and energy efficiency—it uses one-half the energy of a typical building, such as ultra violet patterns that look like spider webs in the windows to reduce bird collisions. The building also capitalizes on its location near TRAX, creating an accessible gateway to the southwest corner of campus.

3. Edible Campus Gardens
The Edible Campus Gardens serve as demonstration gardens to showcase the beauty of edible landscaping in an urban setting. They offer numerous learning opportunities for students and provide locally grown food to several entities on campus, including the U of U Farmers Market and University Dining Services. There are two garden sites on main campus: Pioneer Garden near Pioneer Memorial Theatre and Silo Garden outside the Silo Center. The gardens have received support several times from the Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund (SCIF), which provides grants for on-campus sustainability projects. With the help of SCIF, the gardens added a bioretention zone to help filter stormwater overflow in 2011 and added a greenhouse in 2016.

4. U of U Farmers Market
On Thursdays from the first week of school until fall break, the University of Utah hosts its own farmers market, which links local growers and artisans with the campus community and provides students and employees access to fresh, healthy, local produce and unique arts and crafts. Campus favorites include pastries, baked breads, BBQ, and tamales.

5. Union Building
The Union is a hub for student services, including the Office for Equity and Diversity, the Women’s Resource Center, LGBT Resource Center, and the Center for Disability Services. It is also the home of the Bennion Center, which fosters lifelong service through volunteering. In addition, on the 4th floor balcony sits the first University of Utah apiary, a set of beehives installed to foster a bee community and to increase awareness of the environmental pressures affecting hives. The hives were funded by SCIF and are managed by the University of Utah Beekeepers Association. Additional hives can be found at the Marriott Library and other campus locations.

6. Marriott Library
The library is a center for sustainable endeavors on campus. In addition to its solar panels, the library also boasts a green roof, which has been a useful study site to look at plant evaporation and its potential impact on building energy use, research which was partially funded by SCIF. The library also hosts numerous sustainability-themed lectures and exhibits and boasts a strong selection of e-subscriptions to environmental and social justice journals that can be accessed online at lib.utah.edu. Outside on Library Plaza, enjoy native landscaping and local food trucks.

7. Sustainability Office
Enter the west facing doors between the covered bike cages of the Business Classroom Building to stop by the Sustainability Office. Students and staff at the office work on programs and projects to improve campus sustainability by educating peers, initiating behavior change campaigns, working with on-campus partners, and more. Learn more on our website at sustainability.utah.edu and follow our blog at sustainableutah.wordpress.com.

8. Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building
Solar panels were installed on the SFBB roof through a 2012 student-led project, made possible by funding from SCIF and the Associated Students of the University of Utah. The panels produce an estimated 57,000 kWh a year, saving approximately $5,500 a year in electricity costs. On the 5th floor, the Modern Cafe offers locally roasted coffee and some of the best views on campus. Good for the heart and soul.

9. High Temperature Water Plant
In 2008, the University completed the installation of a combined heat and power system with the installation of a natural gas-fired turbine and waste-heat recovery unit duct burner. At the time of installation, these were the lowest emitting units of their type in Utah and were estimated to reduce 63,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually. In essence, electricity for the campus is produced by utilizing the wasted heat normally sent up the exhaust stacks. The system provides the equivalent amount of electricity as 20,000 solar panels.

10. Jon M. Huntsman Center
During the summer of 2014, the Huntsman Center, home to Utah basketball, gymnastics, and other events, got a major overhaul, including a whole new set of lights. Gone are the old metal halide lamps that took 10 minutes or more to warm up; they were replaced with more efficient LEDs, which provide brighter illumination and more flexibility, including darkening the arena for athlete introductions. The lights are estimated to reduce energy use by 25 percent per year.

11. Shoreline Ridge Solar Plaza
The ADA-accessible Shoreline Ridge Solar Plaza is a community space featuring tables, seating, and a natural gas fire pit all covered by umbrella-like shade structures. That shade is provided by 32 solar panels, which also allow visitors to plug in electronics, ranging from phones to tablets to computers, directly into the solar panels for charging. The panels were funded by SCIF, with other groups contributing toward the rest of the plaza.

12. Red Butte Creek
A section of Red Butte Creek flows through the edge of campus, but neglect has left the ecosystem wanting. Pollutants, such as excess nitrogen, phosphorous, and others, have found their way into the creek through runoff from landscaping, roads, and other impervious surfaces. Additionally, a lack of maintenance has enabled trash to build up in the waterway and unmanaged stormwater runoff has led to erosion. First steps are underway to turn Red Butte Creek into an outdoor laboratory: in 2015, SCIF funded a Stormwater Quality Assessment to collect detailed baseline data to begin the restoration process.

Ready to leave your mark on campus? Apply for a SCIF grant and be a part of sustainable solutions. Call the Sustainability Office at 801-585-9352 to talk to the SCIF coordinator.

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When finished with this map, please pass it on or return to us for re-use.

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