



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Office of the President™

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 13, 2019

TO: Texas Tech University Faculty and Staff

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, President  
Noel Sloan, Vice President for Administration & Finance and CFO  
Sean Childers, Associate Vice President for Operations

RE: Sustainability Efforts

Students who participated in the most recent Office Hours with the President raised several points that reflected their interest in promoting a green campus. On several occasions, faculty and staff have also communicated suggestions and concerns related to sustainability efforts at Texas Tech. Because of wide spread interest across campus related to these matters, we wanted to provide an update related to the university's commitment to sustainability.

Through the Office of Sustainability, Texas Tech University has participated in the sustainability benchmark survey conducted by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Report allows universities from around the world to measure and compare campus sustainability efforts across many different fronts. Texas Tech University has scored bronze on the STARS Report for the last two years. This prestigious ranking within this highly competitive report is due to the considerable efforts of students, faculty and staff around campus.

Some of these sustainability efforts include:

- The Department of Transportation and Parking developed programs aimed at reducing the number of vehicles on campus while providing transportation for students, faculty and staff. These programs include the Tech Employee Courtesy Shuttle service, Lime scooters and bikes, Zip Cars and the Student Raider Ride Service. Studies have shown 56% of students coming to campus do not drive vehicles. Additionally, Texas Tech University was certified silver as a Bicycle Friendly University in 2017 by the League of American Bicyclists.
- The recycling center, operated by University Student Housing, provides an avenue for the campus and local community to divert recyclable materials away from the landfill. Other recycling efforts on campus include a partnership between the Operations Division and the Burkhardt Center, cardboard and plastic recycling at Hospitality Service venues, metal recycling by the Operations Division and the Department of Civil Engineering, and recycling efforts made by Facilities Planning & Construction for new projects and renovations. Overall, Texas Tech University recycled more than 1,000 tons of materials during FY 2019.

- Utility reduction efforts by various departments on campus, including building renovations and new building construction, have allowed the university to realize a reduction in the cost of utilities required to operate the campus. This has been accomplished as the university has grown in square feet maintained, population and research accomplished. These efforts include LED lighting, new building controls, recommissioning facilities, and central heating and cooling system enhancements allowing the university to save over \$20 million in energy expenses since 2006. Enhancements at the Central Heating and Cooling Plant #1 include variable frequency drives, new water controls, water-side economizers, and electric chiller units. Grounds Department's water conservation efforts include the addition of Xeriscaping and desert-scaping to enhance the sustainability of Texas Tech University's landscape.
- Many colleges, including the College of Architecture, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Rawls College of Business, Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering, and the School of Law, along with the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences, now include courses and research in sustainability. Additionally, Texas Tech University has world class academic centers including the Climate Science Center, National Wind Institute, and water conservation centers in the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering and the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources.

Thank you for your considerable efforts to improve the sustainability of the university. Texas Tech University continues to provide accomplishments in sustainability impacting both the campus and local environments while providing opportunities for sustainability research and teaching.

If you have additional questions or comments or would like to know more in regard to campus sustainability initiatives, please contact Carey Hewett and the Office of Sustainability at 806-834-1657 or at [carey.hewett@ttu.edu](mailto:carey.hewett@ttu.edu).