



# Process for UT Austin Sustainability Master Plan

## TRACS - 2017

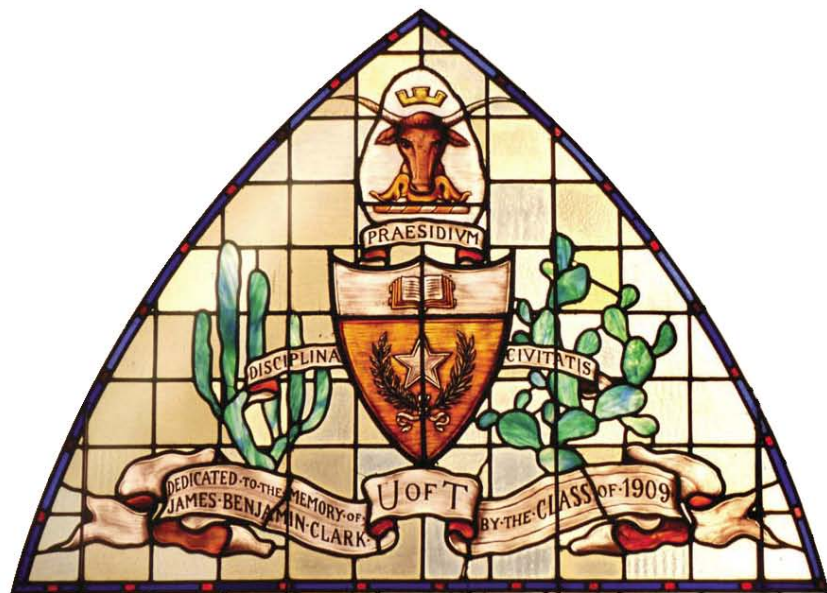


The University of Texas at Austin  
Office of Sustainability



# Today

- Context of Sustainability Master Plan
- Charge and Process
- Introduction to Priority Areas and key goals and strategies

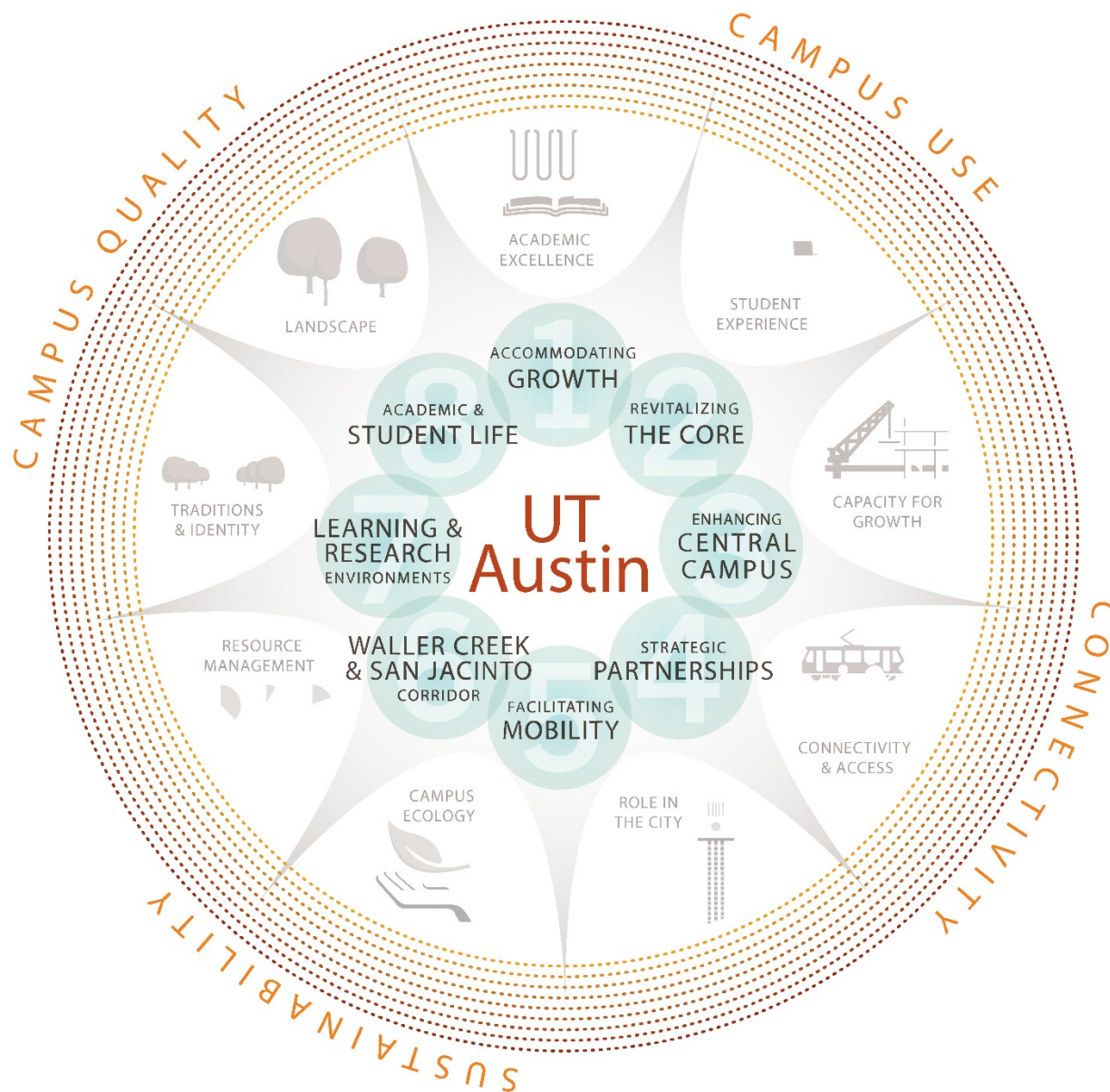




# History

- 1930 – Get off coal for power generation
- 2002 – Campus Environmental Center founded
- 2007 – President's Sustainability Steering Committee
- 2008 – Campus Sustainability Policy (PSSC)
- 2009 – Commitment to high-performance, green building
  - First Director of Sustainability hired, Office created
- 2011 – Natural Resources Conservation Plan (PSSC)
- 2012 – Campus Master Plan (Sasaki)
- 2014 – Landscape Master Plan (Sasaki)
- 2015 – East Campus, Medical District Master Plans (Sasaki)
- 2016 – *Sustainability Master Plan*









# Context – Summer 2015

- Campus Master Plan and subsequent planning efforts have tapped enthusiasm for big outside consultants ...
- ... as well as the time and energy of the President's Sustainability Steering Committee members.
- New medical school has become a gravity well.
- New President takes office in June with an interim Provost and interim CFO. UT loses five Deans over two years.
- Texas Athletics is having an identity crisis.
- Institution is feeling targeted by members of Board of Regents and is focal point for issues such as campus carry.
- Emerging positives on the academic side.



# Charge

- Develop Plan as an in-house effort with existing resources.
  - Only use consultants for specific tasks
  - We not gonna give you no money
- Use the expertise of staff, and feedback of the campus community, to shape and inform the Plan.
  - Public participation is vital, but we don't need to start from square one
- Oh, and do it quick



# Plan Process

## Summer 2015

- Working Group formed
- General approach and timeline vetted with leadership of the President's Sustainability Steering Committee
  - Especially regarding faculty engagement
- Planning for public outreach





# Plan Process

## Fall 2015

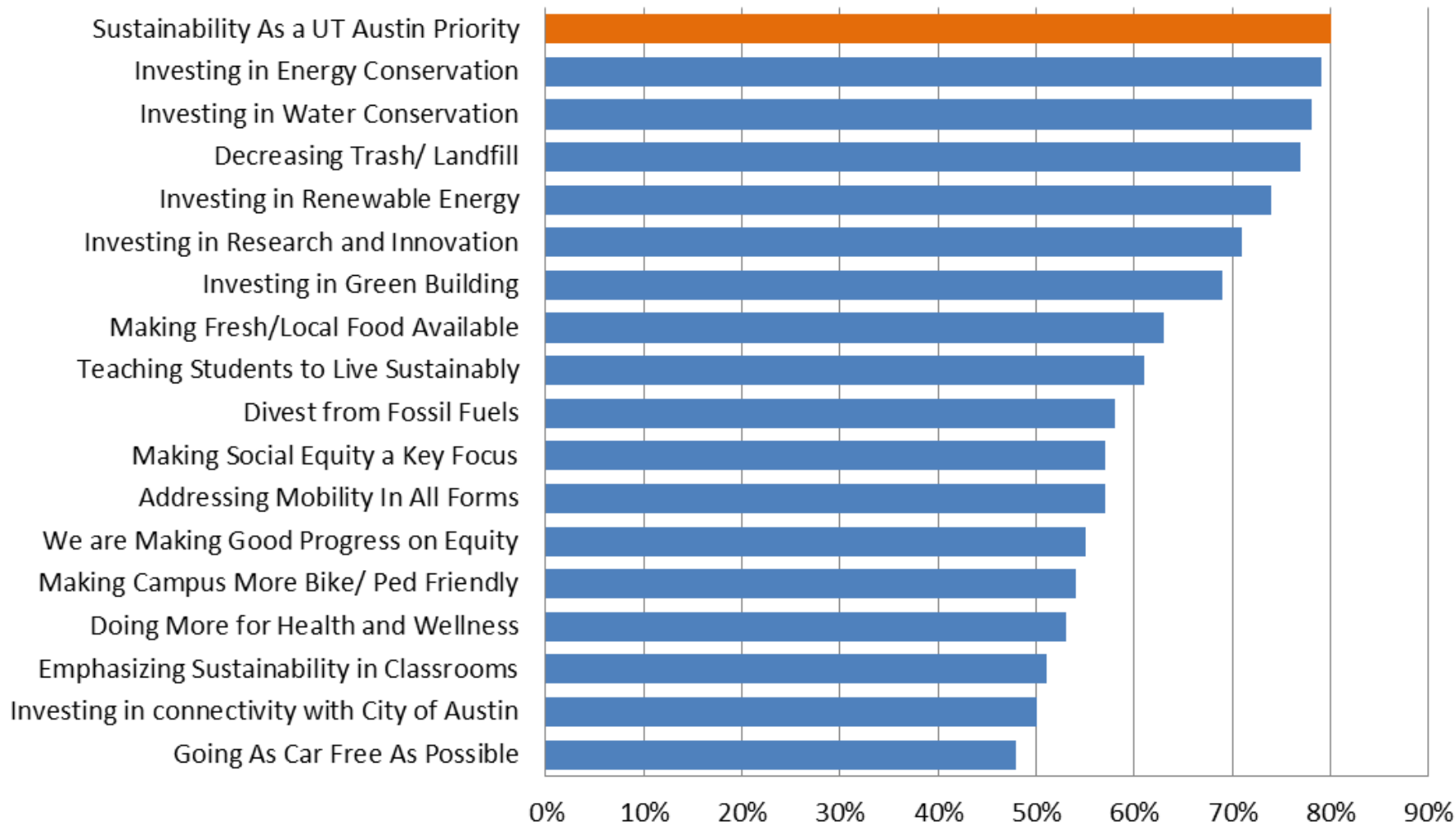
- 7 public input sessions
- 10 specialty focused meetings
  - Equity, diversity and inclusion, faculty, grad students, city partners, etc.
- Tabling during Campus Sustainability Week
- Campus-wide survey
- 11 full Working Group meetings
- 1 half-day retreat







## Sustainability Priorities Survey





# Survey Summary

- “I don’t see how social equity fits into ...sustainability.”
- “We are making progress with social equity. Don’t slack off now.”
- “There is a huge discrepancy between haves and the have-nots.”
- “You can’t promote social equity and then try to take away student’s right to park near campus.”
- “Having a sustainable university makes me feel proud, like I’m part of saving the world.”
- “Approach sustainability with common sense.”
- “I hope UT takes a leadership role as a model of sustainability for other large universities and the rest of the country.”
- “What good is scientific innovation if we’re unwilling to put it to work on our own campus?”



# Outreach Insights

- Improve communications across the board
- Address equity issues as well as environmental
- Integrate operational expertise with educational mission
- Extend sustainability practices beyond the classroom and office into lifestyle
- Be comprehensive about costs and benefits



# Plan Process

## Winter 2015-16

- Initial drafting period
- Proposed Goals, Strategies and Outcomes were tasked to members of the Working Group
- Initial scoping of who-the-hell-is-actually-responsible for doing all this stuff?







# Priority Areas





# Teaching and Research

- **Living Lab**
  - **Goal**
    - Leverage UT Austin facilities as a living lab for teaching sustainable practices
  - **Strategies**
    - Charge PSSC with expanding existing ad hoc undergraduate programs into formal living lab program
    - Target course development awards to living lab methods and outcomes
    - Create undergraduate research opportunities within university operations, facilities and administration
  - **Outcomes**
    - Deliver PSSC faculty report to the Provost by 2018
    - Measure improvement of campus facilities and processes as a result of research and classroom work
    - Increase faculty and courses utilizing university operations or facilities



SMPmatrix\_pivot\_current - Excel

FILE HOME INSERT PAGE LAYOUT FORMULAS DATA REVIEW VIEW ADD-INS

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	K	L
	ser	Direction	Area	Goal	Strategies	Outcome	CM	STARS Cred	Decisionmaker	Responsible Unit	OS Rc
1											
2	1	Leadership	Executive Comm	Sustainability is integral to the identity of UT Austin	Recharge the President's Sustainability Steering Committee			PA-1, Sus	President	PSSC	Own
3	2	Leadership	Executive Comm	Sustainability is integral to the identity of UT Austin	Update the Campus Sustainability Policy (HOP 3-1010)	Adopt new Campus Sustainability Policy by 2018			President	PSSC	Pull
4	3	Leadership	Executive Comm	Sustainability is integral to the identity of UT Austin	Explore opportunities to connect sustainability with research and academic goals	PSSC Faculty report to the Provost on Living Lab Program by 2018	CMP	AC-8, Can	Provost	PSSC	Push
5	4	Leadership	Culture of Exce	Create and foster a culture of sustainability excellence among university stakeholder groups	Report every two years on sustainability progress, comprehensively review and update every five years and communicate progress to the university and external community	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			Director OS	OS	Own
6	5	Leadership	Culture of Exce	Create and foster a culture of sustainability excellence among university stakeholder groups	Deepen integration of sustainability into facilities development process	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			VP University Oper	CPPM/OFFC	Push
7	6	Leadership	Culture of Exce	Create and foster a culture of sustainability excellence among university stakeholder groups	Sustainability commitments are established at the Dean/VP/upper admin/prominent campus leader levels	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			Deans/VPs	Various	Track
8	7	Leadership	Culture of Exce	Create and foster a culture of sustainability excellence among university stakeholder groups	Unit-level strategic plans incorporate sustainability	Guide for integration of sustainability into unit level strategic plans by 2020			Deans/VPs	OS	Pull
9	8	Leadership	Model Institut	UT Austin is recognized as a leader in sustainability among public research universities	Apply for internal and external awards, apply to present at and host conferences, increase participation in national sustainability	Achieve STARS Gold by 2020			Deans/VPs	Staff Roundtable	Pull
10	9	Leadership	Model Institut	UT Austin is recognized as a leader in sustainability among public research	Maintain and improve performance on higher education ranking systems for sustainability	Maintain Princeton Review Green College Honor Roll status			Director OS	Staff Roundtable	Own
11	10	Leadership	Model Institut	UT Austin is recognized as a leader in sustainability among public research	Increase participation in national sustainability networks	Additional awards & recognitions, including internal recognition of sustainability staff			Director OS	Staff Roundtable	Pull
12	11	Leadership	Model Institut	UT Austin is recognized as a leader in sustainability among public research	Increase contributions to publications (trade, academic, and specialty) covering sustainability	Leadership roles in higher education sustainability organizations and events			Unit Directors	Staff Roundtable	Push
13	12	Leadership	Model Institut	UT Austin is recognized as a leader in sustainability among public research universities	Expand on collaborative work of UT Staff Council and Sustainability Staff Roundtable with faculty and student groups on targeted initiatives	New internal recognition program for staff by 2018			Unit Directors	Staff Roundtable	Push
14	13	Leadership	Commitment	Many of UT Austin's peer institutions have made	public commitments to greenhouse gas and carbon emission reductions. Various factors lead to these commitments,				VP University Oper	PEF	Pull
15	14	Experience and Cultur	Undergraduate	Integrate sustainability into the first-year experience	Create a sustainability focused Living Learning Community within the Division of Housing & Food Service	New Living Learning Community admits students by 2018		AC-5, Imm	VP Student Affairs	OS/Student Affairs	Pull
16	15	Experience and Cultur	Undergraduate	Integrate sustainability into the first-year experience	Support inclusion of sustainability topics into FIGS	First year students demonstrate awareness of sustainability at the university			VP Student Affairs	OS/Student Affairs	Push
				Integrate sustainability into the first-year	Introduce all first year students to sustainability	Mandatory sustainability session during					

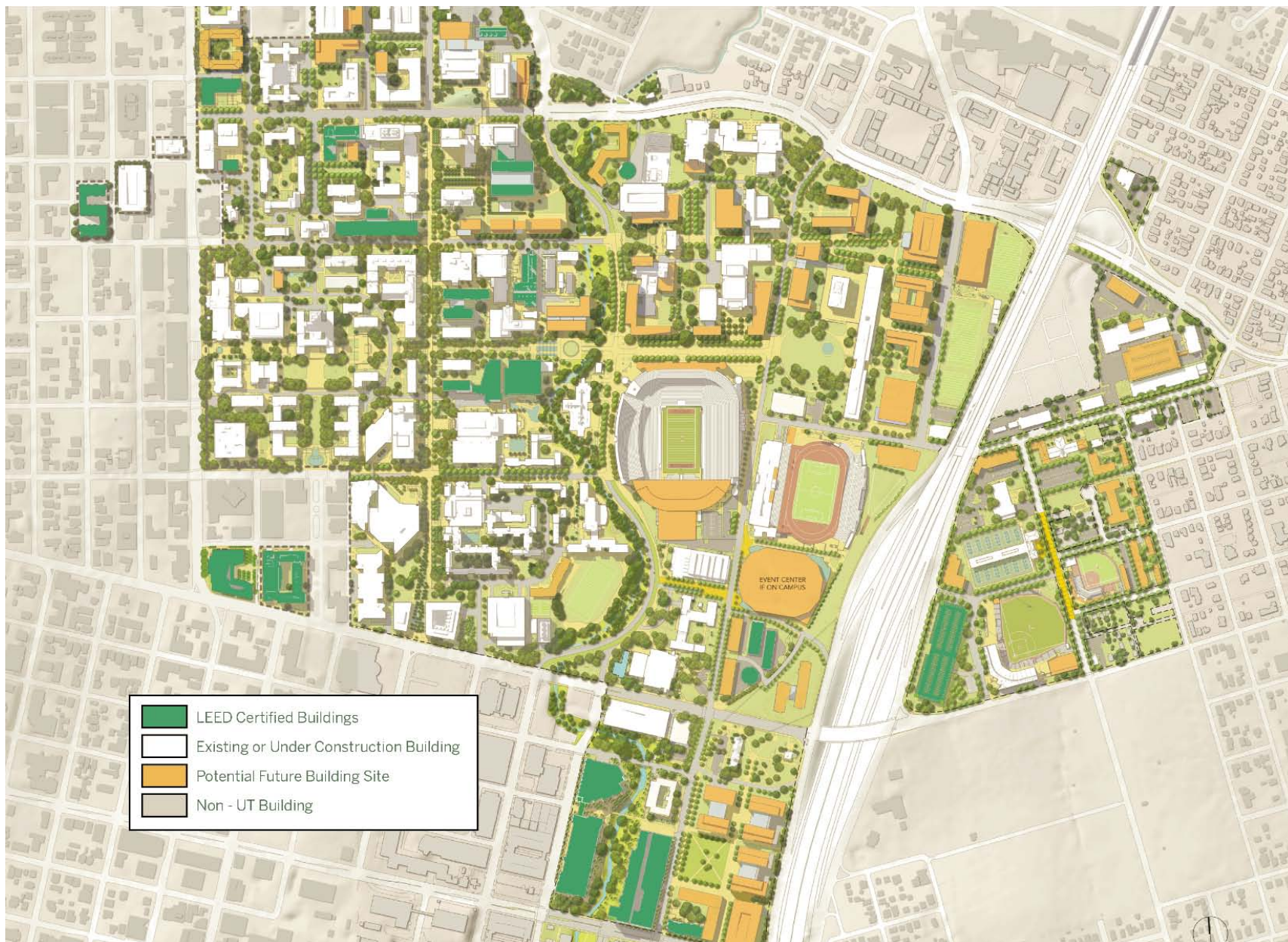


	F	H	I	J	K	L	
	Outcome	CMP	STARS Cred	Decisionmaker	Responsible Unit	OS Role	
mittee			PA-1, Sust	President	PSSC	Own	
	Adopt new Campus Sustainability Policy by 2018			President	PSSC	Pull	
	PSSC Faculty report to the Provost on Living Lab Program by 2018	CMP	AC-8, Cam	Provost	PSSC	Push	
and	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			Director OS	OS	Own	
	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			VP University Opera	CPPM/OFPC	Push	
els	First implementation report on Sustainability Master Plan strategies by 2018			Deans/VPs	Various	Track	
	Guide for integration of sustainability into unit level strategic plans by 2020			Deans/VPs	OS	Pull	
ent at al	Achieve STARS Gold by 2020			Deans/VPs	Staff Roundtable	Pull	
on	Maintain Princeton Review Green College Honor Roll status			Director OS	Staff Roundtable	Own	
rks	Additional awards & recognitions, including internal recognition of sustainability staff			Director OS	Staff Roundtable	Pull	
ic, and	Leadership roles in higher education sustainability organizations and events			Unit Directors	Staff Roundtable	Push	
nt	New internal recognition program for staff by 2018			Unit Directors	Staff Roundtable	Push	















# Plan Process

## Spring 2016

- Publicly share the Plan draft
- Refine Business Case preface
- 20 meetings with Deans and College leadership groups
- Dive deeper into the strategies and accountability
- Secure final approvals of Campus Master Plan Committee and President's Sustainability Committee
- Target public announcement of final plan by President on Earth Day







# Feedback: Equity



**Gage Paine** @GagePaine · Feb 10

Learning about the @UTAustin Sustainability Master Plan at #SALT mtg today. Love idea of social equity as part of sustainability.  
#Greenlife

- Gage Paine, UT Vice President of Student Affairs (former)



[besafe.utexas.edu](https://besafe.utexas.edu)



# Plan Process

## Summer 2016

- Move forward on emergent Strategies
- Keep relationship and request open with President, other senior leadership
- Begin Office of Sustainability Strategic Plan
- Stay positive





# Plan Process

## Fall 2016

- Keep relationship and request open with President, other senior leadership
- Set public release date for Plan
- Check in with key faculty and decision makers
  - New Provost, New CFO





# SUSTAINABILITY MASTER PLAN



The University of Texas at Austin

## Sustainability Master Plan

FALL 2016





# Reflections

- In-house worked well
- People first mindset worked well
- Stronger linkage with STARS
- Couple adoption with new resource allocation
- Better process with faculty
  - But balanced with timeliness





# Leadership

Executive Commitment  
Culture of Excellence  
Model Institution





# Experience and Culture

Undergraduate

Graduate

Faculty

Staff

Community



*Focus = Equity, Diversity  
and Inclusion*





# Opportunity and Affordability

Wellness  
Livelihood  
Food  
Mobility



*Focus = Structural Equity*







# Teaching and Research

Curriculum

Living Laboratory

Research Impact

Faculty Support

Civil Discourse



*Focus = Developing 21st  
century leaders*



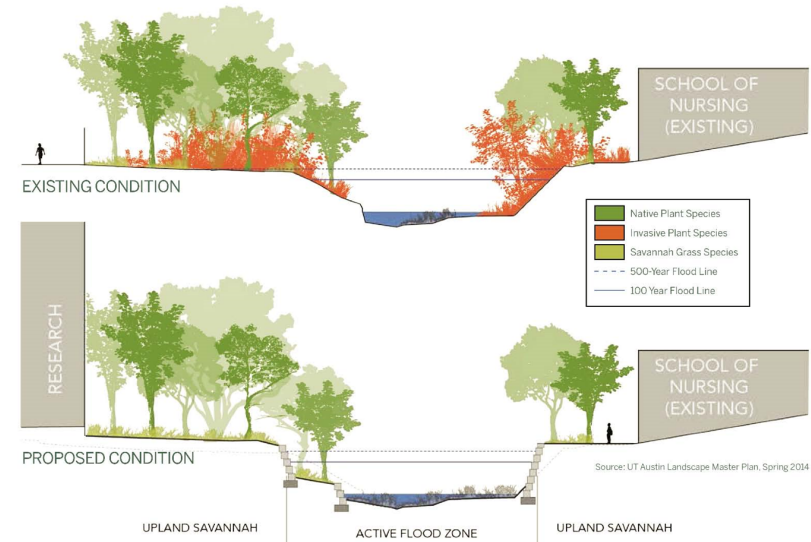


# Conservation

Energy  
Water  
Resource Recovery  
Purchasing  
Fleet  
Buildings  
Landscape



WALLER CREEK IN MEDICAL DISTRICT





# Partnerships

Internal  
External







# Thank You



**BLEED ORANGE. LIVE GREEN.**

[jim.walker@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:jim.walker@austin.utexas.edu)



# Big Picture

- UT Austin campus sustainability policy (HOP 3-1010) and the 2012 Campus Master Plan sustainability definition:
  - *Sustainability refers to societal efforts that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability presumes the planet's resources are finite, and should be used conservatively, wisely and equitably. Decisions and investments aimed to promote sustainability will simultaneously advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social welfare.*