

Fenn Sustainability Plan | Sustainable Operations Overview

This document explains the current goals, draft strategies, and rationales for goal focus and target numbers. Brief information on the current state and possible measurement methods is given.

| Sustainable Operations - Daily, Fenn operates in interrelationship with the environment and in support of its community. | | | | | |
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| Goal | Topic | Language | Rationale | Current State | Metric |
| 1 | WASTE MINIMIZATION | <p>By 2028, Fenn has reduced its discarded materials by 5% and is diverting 85% of its discarded materials from the landfilled/incinerated trash stream.</p> <p>1.1 Design a tracking mechanism for establishing a discarded materials benchmark and for measuring future interventions.</p> <p>1.2 Identify additional materials for diversion from the landfill/incineration stream.</p> <p>1.3 Identify single-use materials that cannot be recovered through recycling or composting and minimize use of those materials by seeking alternative options.</p> <p>1.4 Identify the three major contaminants in the recycling stream and develop interventions for reducing contamination to 5% or lower.</p> | <p>Casella, the current disposal provider, recommends a 5% reduction, using a baseline from 2022.</p> <p>“Discarded materials” refers to regular trash, recycling, and compost (food waste); occasional construction materials management will be handled according to the contractor and state laws.</p> | <p>Fenn does not track trash or recycling by volume or weight.</p> <p>Fenn currently diverts pre- and post-consumer food waste in the dining hall via commercial composting, and the data (tons) are reported to Fenn annually by BlackEarth Composting.</p> | <p>Trash, recycling, and composting can be tracked via PortfolioManager. Data can also be input into SIMAP for scope 3 emissions calculations.</p> |
| 2 | TRANSPORTATION | <p>By 2028, fewer than 55% of student, faculty, and staff trips to and from school will be via a single-family vehicle.</p> <p>2.1 Incentivize and facilitate carpooling among students and faculty.</p> <p>2.2 Promote both public and private bus/van programs.</p> <p>2.3 Support students and faculty who walk or ride to school through advocacy at the local level.</p> | <p>Commuting is Fenn’s largest emission source (one-third) and is also an area of logistical concern, with long waiting and idling times for drop-off and pick-up. Reducing single-student/person vehicles to/from campus will improve all community members’ daily routines.</p> <p>Aiming for 55% or less of the community relying on single-occupancy vehicles would require ~55 people to change their habits on a regular basis.</p> | <p>A study of community transportation for 2018-2019 showed that 58% of students rode in single-student vehicles and essentially 100% of faculty and staff used single-occupancy vehicles (the other modes being public and chartered buses, carpools, private vans, and walking/bike riding).</p> <p>68% of the Fenn community thus got to and from school using a single-occupancy vehicle.</p> | <p>Data collection methods on transportation modalities need attention. Collected data can be entered into SIMAP for scope 3 emissions calculations.</p> |
| 3 | SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING | <p>By 2028, Fenn tracks, reports, and practices sustainable materials procurement and use.</p> <p>3.1 Study current purchasing practices to assess materials consumption requiring the largest budgets.</p> <p>3.2 Develop purchasing guidelines for individual departments for effective sustainability interventions.</p> <p>3.3 Support sharing, cataloging, and repurposing of materials and resources on campus.</p> <p>3.4 Create a standard vendor template and RFP language that includes Fenn’s values around sustainability, fair labor, and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> | <p>Consumption and disposal of everyday educational and office materials has an impact environmentally, socially (depending on the supply chain of an item), and financially on both Fenn and the planet. Fenn does an amazing job giving faculty and students what they need to do their best work; this can lead to redundancies in purchasing and overstocks in forgotten closets and storage areas. Seeking low-impact materials and tracking purchased materials better will lead to better environmental and financial health.</p> | <p>In the past, Fenn has worked to analyze switching over to 100% recycled content printer/copier paper, has eliminated certain items from the cleaning products stock, and the like.</p> <p>There is no written policy or guide, so purchasing low-impact materials is currently done on an individual basis. The Facilities Department does thorough work with storing and cataloging furniture and fixtures; a similar model may be applicable to other departments.</p> | <p>Data collection methods, frameworks, and tracking platforms need to be addressed. Writing a purchasing policy or guide may also streamline decision-making and define what are “sustainable materials” to Fenn.</p> <p>There are a few resources available to help with this, including certification frameworks (like EcoLogo, for janitorial products).</p> |
| 4 | FOOD AND DINING | <p>By 2028, Fenn tracks, reports, and practices sustainable food sourcing that also supports local providers.</p> <p>4.1 Create a tracking mechanism to baseline and identify ways to increase the percentage of local and organic food purchases.</p> <p>4.2 Involve students in learning about sustainable food and organic waste diversion through dining hall experiences and classroom curriculum units.</p> <p>4.3 Strengthen direct sourcing partnerships with Concord agricultural operators and support the dining service provider to eliminate barriers to direct sourcing.</p> | <p>Studies of climate change are showing us how much of an impact our agriculture system - nationally and globally - has on climate change. By evaluating our menus, purchasing practices, and waste habits, Fenn can have a downstream impact on agricultural practices - especially the local farms and communities of Massachusetts.</p> | <p>Fenn has hired Flik as its dining services provider; students and employees are served lunch five times a week. Flik has many sustainability initiatives and goals in place (waste diversion, scratch cooking), but currently is not able to report on expenditures on local and/or organic food.</p> | <p>Flik-generated purchasing reports can be reviewed each year for areas of improvement.</p> <p>When Fenn is able to receive purchasing reports from Flik, that data can be entered into SIMAP to generate scope 3 emissions reports.</p> |
| 5 | LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS | <p>By 2028, Fenn will manage its grounds preferring nature-based solutions (NBS) that enhance student health and learning within a sustainable landscape.</p> <p>5.1 Mitigate impacts of excessive heat days, massive precipitation events, and extended droughts through restorative green infrastructure.</p> <p>5.2 Identify areas for invasive management, biodiversity restoration, and irrigation reductions.</p> <p>5.3 Ensure human health through preferring organic fertilizing and pest control practices.</p> <p>5.4 Showcase healthy management of the water cycle, the carbon cycle, and biodiversity for students.</p> | <p>Fenn has an opportunity to lead in the implementation of the Town of Concord's Climate Action and Resilience Plan when it comes to managing the campus landscape. Focusing on making the outdoor play spaces safe and inviting for students (and faculty and staff) leads to better human health and ecological resilience.</p> | <p>Currently, Fenn’s grounds are managed using low-impact methods, such as no regular pesticides, employing native perennial plantings, and some permeable hardscape surfaces. There is no integrated pest management program in place, and excessive heat in the summer and stormwater management (most seasons) are a challenge for the campus. Soil health and compaction also lead to trouble spots on the greens.</p> | <p>Research into best practices and available frameworks for O+M guidance are needed. Measurement can be done against a specific framework (such as SITES).</p> |