SUSTAINABILITY AT BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Ojibwe Influence

The Bemidji region is surrounded by three Native American reservations: Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake. At Bemidji State University, we appreciate how the concept of sustainability is deeply connected to Native American culture and perspective. BSU’s unique sustainability model is inspired by the Anishinaabe creation story, in which humans were created last and are dependent on animals, plants and Mother Earth to survive, yet nothing is dependent on humans.

A Focus on Wellness

The Bemidji State sustainability model emphasizes Wellness as an essential component. We work across campus to promote and ensure the overall health of our students, faculty and staff by encouraging all aspects of individual wellness and how they are connected. We encourage students to get enough sleep, find activities that reduce stress (such as painting or going for a walk in the woods), and to participate in mentally enriching activities. Furthermore, our sustainability model highlights the interdependence between our individual, social and economic health and the overall health of the environment.

Bemidji State University at a glance:
- Member of the Minnesota State System
- Public liberal arts institution
  - ~5000 students
  - ~1200 students living on campus

Bemidji State University environmental leadership timeline:
- 1972 – Environmental Studies B.S. program
- 1992 – Environmental Advisory Committee
- 1998 – Environmental Policy Statement
- 2004 – Environmental Stewardship Signature Theme
- 2005 – Sustainable Campus Endowment Fund
- 2006 – Talloires Declaration Signed & Wind Energy Purchased
- 2008 – Green Fee ($5 per semester) & Sustainability Office
- 2008 – ACUPCC signed (2050 target date)
- 2010 – Gitigaan (Campus/Community Garden)
- 2011 – Donate, Don’t Dumpster and FreeStore
- 2012 – Sustainable Landscape Master Plan
- 2013 – Solar Transpired Air Installation; Biomass Feasibility Study
- 2014 – Sustainable Campus Research Award
- 2015 – Climate Action Progress Report
- 2015 – Green Fee Increased to $7.50 & Assistant Sustainability Director
- 2016 – Fossil Fuel Free Fish House and Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- 2016 – First LEED Building
- 2016 – EcoCamp
- 2017 – Food Recovery Network
- 2017 – Carbon Commitment

For more information about Bemidji State University’s sustainability projects or programs, visit www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/sustainability or contact Erica Bailey-Johnson (ebaileyjohnson@bemidjistate.edu) or Anna Carlson (amcarlson2@bemidjistate.edu)