

Creating a More Sustainable Future



Sustainability Master Plan 2025 | Year 1 Progress Update

Elon University's Sustainability Master Plan 2025 builds on Elon's long-standing commitment to sustainability, supports the Boldly Elon strategic plan and furthers Elon's mission to prepare students to be global citizens and informed leaders motivated by concern for the common good. This Year 1 progress update highlights early implementation efforts as the university begins to advance the plan's goals. This progress reflects the collective commitment of many faculty, staff and students.



Engagement

50%

55%

50% of students participated in community service in FY 2026.



Connecting Service Opportunities to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Phoenix Serve users can now tag volunteer opportunities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This helps students better understand the broader impact of their community engagement efforts. As Kyle Anderson, associate director of the Kernodle Center for Civic Life, notes, "Whether students are addressing food insecurity, supporting education or protecting the environment, **every service opportunity connects to at least one of the UN SDGs.**" Photo: Volunteers prepare food for Allied Churches of Alamance County.



Academics

66%

85%

66% of academic departments have at least one faculty member doing sustainability research.



Purchasing

An updated version of the Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines has been drafted and is under review.



Facilities

↓3%

Energy consumption per square foot was down 3% in FY 2025, compared to the FY 2024 baseline.



Transportation

74%

85%

11%

15%

74% of students and 11% of faculty and staff utilized more sustainable commuting options as their primary mode of transportation in fall 2023.

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Dining

26% of Elon Dining's spend was local (within 150 miles or the state of NC) in FY 2026.

26% 35%

Elon Dining Launches NC Seafood Partnership

In January 2025, Elon Dining started a new partnership with Captain John, head of Southern Breeze Seafood, to source all of the catfish and shrimp served in the residential dining halls off the North Carolina coast with sustainable fishing practices. Elon Dining has also served as an outlet for Captain John's bycatch fish, or fish that were caught accidentally when fishing for other species, by utilizing these low quantities of fish without a market in the dining halls and at events.



In FY 2026, Captain John brought in over 11,000 pounds of seafood that was served throughout Elon Dining's locations. Photo: Captain John Mallette.



Technology

77%* of electronics spend was on EPEAT Gold registered products in FY 2025.

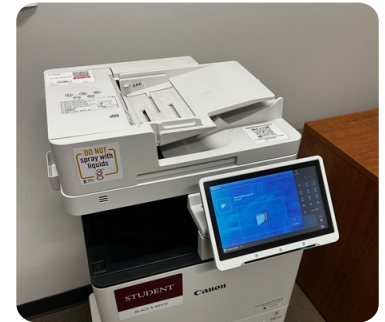
77%

Streamlining Printing to Reduce Impact

A simple change to the way Elon prints documents is helping reduce waste across campus. By consolidating printers and **encouraging more efficient printing practices**, the university is reducing paper and energy use while demonstrating how everyday operational decisions can contribute to broader sustainability goals.

"When we thoughtfully scale technology resources in ways such as consolidating printers and encouraging digitization, we also reduce costs and free up resources that can be reinvested into new innovations that benefit the university."

- Rebecca Beck, director of Campus Technology Support.
Photo: Elon University Printer.



* No target defined.



Waste

Elon's landfill diversion rate was 31% for FY 2026.

31% 65%



Don't Trash It! Program Gives Back to Local Community

Elon's annual end-of-year move-out program, Don't Trash It!, encourages students to donate unwanted items, such as furniture, clothing, and nonperishable food, by placing them at donation stations throughout campus. In 2026, **over 5 tons of items were donated and given to local nonprofits in Alamance and Guilford Counties.** Photo: One of the Don't Trash It! coordinators, Maurice Frazier '28, poses with books donated to Alamance County Public Libraries.

To read the full Year 1 Progress Update, please visit the below website or scan the QR code.

www.elon.edu/sustainability/SMP2025

