In FY18, the Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC) focused on development of the Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) update. The SAC defined a number of core goals the update would need to achieve in order to renew the university’s commitment to sustainability. Under the SAC’s guidance, the 2018 SMP aims to:

- Advance Texas A&M University’s sustainability achievements ahead of peer institutions.
- Include evergreen goals with short-, medium-, and long-term steps.
- Balance effort and impact.
- Identify accountable parties.
- Identify metrics Texas A&M University will use to evaluate progress.

Ayers Saint Gross (ASG) was selected to develop the content of the 2018 SMP. ASG used TAMU’s 2016 STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System) submission to benchmark the institution against its peers and to frame discussions with campus constituents about future sustainability goals.

The themes addressed by the 2018 SMP build directly from work developed in the 2017 Campus Master Plan and align with other institutional planning efforts, including Vision 2020, the 2010 Diversity Plan, and the 2017 Utilities & Energy Services Master Plan. Collectively, these documents speak with one cohesive voice to advance Texas A&M University in its endeavors.

Developing the 2018 SMP was a collaborative effort that was guided by the SAC and the Office of Sustainability, along with contributions from four working groups that drew participants from a wide array of campus stakeholders, open houses to capture broader campus engagement, and numerous meetings with student, faculty, and staff organizations.

The process ultimately resulted in evergreen goals and objectives that are expected to be aligned with Texas A&M University’s sustainability objectives in perpetuity, measurable targets with defined timelines, and identification of stakeholders who will be responsible for both leading and supporting the efforts defined in the SMP.
Evergreen Goals

1. Achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030; achieve net-zero by 2050.
2. Minimize erosion and contaminants in storm water runoff.
3. Minimize the number of total vehicle miles traveled by campus users.
4. Operate a campus fleet that minimizes demand for fossil fuels.
5. Deliver the lowest life-cycle cost construction to build, operate, maintain, and decommission through facility performance criteria.
6. Deliver biodiverse, connective landscapes that integrate campus lands into the larger ecoregion through site design criteria.
8. Demonstrate and promote consistent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that welcome, support, and nurture everyone's success.
9. Maintain health and wellness by recognizing all eight dimensions of wellness to improve quality of life.
10. Foster a climate that encourages all Aggies to participate in the campus environment, policy planning, and decision-making to develop a university that is inclusive of its diverse constituents.
11. Aggies engage across local and state communities, and across national and cultural borders, to advance academic exchange, collaboration, and dialogue.
12. Expand the Aggie community's knowledge of sustainability to normalize socially just and resource efficient behaviors.
13. Develop and implement policies and practices that institutionalize sustainability efforts.
14. Align sustainability staffing and funding to the depth and breadth of work being done.
15. Produce sustainability-literate graduates from all fields of study who are competitive additions to the workforce and society.
16. Advance local, national and global communities toward a more socially just, resource efficient future through discoveries at Texas A&M.

AASHE STARS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is a tool for evaluating sustainability efforts at colleges and universities.

The system recognizes achievements in five categories:

- Academics
- Engagement
- Operations
- Planning and Administration
- Innovation and Leadership

Depending on how fully an institution responds to various AASHE-defined credits within those categories, a rating of Reporter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum is awarded.