

Skidmore College
Campus Sustainability Plan

Combined Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022

Submitted by the Campus Sustainability Subcommittee of the
Institutional Policy and Planning Committee
November 2022 (Updated March 2023)

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee Members

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Campus Statistics

In addition to examining aggregate data and trends, progress is considered in relationship to the campus student population and total building space. The population of students attending classes in Saratoga in the year 2000 baseline was 2,173. This report period shows the largest student population in recent history (2,519 in 2021 and 2,491 in 2022). In fiscal year 2021, space changes (addition of the Annex and the Center for Integrated Sciences North Wing and subtraction of Harder Hall) increased (by approximately 70,000 square feet) the total square feet of building space to 1,970,000 square feet. There was no change in building space in fiscal year 2022.

Focus Area 1: Energy

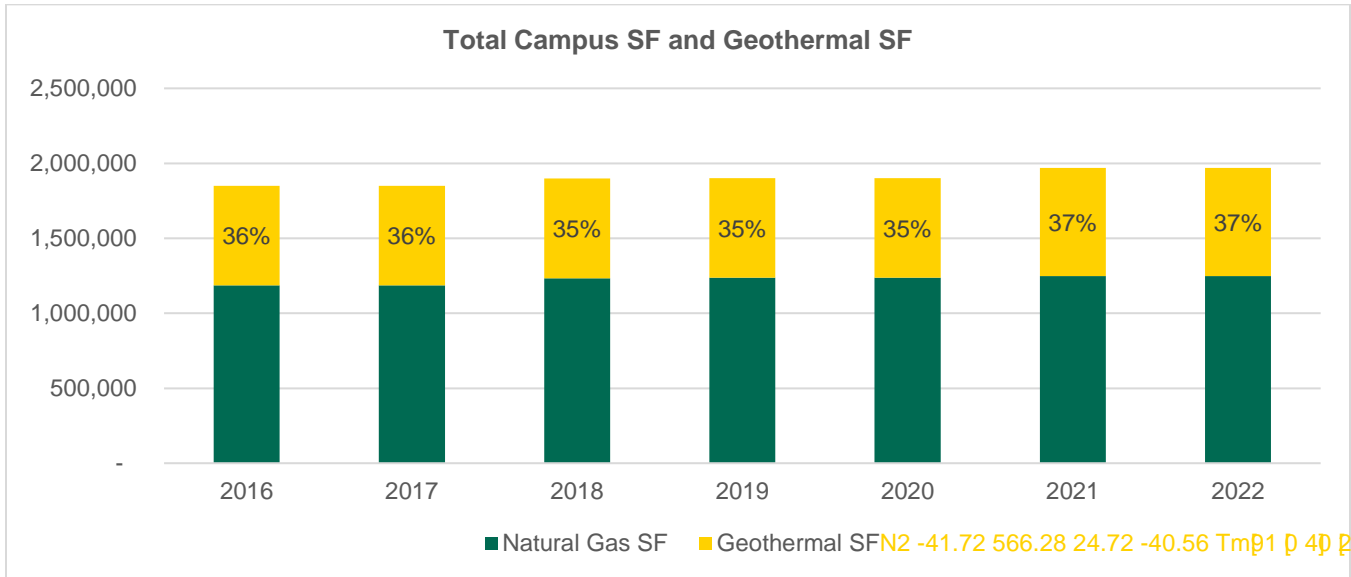
Skidmore's energy goals focus on increasing renewable energy use, decreasing emissions, and reducing energy intensity. A major sustainability accomplishment

Goal 1: 60% of our electricity from renewable sources

Beginning with this report, we are adjusting how Skidmore counts renewable energy sources to conform with best practices in environmental reporting. Clean energy accounting standards direct that organizations only claim credit for actively procured renewable electricity for which Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) were owned, retained, and retired each year. In 2022, 16% of Skidmore's electricity came from such sources. In the past, Skidmore counted all forms of renewable electricity (including renewable energy from the grid as well as renewables for which we did not retain the RECs). The effect of this change in accounting is a reduction in our renewable electricity percent claims. ce owned

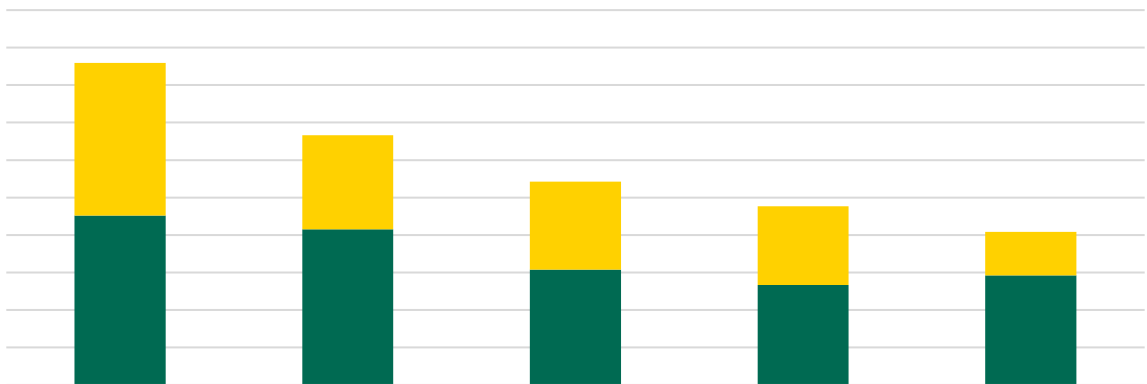
Goal 2: 60% of our heating and cooling from renewable sources

When the geothermal-tied CIS North Wing came online in fall of 2020, Skidmore saw a small increase in the percent of building space that was heated and cooled from renewable sources. In 2021 and 2022, 37% of the total campus square footage was heated and cooled with geothermal. With the CIS East Wing becoming operational in fiscal year 2023, 40% of the campus building space will use geothermal.



Goal 3: 75% reduction in our scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions

As determined by the 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Skidmore has reduced Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 52% from the 2000 baseline. Both Scope 1 (direct emissions produced through campus activities) and Scope 2 (indirect purchased electricity) emissions have decreased due primarily to institutional renewable energy (solar, hydro and geothermal) and energy efficiency projects. Skidmore conducts a GHG inventory every three years, with the 2022 inventory scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2023.



Goal 4: 60% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student and square foot

In 2022, based only on natural gas consumption, the campus had a 47% reduction in energy use for heating and cooling per student and a 56% reduction per square foot, as compared to the 2000 baseline. This metric does not take in to account electricity consumption used for the geothermal systems or the minimal consumption from propane and oil systems on campus.

Goal 5: Maintain electricity use per student and square foot

Over the past seven years, electricity use per student has shown an increased use (high of 9% in 2022), whereas electricity use per square foot has shown a decreased use (high of -18% in 2021).

Current and Upcoming

The upcoming Health, Wellness, Fitness, and Athletics facility will be LEED-Silver minimum designed and certified and is likely to support CSP energy-focused goals, although the benefit of this project will not be seen during the CSP timeframe. Managerial, operational, and strategic energy initiatives that could be considered by the institution include sub-metering, development of a green/energy revolving fund, energy and sustainability management capacity, a climate neutrality commitment and climate action planning, and the development of a large-

Water

Non-Food Biodegradable Waste

Skidmore manages and diverts, though does not specifically track, vegetative wastes (such as

Focus Area 4: Lands and Grounds

The COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 Campus Master Planning has reaffirmed the value and importance of Skidmore's North Woods to the College and Saratoga Springs community. The North Woods and adjacent parcels continue to be heavily used by faculty for labs and research and by community members for recreation.

Goal: Create a comprehensive lands management plan for our lands and grounds

While specific actions in support of this goal were not undertaken, the College and Sustainability team completed the efforts and initiatives below.

- Supported an ongoing partnership with the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails, a planned network of trails in Northern Saratoga County. The trail system [Master Plan Report](#) was published in July 2021.
- A student intern, Kieran Yater '22, championed a collaboration with SGA and Grounds to approve sites for on-campus pollinator-friendly, low-mow sites, established Summer '22

Focus Area 5: Engagement

The Engagement focus area highlights the goal to increase community understanding and awareness of sustainability knowledge and action. A major accomplishment during the reporting period was the completion of Skidmore's second Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report.

Completing a STARS report is a significant community-wide effort and Skidmore earned a [STARS Gold Rating](#)

Conclusion

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