

Sustainability

[About](#)
[Campus Initiatives](#)
[Education & Research](#)
[Take Action](#)
[News & Events](#)

10 Things to be Thankful for in Sustainability

Dear Sustainability, I'm Thankful For...



November 25, 2019 | Kaija Schlangen

Sustainability seems to carry more bad news than good. From depleting rainforests to not composting all UMD Dining Services wrappers, we still have a lot of work to do. However, there are many things to be thankful for in sustainability. Take time during this holiday season to reflect on some of them. Thank you for adding to the good.

What to be Thankful for in Sustainability:

1. The [European Union \(https://onetreepanted.org/blogs/stories/good-news-january\)](https://onetreepanted.org/blogs/stories/good-news-january) banned single-use plastics in January.

“The Earth is what we all have in common.”
- Wendell Berry

2. More than [4 million \(https://350.org/press-release/usa-climatestrikes/\)](https://350.org/press-release/usa-climatestrikes/) people participated in the Youth Climate Strike this September.
3. UMD's Parking Services has added four more electric vehicle [charging stations \(https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/ev-chargers\)](https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/ev-chargers) on campus.
4. More restaurants now offer meatless meal options, including: [Qdoba, Burger King and Hard Rock Cafe \(https://www.businessinsider.com/burger-king-tgi-fridays-chains-sell-plant-based-meat-2019-5#aw-canada-4\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/burger-king-tgi-fridays-chains-sell-plant-based-meat-2019-5#aw-canada-4).
5. Duluth Mayor Emily Larson has created a new [Sustainability Officer \(https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/government-and-politics/4669089-With-creation-of-sustainability-officer-Duluth-mayor-hopes-to-accelerate-climate-goals\)](https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/government-and-politics/4669089-With-creation-of-sustainability-officer-Duluth-mayor-hopes-to-accelerate-climate-goals) position for next year to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. US Songbird "[The Kirtland's warbler \(https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/10/after-50-year-conservation-effort-songbird-flies-us-endangered-species-list\)](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/10/after-50-year-conservation-effort-songbird-flies-us-endangered-species-list)" has been taken off the endangered species list after 50 years.
7. On September 19, the average amount of food waste per meal swipe at the UMD Dining Center went down about [0.05lbs \(https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/food-waste-0\)](https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/food-waste-0) from last year's tally. This is a significant difference!
8. South Africa will start turning plastic bottles into [building bricks \(https://www.popularmechanics.co.za/science/plastic-brick-to-launch-in-south-africa/\)](https://www.popularmechanics.co.za/science/plastic-brick-to-launch-in-south-africa/) this November.
9. Almost [two thousand people \(https://cbs3duluth.com/top-stories/2019/04/19/duluth-working-towards-a-clean-energy-industry/\)](https://cbs3duluth.com/top-stories/2019/04/19/duluth-working-towards-a-clean-energy-industry/) in Duluth-Superior work in clean energy-based industries.
10. UMD has doubled its solar capacity with the addition of a 50-kilowatt array on the roof of [Heikkila Chemistry & Advanced Materials Science building \(https://scse.d.umn.edu/about/heikkila-chemistry-advanced-materials-science-building\)](https://scse.d.umn.edu/about/heikkila-chemistry-advanced-materials-science-building) and groups like the SUN Delegation are working to bring more clean energy to campus.

Tags

[Sustainability](#)

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[\(https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/thankful-sustainability/\)](https://www.d.umn.edu/sustainability/news/thankful-sustainability/)

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