Leadership for Sustainability

Through its scholarship, teaching, practice, and power to convene, the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies is a leader in the development and implementation of sustainable practices on the Yale campus, in the city of New Haven, nationally, and internationally. The School creates new knowledge in the science of sustainability and new methods of applying that knowledge to the challenges of environmental management, the restoration of degraded environments, and the pursuits of sustainable development.

On the Yale campus, the School has stepped up as a model in the sustainable use of resources and materials and has helped develop strategies and programs to achieve sustainability goals campuswide, including the creation of a University stormwater management plan and construction of Kroon Hall, the most energy-efficient building on campus. The Yale Carbon Charge, an initiative born in an F&ES classroom and developed in part by F&ES faculty and students, has grown into a first-of-its-kind campuswide effort to reduce energy use through the use of internal carbon pricing. Since its inception, the School has been working on sustainable management of forests across the world, for biological diversity, for natural resource production, and most recently, for carbon storage. For more than twenty years, the F&ES-based Urban Resources Initiative has promoted community-based land stewardship, urban forestry, and green job training in the city of New Haven. In northeastern Connecticut, F&ES students and faculty every year work with landowners to promote sustainable forestry practices as part of the Quiet Corner Initiative.

For students, classroom learning often extends into local communities, where students have helped officials with climate resilience and adaptation strategies, green infrastructure development, and sustainable land stewardship and resource management plans. Their work has also addressed complex challenges in communities across the United States and the world, from dealing with lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, to endangered species conservation in China. And across the world, our alumni continue this commitment to sustainability in all its forms through their leadership in ongoing academic research, major corporate initiatives, government programs, and the nonprofit sector.