



## Environmental Guiding Principles

Virginia Wesleyan University recognizes our responsibility to protect and enhance the environment and its biodiversity for the health of local and global ecosystems, future generations, and ourselves. We are committed to responsible stewardship of campus resources and to demonstrating leadership in sustainability. As a learning community located in the rich and unique ecosystems of Coastal Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we are committed to promoting and developing the next generation of environmental stewards. The ongoing sustainability efforts of the University reflect a larger commitment to ethical conduct and social responsibility through environmental stewardship and education.

We seek to be a campus community:

- In which the University is an environmental leader in all aspects of institutional functions, including planning, operations, purchasing, and maintenance;
- In which environmental efforts encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative teaching and research;
- In which diversity, inclusion, and equity are valued and recognized for their role in supporting and creating a vibrant, sustainable, healthy, and resilient community;
- In which we acknowledge our obligation to live responsibly as part of a forested ecosystem that mantles our campus and promotes a rich learning environment;
- In which we build a campus community that promotes health and wellness efforts in harmony with the natural world; and
- In which University leadership and expertise contribute to Coastal Virginia's local and regional environmental efforts.

To advance our goals, we will:

- Incorporate environmental and social concerns as a priority in University decision making, planning, and investing;
- Consider social, environmental, and economic impacts of Virginia Wesleyan's policies, practices, and growth;
- Train the next generation of environmental stewards and professionals of local and regional distinction;
- Foster the University's national-niche programs in environmental sciences and the Batten Honors College by encouraging investments from internal and external resources;
- Seek practices and procedures that protect, enhance, and regenerate the environment;
- Promote the University as a living laboratory for sustainability, contributing to the education, outreach, and research mission of the University;

- Use participatory processes in developing Virginia Wesleyan's policies and practices; and
- Fulfill our responsibility as good neighbors by working with the community to foster social equity, environmental justice, and healthy natural systems.

Our decisions and actions will be guided by the Virginia Wesleyan University mission statement, reflective of the University's values and resources. As a learning institution, we recognize that achieving environmental sustainability will be an evolving practice.

*Modeled after Allegheny's principles:*

<https://sites.allegheny.edu/green/campus-commitments/environmental-guiding-principles/>

VWU Mission:

<https://www.vwu.edu/about/our-mission.php>

VWU Boilerplate:

<https://www.vwu.edu/about/campus-offices/marketing-and-communications/boilerplate.php>

### ***About Virginia Wesleyan University***

*Virginia Wesleyan University is Coastal Virginia's premier university of the liberal arts and sciences. Situated on a 300-acre park-like campus in Virginia Beach, the University annually enrolls approximately 1,600 students in undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. Undergraduate degrees include a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Social Work with 36 majors, 30 minors, and 12 pre-professional tracks. Graduate degrees include a Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Education. Students thrive in average class sizes of 14 and through the University's experiential learning, high-impact leadership, and career-development programs. More than 90 percent of Wesleyan's new graduates are employed or enrolled in graduate school within one year. The state-of-the-art Greer Environmental Sciences Center, the Susan S. Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center, Chesapeake Bay Academy, Tidewater Collegiate Academy, and other outstanding facilities and programs serve a vibrant campus community and regional partners in education. An inclusive community dedicated to scholarship and service grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, Virginia Wesleyan University inspires students to build meaningful lives through engagement in Coastal Virginia's dynamic metropolitan region, the nation, and the world.*