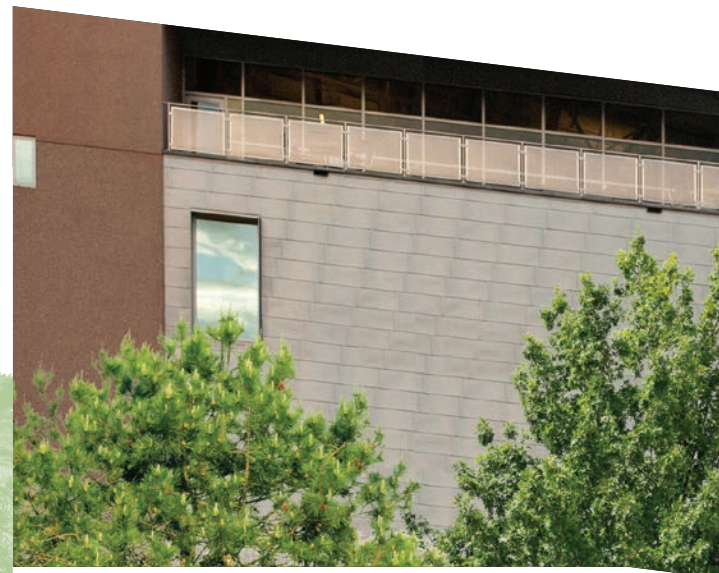


HELPING BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



NREL's sustainability practices are integrated throughout the laboratory and are essential to our mission to develop clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advance related science and engineering, and provide knowledge and innovations to integrate energy systems at all scales.

Sustainability initiatives are integrated through our campus, our staff, and our environment, allowing NREL to provide leadership in modeling a sustainable energy future for companies, organizations, governments, and communities.

Photos by Dennis Schroeder, NREL 33815, 20947, 30467, 27734, 34012, 22743, 27754. Cover photo composite, NREL 24510 and istockphoto 27059869.

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy
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Operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC

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SUSTAINABLE NREL

FROM INTEGRATION TO INNOVATION



GET ALL THE INFORMATION

READ NREL'S ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT AVAILABLE ON **NREL.GOV**



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OUR CAMPUS

NREL's walkable South Table Mountain campus features a 175-acre conservation easement, hiking trails that protect native habitats, and native plants and soils that minimize water use and encourage a healthier ecosystem.



Net zero energy campus.

On-site wind and solar energy, along with a renewable fuel heating plant that runs on regional wood waste, reduces our energy consumption. We currently have two net zero energy buildings, and our goal is to establish a net zero energy campus.



Seven LEED facilities.

NREL has six buildings certified at the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum level and one at the Gold level. The laboratory is committed to pursuing LEED Gold or higher certification for all new construction on campus.



Energy intelligent campus.

NREL is developing an informatics platform that aligns campus energy objectives with energy systems integration research objectives by deploying advanced analytic capabilities across the campus energy system. This platform will become a testbed for innovative energy management and continuous building commissioning, power demand management, and microgrid capabilities.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental stewardship permeates everything we do at the laboratory, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to water conservation.



Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction.

The laboratory has tracked and reported campus GHG emissions for more than 12 years. Our goal is to manage GHGs by maximizing the use of energy efficiency practices and on-site renewable power, and minimizing the impacts of travel and employee commuting associated with laboratory operations.



Water management.

NREL's campus incorporates low-impact development practices like porous pavement and native planting to use water efficiently. Our water-conserving fixtures and appliances eliminate as much as 50% of water use compared to a typical office building.



Climate change resiliency.

NREL recognizes the importance of current and future climate change and we are engaged in planning efforts to identify and manage site-specific climate risks. The laboratory completed a climate change vulnerability assessment and developed appropriate resiliency options.

OUR STAFF

NREL employs more than 1,700 people from 55 countries who incorporate sustainable choices into their daily work. We minimize our resource usage and waste and positively impact our community through workplace giving, volunteer activities, and donation programs.



Energy management.

The laboratory monitors power management settings on all computing devices. Staff contribute to this success through managing plug loads at each desk and reducing lighting needs by using building daylighting.



Waste diversion, composting, recycling.

NREL diverts 80% of its waste by implementing the four Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, and re-buy. Composting and recycling bins are available throughout the campus and the laboratory sponsors events for staff to recycle personal items like unneeded paper, bicycles, and electronics.



Transportation management and alternative commuting.

NREL employees enjoy several commuting options including public transit, organized car and van pools, and many bicycle-friendly amenities. The laboratory supports teleworking and teleconferencing, and 50% of staff either telework or have an alternative work schedule to reduce the number of trips to campus. NREL sponsors annual sustainability events like Earth Week and Bike to Work Day.

