




**FACILITIES AND
CAMPUS OPERATIONS**
George Mason University®

University Sustainability Update

 **April 2, 2025**

Greg Farley, *Director of University Sustainability*

2025

EARTH MONTH

Learn how you can volunteer & participate in
George Mason's Earth Month events and initiatives!



Upcoming Events

- Check them out on Mason360
- For more details, go to the Earth Month page – go.gmu.edu/earthmonth



Upcoming Events

Check out the upcoming events focusing on sustainable efforts. For a full list of scheduled events, visit [Mason360](https://mason360.org).



Meet the Team



Greg Farley, CEM
Director



Amber Saxton,
Program Manager

Campus Efficiencies



Doni Nolan,
Program Manager

Greenhouse &
Gardens



Colleen Regan,
Specialist

Zero Waste



Demin Zhu
Program Coordinator

Patriot Green Fund

Zero Waste Mason

- Better Bins Preview (BBP): new waste infrastructure aligned with upcoming Zero Waste Design Standards and Guidelines updates
 - *Katherine G. Johnson Hall*
 - *Innovation Hall (ongoing)*
- Ongoing Paper Towel Composting Pilot (F&CO Lot) and industrial composting extended to BBP sites
- Piloting standardized color coding, bin colocation/sequencing, bilingual labels, and restrictive lids



Zero Waste Mason

- April 21- May 14: Donate and Volunteer
- 20 donation drop-off locations on Fairfax, SciTech, and SMSC

PPO 2023

- 5,700 lbs.
- 88% free redistribution
- 6 drop-off locations
- 110+ free store visitors

PPO 2024

- 13,045 lbs.
- 100% free redistribution
- 20 drop-off locations
- 925 free store visitors



Zero Waste Action

Make an Impact!

- Attend Zero Waste Mason workshops and events this Earth Month:
go.gmu.edu/earthmonth
- Learn about Zero Waste Mason locations and waste sorting guidance:
go.gmu.edu/zerowaste
- Become a Patriot Packout 2025 supporter – donate and volunteer (April 21 – May 14):
go.gmu.edu/patriotpackout



Greenhouse & Gardens

- Multiple Sites at Fairfax Campus:
 - Presidents Park Greenhouse
 - Innovation Food Forest
 - Potomac Heights Vegetable Garden
 - Foragers' Forest
 - Pollinator Gardens



Volunteer!

This QR will take you to ALL of our volunteer opportunities



Use School Assistance and Volunteer Service Leave (ask your supervisor!)



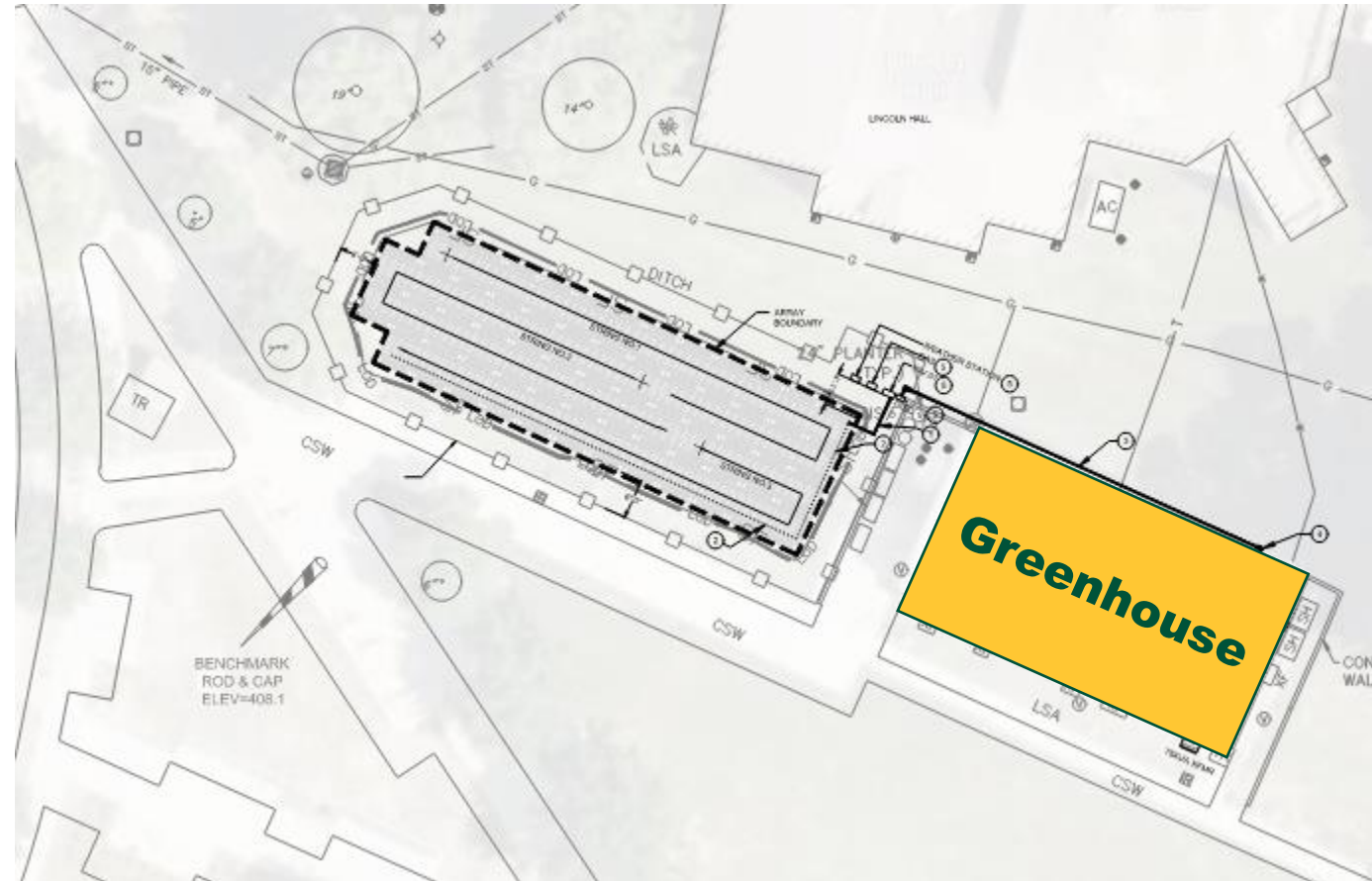
Greenhouse & Gardens

**COMING
SOON!**

Educational Solar PV Array

Student Design

PGF Funded



Patriot Green Fund

Got a good idea? Help us make Mason's campuses more sustainable!

PGF Goals:

- Support Student, Staff, and Faculty Sustainability Initiatives
- Reduce Mason's Environmental Impact
- Foster Community Engagement
- Enhance Campus Sustainability

- Submit your interest form:
<https://go.gmu.edu/ApplyPGF>



AASHE STARS

- Gold! Again!



- 4th cycle/10th year
- Score increased 13%
- Second-highest in Virginia
- Score is about Mason as a whole



AASHE STARS



• Current Strengths:

- Research
- Curriculum
- Planning
- Campus Engagement
- Public Engagement



AASHE STARS



- Current Opportunities:

- Increase Employee Involvement: Discussions, Brown Bag events, etc.
 - Track Attendance (numbers)
- Sustainable Procurement!
 - Giveaway Items / Swag
 - Look for *CERTIFICATIONS*
- Better Tracking: travel, purchasing, etc.



Fair Trade
USA™

AASHE STARS

- Current Opportunities:
 - Sustainability Literacy & Culture Survey
 - Sustainable Transportation
 - <https://green.gmu.edu/campus-sustainability/transportation/>
 - Better Tracking: participation and volunteering (numbers)



**Mason
Commuter Survey:
Your Chance to Win!**

2-3 MIN.



SURVEY

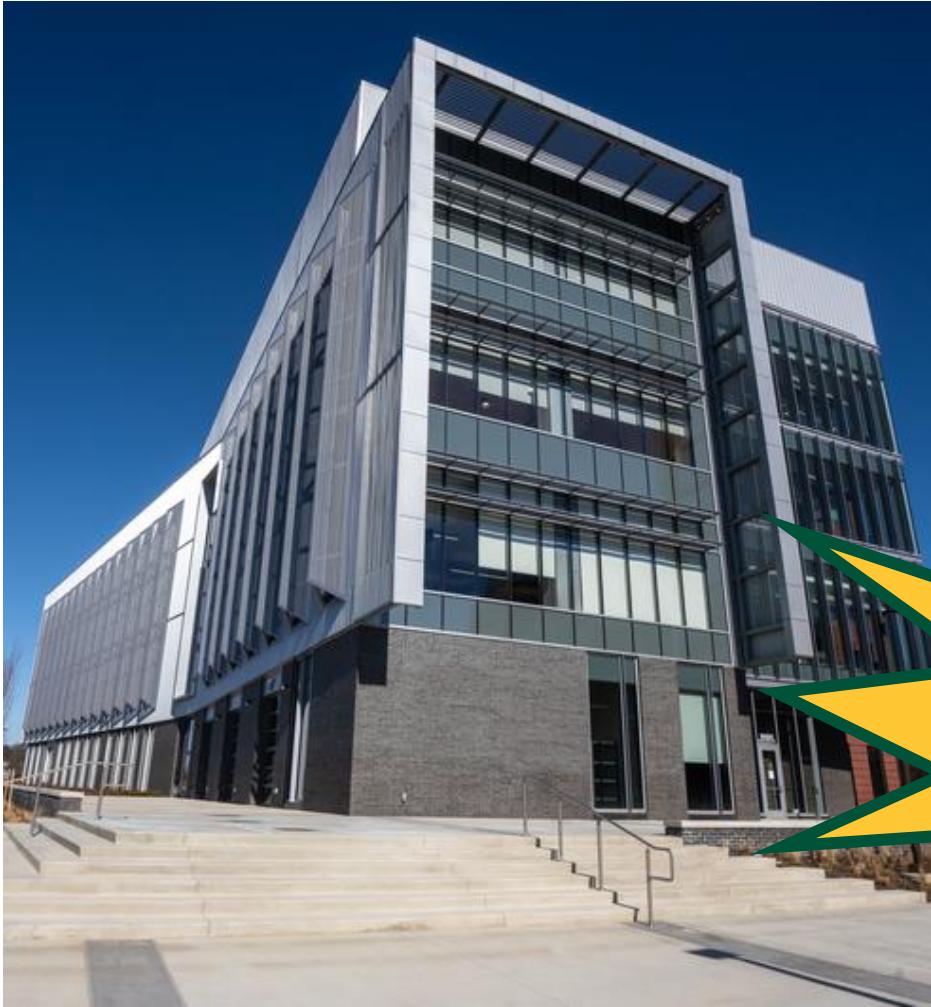
Mason students, faculty, staff, & contractors:

Take Mason's Commuting Survey* for your chance to win a raffle prize & to help inform Mason's transportation programs.

**Limit 1 raffle entry (at end of survey) per year.*

GREEN BUILDINGS!

Life Science & Engineering Building



GREEN BUILDINGS!

The Fuse at Mason Square



**Grand Opening
June 1, 2025**



STAY TUNED

- Patriot Packout (come help us!)

Patriot Packout 2025



- Mason Dining Farmers Market – April 2
- Cooking Event: "Leaf a Life You Love!" – April 24
- Waste Audit – April 24

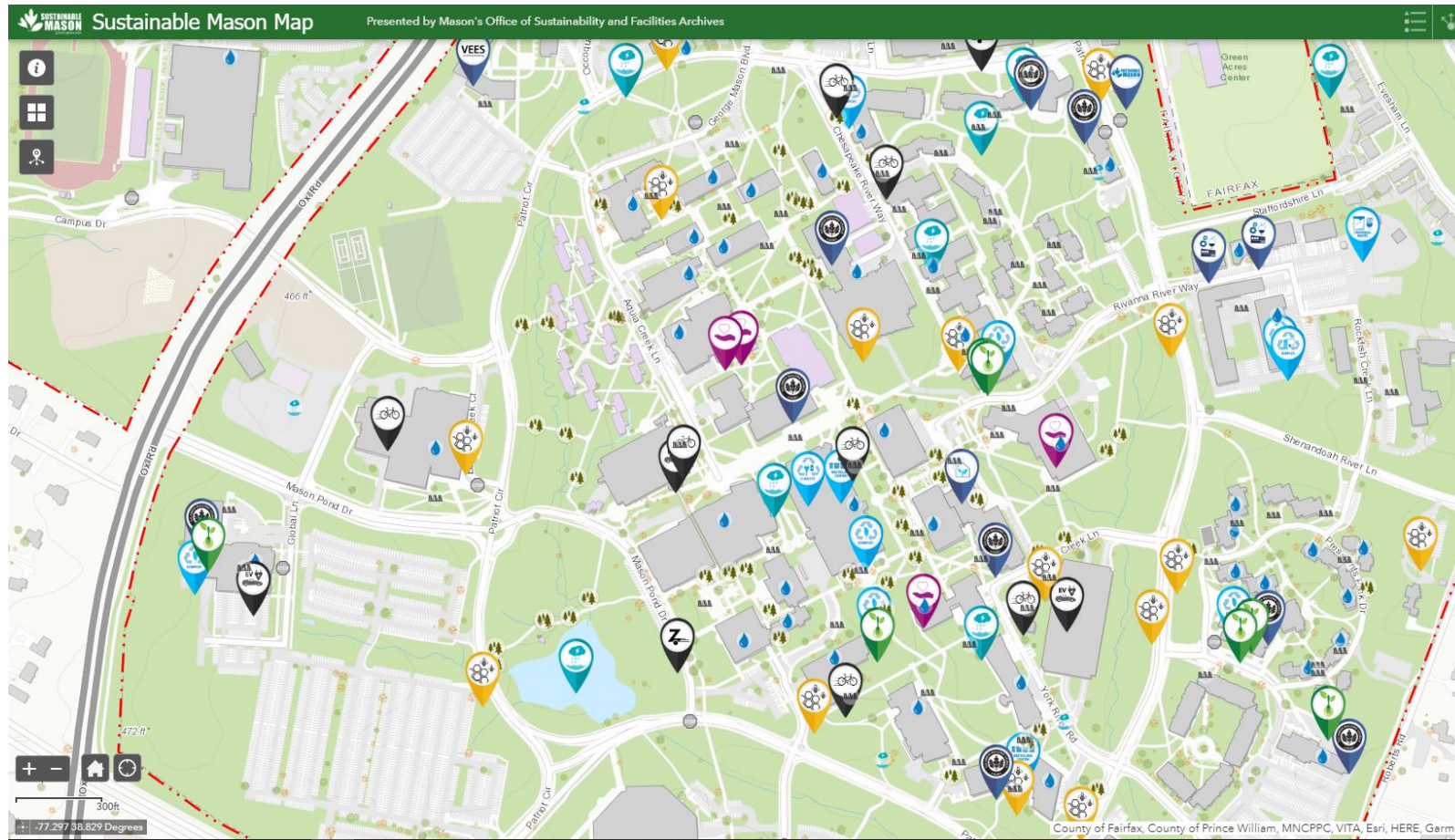


Earth Month – Join Us!

- Closet Exchange – April 22
- Bike to Work Day – April 22 (April 24 at Mason Square)
- Transportation Survey

Sustainability Map

<https://go.gmu.edu/sustainabilitymap>



Take Action!



- Volunteer with us!
 - Presidents Park Greenhouse
 - Forests and Gardens
- Integrate sustainability into your work!
 - Purchasing (look for plastic)
 - Recycling (paper, cans, glass)
 - Recognition & Rewards (Sip Sip!)
 - Everyday processes
- Reach out to us for help!
 - Knowledge
 - Research
 - Planning

Stay Connected

@sustainMASON



<https://green.gmu.edu/>

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