Sustainability Initiatives: Appalachian State University’s Office of Sustainability and Physical Plant work closely with our Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students to lead the nation through innumerable sustainable practices. Appalachian State is also the proud host of the annual Appalachian Energy Summit. The 2015 AES marks the fourth annual gathering for the University of North Carolina Energy Leadership Challenge. During the summit, campus leaders from our 17 public institutions and seven private colleges and universities convene to share best practices and build peer relationships. This year, representatives from community colleges and other states’ university systems are invited. Our goals are to jumpstart a national transformative effort across higher education and to save NC over $1 billion by 2020.

Energy and Water Savings Initiatives: Appalachian State has been focused on reducing energy since 2006 through Energy Savings Performance Contracts and with in house efforts of our operations and maintenance staff. Energy savings measures include LED lighting, replacement of aged HVAC equipment, improved building HVAC controls, steam trap replacement and maintenance, low-flow / dual-flush toilets and low-flow shower heads, building HVAC setbacks and automated scheduling, state of the art laboratory design, ventilation technologies, geothermal heat pumps, and window films. These improvements are illustrated below.

Renewable Energy Initiative: Since 2004, a fee of $5/student per semester (with a student approval rating of 92%) helps to fulfill the following mission statement: “reduce the environmental impact of Appalachian State University by replacing the University’s existing sources of energy with cleaner forms of renewable energy on campus and serve as a resource for students and faculty by identifying and investing in the most appropriate energy projects.”

Example projects include the photovoltaic (PV) project pictured above, as well as six other PV projects, a 100 kW wind turbine, four solar thermal projects, a solar lab, two biodiesel projects, an electric vehicle charging station, and more, a few of which are pictured to the right.

Compost: The compost mentioned in the Zero Waste Initiative discussion above is also a sustainable solution for our Landscaping Services Department, who uses 100% of the compost produced throughout campus and on our sustainable farm in a neighboring county.

Appalachian State University is nestled in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in Boone, North Carolina. If you cannot visit us in person, we invite you to visit www.appstate.edu