



2025–26 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health Operations Sustainability continues to advance sustainability through the way we manage our spaces, resources, facilities, and community programs. During 2025–26, major space transitions created new opportunities to reuse and redistribute materials at an unprecedented scale, while established programs in waste reduction, laboratory recycling, energy management, and community engagement continued to grow. Together, these efforts are reducing waste and resource use, supporting the School's operational needs, and strengthening a culture of sustainability across the Longwood Campus.

2025–26 At a Glance:

10+ tons of materials reallocated
Nearly 200,000 square feet involved in major move-outs
650+ Reuse Room visits in 2025
Nearly 19,000 pipette tip boxes recycled since 2023

A note to the reader. This report labeled 2025–26 contains data that is sometimes from a calendar year, fiscal year, or multiple years due to data collection practices. Please observe the labels.

Zero Waste



Donation pickups and drop-offs with Maurice J. Tobin School, Grad Bag, and More Than Words

MOVE-OUTS WITH A MISSION

In 2025–26, Harvard Chan School completed a major consolidation of its physical footprint, centralizing workspaces and reducing operating costs and resource use. Contents were collected from all of 90 Smith Street, the 3rd and (partial) 4th floors of the Landmark Building

(401 Park Drive), an office suite at 708 Huntington Avenue, and the 2nd floor of 14 Story Street (Cambridge)—nearly 200,000 square feet in total. Additionally, spaces at the four Harvard Chan School buildings on Huntington Avenue were also cleared of contents to make room for colleagues.

Rather than discard decades of accumulated materials, a cross-functional team including Operations Sustainability, IT, and volunteers worked to recover and redistribute usable items under tight timelines and staggered move-out schedules. Items were sorted and either reused, donated, recycled, shredded, or composted as needed.

More than 10 tons of materials were reallocated, including: office, school, and lab supplies; household items; electronics; furniture; food and paper goods; books; clothing; and shoes.



Freecycle at 90 Smith Street

FREecycle FRENZIES

Harvard Chan School Operations Sustainability has held multiple successful freecycle events adjacent to Sebastian's Café in the Kresge Building, and also at sites being vacated. Hundreds of people brought items from home and work and thousands of useful goods were swapped at each event, including office supplies, books, home furnishings, clothing, shoes, and electronics. Leftover items were distributed to the Reuse Room and Harvard Surplus Center.

Putting the Donations to Great Use:

Throughout Harvard:

- Harvard Chan School through freecycles, Reuse Room, student housing, departments, and individuals
- Additional Harvard schools and offices
- Harvard Surplus and Recycling Center, which is open to the public

Additional Teachers:

- Massachusetts Teacher Resources
- Boston Public Schools teachers
- Various public school teachers in MA
- YMCA Greater Boston
- Second Glance

Additional Students:

- Mission Grammar School
- Grad Bag

Additional Nonprofits:

- Sister Thrift
- Goodwill Boston
- More Than Words
- The Second Step
- Dante Chorale
- Community freedges and swap shops

**over
10
tons
saved**



Freecycle at the Harvard Chan School Kresge Building in April 2026

REUSE ROOM USE RISING

The Harvard Chan School Reuse Room in Building 1 provides for the hyper-local exchange of surplus items, reducing waste, saving money, and building community. This is the only reuse room within a school at Harvard and it is open to all Harvard ID holders. Shoppers and donors can stop by on Wednesdays between 11:30 am–1:30 pm, and by appointment.

Since the 2024 move to room B-5, a larger space, the number of visits and items traded has grown. There were over 650 visits in 2025 by donors and shoppers, primarily students, staff, and faculty from the Longwood Campus of Harvard Chan School, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Items swapped include a variety of

650+
visits



Free Items in the Reuse Room at HSPH

office supplies, lab consumables and equipment, and household goods. Items from the room are also redistributed through donations to schools and nonprofits, freecycle events, and Harvard Surplus Center.

NEW PLASTIC FILM COLLECTION SITE

Harvard students, staff, and faculty in Boston can now drop off clean, dry, stretchy plastic film (shopping and dry-cleaning bags, bubble wrap, plastic mailers, shrink wrap, and pallet wrap) in the Reuse Room during open hours. Harvard Recycling collects, lightly sorts, and delivers this material to a recycling facility. The film is ultimately pelletized for use in new plastic product manufacturing.



HARVARD-WIDE ZERO WASTE PLAN ROLL OUT AT HARVARD CHAN SCHOOL

Underpinning the strategy of working toward zero waste is Harvard's "Accelerating a Zero Waste Future: A Framework for Waste Stewardship," a new plan launched in 2025 to transition campuses to zero waste. Developed by the Waste Stewardship Steering Committee in collaboration with University leaders and a university-wide working group, the framework prioritizes waste prevention, reduction, reuse and repair,

and responsible recovery.

Harvard Chan School Operations Sustainability is implementing the first of many recommendations from the plan, including evaluating the potential for centralized, uniform waste stations, improving recycling practices, updating signage, and expanding communication efforts. These initiatives will increase waste diversion and minimize trash.

Engagement

ecoopportunity GREEN TEAM ENGAGES

The EcoOpportunity Green Team (EcoOp), which is open to all Harvard community members, holds monthly meetings to create community and engage in sustainability efforts. In addition to volunteering at Freecycle, as Waste Ambassadors at lunchtime in the cafe, and picking up litter in Mission Hill, participants came together to learn about sustainability at the Arnold Arboretum, the climate and health benefits of sustainable farming and local food, nutrition and sustainability goals in foodservice, and the Mass Save energy efficiency program.

Fun activities included swapping books and recommendations, creating paper crafts with reuse items, playing sustainability bingo, and screening a documentary about food, climate, and the agriculture industry.

By engaging in meaningful conversation through cross-team participation and sharing ideas and sustainability successes, the team builds a solid network of sustainability-minded professionals from Harvard Chan School, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and across the university.



EcoOp volunteer litter collectors on a hot day in the Mission Hill neighborhood

TABLING AND OUTREACH



Table at a student resource fair with free supplies and resources

The EcoOp Green Team presents materials and engages with students, staff, and faculty at resource fairs in the summer and fall. Participants learn about how the university and specifically Harvard Chan School works to incorporate sustainability in operations and engagement.

Popular topics include compost, recycling, and trash standards, connecting with others through EcoOp meetings, and how to get free surplus items from the Reuse Room and Freecycle.

Laboratories

PIPETTE TIP BOX RECYCLING CONTINUES SUCCESS

Harvard Chan School Operations Sustainability partners with the local company GreenLabs Recycling for the Pipette Tip Box Recycling Program. In FY2025, Harvard Chan School diverted approximately 1,346 lbs of lab plastic (approximately 5,385 pipette tip boxes) from landfill waste to recycling. GreenLabs estimates that this resulted in savings of 563 gallons of water and a reduction of 1,763 lbs CO₂e.

Harvard Chan School has recycled nearly 19,000 pipette tip boxes since starting the collection in March 2023. The



**Nearly 19,000
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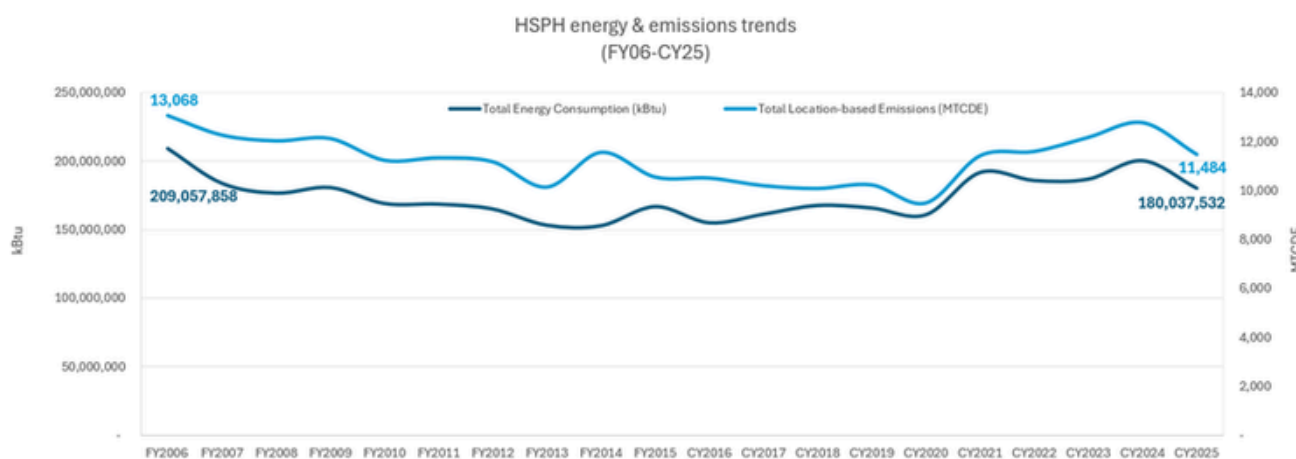
boxes are sorted and shredded to create single-resin regrind, a raw material used in manufacturing, including in GreenLabs recycled benchtop waste transfer bins.

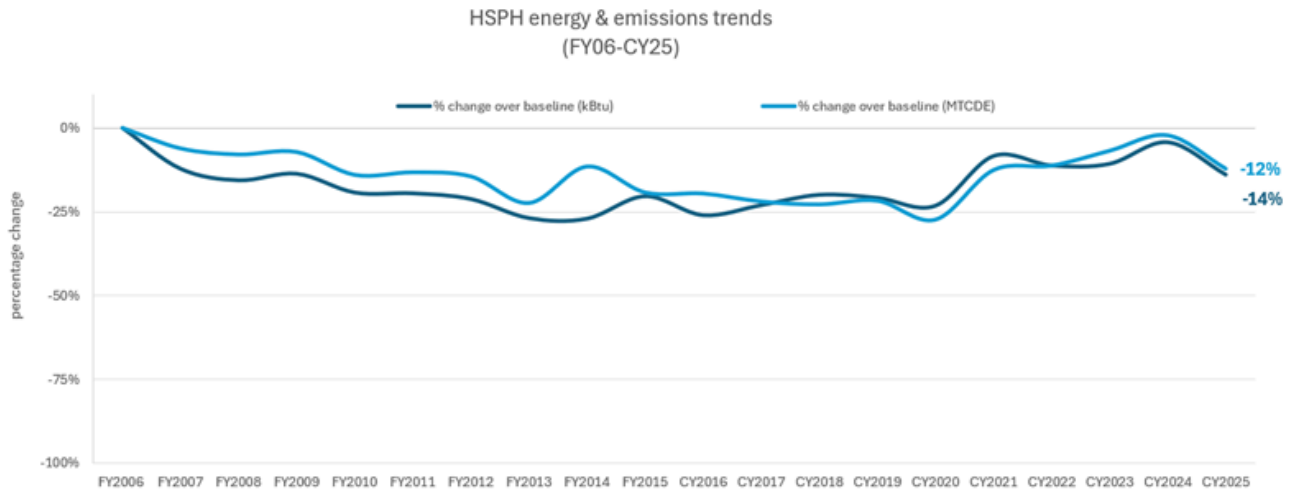
Energy

ENERGY USE AND EMISSIONS REDUCED

Over the longer term, Harvard Chan School has reduced both total energy consumption and location-based greenhouse gas emissions from the FY2006 baseline. While year-to-year performance varies, the overall trend

demonstrates progress. As shown in the graphs below, location-based emissions were reduced by 12% and energy consumption was reduced by 14% from FY2006 through CY2025*.





*Energy and GHG emissions data provided by Harvard Environmental Health & Safety. GHG emissions are calculated using the location-based reporting methodology, following The Climate Registry's (TCR) General Reporting Protocol for the Voluntary Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Reporting Program. The GHG inventory consists of direct emissions from onsite fossil fuel combustion (scope 1) and indirect emissions from purchased commodities (scope 2) sources. CY2025 emissions are draft and subject to change when final emission factors are published and verified.

Operations and Infrastructure

OPERATIONS UPGRADES IMPROVE RELIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2025 and the first half of 2026, the Harvard Chan School physical building footprint was reduced by approximately 100,000 square feet. Faculty and staff welcomed the return of colleagues from offsite, and the community is now more centrally located. This has reduced costs and resource use.

The Building 1 electrical infrastructure project is improving system reliability while creating better capabilities to measure and manage energy use. Operations continues to oversee this project, now in phase 2. The 1960s electrical distribution panels and transformers are being updated for the

labs from the basement to the 9th floor. The new system will have enhanced metering capability and is expected to be online by end of year 2026.



1960s electrical distribution panels

Operations managed construction of a controlled-environment balance room for Environmental Health researchers who moved back to Building 2. In this space, filters are weighed in precise temperature and humidity. The room's foamed-in-place polyurethane insulation uses a blowing agent with a global warming potential of 1 and meets the Environmental Protection Agency's Significant New Alternatives Policy and California Air Resources Board standards, while its high insulating performance reduces the energy required to maintain stability.

Operations is also working with the research community on modifying workspaces to meet evolving research needs.

With the completion of the installation at Kresge, the new traction elevators are more energy efficient and reliable, and have modern diagnostic equipment so they can be monitored remotely through a central dispatch.



Controlled-environment balance room

Learn More



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HSPH Operations

[Hsph.harvard.edu/operations](https://hsph.harvard.edu/operations)

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HSPH EcoOpportunity Green Team

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