

Auraria Sustainable Campus Program

CU Denver SSRC RFI | April 4, 2025

Introductions



Cassy Cadwallader, ASCP

She/Her/Hers

Director of Sustainability,
Auraria Sustainable Campus Program

Columbus State Community College
& MSU Denver

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Overview of Unit

Our Mission

Global impact through local action.

The ASCP is a campus-wide program with the explicit mission of reducing the Auraria Campus' ecological impact and dependence on fossil fuels. We work to accomplish this through projects, events, and programs. We serve all three institutions on campus: MSU Denver, the Community College of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver.



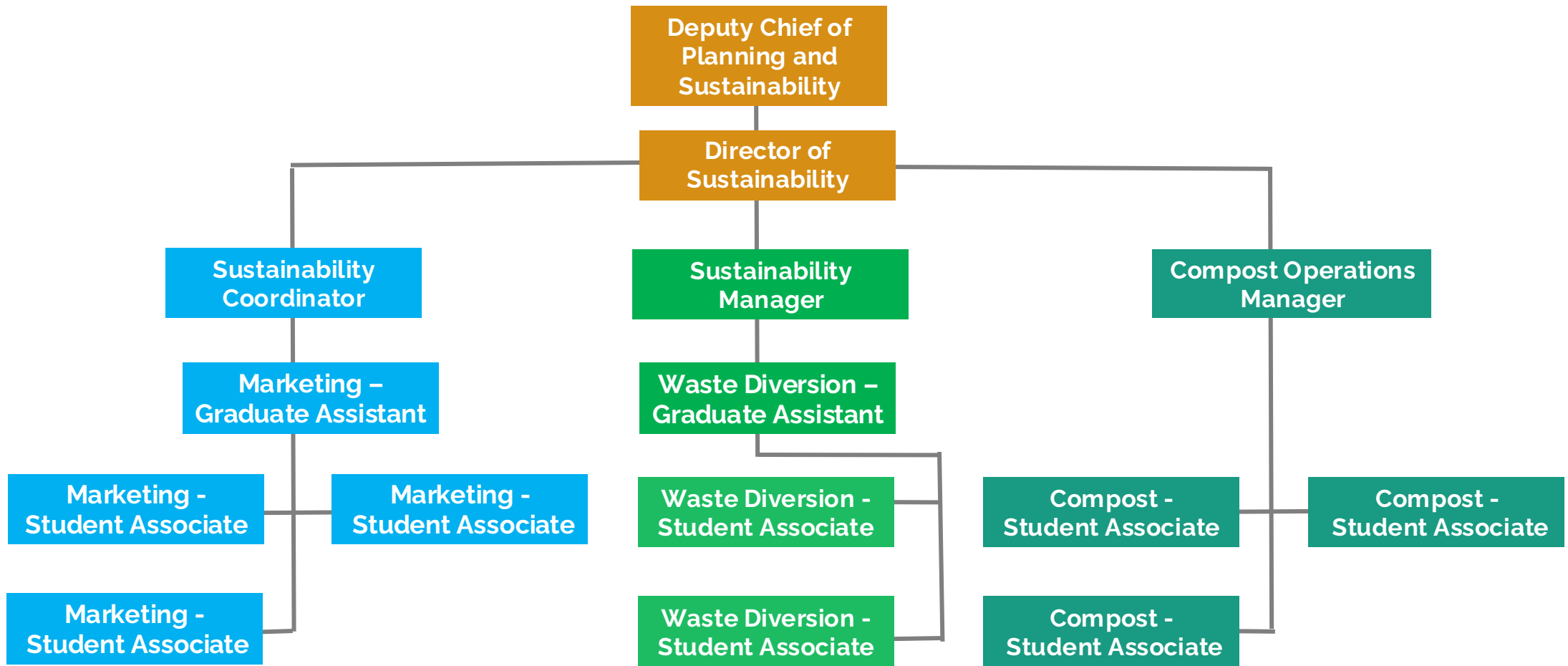
ASCP Overview

- Tri-institutional serving; housed in the Auraria Campus
- ~\$10 student fee per student per semester



AURARIA
CAMPUS

ASCP Org Chart



*Internships opportunities available across all teams!

7 Pillars of Sustainability



Alternative Transportation



Education & Outreach



Energy Efficiency



Food & Gardens



Renewable Energy



Waste Diversion



Water Conservation

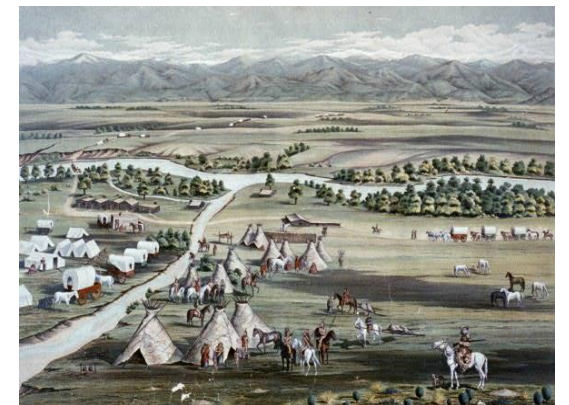
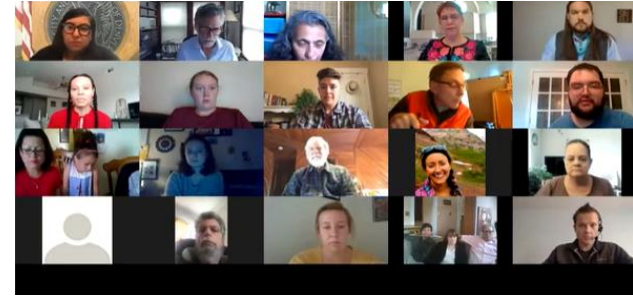
Social Sustainability and Equity

The ASCP is a tri-institutional, student fee funded program working to reduce the Auraria Campus' **dependence on fossil fuels and to reduce our overall ecological impact!**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

20th Century Displaced Aurarians Event Recap

On Cinco de Mayo, 2021, faculty and staff from each of the four institutions co-hosted a virtual Zoom event called, "20th Century Displaced Aurarians: Honoring the Past to Plan for the Future." The event featured a four-person panel comprised of displaced Aurarians



Core ASCP Services



Covered & Secured Bike Shelters; Commutrics app; annual free bike giveaways



EcoReps volunteer program; student employment & internships; class/research partnerships, student serving events; Sustainability Certificate program; Consultations; Green Grants



Green Labs; Energy Performance Contract (EPC); efficient fixture replacements and retrofits; policies



DUG Community Garden; Share Meals app; shade garden; Auraria Hunger and Homelessness Awareness events



Arts Building and Auraria Library solar arrays; Tivoli solar tables; Science solar array (EPC)



Recycling, Hard-to-Recycle, Closed-loop Composting, programs; Free Store; Move-Out; Green Events; policies



Low-flow fixtures; irrigation audits; water bottle filling stations; MS4 compliance (creek/litter cleanups)

2024-25 Priorities

Climate
Action Plan
adoption!



Commutrics app; annual free bike giveaways



EcoReps volunteer program; student employment & internships; class/research partnerships, student serving events; Sustainability Certificate program



Green Labs expansion; Energy Performance Contract (EPC); Building Heating & Cooling policy



DUG Community Garden irrigation installation Auraria Hunger and Homelessness Awareness



Arts Building and Auraria Library solar arrays,; Tivoli solar tables; Science solar array (EPC)



Expansion/refinement of the Hard-to-Recycle, Closed-loop Composting, Free Store, Move-Out/In, and Green Events programs; vendor & events policy



MS4 compliance through creek/campus litter cleanups

2023 – 24 Accomplishments

Compost Operations

- In-vessel copmoster & custom e-trikes
- 100,000 lbs composted since August 2023
- Generating public interest, connections, internal and external partnerships
- First of its kind campus composting program
- Supporting Compost Referendum goals



COMPOST PROGRAM RIBBON CUTTING GUEST SPEAKERS



SPEAKER
Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado



SPEAKER
Ean Tafoya
Colorado State Director of GreenLatinos



SPEAKER
Colleen Walker
Auraria Campus Chief Executive Officer



FACILITATOR
Cassy Cadwallader
Auraria Campus Director of Sustainability

We are excited to welcome four amazing guest speakers to celebrate the new composting system on Auraria Campus.

Wednesday September 25th, 2024

Speakers and Ceremony:
5:00 - 5:30 PM

If you have any questions please email
ascp_contact@ahec.edu

To learn more about compost operations on campus, visit
www.sustainableauraria.org/compost



Green Events

- The ASCP has officially established Green Events services for both internal and external events. Green Events offers the following services to promote sustainable events.
 - Consulting services to promote sustainable practices prior to and post event
 - On-site staff members for bin-side education and sorting help post-event
 - Compost, recycle, landfill bins for all sizes of events
 - Permanent bins installed in all shared indoor event spaces.
 - Non-permanent bins deployed for all outdoor events
 - Post-event impact reporting



Marketing & Events (1/2)

- Auraria Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (Nov 13-16, 2023)
 - **>\$21,000 worth of products, meals, and services provided in-kind** over three days of programming thanks to the hard work of the **15 campus department partners** that dedicated their time and effort to the event
 - **Food provided at every session** which included hot meals, cold meals, coffee, hot chocolate, snacks, cold drinks, popcorn, and cookies
 - **> 150 attendees** from the campus community.
 - **~ 40 partners** in total across the three days with 25 showing up for Thursday's resource fair
 - **30 attendees** for the "Food is Medicine" Cooking Class
 - **> 500lbs** of clothes collected for the clothing swap
 - **200+ free grocery bags** given away SCORCares
 - **15 attendees** with "Overdose Prevention" training
 - **25 haircuts** given from Indigo Salon
 - **10-15 volunteers**
 - **4 workshops & 3 roundtables** including Opioid Overdose Response and Harm Reduction training, Tenant Rights, Hold on to Your Power!, Food Justic, Rental Assistance, & Cooking



Marketing & Events (2/2)

- Earth Week:
 - Planned and hosted **six events** over the course of the week (all managed by students!)
 - **9 partners** including Patagonia (Under budget by \$1,700)
 - first time event planning!
 - **13 prizes** given away
 - **6 bikes** given away
 - **109 lbs of clothing** donated
 - **59 attendees** for Alternate Transit day
 - **61 attendees** for the Planet Party
 - **50 terrariums** assembled
 - **27 pieces of artwork** displayed
 - **125 burritos** given away
 - **32 volunteers** for the Creek Clean Up
 - **620 lbs of waste** from Creek Clean Up
 - **225 grocery bags** given away with SECOR Cares



Accessibility & Inclusion

Accessibility & Inclusion

- Spanish translation of all permanent materials (i.e. signage, print materials, waivers)
- Accessibility service requests at events and meetings
- WCAG and AAA marketing standards
- Seeking consultation from partner offices (i.e. LGBTQ+, Care Teams, CMEI, CU Student Life, SPARK, etc.)
- Affinity events
 - Displaced Aurarians
 - AHHA
 - Mona Hanna- Attisha
 - Womxn From the Mountain (upcoming)



METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER
Auraria Sustainable Campus Program
Public Health COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
Clear World Center
AURARIA MEMBER ASSOCIATION CENTER

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT AND LIBBY PRICE FOR CO-SPONSORING THIS EVENT
PROUDLY PRESENTS A VIRTUAL FIRESIDE CHAT FEATURING

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha
MD, MPH, FAAP

Dr. Hanna-Attisha was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the world for her role in uncovering the Flint Water Crisis and leading recovery efforts.

Sign up online at [What the Eyes Don't See: Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha \(msudenver.edu\)](https://www.whattheeyesdontsee.com) or scan the QR code.

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
SEPT 20TH, 2021 3:30PM MT

Earth Week Planet Party

Guest Speakers

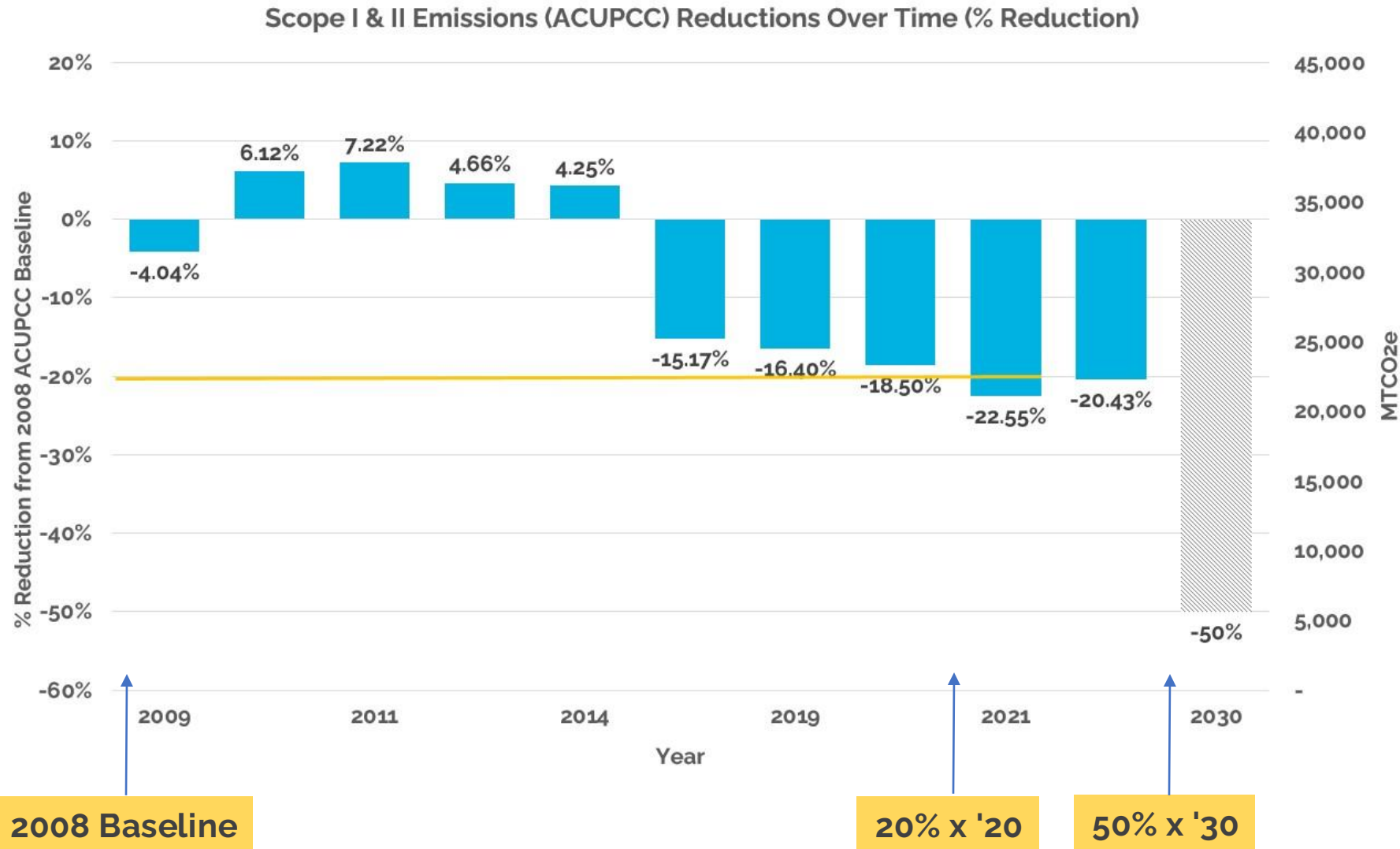
Renée

Womxn From the Mountain

Micaela





Measuring Impact

GHG Emission Reduction Tracking



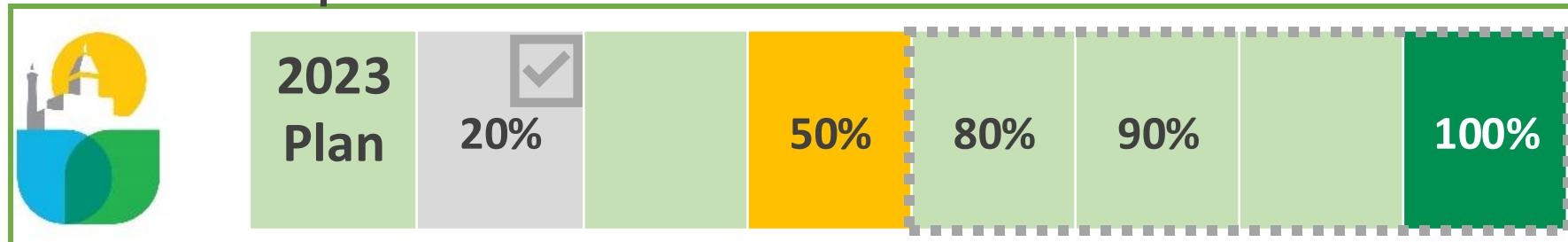
- 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2008 baseline by 2020
- 50% reduction by 2030
- 80% reduction by 2050

GHG Reduction Goals - % change from Baseline

		2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
CU Boulder 	2024 Plan	20%		50%				100%
State of Colorado* 	2021 Plan		26%	50%				90%
City of Denver*** 	2021 Plan		40%	65%		100%		
CSU* 	2022 Plan			50%		100%		

Includes Scopes I, II, & III

Auraria Campus**



* 2005 Baseline ** 2008 Baseline *** 2019 Baseline

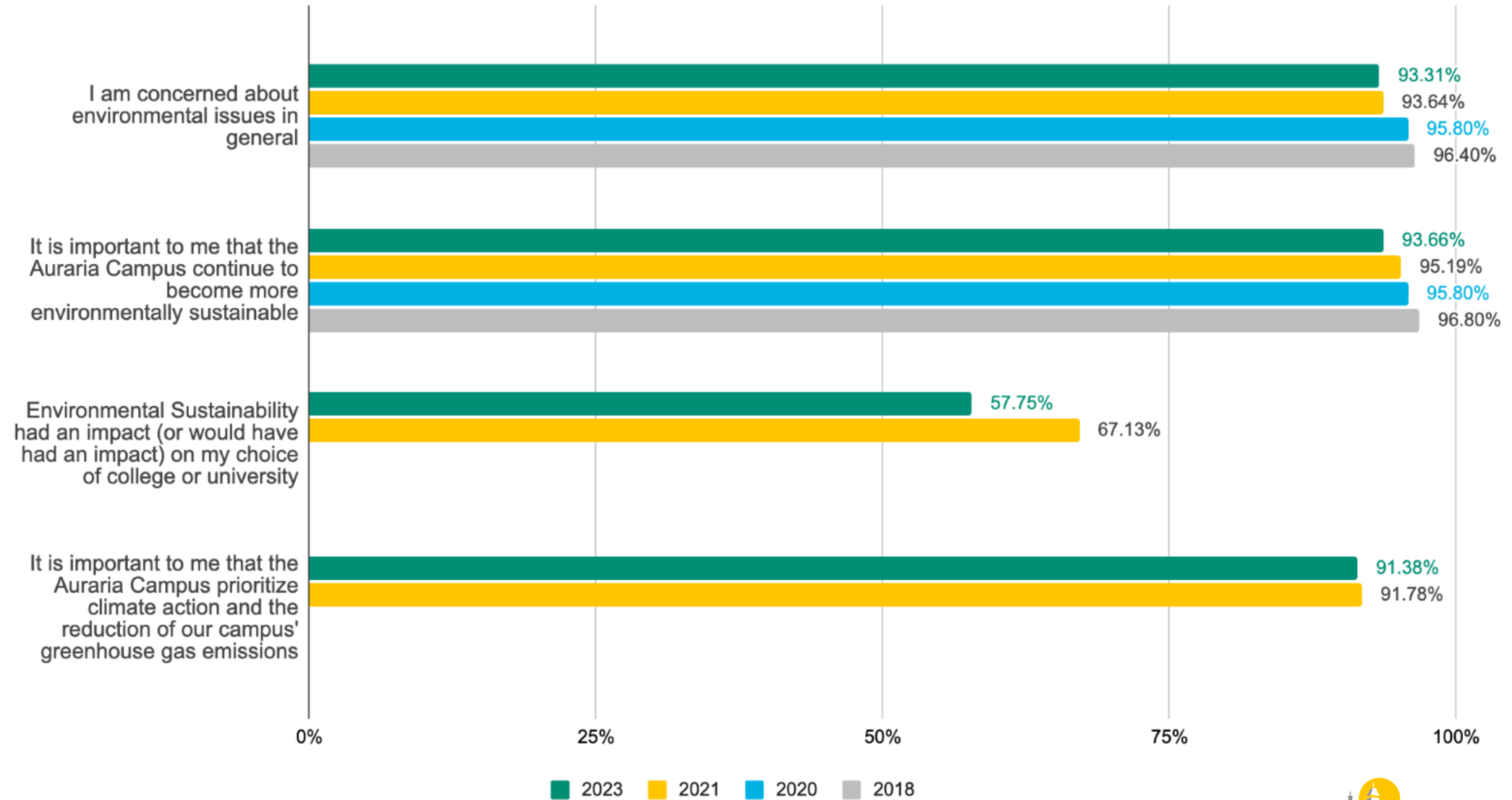
Methods of Tracking

How are your programs/units measuring impact? Here are examples of items you can share to demonstrate reporting impact:

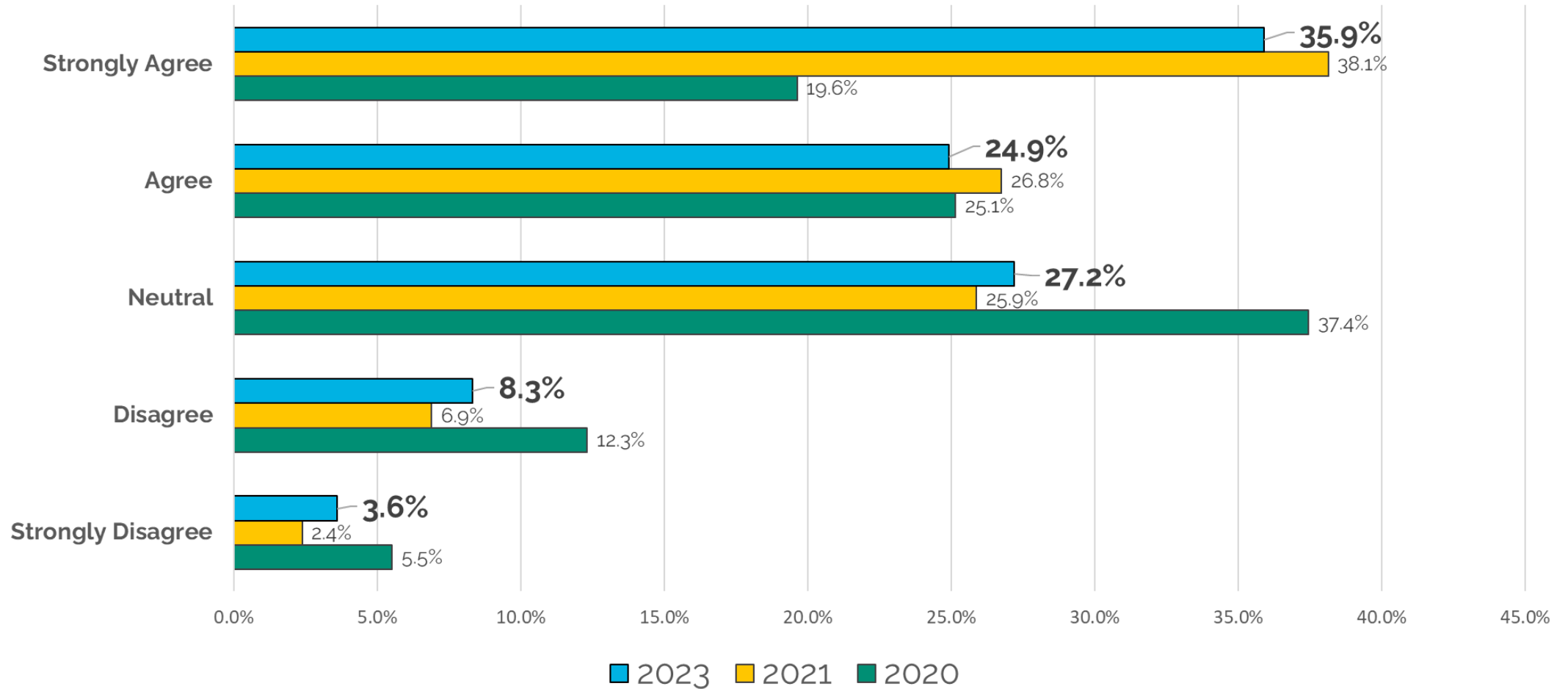
- Do you send out surveys?
 - Yes. Bi-annually and for individual programs (i.e. Commutrics + Transportation, newsletter, Climate Action Plan)
- Do students check-in for your events?
 - Yes. Large events like AHHA, Earth Week have a scanned check in. Others have registration and in-formal sign-ins.
- Do you have a post-evaluation tool after programs?
 - We do a committee/partner survey or after-action assessment after all major events.
- Do you track the number of students you serve per semester?
 - Yes. Each program is measured differently.

General Concern Regarding Environmental Issues & Campus Sustainability

2023, 2021, 2020, 2018

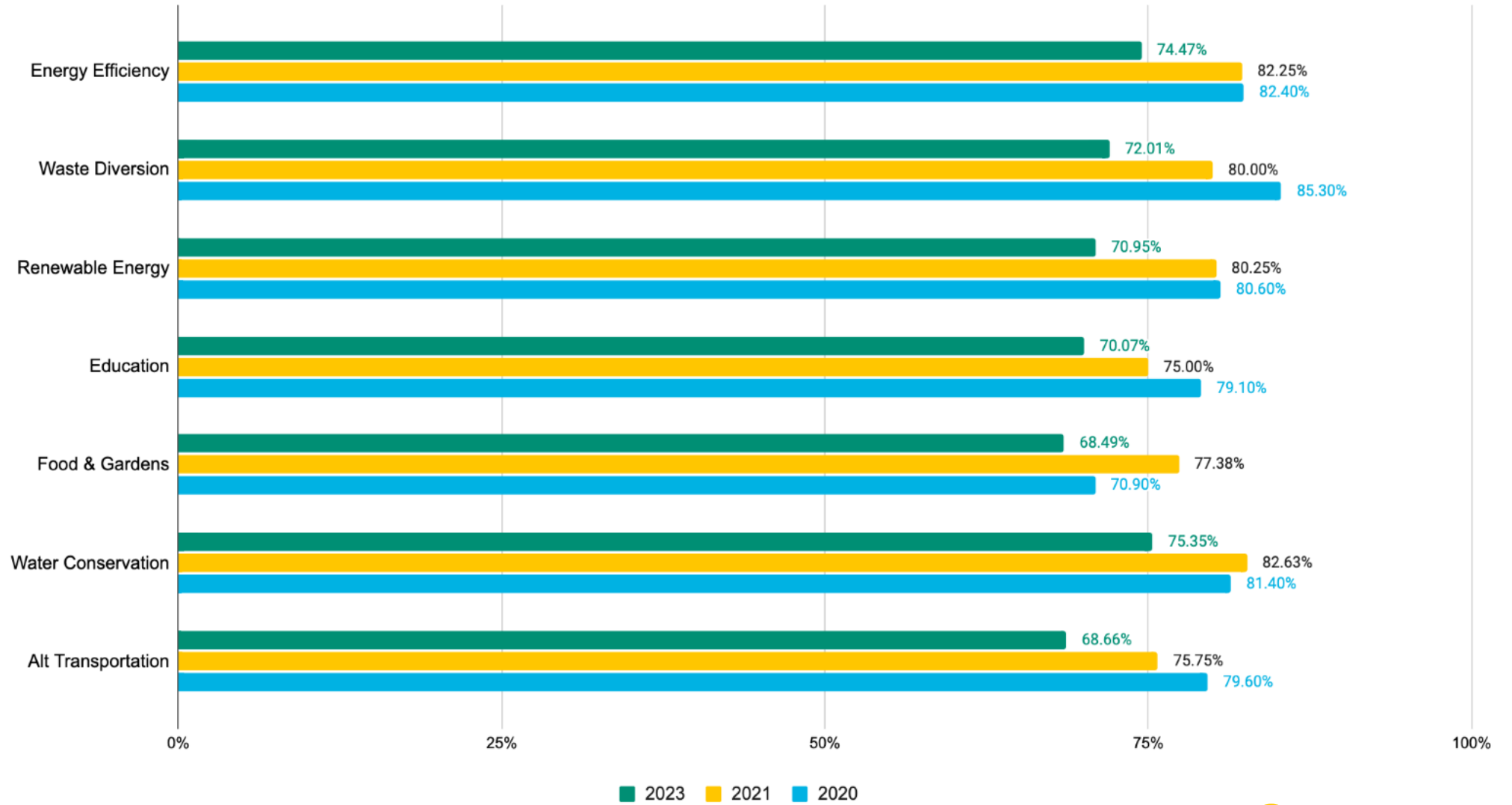


Sustainability had an impact (or would have had an impact) on my choice of college or university

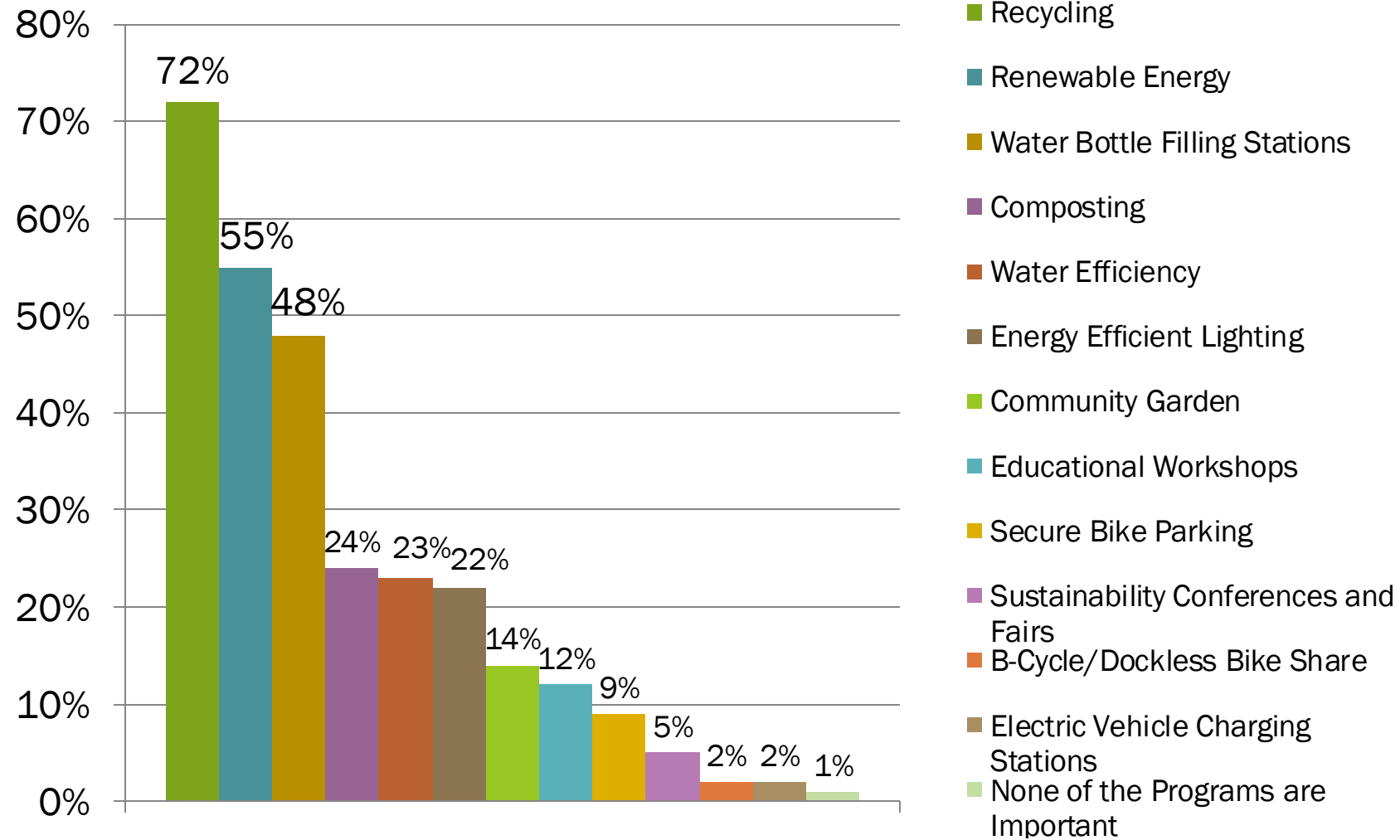


ASCP Pillars 2020, 2021, 2023

ASCP 7 pillars ranked by survey participants as high priority

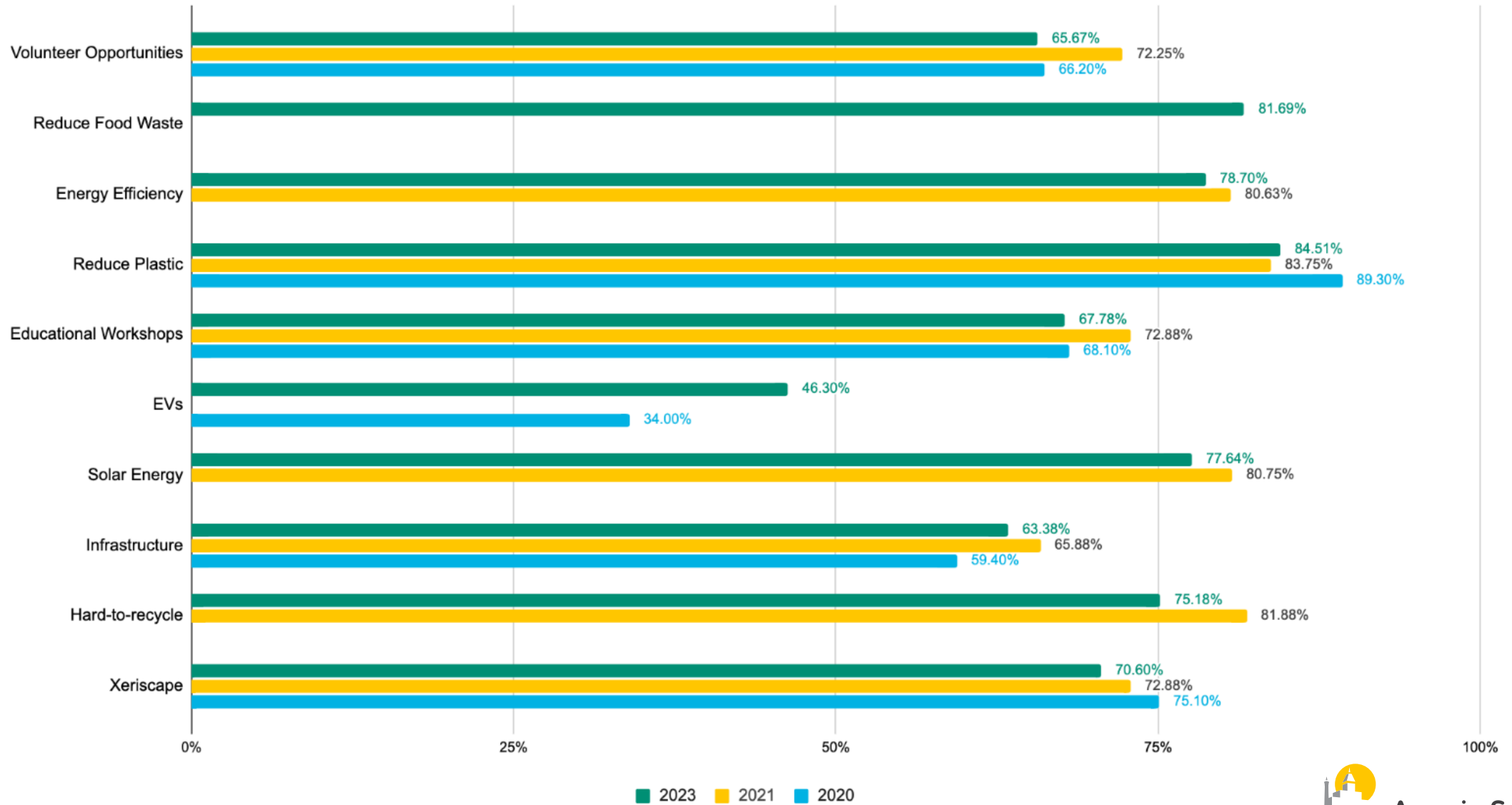


Frequency and Percent of a Program being included in Students' Top Three Most Important Programs (2018):



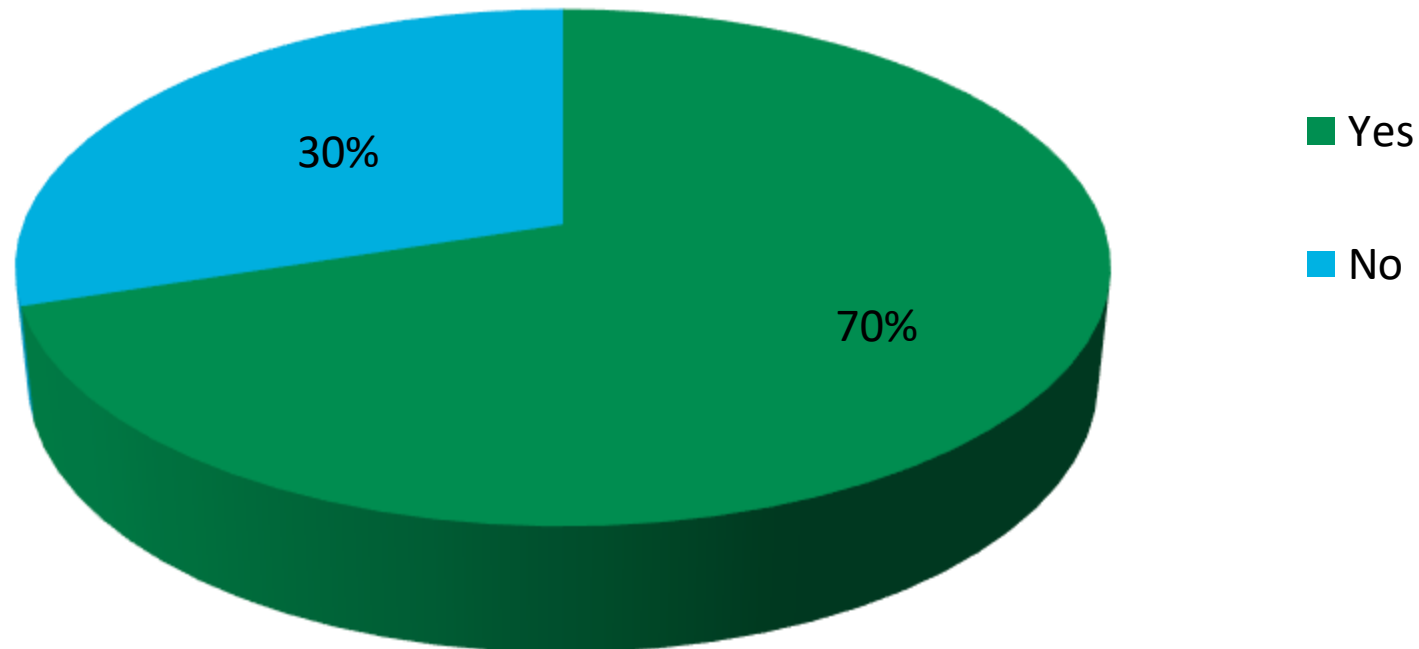
ASCP Programs 2020, 2021, 2023

ASCP program comparison ranked by survey participants as high priority



Compost Referendum (2020)

“Shall the students of the Auraria Campus (the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver at the Downtown Denver Auraria Campus) authorize the Board of Directors of the Auraria Higher Education Center to assess each institution a student fee increase of \$3 per student, per semester, for an expansion of the current Auraria Sustainable Campus Program's fee of \$5.58 to primarily fund the addition of composting services and the enhancement, and ongoing maintenance of waste diversion among campus buildings and exterior spaces.



ASCP Fee History

The Sustainability Fee is charged at a flat rate to students at all three institutions are listed on a per-semester basis (the rate may be adjusted each year for inflation defined by the consumer price index).

	CCD	MSU Denver	CU Denver
Flat rate	\$10.61	\$10.61	\$10.61

The Sustainability Fee has increased over time due to additional referendums and inflation.

2004: \$1 per-student, per semester approved for purchased renewable electrical power

2007: Sustainable Campus Program established with escalating \$3 to \$5 from 2007 & 2011

2011; The \$5 per-student, per-semester approved for 5 years

2016; ASCP student fee voted into perpetuity by student body

2020; Expanded fee by \$3 for waste diversion/compost

202?; Student fees reassessed to only apply to in-person students (not taken to a vote?)

Future risks: decrease in fees due to change in modality, "the cliff," raise in overhead due to increase in products/service costs

ASCP Budget

	CCD*	MSU Denver**	CU Denver**
Total student headcount	6,160	17,887	17,166
Total students exempt	2,963	6,069	7,115
% exemption rate	48%	34%	41%
Exemptions	Online only, Concurrent enrollment, Lowry/AMC	Online only, Concurrent enrollment, I&LL, (0.6% other)	Online only, Independent instructions, Students paying AMC fees, (0.1% other)

Exempt Student Impact

	FY 25 rate	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Total
Sustainability Fee	\$10.61	\$171,802	\$161,470	\$110,465	\$443,738
Exemption rate		40%	42%	74%	46%

Total revenue not collected: **\$443,738** (based on FY24 rates)

The "Cliff"

The Enrollment Cliff

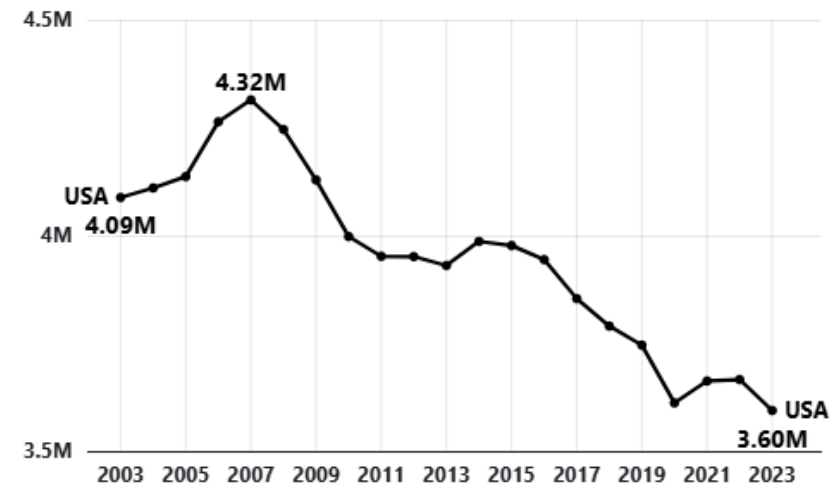
Recent discussions on enrollment in higher education have centered around the "Enrollment Cliff". The notion holds that due to changing demographics, colleges and universities across the U.S. will see a dramatic decline in enrollment starting in 2025. But how did we arrive at this point? And what can be done about it?

Figure 1: Crude Birth Rate for the United States, Births per 1,000 People, Annual, Not Seasonally Adjusted



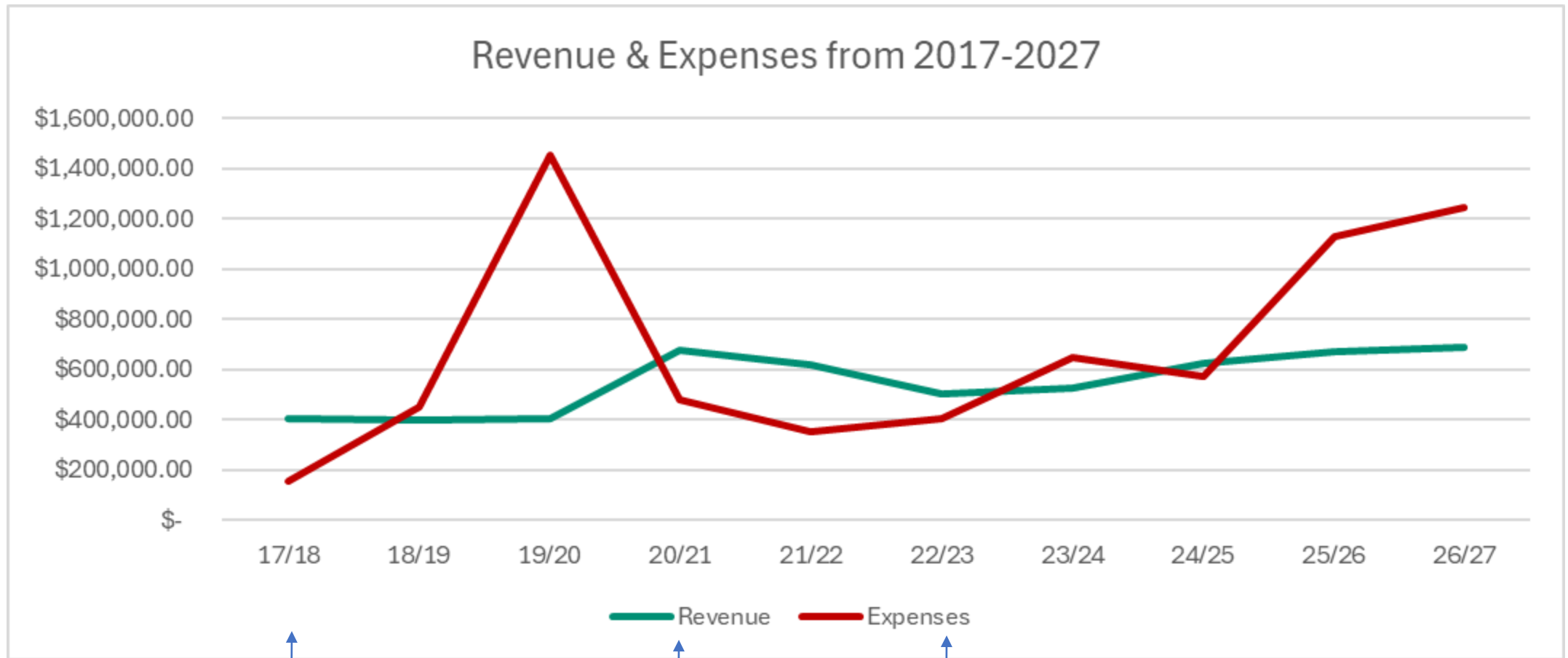
Source: FRED

The number of births in the United States decreased by 17% from a peak of 4.32M in 2007 to 3.60M in 2023.



Data Source: CDC Natality Data

Financial Graph



\$5 in perpetuity

Compost Refferendum

Return from Pandemic?

2023-25 Budget Overview

Category Title	FY23/24 Budget	% of total	FY24/25 Budget Projections	% of total	FY25/26 Budget Request	% of total
Operating	\$ 1,940.38	0.29%	\$ 1,500.00	0.25%	\$ 2,500.00	0.22%
Projects/Programs	\$ 182,092.95	27.65%	\$ 149,856.56	25.32%	\$ 644,326.21	56.95%
Onboarding/Prof Dev	\$ 5,269.67	0.80%	\$ 6,000.00	1.01%	\$ 7,500.00	0.66%
FTE Salary	\$ 265,698.50	40.34%	\$ 278,211.00	47.01%	\$ 298,016.56	26.34%
Benefits	\$ 69,000.00	10.48%	\$ 66,299.00	11.20%	\$ 89,000.00	7.87%
Student Salary (General)	\$ 78,034.63	11.85%	\$ 60,000.00	10.14%	\$ 60,000.00	5.30%
Student Salary (Compost)	\$ 22,612.58	3.43%	\$ 30,000.00	5.07%	\$ 30,000.00	2.65%
Temp Salary	\$ 33,930.00	5.15%	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%
Total	\$ 658,578.71	100.00%	\$ 591,866.56	100.00%	\$ 1,131,342.77	100.00%
Revenue Category						
Student Fee (General)	\$ 322,222.55	60.35%	\$ 338,333.68	53.22%	\$ 355,250.36	53.05%
Student Fee (Compost)	\$ 193,334.09	36.21%	\$ 203,000.79	31.93%	\$ 213,150.83	31.83%
Xcel Solar Payments	\$ 18,390.99	3.44%	\$ 27,375.00	4.31%	\$ 27,375.00	4.09%
AHEC Solar Payments	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 43,172.37	6.79%	\$ 50,000.00	7.47%
Compost Operation Payments	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 13,872.00	2.18%	\$ 13,872.00	2.07%
Event Compost Payments	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 10,000.00	1.57%	\$ 10,000.00	1.49%
Total	\$ 533,947.63	100.00%	\$ 635,753.84	100.00%	\$ 669,648.19	100.00%
Admin Category						
Admin Fee	\$ 7,733.35	1.45%	\$ 8,120.02	1.28%	\$ 55,401.39	8.27%

Not inclusive of grants, donations, and potentially partnership savings from events and free conferences

Future Goals

2025-30 Priorities

Scope III Inventory



Enterprise Van Pool; RTD support/Commutrics expansion; 5280 bike lane support; bike infrastructure expansion



Adopt-A-Street; Sustainability Certificate program expanded to CCD



Future solar planning; Scope I & II emission reduction goal achieved



Community Garden expanded to serve food IHE pantries



Solar on new roofs; district energy plan



Waste Characterization Study; Expansion of closed-loop composting/vermicompost; ASP system; Furniture/electronics re-store; Material Recovery Facility (MRF);



Landscape masterplan development; Turf reduction

Strategic Goal Alignment

Goals for 2030

CU Denver will be the first equity-serving institution in the nation

Become known as a university for life

Be internationally known for its research and creative work

Serve as the anchor institution for an open innovation district in downtown Denver

Be known as a people-centered “Best Place to Work”

Questions?

Cassy Cadwallader, ASCP
She/Her/Hers

Director of Sustainability,
Auraria Sustainable Campus Program
Cassy.cadwallder@ahec.edu

Additional Budget information?

Add slide on the recommended ways forward

- Assess fees for online students?
- Increase student fees?
- Institutions invest in the sustainability initiatives/funding on their own? (CAP)?

What other student fees have similar struggles?

Request slide for forecasting for modality shifts

% of total revenue and the annual budget and impact for all affected offices?