



2025 Town Gown Presentation

City of Cambridge
Planning Board Meeting
February 3, 2026



- Introduction
- Campus Planning and Projects
- Campus Sustainability
- Harvard in the Community



Introduction



Harvard University



Harvard's Campus in Cambridge

Harvard Schools

→ Harvard's Schools and Institutes in Cambridge include:

Harvard College

Harvard Divinity School

Harvard Division of Continuing Education

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Harvard Graduate School of Design

Harvard Kennedy School

Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Harvard Graduate School of Education

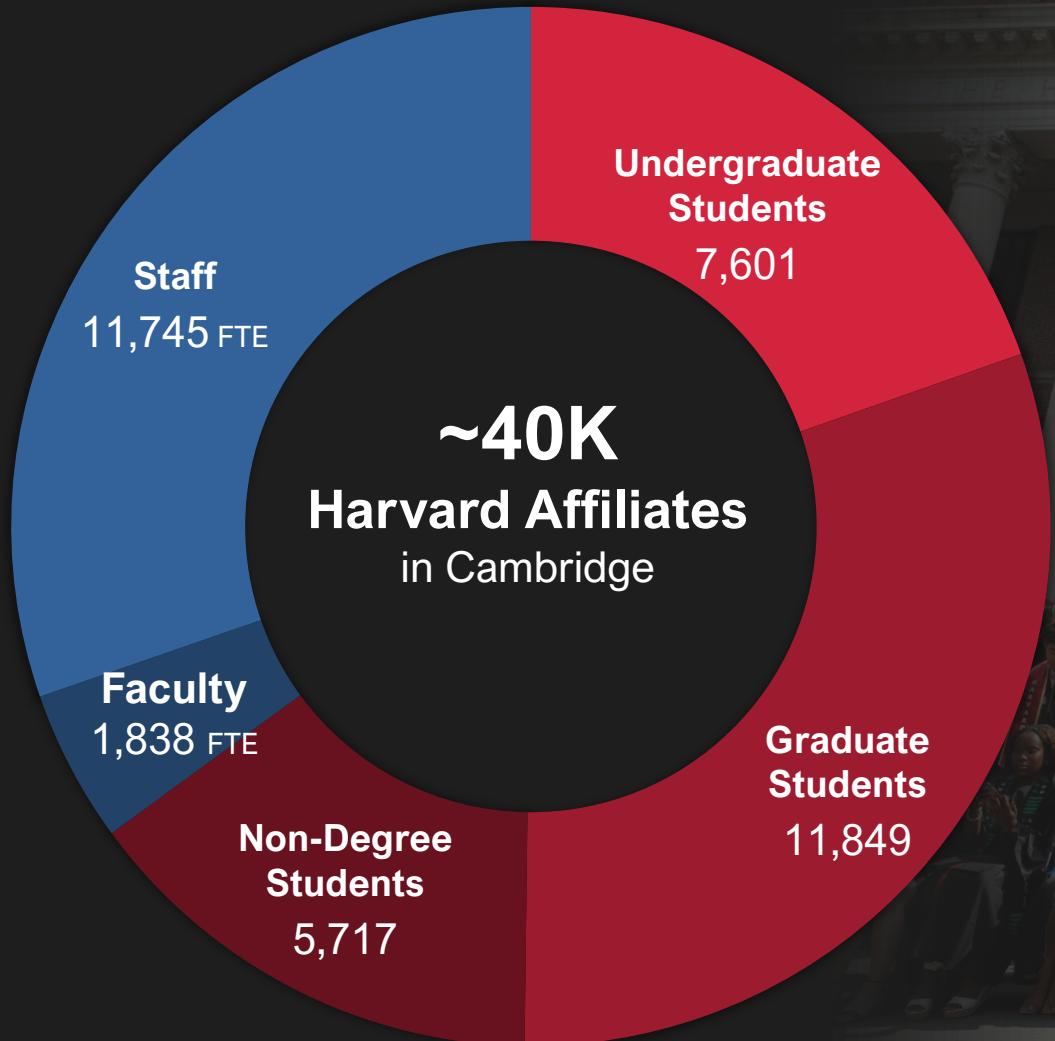
Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Harvard Law School

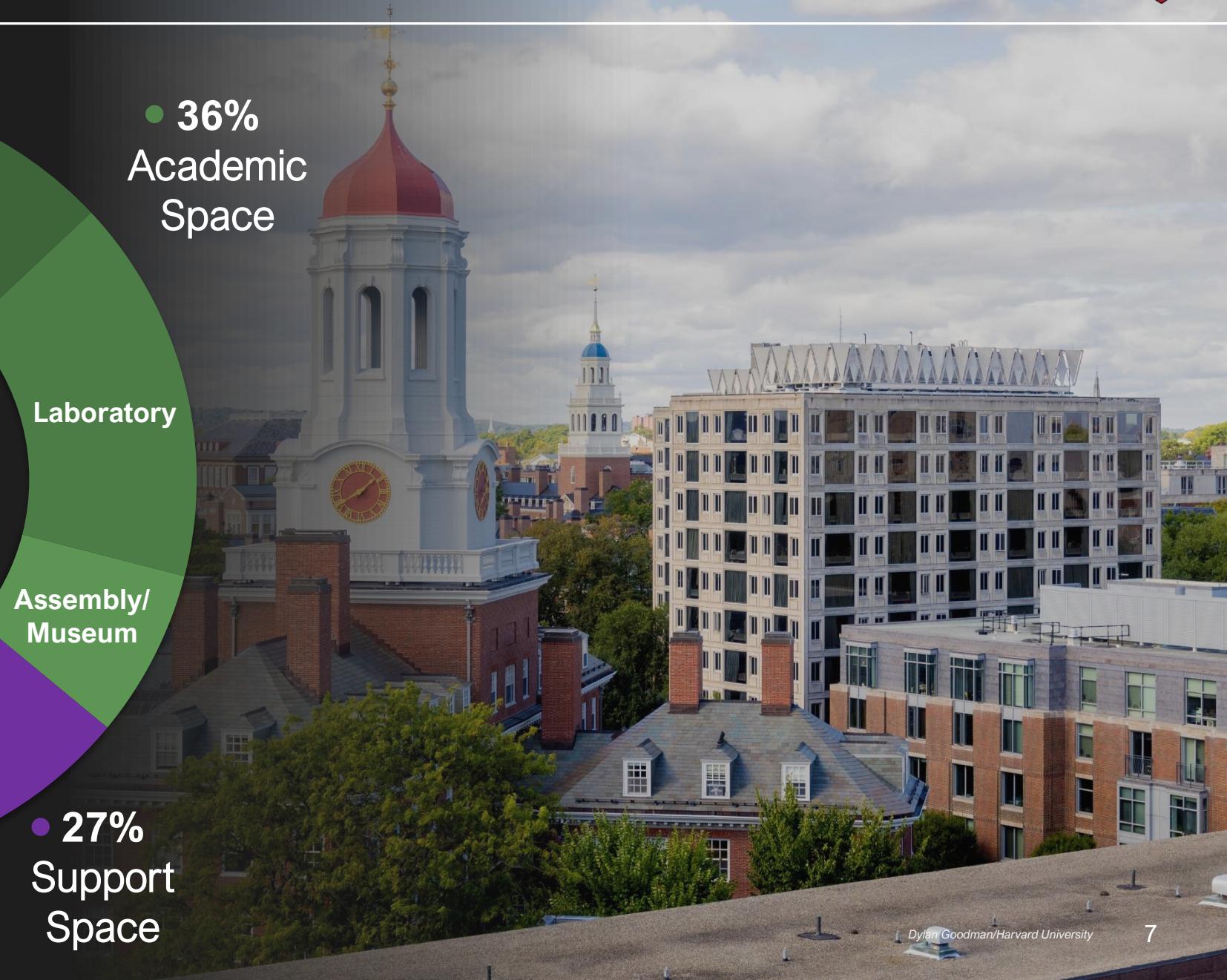
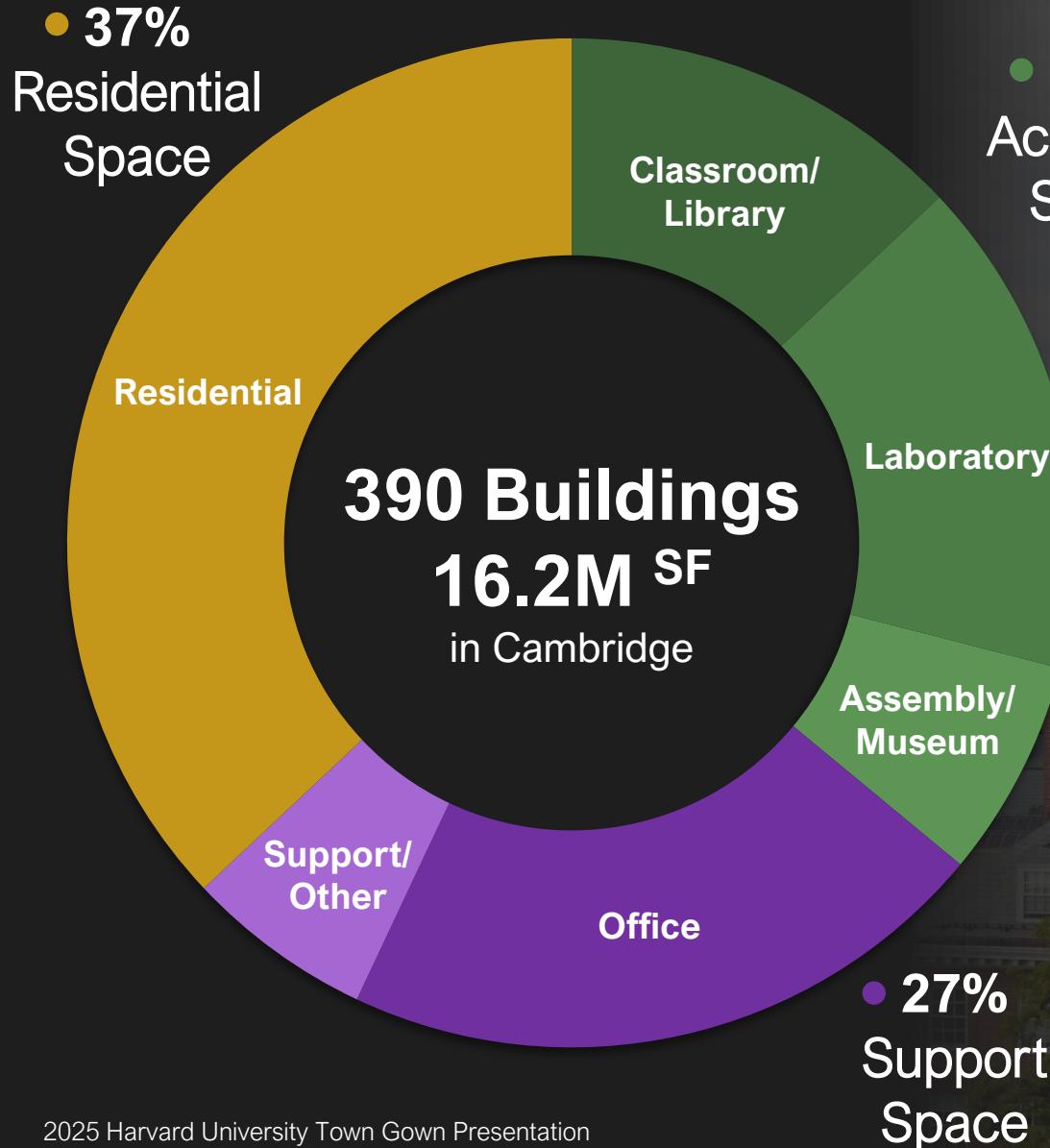
Harvard Radcliffe Institute



University Population



Campus Facilities

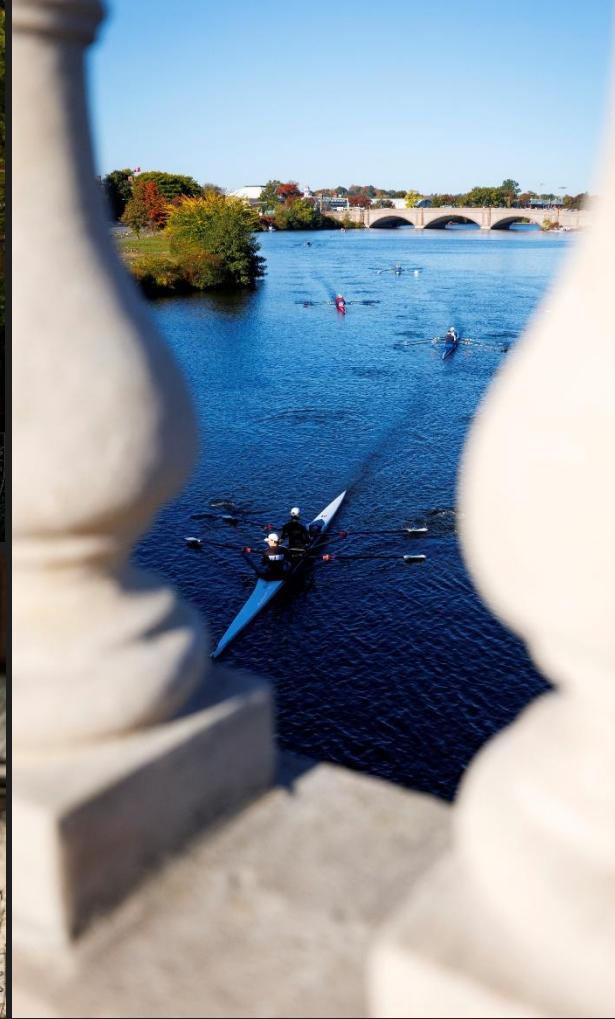




Harvard University

Campus Context

→ Harvard Square



Harvard University

Campus Context

→ Charles River



Campus Context

→ Public Access to Harvard Facilities

→ Campus Planning and Projects



Planning Principles



- **Campus Character**
- **Community**
- **Porosity**
- **Connectivity**
- **Public Realm**
- **Sustainability**
- **Stewardship**



Current Projects

- 1 Adams House:
Russell Hall & Westmorly Court
- 2 Eliot House
- 3 Harvard Science Center
- 4 12-18 Palmer Street
- 5 Pritzker Hall
- 6 William James Hall
- 7 15 Mount Auburn Street



Adams House: Russell Hall & Westmorly Court



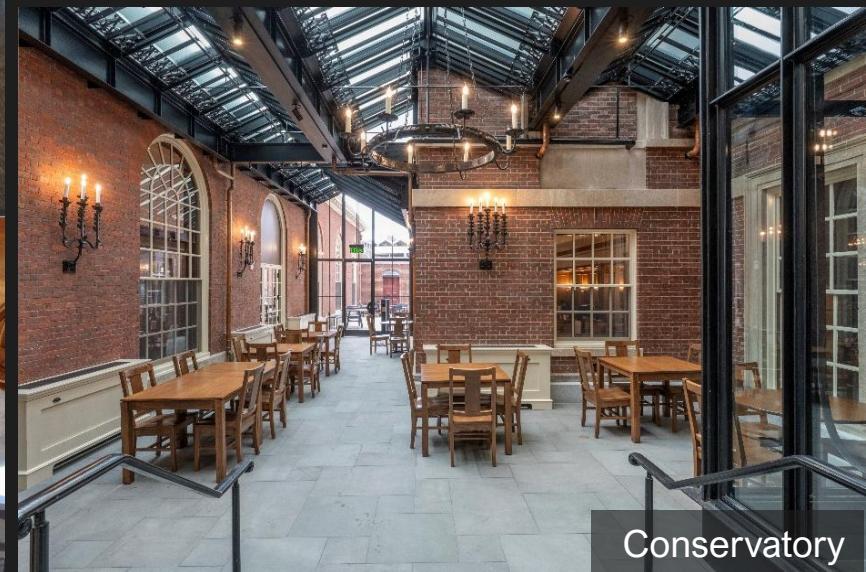
Third and final phase of undergraduate dorm renewal project

Restoration approach to preserve notable interior spaces and exterior elements

Significant upgrades to building accessibility, systems, and sustainability



Adams House: Russell Hall & Westmorly Court



Eliot House

Comprehensive renovation
of 1931 undergraduate
residential complex

Includes updated layouts,
circulation, accessibility, and
building systems, consistent
with House Renewal
program

Full restoration of exterior
envelope respectful of
historic structure



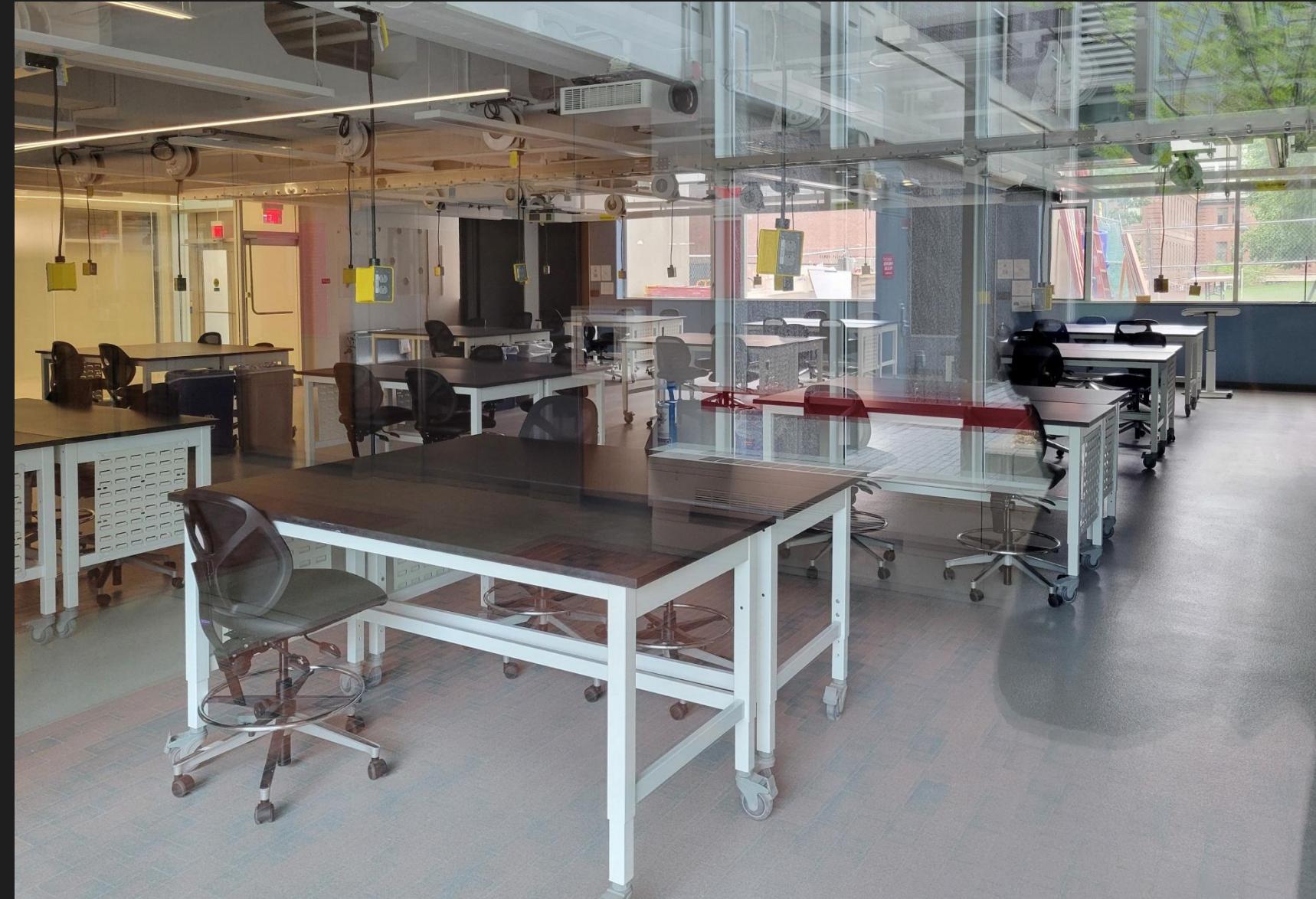
Harvard Science Center



Renovation of
undergraduate teaching
labs, classrooms, faculty
offices, lounges

Design for abundant natural
light to support community
and wellbeing

Significant upgrades to
building accessibility,
systems, and sustainability



12-18 Palmer Street



Renovation in partnership
with The Coop

Active ground floor with
institutional and office uses
above

Activation of Palmer Street
as a more inviting,
pedestrian-oriented public
space



Baker Design Group

Pritzker Hall



New building to serve as home for FAS Economics Department

Harvard's first major fully electric building, sustainably designed

Transforms former surface parking into landscaped open space



Picture Plane

William James Hall



Renewal of plaza facing Kirkland Street includes new entrance vestibule and addresses basement waterproofing

Improved accessibility and landscaping includes new trees and plantings that soften conditions and mitigate downdrafts



15 Mt Auburn Street



Home for Harvard University
Native American Program

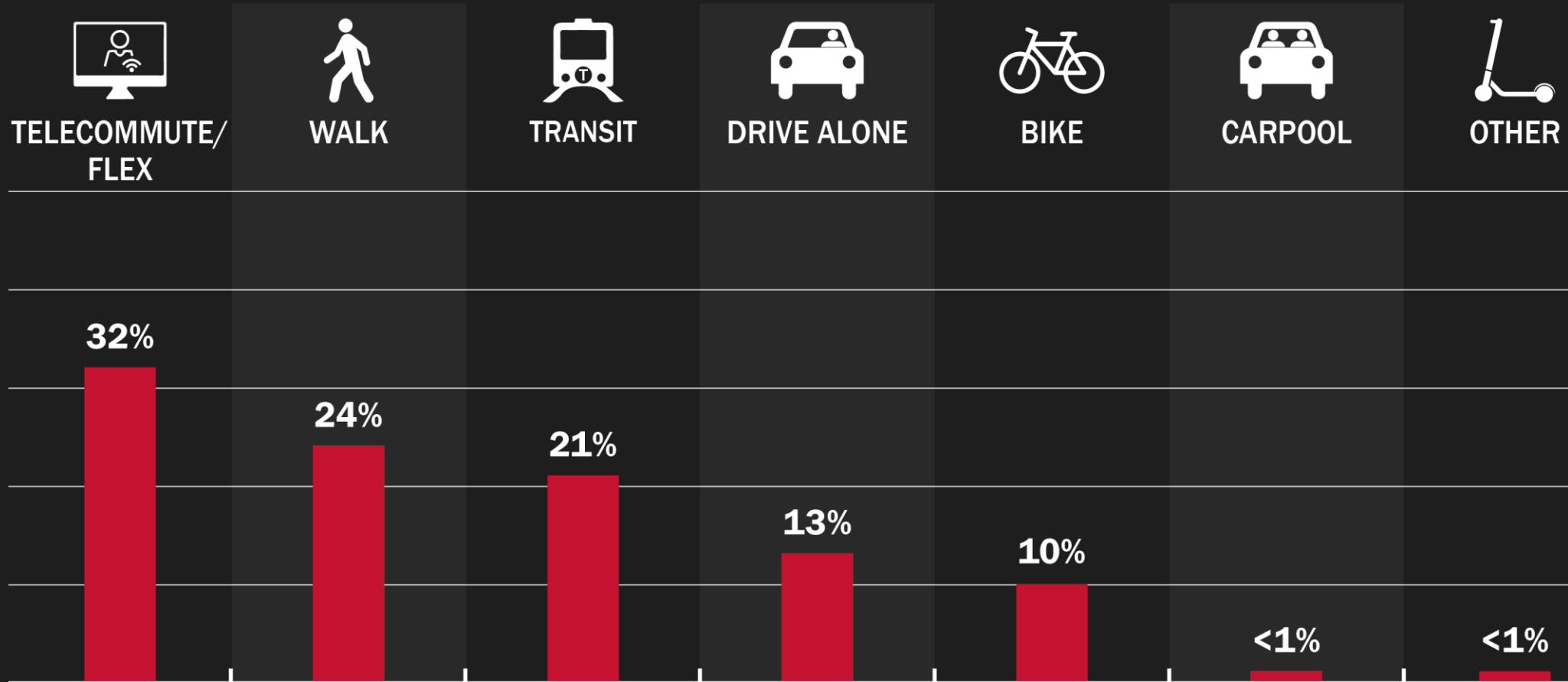
Fully electric, fully
accessible new building

Façade inspired by
traditional Native American
materials: Wampum and tree
bark

Public realm improvements:
improved sidewalks, bench,
native plantings



Transportation





Enterprise Research Campus



Goel Center for Creativity and Performance
& 100 South Campus Drive

→ Allston Update

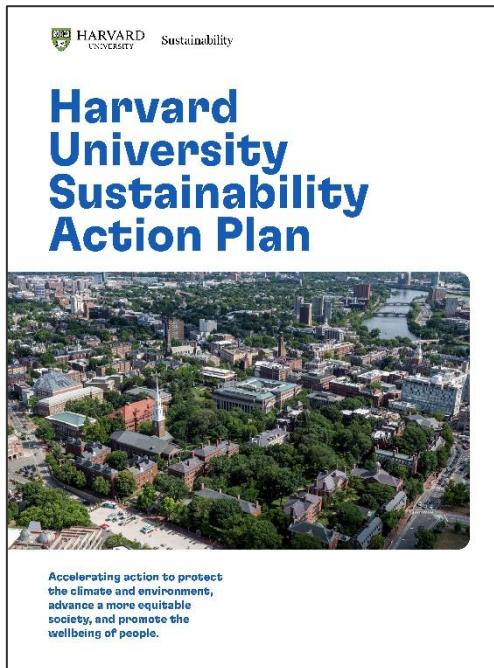


Campus Sustainability

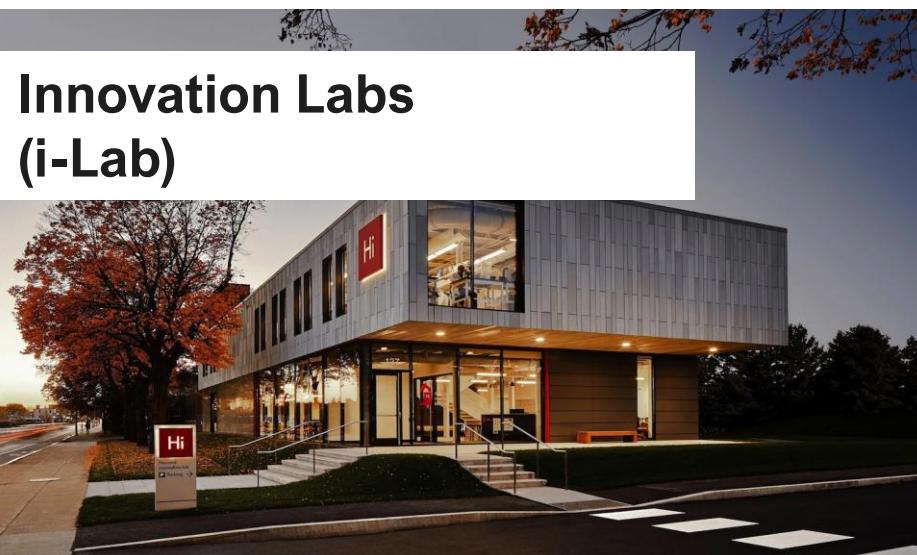
Advancing Sustainability Action



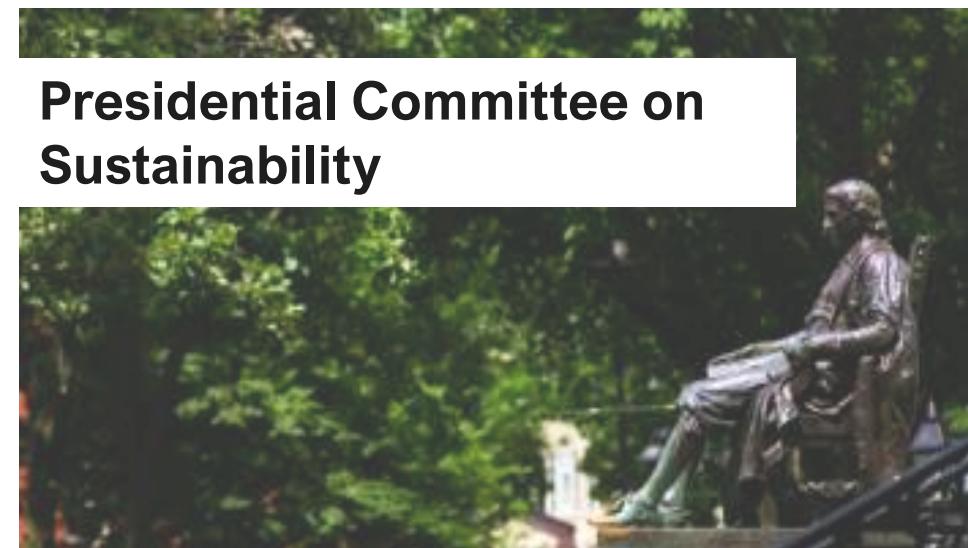
- **Vision** and **holistic framework**
- **Harvard's Climate Goals**
- **Sustainability Standards** for all key operational practices (buildings, food, cleaning, landscaping, IT)
- **Pilot projects** that scale impact beyond Harvard



Leveraging Harvard's World-Class Faculty, Researchers



Salata Institute for Climate & Sustainability



Presidential Committee on Sustainability

Salata Institute for Climate Sustainability



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



10

Core Research
initiatives

Focused on climate
& sustainability across
many of Harvard's 12
graduate & professional
Schools.



122

Events

Held on campus
globally.



202

Faculty
Associates

Leading on climate,
sustainability at
12 Harvard Schools.



\$276K

Internships

Supported by the Harvard
Climate Internship
Program & the Salata
Climate Policy Summer
Internship Program.



\$6.6M

Research
Support

For clusters,
programs, and
initiatives.



3,000

Students

Supported
participated in
programs

How We Advance Innovation & Action



GOALS



FOSSIL FUEL-FREE BY 2050 &
FOSSIL FUEL-NEUTRAL BY
2026



REDUCE FOOD-RELATED
EMISSIONS BY 25% BY 2030



REDUCE EMBODIED CARBON
BY 20% IN MAJOR CAPITAL
PROJECTS

POLICIES



SUSTAINABLE BUILDING
STANDARDS SINCE 2009,
UPDATED IN 2024



SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHFUL
FOOD STANDARDS



SUSTAINABILITY
STANDARDS FOR HEALTHIER
CLEANING, ORGANIC
LANDSCAPING, IT

PROGRAMS



HARVARD HEALTHIER
BUILDING ACADEMY



SCOPE 3
(SUPPLY CHAIN) EMISSIONS

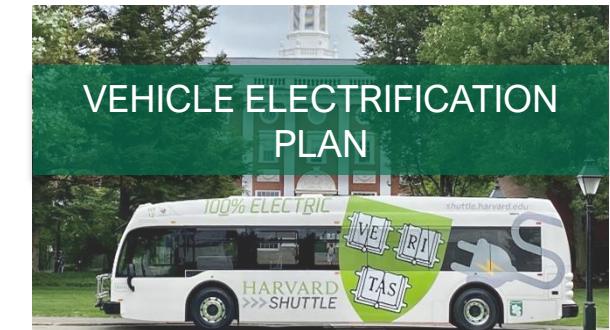


SALATA INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

PLANNING



ZERO-WASTE PLAN



VEHICLE ELECTRIFICATION
PLAN



RESILIENCY PLAN

Harvard's Climate Action Goals



FOSSIL FUEL-FREE BY 2050

FOSSIL FUEL-NEUTRAL BY 2026

CALENDAR YEAR-END GOAL

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS TARGETS

FOOD & EMBODIED CARBON IN CONSTRUCTION

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

**30% ABSOLUTE GHG REDUCTION
ACHIEVED IN 2016**

FFF BY 2050:



FOSSIL FUEL-FREE
DISTRICT
ENERGY



100%
RENEWABLE
ELECTRICITY



ZERO FOSSIL
FUELS IN
BUILDINGS



ELECTRIC
VEHICLE FLEET

**Goal
Zero**

SCOPE 3 GOALS:

Food

**25% reduction in food
emissions by 2030 (set in 2019)**
Inaugural Global Coolfood Pledge signatory

Embodied Carbon

**20% cut in embodied
carbon in major capital
projects (2024)**

Renewable Energy Consortium



Harvard's Portion Covers 100% Of Harvard's Electricity Use

- Helping develop new, utility-scale renewable electricity through partnership with City of Cambridge, MIT, MGB, & providing access for other non-profits
- Together, both projects **avoid ~1 million metric tons GHG** emissions per year, which is equivalent to **providing clean electricity to ~130,000 homes**

BOWMAN WIND

Came online in Dec 2025

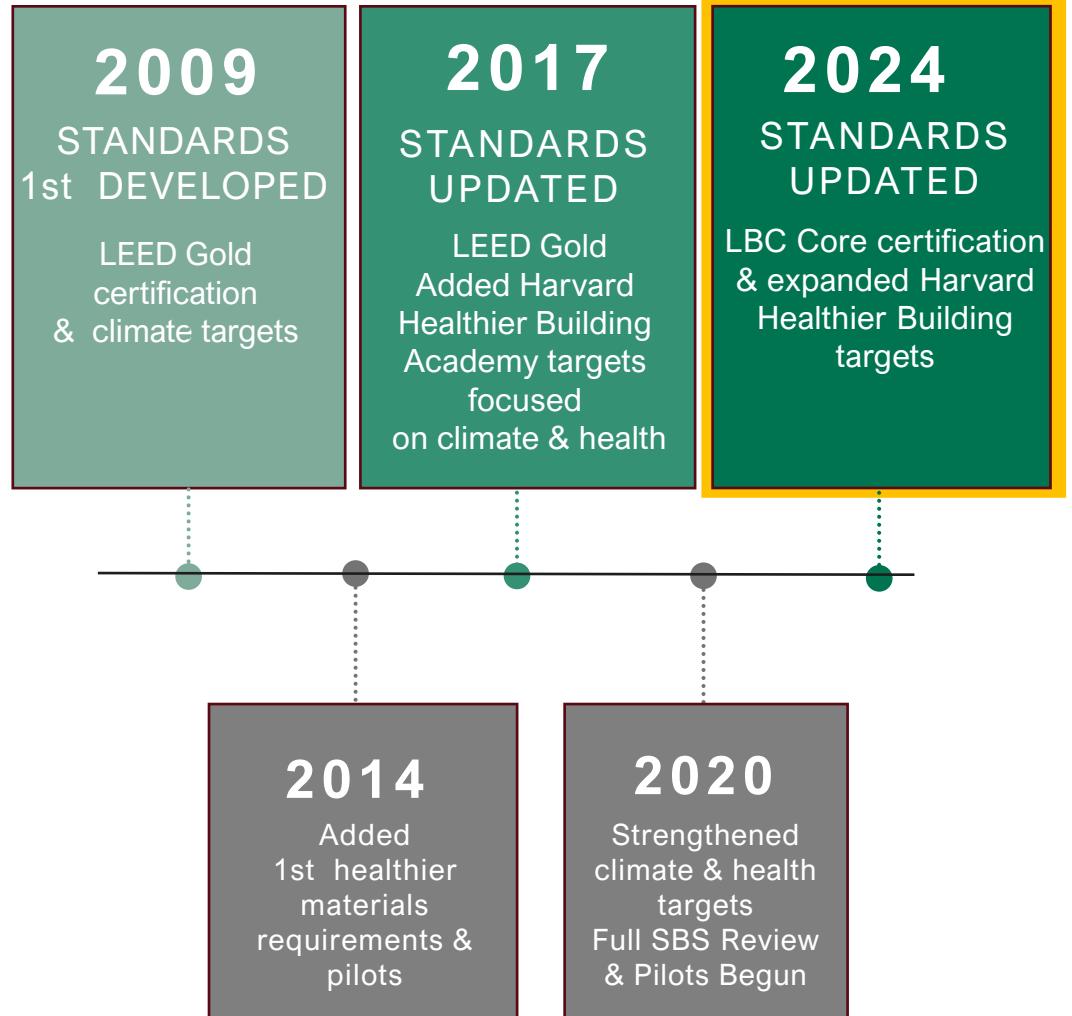


BIG ELM SOLAR

Came online in 2024



Holistic Sustainable Building Standards (SBS)



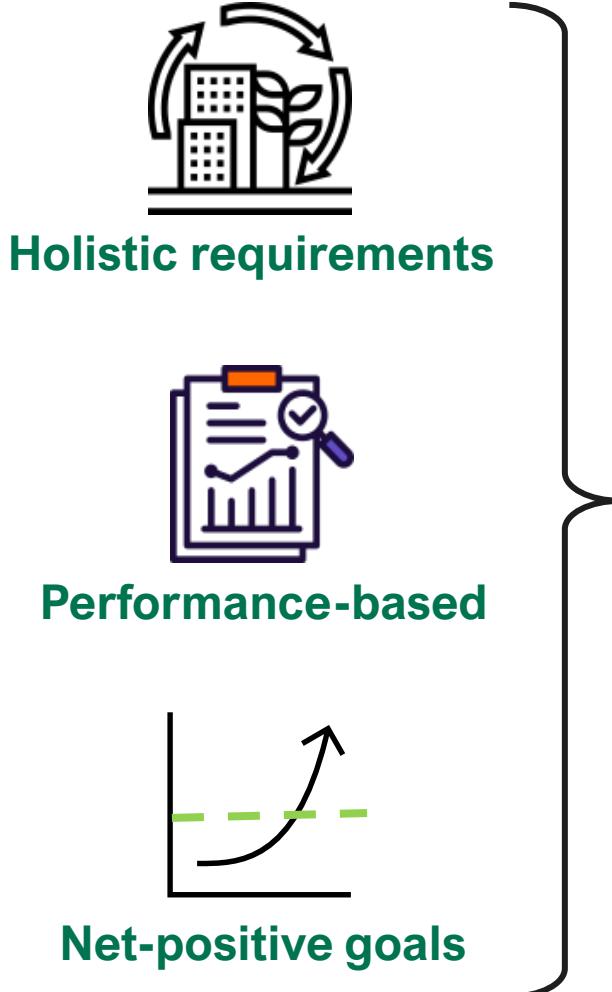
NO fossil fuels allowed in buildings

At least 20% cut embodied carbon

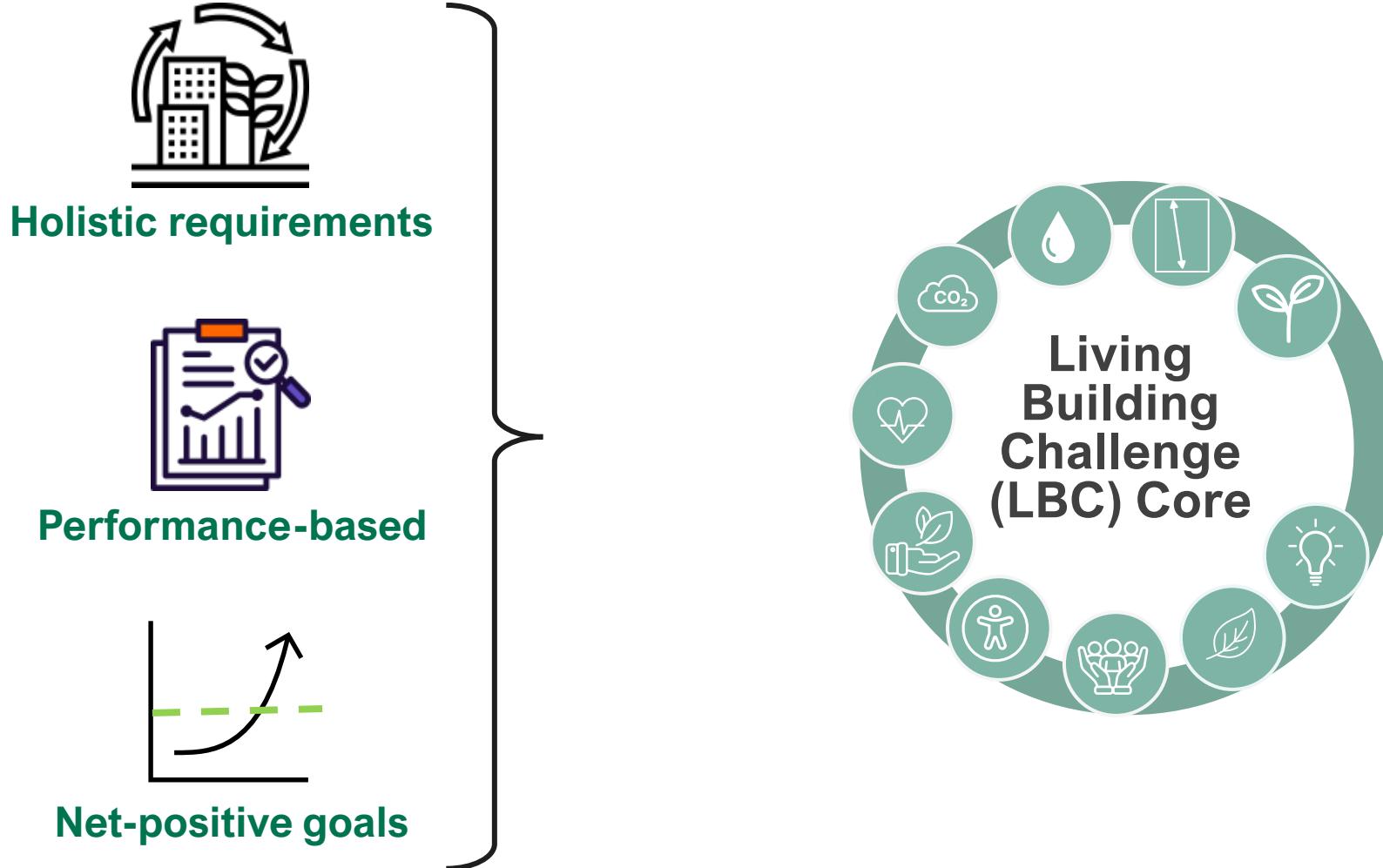
Health & resiliency requirements



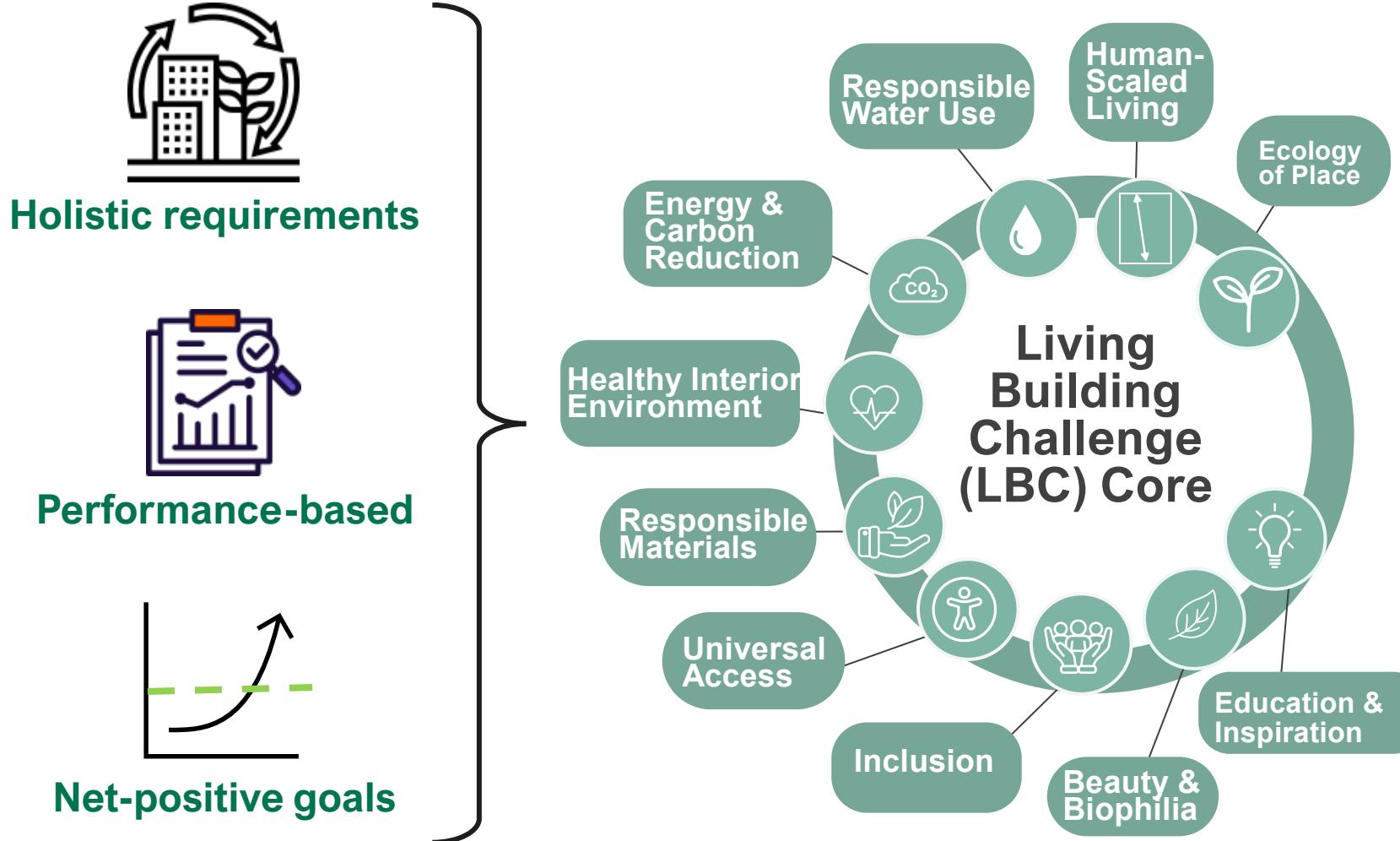
2025: Living Building Challenge (LBC) Core + Harvard Healthier Building Academy (HBBA)



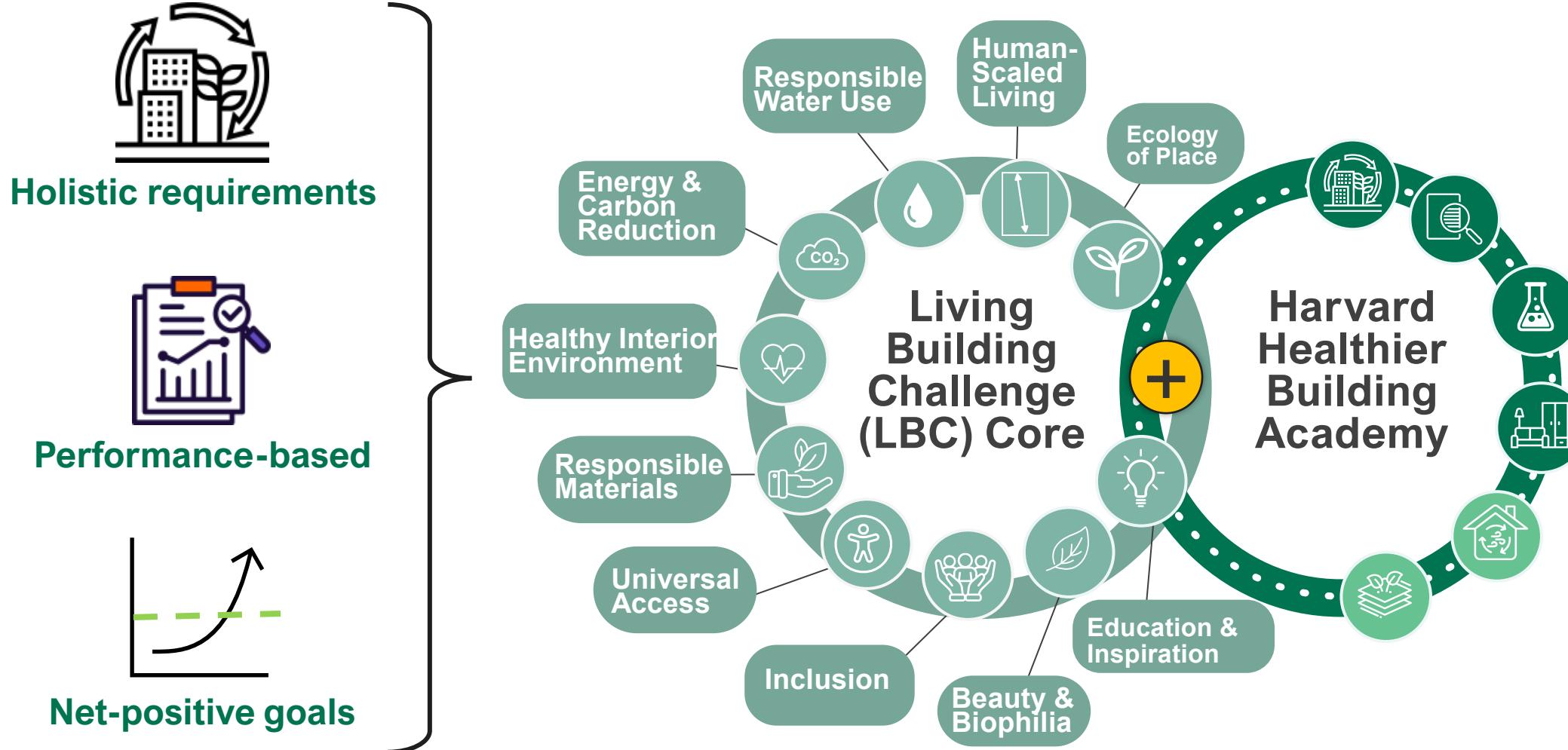
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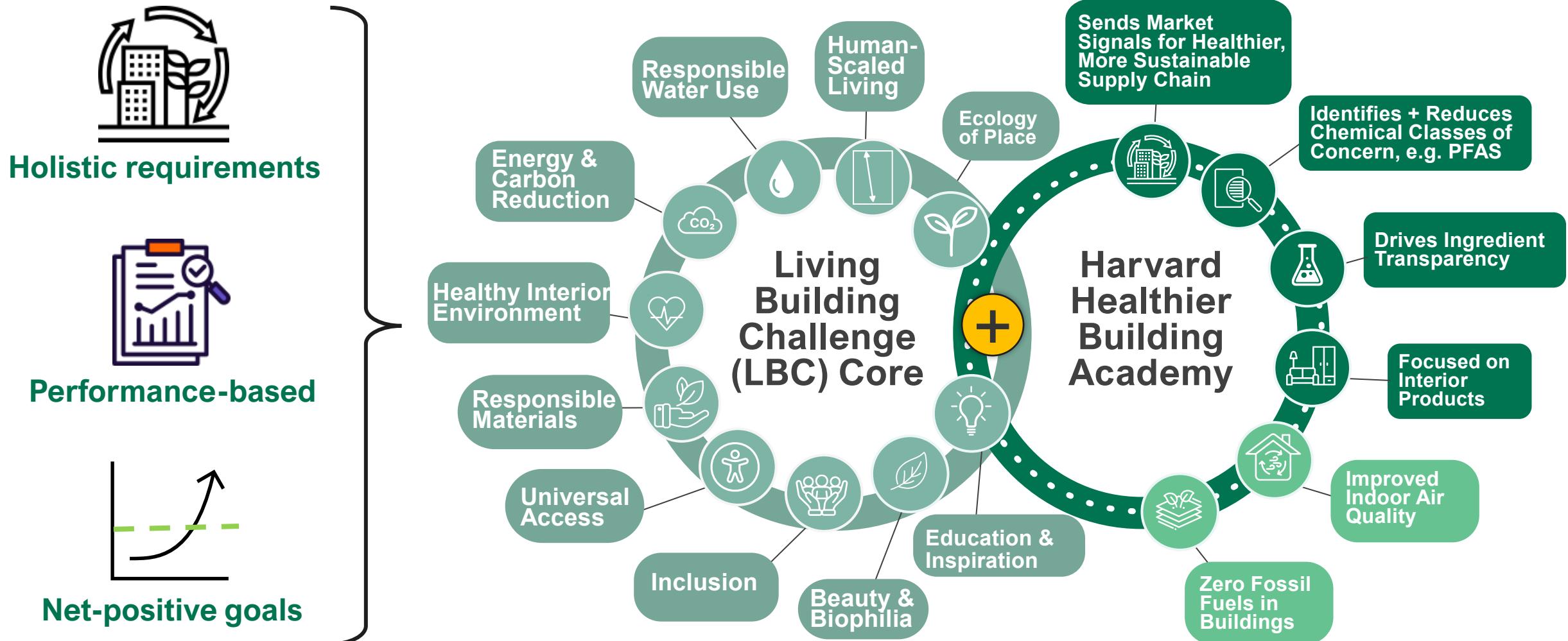
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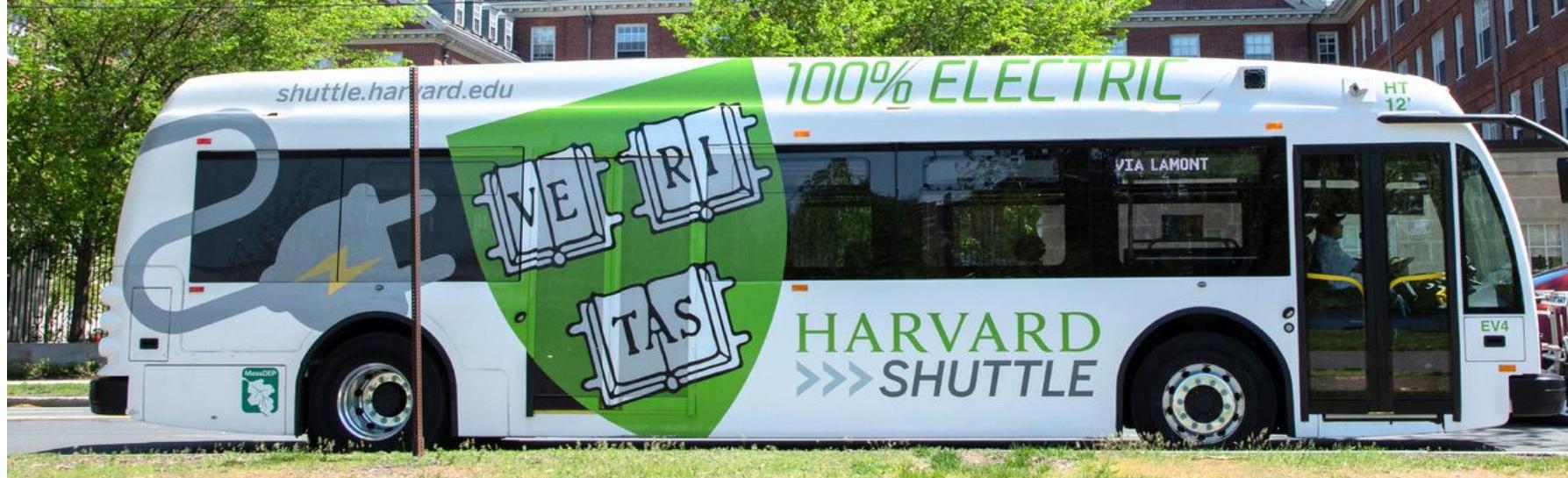
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2025: Living Building Challenge (LBC) Core + Harvard Healthier Building Academy (HBBA)



Expanding Electric Vehicle Fleet



73% 
more efficient

EV bus MPGe vs.
diesel MPG

~ $\frac{1}{3}$ shuttle
buses EV 

Harvard's Electric
Vehicle fleet is
growing (18+)

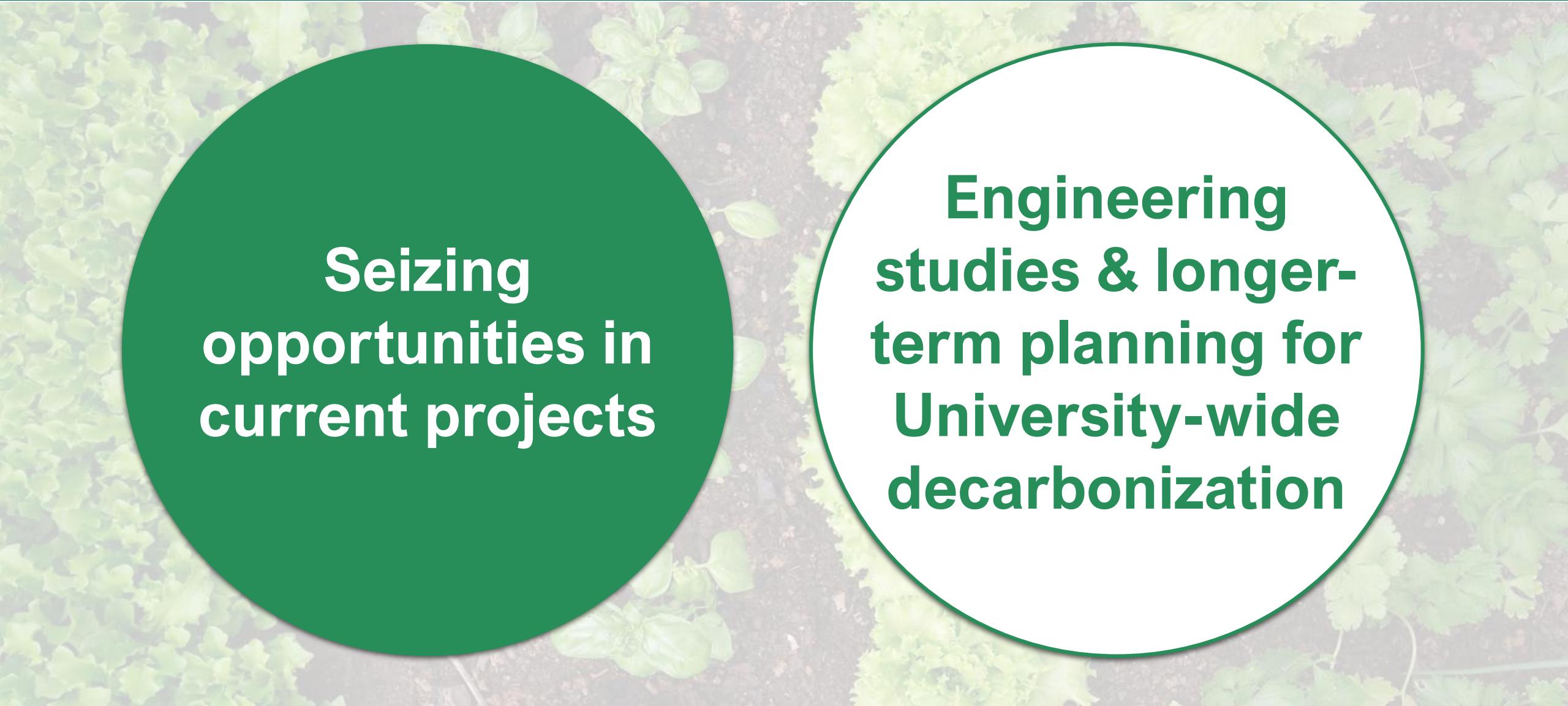
51.5K 
miles

Traveled by EV
buses last year

50 EV 
parking stations

In Cambridge

Two-pronged Decarbonization Strategy

A soft-focus background image of a garden with various green plants and flowers, including basil and other leafy greens, creating a natural and sustainable feel.

**Seizing
opportunities in
current projects**

**Engineering
studies & longer-
term planning for
University-wide
decarbonization**

Holistic Sustainable Design: Climate & Resiliency



1st two mass timber buildings @ Harvard

- The **Rubenstein Treehouse Conference Center** and the **Goel Center for Creativity & Performance** are designed with **no fossil fuels on-site** + healthier materials throughout.

1st Mass. building to use healthier, low-embodied concrete made with recycled ground glass pozzolan (GGP) instead of traditional fly ash additive (byproduct from burning coal) in the Rubenstein Treehouse's building structure.

90-100% of stormwater at both buildings is managed or treated on-site and reused for irrigation and toilet flushing

Holistic Sustainable Design: Health, Climate, Resiliency



David Rubenstein Treehouse
Conference Center



From Allston to Cambridge: Piloting + Scaling Sustainable Building Strategies

- ✓ Targeting **Living Building Challenge (LBC) Core** certification
- ✓ **Harvard Healthier Building Academy** eliminates harmful, fossil-fuel derived classes of chemicals instead of RedLists
- ✓ **No fossil fuels on-site + reducing embodied carbon (~60%)** through mass timber, ground glass in concrete instead of fly ash
- ✓ **Integrated water management builds resiliency: ~90%** of stormwater captured on-site + reused for irrigation, flushing
- ✓ **Enhanced indoor air quality, access to daylight**
- ✓ Uses **bird-safe glass**, regional + native plantings to support habitat, **reduce irrigation demand**

All-Electric, Low-Energy Design at Pritzker Hall



Scaling, applying learnings to new Cambridge home of FAS Economics Department

- ✓ Targets **Living Building Challenge (LBC) Core certification**
- ✓ **Harvard's first all-electric building under the new energy codes and designed to be resilient to extreme cold and heat (-15°F and 105°F)**
- ✓ Targeting **all 14 HHBA healthier materials categories**
- ✓ Increased outside air. Public & densely occupied spaces designed to **provide 75% more fresh air than code**
- ✓ Glazing designed with **bird-safe glass** to prevent collisions
- ✓ **Resilient stormwater management system:** designed for ~95% of stormwater to be managed on-site.

Seizing Opportunities to Decarbonize Every Day



Smith Campus Center (SCC) Mechanical Replacement Project

- Two rooftop air handling units (AHUs), several exhaust fans, and one rooftop generator.
- Partial electrification via heat pumps with hot water backup, **enabling the ventilation system to operate on electricity for >90% of the year.**

Climate & Health Outcomes for Historic Renovations



Renovating historic Harvard houses to be highly sustainable, energy efficient

Adams House Renewal Phase 3 complete, with renovations of **Russell Hall, Library Commons, Westmorly Court**.

- Achieved **LEED Gold** certification
- Achieved **Harvard Healthier Building Academy (HHBA)** healthier materials without harmful chemical classes of concern (forever chemicals, chemical flame retardants, etc.)
- **Replaced 1,400+ windows** to reduce energy usage

Eliot House renovation is underway:

- Targeting **LBC Core certification + HHBA** healthier materials
- Designed with a **Konvekta energy recovery system**
- **Replacing 1,000+ windows**

1st Fully-Certified Passive House Multi-Family Projects



13 Kirkland Street + 5 Sacramento Street are the **first-ever Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) Core Revive 2021 multi-family certified projects.**

- Also striving for **Living Building Challenge (LBC) Core** Certification.
- **Achieved Harvard Healthier Building Academy** healthier materials in all 14 categories.
- Received **Cambridge Historical Commission 2025 Awards** for **excellence in Historic Preservation** and Sustainable Living for preserving historic exterior while **significantly reducing embodied carbon** through reuse of existing materials.

Replicability & Scaling Solutions

Across Harvard and beyond for impact

Meeting Ambitious Certifications @ Scale

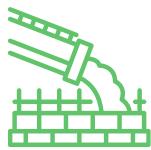


1 certified **LBC Core**
10+ targeting **LBC Core**

Applying Lessons Learned @ Harvard



Healthier AND Lower-Embodied Carbon Concrete



Ground Glass Pozzolan (GGP), NOT Fly Ash Cement Replacement

Scaling Beyond Harvard



Rendering by MDS Architects/Sasaki.

Healthier Materials in Public Schools

Transparency: Sharing Our Learnings to Scale Solutions



100% renewable energy

By end of 2026, Harvard will purchase the equivalent of 100% of its electricity from new renewable sources.



~40% reduction GHG emissions per sq. ft.

since 2006. Total emissions declined 32% despite a 14% increase in building square footage.



3.22 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV)
Equals ~600 homes
25+ locations



2 mass timber buildings

Offering more sustainable alternative to traditional materials, contributing to significant reductions in embodied carbon.



**1 LBC certified,
10 targeting LBC
Core certification**
6 in Cambridge



155 LEED certified projects
115 in Cambridge



2 Passive House certified projects
in Cambridge



Explore Harvard's Annual Sustainability Report:

[sustainable.harvard.edu/
annual-report](https://sustainable.harvard.edu/annual-report)



Harvard in the Community



→ Key Areas of Harvard Engagement

- Partnerships with Cambridge Public Schools
- Community Engagement
- Supporting Cambridge-Based Initiatives
- Housing Support for Cambridge Residents
- Access to Harvard Institutions & Programming



Partnering with Cambridge Public Schools



- Harvard's educational programs are **available in every CPS school for all CPS grade levels and interests**
- Programs range from **internships to curriculum-based programming**
- CPS educators can access **free professional development workshops & academic coursework**
- Family Engagement and Parent Workshops

→ Cambridge Students Accepted to Harvard

- **23 students** from Cambridge were accepted to Harvard College last year.
- **120** have been accepted over the last 5 years



Partnering with Cambridge Public Schools



→ CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Building College Awareness:

- **All CPS 7th Graders** participate in **Project TEACH** and visit campus for a day of workshops and activities led by Harvard College students.
- **Harvard Education Day** is a partnership with Harvard Athletics that brings **CPS 6th graders** to campus to meet student athletes and experience campus life.
- As part of **Evolution Day**, CRLS students tour labs and meet with scientists to learn about their work and STEM career paths. **45 students attended in 2025.**
- The **Emerging Scientists Program** connects CRLS students with Harvard researchers to provide meaningful and accessible research experiences in the life sciences



Partnering with Cambridge Public Schools



→ Internship & Mentorship Programs:

- The **Summer Youth Employment Program** provides students with valuable work experience, helping them develop positive work habits, gain professional experience, and increase their motivation to further their education and pursue career options.
- The **Science Research Mentoring Program** (SRMP) provides an opportunity for high school students to work on a year long independent research project in astrophysics under the guidance of a Harvard or MIT scientist.

→ Leadership & Fellowship Programs:

- The **Radcliffe Emerging Leaders Program** is a youth leadership development program that connects CRLS sophomores with Harvard undergraduates for year-long mentoring.
- The **James Bryant Conant Fellowship fund** supports the professional growth of outstanding teachers and administrators from Cambridge and Boston Public Schools who are accepted to Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) degree programs.
- **Harvard Business School's Leadership Fellows program** offers nonprofit and public sector organizations the opportunity to leverage the experience, expertise, and skills of Harvard's MBA students for one year with a salary subsidized by the Harvard Business School



Partnering with Cambridge Public Schools



- The **Cambridge Harvard Summer Academy** is funded by Harvard University and takes place every summer at CRLS, aiming to help bridge the achievement gap for students who require academic intervention throughout the summer months.
- **Crimson Summer Academy** provides traditionally underserved high school students with a mix of classes, projects, and cultural activities on Harvard's campus.
 - **90%** of Crimson Summer Academy graduates complete college in 4 years.
- The **Design Discovery Program** was developed by Harvard Graduate School of Design students and introduces high school students to architectural design, urban planning, graphic, industrial, and fine arts design and helps to put students on track for exploring these ideas at the collegiate level.



Supporting Key City Goals & Initiatives



→ Long-Term Partnership with Food for Free

- Address food insecurity
- **2000+** meals distributed weekly
- **12K+** pounds of food donated in FY25

→ Pro bono legal services for Cambridge residents

- Open to all Cambridge residents, the Clinical and Pro Bono programs provide thousands of hours of free legal services annually to Cambridge residents.



Supporting City Initiatives & Residents



→ Economic Inclusion

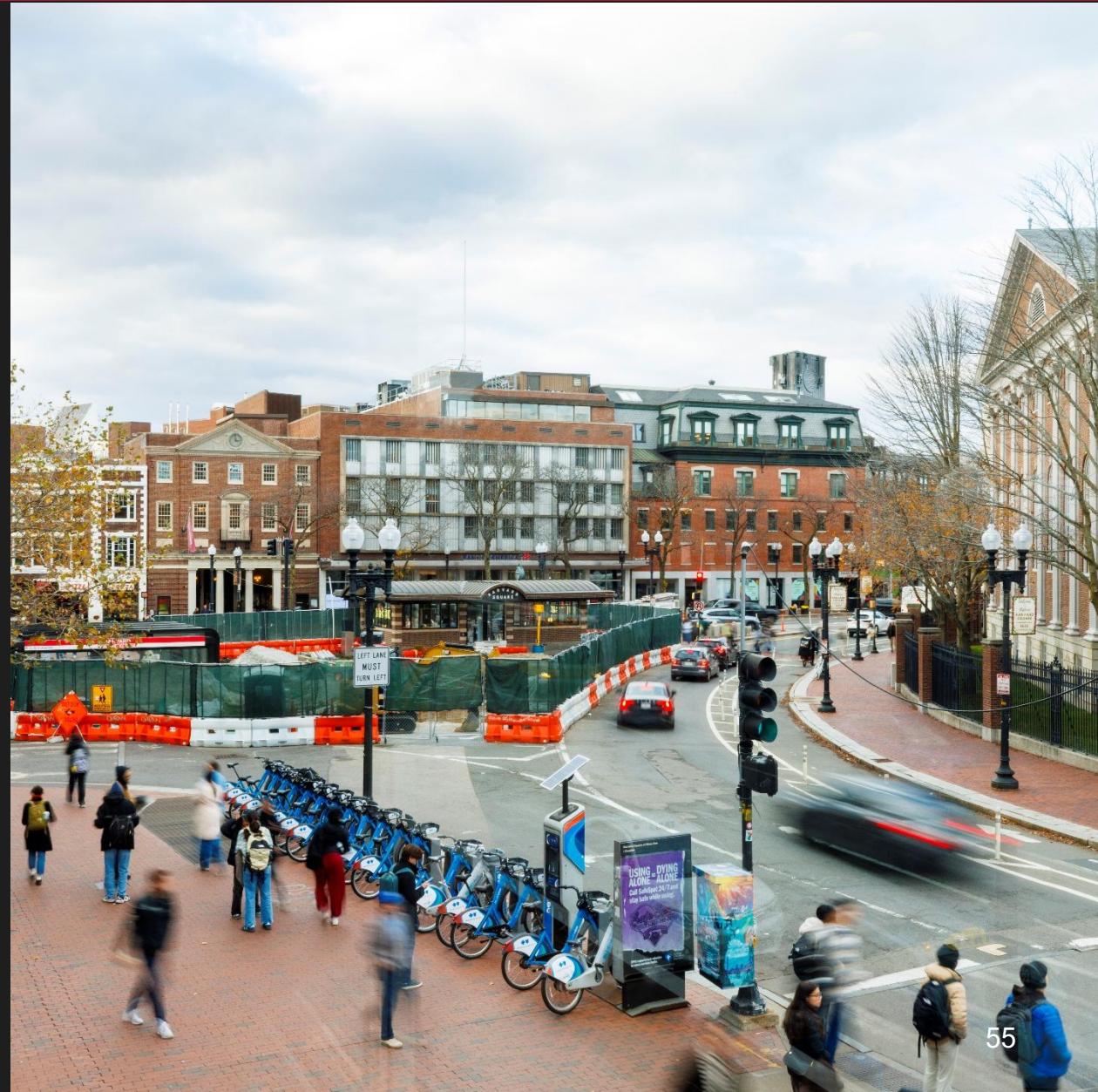
- Harvard's **Workforce Development Program** offers innovative and market-driven skills-based programs, workshops, and events that support **Cambridge residents** in their professional and career goals.
- Harvard is proud of its ongoing partnership with organized labor to support career development for next generation tradespeople
- Committed to the success of Harvard Square through intentional leasing of properties to small businesses, most of which are locally-owned and offer unique retail and dining options
- Focused on fostering a vibrant and pedestrian friendly retail environment throughout the Square



Supporting City Initiatives & Residents



- Harvard has implemented over \$10M in public realm and infrastructure improvements throughout Harvard Square.
- Harvard manages and maintains five acres of public open space at JFK Memorial Park.
- Harvard provides City projects with rent free parking and land for material storage, saving the City millions of dollars on capital projects.
- During winter storm events, Harvard creates a snow farm for the City to remove and store snow to ensure safety for Cambridge pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Harvard provides free parking for Cambridge residents during snow emergencies.



Housing Support for Cambridge Residents



→ Housing Support for Cambridge Residents

- Long-standing collaboration with Cambridge Housing Authority
- Harvard Local Housing Collaborative has helped enable over \$1 billion in affordable housing development throughout the area



→ Housing for Harvard Students & Affiliates

- **~500 bed** Harvard University Housing development under construction in Allston
- **99% of undergraduates** live in dorms on campus
- Strategic interventions to create graduate student housing in Cambridge by converting properties to residential uses.
- **30+ new beds** developed for University Affiliates in Cambridge



→ Harvard's Housing Partnerships in Allston

- The first Phase of the ERC is complete and includes **345 new units** of housing, **25% of which are affordable housing** units.
- Harvard has worked with the City of Boston and local partners to enable the creation of **1,300+ new units** of housing in Allston, with **over 300** of these units being **affordable**.

Access to Harvard Institutions & Programming



→ **Museum Access**

Harvard Museums are free to Cambridge residents

→ **Access to Performing & Visual Arts on Campus**

ArtsFest

- This four-day celebration in Harvard Square welcomes the wider community to experience the many arts at the heart of Harvard's diverse, creative community of students, faculty, staff, affiliates and alumni.

Arts Thursdays

- The University regularly opens its doors to the wider community for free performances, exhibitions and lectures on Thursday nights.

→ **Attracting Tourism**

- As a cultural anchor, Harvard's historic campus and world-class museums draw visitors from around the world.
- Harvard is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Massachusetts.
 - 650K+ visitors to Harvard Museums each year
 - 30K+ people come to Harvard Square to attend the University's Commencement each year





→ Resources for Additional Information

Planning

Harvard University Planning
and Design

www.hupad.harvard.edu

Construction Mitigation

www.construction.harvard.edu

Sustainability

Office for Sustainability

www.green.harvard.edu

Harvard in the Community

www.community.harvard.edu