



Environmental Policy

MISSION

Grand Canyon Education, Inc. and its subsidiary and affiliated entities (“GCE” and “Company”) is committed to environmental responsibility by taking steps to positively impact the natural environment in its local community and the world at large. GCE intends to accomplish this through sustainable development, reducing the impact of our operations on the natural environment, and strengthening the welfare of our community and other stakeholders.

REACH

This policy primarily applies to GCE’s operations in Phoenix, Arizona but also extends to any GCE facilities or operations located elsewhere. GCE management refers to this policy in establishing priority among responsibilities, placing performance goals, commencing projects, and improving overall standards.

COMPLIANCE

GCE is committed to following applicable environmental laws and exceeding industry standards. As a company, we prioritize identifying, measuring, and understanding the direct and indirect environmental impact of our operations. Using this information, we strive to continue developing solutions for mitigating these impacts. Throughout its expansion, GCE has invested in strategic and environmentally friendly development to minimize environmental impact and utilize resources intelligently. With this in mind, this Policy includes three primary focus areas: energy consumption, water use, and waste production.

COMMUNICATION

The company is committed to openly communicating its progress in executing this Policy and attaining its related goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS AREAS

ENERGY

As a growing company, it is necessary to develop and operate numerous buildings to house our employees and operations. As such, we are aware that energy use comprises a significant portion of our environmental impact. Our existing facilities were constructed using energy-efficient materials and systems. GCE also practices energy conservation by allowing many employees the option to work remotely. We will continue to implement practices that will increase the energy efficiency of our existing buildings, as well as being mindful of new technology on the market that we can utilize in the future.

- Our energy performance is in accordance with U.N. SDG7 (detailing “Affordable and Clean Energy”), and our company goal is to increase our use of renewable energy by lessening.

WATER

Being based in the desert city of Phoenix, Arizona, GCE is committed to increasing water efficiency and conservation. We plan on reaching our goals by introducing new technology that will optimize water conservation in all future building developments, facility renovations, and landscape upgrades.

- Our water performance is in accordance with U.N. SDG6 (detailing “Clean Water and Sanitation”), and our company goal is to improve and increase per capita water conservation by 2030.

WASTE

While every growing corporation generates waste, GCE understands the importance of adopting sustainable practices in an effort to minimize waste creation.

- Our waste performance is in accordance with U.N. SDG6 (detailing “Chemicals and Waste”), and our company goal is to reduce overall waste generation through prevention, reduction, and recycling. We also aim to improve our recycling numbers over time.

ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

EXISTING FACILITIES

GCE owns and operates a four-story 325,000-square-foot administrative building, which includes office space for approximately 2,700 employees and a parking garage. We constructed these facilities in 2016, and every aspect of the design was intended to maximize energy efficiency and minimize electricity usage and environmental impact.

Lighting load and related electricity usage is a major environmental drain for most office buildings, and this is especially true in Arizona. GCE's office building is oriented with north/south exposure in order to minimize direct sun, and thereby reduce power usage. Exterior courtyards were arranged to ensure summer shade and create outdoor areas that can be used throughout the year. The design also utilized significant window glazing to allow for daylighting and reduce the need for supplemental electrical lighting. As a result, the building is designed to use just .41 watts per square foot of electrical energy for lighting, half of what a typical environmentally efficient building uses.

Water usage is another environmental factor for office space that is magnified by the Arizona sun. GCE's office building utilizes numerous water conservation methods including push-tap faucets, waterless urinals, and a rooftop rainwater collection system for irrigating the landscaping below, which significantly reduces water consumption. Additional environmentally friendly design features include low VOC paints, use of recycled building materials, interior and exterior LED light bulbs, and implementation of an energy efficient VRF mechanical system. Overall, GCE's office building is 60 percent more energy efficient than a standard office building.

In addition to its owned facilities, GCE currently leases 28 off-campus classroom and laboratory sites for use in serving its university partners, four office locations in California, and one office location in both Colorado and Indiana. To accommodate our growth plans for 2023 and beyond, GCE will add additional off-campus classroom and laboratory sites in Arizona and other select states. GCE works to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact in operating its leased facilities just as it does with its owned properties.

Furthermore, we have undertaken other measures to minimize our environmental impact, including:

- implementing a Trip Reduction Program, which provides incentives to employees who participate in carpooling or taking public transportation to work;
- providing a telecommute option for a significant number of positions; and
- participating in a recycling program aimed at minimizing the volume of waste products generated by GCE.

WATER AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

GCE is continually making efforts to increase water and energy conservation by increasing water and energy efficiencies in our existing operations. Additionally, we consider the management of water and energy a vital part of the design process for future building projects. We invest in modern technologies and systems to enhance the overall conservation of both water and energy within the Company.

WASTE MITIGATION

Acknowledging the effect of waste generation on the environment, the Company works to minimize waste as it pertains to our operations and business activities. We encourage employees to dispose of waste in a conscientious manner, along with instilling behaviors that surround the “reduce, reuse, recycle” formula. Dedicated recycling and trash receptacles are clearly marked and readily available for each department and employee.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION

It is GCE’s intended goal to reduce detrimental greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions on a company scale by recognizing the sources of its origin and introducing solutions. This includes source elimination, efficiency advancement, and minimizing transportation.

Online education is inherently more environmentally friendly than traditional campus education with a reduction in GHG production caused by traveling to and from a brick-and-mortar campus. It also increases student capacity while eliminating the need for construction of a physical campus. A majority of our university partners’ students are enrolled in hybrid or online educational models. In addition, a significant number of our university partners’ students utilize an eBook format which is more environmentally friendly than paper textbooks by eliminating the need for paper, other materials, and shipment.

EMPLOYEE ACCOUNTABILITY

At GCE, we encourage employees to get personally involved with protecting the environment by promoting environmentally friendly stewardship. We expect each individual employee to familiarize and align themselves with the company’s standards regarding environmental impact. Though this policy applies to GCE employees when at work, it is the Company’s hope that adapting these work habits will flow into individuals’ personal lives, thereby making an impact on a grander scale.

SUPPLIERS

GCE’s environmental policy applies the same standards to new and existing suppliers. The company cultivates relationships with suppliers with these values and standards to ensure social and environmental responsibility from all parties.

COMMUNITY

GCE recognizes that its employees and operations comprise a significant portion of the population, land use, and resource utilization within its local community. Our respect for our environment and our neighbors, have inspired us to adopt the practices found in this policy to ensure we are doing our fair share to protect our local environment.

STAKEHOLDERS

We are aware that the Company is a reflection of its stakeholders. With this in mind, we are proud of the efforts that we make to protect the environment and are confident that we are approaching environmental conservation to the best of our ability.

Progress on our environmental goals is reported annually in GCE’s Annual Report.

The policy described remains applicable to all Grand Canyon Education properties, business operations, and employees.