



COALITION
ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM



ESP LAUNCH GRANT RECIPIENT: Spelman College

Founded in 1871, Spelman College is a historically Black college and a global leader in the education of women of African descent. Located in Atlanta, Georgia, the campus comprises 26 buildings across 39 acres; the average age of the buildings is 70 years.

The campus has a longstanding focus on environmental responsibility and its vision for “Sustainable Spelman” was captured in its 2013 Climate Action Plan. In 2023, Spelman was named a recipient of a launch grant from the Energy Sustainability Program (ESP), offered by the Coalition for College Cost Savings. This grant funded a comprehensive campus strategic assessment by Ecosystem that will serve as the foundation for an actionable sustainability roadmap.

Spelman is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2056. With the strategic assessment, campus leaders sought to re-align on sustainability goals, define ways to measure and demonstrate the impact of sustainability initiatives, manage deferred maintenance, and conserve water. For Spelman, it is important to remain fiscally prudent, taking a strategic approach to asset renewal to remain affordable for their student demographic.

Following campus surveys and a comprehensive energy diagnostic, Ecosystem made clear and actionable recommendations: to prioritize lowering the hot water loop temperature as part of a campus-wide steam to hot water conversion; to begin a Building EUI Reduction Program, establishing priorities based on the cost of decarbonization metric; and to re-think a one-for-one chiller replacement at the science center, using the opportunity to incorporate low-carbon technology.

Spelman has already begun to move ahead based on these recommendations, seeking funding, with ESP support, to include a more efficient and sustainable heat recovery chiller in the science building chilled water hub upgrade.

AT A GLANCE

Priorities

- ▶ Re-align on sustainability goals
- ▶ Measure and demonstrate impact of sustainability initiatives
- ▶ Water conservation
- ▶ Be smart about asset renewal
- ▶ Take advantage of tax credits, incentives
- ▶ Remain affordable for their student demographic

Infrastructure issues

- ▶ Significant deferred maintenance needs
- ▶ Ongoing steam to hot water conversion
- ▶ Chillers in science building at end of life
- ▶ Upcoming construction of two residence halls

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Steam to hot water conversion – prioritize lowering HW temperature

- Opportunities for immediate savings (no CAPEX investment)
- Considerations for new buildings and pipe infrastructure

2. Building EUI (Energy Use Intensity) Reduction Program

- Holistic assessment of building energy systems
- Use deferred maintenance budgets strategically
- Cost of decarbonization metric

3. Heat recovery chiller addition in science center

- Leverage asset renewal priorities for decarbonization outcomes

ABOUT THE ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The Energy Sustainability Program (ESP) is a collaborative effort by the Coalition for College Cost Savings, First American Education Finance, Ecosystem Energy Services, and Solar Financing Solutions.

The ESP provides resources to private, nonprofit schools to move their campuses towards a sustainable energy environment, supporting goals such as decarbonization, reduced energy expenses, improved resiliency, deferred maintenance, and other campus objectives.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.thecoalition.us/energy-sustainability-program>

