



REV Campus Challenge



A Proven Commitment to Sustainability



Student Enrollment:
Approx. 1,800

Institution Type:
Private University

Institution Size:
4,356,000 gross sq.ft.

Region:
Western New York

Protecting the Environment through Campus Improvements and Hands-on Education

Alfred University demonstrates its commitment to advancements in clean energy and preserving and protecting the environment through its research, curricula development, and investments.

“While Alfred University has not received funding directly through NYSERDA’s REV Campus Challenge Program, participating in the initiative has helped inform Alfred University’s approach to meeting our education, investment, and engagement goals around sustainability and green energy. This includes expanding educational opportunities for students and the broader community and making focused investments in green energy technologies on-campus to help meet New York State’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030.”

– Dr. Gabrielle Gaustad, Dean of Alfred University’s Inamori School of Engineering

The university’s commitment is illustrated in several research and educational initiatives, as well as numerous infrastructure projects on their campus.

Committed to Creating an Energy Efficient Campus

In recent years, Alfred University has invested in energy-efficient lighting, replacing traditional halogen lighting at its athletic stadium with high-efficiency LED lighting. The move not only saved energy but also reduced “light pollution” in the village of Alfred. Similar lighting is being installed on a walking/jogging/bicycling path on campus. The university is also planning to replace their current central steam heating plant with an energy-efficient distributed boiler system, thereby achieving significant utilities and maintenance cost savings while reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.





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Dean of Alfred
University’s Inamori
School of Engineering*

Hands-On Education Focused on Clean Energy and Sustainability

The Renewable Energy Engineering program in Alfred University's Inamori School of Engineering is one of only two ABET-accredited Bachelor of Science renewable energy engineering programs in the nation. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Renewable Energy Engineering at the university prepare themselves for a career developing renewable energy systems, making improvements in energy efficiency, and applying science and engineering with an economic sense to create a more sustainable future for our planet. Renewable energy engineers may work on electrical systems, advanced controls, green buildings, energy-efficient lighting, fuel cells and batteries, wind turbines, and solar power systems.

The Renewable Energy Engineering program’s showcase initiative is its “Tiny House” capstone project, which exemplifies the university’s goal of encouraging clean energy education and implementation. This effort is a university-wide endeavor and welcomes participation from non-engineering students enrolled in the College of Business, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Art and Design. The goal of this multi-disciplinary project is to apply innovative solutions to develop, build, and market a self-sustaining home. Students with an engineering background work with students from other academic disciplines to gain real-world experience in a group setting. Multiple engineering projects are incorporated into the home and broken into three groups: solar, electric and plumbing, and interior design. The 2020-21 capstone project is focused on installing a solar panel system to provide the energy needed to heat and cool the house and power appliances and lighting. Because the Tiny House will remain on campus, there are opportunities to make further use of the house, such as updating the solar and battery systems to make them more efficient and using improved monitoring and control systems to decrease energy consumption from non-vital building systems.

Creating a Sustainable Future

The efforts that Alfred University has put forth showcase their commitment to greenhouse gas reductions and experiential sustainability education. The support from NYSERDA’s REV Campus Challenge Program has and will continue to influence positive changes and efficiency implementations on campus and within their curriculum for years to come.

Ready to join the challenge? Get started today.

Learn how at nyserda.ny.gov/REV-Campus-Challenge.