

Complex Networks 2025

Sustainability report

The 14th International Conference on Complex Networks & Their Applications (COMPLEX NETWORKS 2025) was held from December 9 to 11, 2025, at Binghamton University in the United States, bringing together international researchers in the fields of complex network science, data analysis, and interconnected systems.

Beyond its scientific excellence, the 2025 edition committed to aligning the event's organization with a sustainable development approach aimed at reducing its environmental, economic, and social impact, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) for the third consecutive year.

1 - Venue

A genuine culture of sustainability

The choice of Binghamton University is largely due to its commitment to sustainable development.

Indeed, Binghamton University has clearly placed sustainable development at the heart of its institutional mission. It has implemented a [comprehensive sustainability strategy](#) covering energy, water, biodiversity, transportation, and waste management. It is also a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ([AASHE](#)) and holds a GOLD rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System ([STARS](#)), a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance, demonstrating the integration of sustainability issues into its operations and governance.

Its unofficial slogan "**Green is more than our school color**" illustrates that sustainability is not just a symbol, but a principle of action shared by the student body, administrative staff, and partners.

Sustainable Practices: Implementing a Sustainable Framework for the Event

The conference adopted a formal sustainability framework to:

- Reduce energy and water consumption.
- Decrease waste production and increase recycling.
- Prioritize responsible purchasing.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of travel.
- Raise awareness among participants about more sustainable practices.

Guidelines were communicated to organizers, logistics teams, and service providers to ensure the event minimizes its direct and indirect impacts.

2 - Accommodation

- **Hotel Selection:** Hotels with sustainable certifications were prioritized, offering comfortable accommodation while minimizing their environmental impact.
- **Transportation Considerations:** Proximity to the conference venue and accessibility via public transportation were key factors, with an average commute of thirty minutes by public transit.

3 - Catering

For the event's catering, Binghamton University Dining Services (BUDS), a locally managed subsidiary of Sodexo, the global food services and management company, has been chosen. This choice allowed to went beyond simple catering to become a driver of sustainable practices.

Hence, Sodexo helped embed responsible food practices, promote local sourcing, reduce waste, and demonstrate that "green is not just a color, but a lived value" in all aspects of the event. Indeed, Sodexo promotes numerous initiatives within its [Better Tomorrow 2025 plan](#) which establishes strong commitments to reduce environmental impact and enhance quality of life—both for the communities it serves and for its own employees.

Here are some concrete practices that Sodexo and Binghamton University implemented during the event:

- Reducing food waste through surplus food recovery programs in partnership with local associations or mutual aid networks ([Food Recovery Network](#)).
- Managing waste through intensive recycling efforts, composting, and limiting single-use packaging.
- Responsible sourcing, including purchasing local and seasonal products, promoting short supply chains and supporting the region's agricultural economies.
- Sustainable food offerings, including vegan, vegetarian, and plant-forward options, contributing to the reduction of food-related emissions.
- Reusable equipment for catering and service (durable tableware, reusable containers).

During 2025, Binghamton University Dining Services was recognized as a "Certified Better Tomorrow Sustainability Site" by Sodexo, highlighting the team's concrete commitment to projects involving waste reduction, food recovery, and solutions promoting ecological and social sustainability.

4 - Digital Information and Communication

- **Digital Information:** The conference Website pages provided access to essential information for planning trips and stay in Binghamton, as well as scientific concerns. A dedicated sustainability page provided participants with essential information, promoting a paperless approach.
- **Digital Communication:** Emails were sent before and at the beginning of the conference to provide important details such as the conference program, session locations and themes, supplemented by QR codes displayed at the registration desks and various points in Binghamton University Hall to provide easy access to this information. During the Opening ceremony, attendees were made aware of the sustainable development approach adopted by the conference and were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices (waste sorting, sustainable food choices, etc.).

5- Travel and Public transportation

Attendees were encouraged to choose sustainable transportation options and offered the possibility to offset carbon emissions related to travel. Locally, they were encouraged to utilize public transportation to reach the venue, as well as shared taxis and Uber.

6 - Water Management

Complex Networks once again provided participants with reusable glass water bottles. Water fountains were placed around the venue to facilitate easy refills.

7 - Waste Management

While the catering team and university staff managed waste professionally, obtaining quantitative data on waste was challenging. Though precise measurements were not available, we could observe an effort to minimize waste.

8 - Sustainable Goodies

The organic cotton tote bags, produced by local companies, align with the same eco-friendly goal, providing a sustainable choice while supporting local businesses.

9 - Inclusivity and Diversity

Complex Networks 2025 emphasized inclusivity by offering differentiated pricing, enabling students from economically disadvantaged countries to attend. The conference also ensured significant female representation across all committees and among attendees.

10 - In summary

The 14th edition of Complex Networks at Binghamton University showcased the integration of sustainable practices into the organization of a major scientific event. By choosing a university where sustainability is a strong institutional pillar, meaning was given to the conference's environmental and social commitments. The partnership with a catering provider already engaged in sustainable practices was a key element.

Finally, the conference played an educational role by raising awareness within the scientific community about the importance of integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of an international event, from logistical organization to food choices and resource management.