The 2017-18 fiscal year included planning, project design and construction, operations and sustainability. Key focus areas were: enhanced residential and academic spaces, strengthening ADA accessibility, and infrastructure renewal.

Planning
Planning has commenced for major circulation and pedestrian safety upgrades across the campus recommended in the campus framework plan, in coordination with major utility renewals and capital projects, planned for implementation over the next four years. Planning is also underway with campus stakeholders to continue enhancements to community spaces, academic spaces and universal access.

Major Capital Projects
Construction for the new Athletics Complex continues on schedule and is expected to be completed for fall 2020. Sitework, concrete installation, and steel erection are underway. The steel structure for the indoor competition center is complete and the structure for the ice arena will be completed in the fall. Both structures are anticipated to be enclosed by the end of 2018.

Schematic Design for the Arts and Innovation Center is in progress with William Rawn Associates as the lead designer, and Consigli Construction Co. providing pre-construction services. Site visits by Colby stakeholders visits to similar facilities are informing the interdisciplinary potential in the program and design. The site on the Mary Low parking lot is a gateway location for the arts and will transform this area of campus and strengthen the connection with the community and arts downtown. Planning for the relocated parking and circulation is being coordinated with the implementation of the campus framework plan.

The Alfond Stadium underwent a major renovation during summer 2018, with a new state-of-the-art infilled synthetic turf replacement, and permanent lines for both football and men’s lacrosse. The track surface was cleaned and restriped. New goal posts were installed along with padding on the lacrosse protective netting posts. The existing track scoreboard was replaced by a new, larger, videoboard which will be used by different sports. This project completes the renewal of all competition fields at the College for the best outdoor venues in the NESCAC.

The Academic Spaces Upgrades for summer of 2018 continued to enhance the academic programs in Chemistry and Biology. An office and computation lab in Keyes were renovated in support of a new Chemistry faculty member. The under-utilized Mudd 103 classroom was upgraded to increase class size and better support the Geology program.
The Schupf Lab now has new computers and furniture and a visualization wall will be installed during winter 2018.

Several student community spaces in the residence halls were renovated and refurbished over summer 2018. The Dana Lounge and Entry Renovation project included a major reconstruction of the Fairchild Room and former student lounge. The finishes, lighting, and furnishings were replaced in all areas to make both spaces more vibrant, inviting and functional. The Fairchild Room was returned to its original use as a student lounge. A mix of soft seating, tables and chairs, a new gas fireplace, and a large TV monitor make this space comfortable and flexible for students. The meeting room is now in the former student lounge, with flexible furniture, state-of-the-art audio-visual support and a renovated kitchenette.

Other Residence Hall Upgrades completed over the summer, included restoring eight former student rooms in seven residence halls back to common area lounge space and upgrading bathrooms and corridors in Heights. Three faculty apartments were also renovated. The renovations create more welcoming and functional community spaces for students, and support the Faculty-in-Residence program.
Energy and Infrastructure
In the first 11 months of full operation, the Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic Array has contributed just over two million kilowatt hours of green electricity to the campus grid, or 15 percent of Colby’s purchased power.

![View of the solar array off Washington Street. The facility began operation in September 2017.](image1)

A Critical Utilities project to replace campus steam and condensate distribution lines on Roberts Row was completed in summer 2018. These lines support a major section of Colby's central campus.

![View of the new steam piping being installed in Roberts Row.](image2)

Other major building renewal projects included restoration work on the Miller Library tower, improvements to building access control and sprinkler systems, and upgrades to the Central Heating Plant.

Other Department Highlights
Matthew Mulcahy joined Facilities Services in May as Colby’s new director of operations and maintenance. Matt brings over 20 years of engineering management experience with the US Navy and the Veterans Administration.

The maintenance management system was fully converted to a mobile format to allow greater efficiency in work order dispatches to crews. A pilot effort in 2017 recorded appreciable savings in time, effort and paper processing. Other improvements to the system included a new interface to manage more than 20,000 setup requests received each year. The payroll entry system was also upgraded to a web-based format to be consistent with the rest of campus, and save considerable processing time and paper. Both shifts have allowed employees to be trained in new computing skills in addition to approving operational efficiency.

The Central Heating Plant reached a significant milestone crossing 25 years of service. Equipment overhauls and maintenance are planned for safety and continuity of operations, and to extend the lifecycle of a critical infrastructure facility.

![CHP staff removing steam turbine for overhaul](image3)

Sustainable land management practices by the Grounds crew resulted in a second place ranking for Colby on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainable Campus Index for 2017. Maintenance and Operations staff continued to support and advance sustainability goals through initiatives such as installation of six new electric vehicle charging stations, LED lighting upgrades to East and west Quad and Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, and conversion from inefficient pneumatic to direct digital controls in the Mudd Science Building.