



# Environmental Stewardship Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-  
2017



## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN 2016-2019

Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg College is an intentional commitment to responsibly nurture all aspects of sustainability — environmental, economic, and social — on our campus, in our neighboring community, and among our institutional partners. It includes stewarding a culture of sustainability alongside of our most precious resources— air, land, water, built environment, people, food, and energy. In 2016, the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) implemented a new Environmental Action Plan, approved by the University Council, as an update to the original Green By 2019 Climate Action Plan. The plan includes three new goals:

**Curriculum and Scholarship:** *Work in concert with General Education to strategize implementation and measurement of the institutional learning outcome on sustainability and wellness. As Thoughtful Stewards, students will identify the broad foundations for personal as well as ecological sustainability and apply them in demonstrable ways.*

**Ownership and Culture:** *Institutionalize compost practices across campus through daily actions of every member of the Augsburg community to reduce landfill dependency and greenhouse gas emissions.*

**Practices and Operations:** *Eliminate the sale, reimbursement, and provision of bottled water on campus to reduce waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to supporting water as a human right and not a commodity, by using already available local tap water.*



In April 2017, the ESC presented its initiatives in each of those goal areas during a Staff Senate open forum, gathering feedback about composting, bottled/package water elimination, and the new sustainability student learning outcome. Together we can work as a cohesive group to focus on the challenges that different departments may face with the implementation of these initiatives. We look forward to many more insightful conversations!

## AUGSBURG RESIDENCE HALLS COMPOST COMPETITION FALL 2016

On Nov 7th - 18th, each of the halls competed against the other communities within their hall to have the floor with the most non-food compostables. The grand prize of a Pizza Luce party was awarded to the floors in each individual hall that had the highest weight of compost per week. In addition to making bulletin boards with visual representations of what non-food items could be composted, RAs were also encouraged to reach out to their residents in creative ways to boost participation. Flyers taped to doors, face to face connections, and emails with residents helped bring the total weight of composted non-food items to 128.5lbs!

Residence Life has an annual Safety and Sustainability project that they work towards every year. As the ESC is just starting to work towards their new goals and initiatives in the Environmental Action Plan, the students and ResLife staff are already supporting them by encouraging composting. Originally, no specific goal weight was set, because it was hard to know what was attainable. The foremost goal was to first educate residents about what non-food items could and should be composted, as all items from, napkins to coffee cups used at our on-campus Einstein's Bros Bagels are compostable.

Given the contents of the compost bags, the 128.5lbs of plates, cups, to-go containers, and napkins from this two week competition is very promising as we look towards reducing waste on campus. If just the residence halls could compost 64.25 lbs of non-food items per week for the entire 16-week academic semester - we would be preventing 1,028 lbs of waste from going into the landfill! If this program were extended for the full academic year-we would be preventing 1.028 tons of waste from going to the landfills!!!



## WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORTS

This year Augsburg has begun to monitor our waste and waste diversion rates. These numbers are big recorded by Waste Management quarterly and are reported by building and in total. Diverted trash is paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, cardboard, and organics collected from the recycling and organics bins. All non-diverted waste is considered "Waste to Energy" values, since all trash is taken to an incinerator that generates energy as trash is burned. On average, the split between Diverted Waste and Waste to Energy was about 50:50. As we work towards universal composting across campus and continue to work on recycling education, we look forward to tipping that balance towards more waste being diverted each year!



## WHAT'S BUZZIN'!



Last year, Augsburg became an Urban Apiary Partner of the Beez Kneez, LLC. Two hives were placed on the roof of Memorial Hall. After checking up on the two hives, Beez Kneez discovered that our bees did not produce any extra honey this year to be collected. One hive is alive, but unfortunately

the other did not make it. The challenges that our hives faced are common. Overwintering bees can be difficult for any number of reasons along with maintaining the overall health and production of the hives, but not to worry! The hive that did not make it will be replaced by a new one this spring, so we will continue with two thriving hives on the top of Memorial Hall. The Pollinator Committee, a collective of Environmental Action Committee and Campus Kitchen students, is striving to incorporate a more bee friendly landscape at Augsburg with the help of Facilities. Together they are increasing pollinator education and building pollinator patches by increasing native plants into Augsburg's landscaping.





## CAMPUS KITCHEN CONTINUING TO MAKE CHANGE ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Over 100 Campus Kitchen interns and volunteers recovered over 20,500 lbs of food this last school year, keeping that food from a landfill or compost pile and helping strengthen bodies and minds with meals. Campus Kitchen recovered food from A'viands at Augsburg College, St. Catherine's University Dining, Seward Co-op, Mill City Farmer's Market, and Twin Cities Food Justice. They share meals with neighbors in the Seward, Cedar-Riverside, and Phillips neighborhoods of Minneapolis, as they have been since 2005.



Campus Kitchen focuses on creating a sustainable and healthy food system through free meals, a community garden, small farmers market, and educational opportunities. Though much of their programming focuses on serving meals and building community using the recovered food, they also educate and advocate. With support from University of Minnesota MSW student, Elana Dahlberg, the summer gardening, and cooking lessons with the Brian Coyle Center youth in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood had weekly Junior Top Chef competitions, producing all kinds of salsas, wraps, and even homemade ice cream. Campus Kitchen student leaders also spread awareness of food insecurity throughout the Augsburg campus through tabling during the school year.



One initiative that continued to bloom this year was Campus Cupboard in collaboration with Campus Kitchen. Campus Cupboard is a food shelf with non-perishable food items for Augsburg students to utilize. In the month of January alone, Campus Cupboard received 425 lbs of food thanks to a food drive headed by the Athletics Department.

Recognizing that wellness and environmental sustainability are connected, the Campus Cupboard allows students to sustain themselves through a busy and energy intensive school year.

Campus Kitchen had one hurdle to jump when disaster struck and there was a fire in the Augsburg kitchen. The Campus Kitchen team moved swiftly, however, with gracious support from Trinity Lutheran Congregation and Brian Coyle Center, and building new relationships with St. Catherine's University and Twin Cities Food Justice.

## NODAPL EDUCATION EVENT AND RESOLUTION

In fall 2016, the Augsburg Indigenous Student Association collected supplies and sold t-shirts to raise money for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock working to keep the Dakota Access Pipeline from being constructed. In December, students from Sophia Jacobson's "American Indian Spirituality and Philosophical Thought" course joined with AISA, EAC, and other students, faculty, and staff to host an educational evening that included a Water Ceremony from local leader, Sharon Day. Students on this organizing team also drafted a Student Government Resolution that included for the following:



*Augsburg Day Student Government calls upon Augsburg College's administration to immediately and publicly support the Standing Rock Nation and Water Protectors at Standing Rock in current and future efforts in their peaceful resistance to the North Dakota Access Pipeline. Augsburg is called to oppose inequity and work towards holistic justice for people and the planet.*

*Additionally, we ask administration to begin exploring how Augsburg's finances, including our Wells Fargo account, which makes us complicit in that it counteracts with our climate change commitments.*



President Pribbenow responded in the ECHO with commendations to the student leaders, support for the strong response that our ELCA denomination had already publically taken, and a promise to explore Augsburg's relationship with Wells Fargo. Students continued to meet through the spring semester to keep up awareness of the pipeline issue, build relationships across campus, and consider our financial relationships.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE DRIVES THE CHANGE

The students on the Environmental Action Committee (Augsburg Day Student Government) are a diverse group of students, ranging across the campus in interests, background, and course of study. What they all share in common is an intense dedication to the environment, driven to bring about a cultural change for the campus. These students have been working tirelessly to collaborate with Augsburg's campus community to increase and implement compost practices to reduce campus waste; organizing and providing the community bike share programs; designing a transportation and Environmental Sustainability hallway - a resource for all to access public transit and community connections; and organizing Earth Month events and activities. Not only are they spending student Green Fees on projects that are student-driven and will contribute to long-term sustainability goals, they even got their hands dirty with a bi-weekly campus clean-up this spring!





## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE SPONSORS EARTH MONTH 2017

In April 2017, EAC and its partners did the impossible by organizing an entire month of sustainability events at the very end of the semester! With themed weeks leading up to Earth Day, students organized a variety of ways for the whole campus to learn and participate in events.

**COMPOST WEEK!**  
(SPONSORED BY ESC  
EDUCATION INTERNS)  
**APRIL 3-7, 2017**



**Monday:** Tabling in Christensen Center - Compost Coffee and Cookies Hour. (right)

**Tuesday:** In the quad we had Blair, our designated microbe, sit in the compost bin and had people toss 'compost' at her. First participants had to answer our compost trivia questions to toss the compost at our microbe. We had a good turnout of participants who got to learn facts about composting and experience how fun and easy it is to compost! (Page 8-top right)





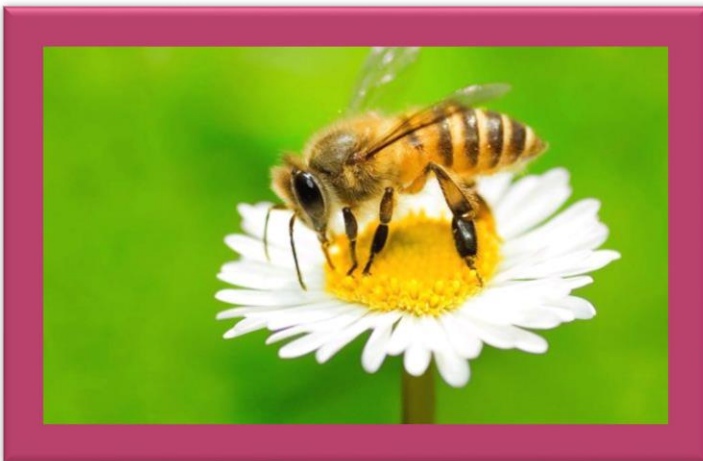
**Wednesday:** We took a field trip to tour the Mdewakanton Sioux Community Organics Recycling Facility. Our time there was very educational and worthwhile, and it was a great experience to see where the breaking down process happens and see the result. Everyone who attended seemed to have really enjoyed the tour of the facility, plus the pizza at the end.

**Thursday:** Relays in the quad. Participants had 45 seconds to sort as many materials as they could and put the correct materials in correct bin. Compostable waste: 3 points, recycling: 2 points, and trash: 1 point. We had a good turnout of participants. We ended up taking the top 3 faculty members and top 3 students who scored the highest to receive prizes of Amazon gift cards.

**Friday:** The last day for Compost Week was dedicated to encouraging and ask people to sign a compost contract. Our hope was that after a week full of educational events revolved around composting, people would now be more aware and willing to hold themselves accountable to try and compost as much as they can on the Augsburg campus.



**BEE WEEK!**  
**(SPONSORED BY CAMPUS KITCHEN AND EAC)**  
**April 10-14, 2017**



Bee week, an educational event to raise bee awareness this Earth Month, was comprised of many fun and awesome activities! Along with educating the campus community about the importance of

our bees, students, faculty and staff participated in making bee-bombs (seed balls that can be thrown into areas around the Twin Cities that are lacking in pollinator friendly flowers), planting native plants to take home and help give food to pollinator friends, working with the Augsburg Grounds Crew to plant pollinator patches on the south side of Urness Hall, and speakers from Friends of the Earth!





**SYNERGY WEEK**  
**(SPONSORED BY EAC)**  
**APRIL 17-21, 2017**



For Synergy Week the EAC focused on sustainable transportation. To encourage students to walk, use public transit, and bike they went on three different outings that brought students into the city. To explore the city they biked to the Global Market, took the light rail to the Central Library and ended the week with a bus trip to Izzy's Ice Cream.

At the Earth Day Synergy Event, Julia Nerbonne of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Jessica Hellmann, Director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, and Michael Lansing, Professor of History at Augsburg College, discussed intersections of environmental justice and their own disciplines. The event was a smaller than hoped for, but it encouraged insightful discussion between students, faculty, staff, and the wider community. To practice sustainability, the EAC partnered with Campus Kitchen and A'Viands to have a meal completely comprised of recovered food from Augsburg College, St. Catherine's University, and Breadsmith Bakery. The Augsburg Orchestra performed its spring concert at the end of the night and featured Earth Day readings between pieces.



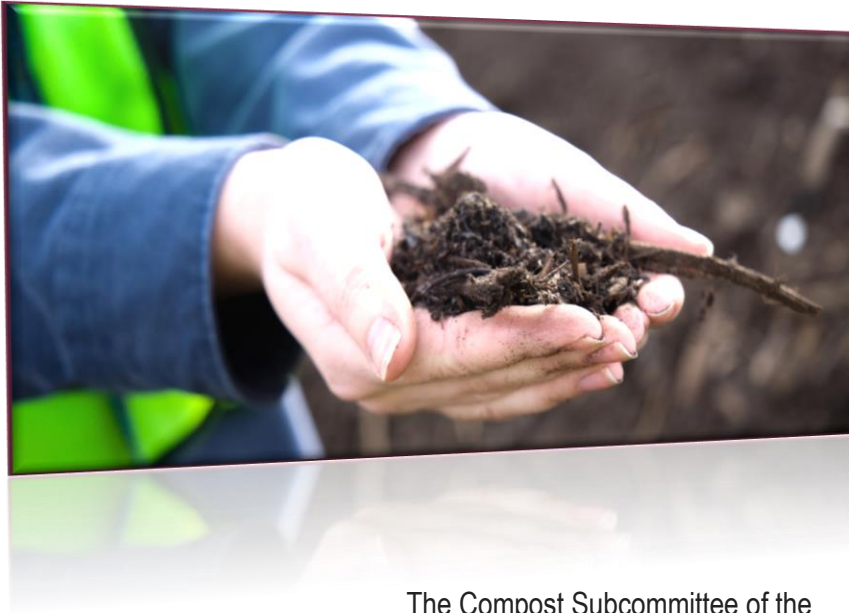
## Augsburg Bike-Share Program

The Bike Share Program was originally started by students but has fallen by the wayside recently as the bikes have missed their regular tune-ups. Facing this reality, and inspired by time spent on the River Semester in Fall 2015, EAC students proposed a reinvestment in the Bike Share with up to 20 bikes available for a free check-out. Eventually, the vision is to have an outdoor classroom to go pull behind the bikes to facilitate all kinds of outdoor learning with students, faculty, and staff. Once new bikes are purchased, they can be checked out with a helmet, lock, and lights. This bike share program builds on Augsburg's recent investment into bike storage racks in all Augsburg campus dormitories. By providing this green option, the hope is to reduce the consumption of nonrenewable resources from driving and to encourage student cycling. Augsburg students and the surrounding community are striving to be greener and safer, meanwhile reducing our carbon footprint. Along with increasing green miles, this initiative will also provide students and fellow community members to experience Minneapolis easily and affordably, moving our campus one step closer towards becoming a 21st Century Urban Campus.

Look for new bikes on campus soon!



## ORGANIC RECEPTACLES IN RESIDENTIAL SPACES AT AUGSBURG COLLEGE



The Compost Subcommittee of the Environmental Action Committee recognizes that Augsburg is continuously moving in the direction of waste conservation by providing composting containers throughout campus. However, many students are still not composting within their own on campus apartments or dorms. To help bridge the gaps for students, the EAC, in partnership with Residence Life and Facilities, will be providing composting containers to make composting as convenient as possible. With containers already provided, students will no longer have a reason to throw compostable items in the trash. The goal is to have three waste bins in each room; trash, recycling, and compost by Fall of 2017. A HUGE thank you for all of the hard work that EAC, Residence Life, and Facilities has done in order to make this happen!

## TRANSPORTATION/SUSTAINABILITY HALLWAY – COMING SOON - FALL 2017

The old “transportation hallway” in Christensen has been in transition for a few years as access to transit information has changed. This year, the ESC and EAC teamed up to reimagine this space once again and are working to make it a sustainable use of space, not only in terms of the resources put into it but also for long-term meaningful use of space. The current focus will reboot the education on public transportation as well as highlight sustainability initiatives and resources for the campus to participate and take ownership of our goals. This hallway will be a hub for both the EAC and the ESC to post upcoming events and initiatives. Look for a new and improved transit/sustainability hallway, coming soon!



## TRANSIT TASK FORCE

The Transit Task Force (TTF) has worked to address the lack of parking on the Augsburg campus by changing the campus culture from a drive-alone culture to a more sustainable multimodal transit perspective. This was done through a multi-tiered approach that tapped the enterprise of faculty, students, staff, and community partners. The TTF held meetings to develop, plan, and implement strategies that included: community presentations, transit fairs, named “Transit Coaches”, revamping the parking permit price structure, increasing subsidies for transit passes, creating incentives to support multimodal transportation, and offering numerous experiential learning opportunities. As a result, the number of Metropass users at Augsburg has increased by 76% and Augsburg has continued to see increased interest in public transportation to and from campus. Carpooling has increased, a robust transit website has been added, and the overall campus community leads with a more sustainable mode of transportation when thinking about how to get to and from Augsburg. This plan led to Augsburg being honored at the 2017 Commuter Choice Awards.





## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

### ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

OCTOBER 9-12, 2016

In October, Dr. Emily Schilling along with three Augsburg students, Elise Linna, Karl Hahn, and Nora Barr, attended the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference in Baltimore, MD. This conference provided an opportunity for Dr. Schilling and Elise Linna to present a poster on their collaborative work with other Hennepin County Colleges on a campus sustainability behavior change initiative and creation of a regional networking group for students and faculty working on campus sustainability. Dr. Schilling participated in a workshop focused on Diversity and Equity in Sustainability, and students participated in conference sessions and workshops to provide the Augsburg participants a deeper understanding of work being done across the nation to increase sustainability of campus operations and build sustainability-focused curriculum and co-curriculum. This experience was particularly inspiring for the students as they embarked on a productive year on

Augsburg's  
Environmental  
Action  
Committee.



*Faculty/student  
presenters: Karl  
Hahn  
(Environmental  
Action  
Committee  
President), Elise  
Linna (Physics*

*major/Environmental Studies minor), Dr. Emily Schilling (Biology & Environmental  
Studies Assistant Professor), Nora Barr (AmeriCorps Vista).*

*Poster presentation on the Environmental Student Action Leaders Network, a collaboration between students, staff and faculty at Hennepin County colleges and universities. Pictured: Mary Hanneman Oldham (University of Minnesota - Institute on the Environment), Elise Linna (Physics major/Environmental Studies minor), Dr. Emily Schilling (Biology & Environmental Studies Assistant Professor)*



## FACULTY TRAINING FROM AASHE

Faculty members Christina Erickson and Kristen Chamberlain attended the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) trainer event that equipped them to teach faculty how to incorporate sustainability in classes and across all programs and majors. In partnership with the Center for Teaching and Learning, the first workshop at Augsburg was held in May of 2017 with more workshops and trainings to occur in the future. This workshop, "Environmental Sustainability and Wellness in Your Curriculum: Activities for the Student Learning Outcomes" had 17 faculty members from across the academic disciplines. The workshop directly supports Augsburg's new institutional learning outcome on sustainability, working towards every major including learning related to sustainability and/or wellness.

## EVALUATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The Environmental Studies program has begun the self-review process, led by Program Director, Joe Underhill, to take place during the 2018-2019 school year. The process will involve Environmental Studies faculty and outside reviewers who will evaluate the structure, curriculum, and processes that impact student learning and experiences within the major and minor. The Environmental Studies program looks forward to the year of full review, continued learning, and improvement.

## FRESHWATER ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECTS IN DR. EMILY SCHILLING'S LAB (2016/17)

Dr. Emily Schilling's research focuses on freshwater ecology and conservation, with a focus on the unique macroinvertebrate communities in naturally fish-free lakes. This year several students participated in research projects focusing on dragonfly ecology and conservation in kettle ponds in the St. Croix River Valley and Crow Hassen Park Reserve. Dr. Schilling and students are also conducting a paleolimnological (lake history) study using invertebrate subfossil remains in lake sediment to indicate historic fish absence, part of a larger effort to understand changes in water quality in shallow lakes in Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region. Students will be continuing work in both of these research areas through the summer, both collecting data on dragonflies in the field and examining sediment in the lab.



*A study of the phenology and population structure of Canada Darner dragonflies in Minnesota: Holly Kundel, Maia Crews-*



*Erjavec, Aaron Wilson (above)*

*Habitat preferences and distribution of Spatterdock Darner, a rare darner dragonfly in MN: Holly Kundel, Meghan Springborn, Colin Skerrett, Elise Linna (above and right)*

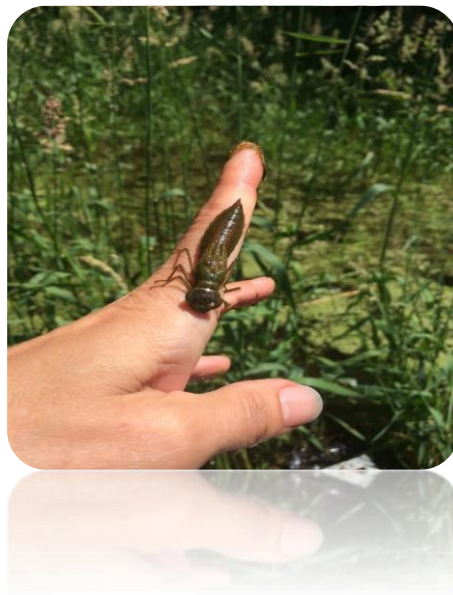




*Lake histories told in the sediment: Colin Skerrett, Holly Kundel (left)*



*Climate change effects on Common Green Darner dragonfly phenology: Kate Johnston*



## 2017 SUSTAINABILITY ABROAD



Environmental and community sustainability has been central to the mission of the Center for Global Education and Experience (CGEE) since the beginning, and students not only explore issues through coursework and but live out the commitment through daily life on campus and in the community. This spring break, eleven Augsburg students experienced that reality in during the inaugural “Food, Justice, and Sustainability in Mexico” course, earning credit for SWK 210 or POL 160.

At the CGEE Cuernavaca campus, students talked with staff and community leaders

about the complexities of local and global food systems, illustrated most poignantly for students during a trip to Amatlan, a Nahuatl indigenous village. Walking through a *milpa* (corn, bean, squash field) and hearing stories of how culture, religion, socio-political factors, and economics influence agriculture gave students a lot to reflect on before they joined other CGEE semester students from Augsburg and Oberlin College and headed to Vía Orgánica, an agroecological farm in San Miguel de Allende. At the farm, head farmer Antonio highlighted growing techniques that are based on ecological principles, utilizing both local knowledge and research to grow organic food, educate others, and provide jobs that pay a living wage. Despite some illnesses and unexpected events, the students were incredibly reflective and engaged, using the experience to connect what they were learning to what they had learned on campus before leaving, what they know from other classes and their own experiences, and what they are hearing from dominant narratives about food, sustainability, NAFTA, and even immigration. Each student was more motivated to practice sustainability in their own lives upon returning, though none of them will be able to keep using the dry composting toilets like at the CGEE Cuernavaca campus (when can we get these in Minneapolis?!). They are also eager to continue exploring how to work for change in complex systems of inequity. As one student reflected:

*"The impact about hearing different ways of farming in Mexico and different struggles that farmers face in Mexico has shaped into more motivation for me to do work in terms of food justice and food sovereignty."*



## DORIS DUKE CONSERVATION SCHOLARS

Augsburg junior Dwayne Williams was selected to be a part of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at University of California - Santa Cruz that exposes early-career college students to the field of environmental conservation through field research, leadership, and professional training. Each year, 20 students are selected from around the U.S. and its territories to participate in our two-year conservation leadership program. The students represent a diverse spectrum of cultures and backgrounds, which helps to cultivate an inclusive and rewarding experience. Dwayne comments:



*"To me, being a DDCCS means that I will be part of providing a more inclusive field of conservation to everyone, and that I am partly responsible for inspiring and exposing future conservationist that may not have been otherwise exposed to the environment, and those who may not have developed an appreciation for nature. Being a part of a program like this has provided new insights to what I would like to accomplish in my career, and has exposed me to people who are like-minded in this field. Through this program, I have learned different field methods, writing research papers, and how to interpret data. I was also exposed to a variety of positions in conservation, and exposed to genuine people who want to make a difference in this world."*



This summer, Dwayne will be participating in a project in Lawrence, Kansas called the Prairie Monolith Project. This lab seeks to find ways to utilize plant-soil interactions to drive restoration efforts in tallgrass prairie systems. His interests in conservation are invasive ecology, land restoration, and hydrology. Eventually he would like to be in a field positions in which outdoor education intersects with land restoration, and invasive ecology. He is interested in restoring native plants and species, as well as exposing and inspiring the next generation of conservationist to join the field of conservation. His ultimate goal comes from Bernie Tershy, a scientist who works in the realm of island conservation. "Save the world, and have fun doing it".

## 2016-2017 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

**Thanks to everyone who is working to move sustainability forward at Augsburg! Special thanks to our story contributors:**

Emma Blom, undergraduate student and Residence Life student coordinator

Christina Erikson, Associate Professor, Social Work and Environmental Studies, Environmental Stewardship Committee chair

Ann Garvey, Augsburg Transit Task Force, Vice President of Student Affairs

Allyson Green, Chief Sustainability Officer of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, Campus Kitchen Director

Karl Hahn, undergraduate student and Environmental Action Committee Chair

Nicole Peterlin, Augsburg Transit Task Force, Human Resource Specialist

Andrea Porter, graduate student and Environmental Stewardship Fellow

Emily Schilling, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Biology

Blair Stewig, undergraduate student and Environmental Stewardship Committee Compost Intern

Dwayne Williams, undergraduate student and Doris Duke Conservation Scholar

## GET INVOLVED!

Didn't see your sustainability efforts included in this year's report? Contact us to be a contributor next year! We tried to reach out across campus to collect stories, but we know there is more happening than is documented here. Share your stories with us and get involved in sustainability efforts here:

<http://www.augsburg.edu/green/>

<https://www.facebook.com/augsburg.environmental.stewardship/>

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