

Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg

Annual Report



Solar is Coming to Augsburg!

In cooperation with GreenMark, a solar company based in Minneapolis, Augsburg will be adding its first solar array! The array will be added to the rooftop of the building that accommodates the Ice Rink. 40% of the energy produced by the solar array will be available for Augsburg to use, with the additional 60% being provided for community use. This large solar array will provide Augsburg with approximately 250,000 kilowatt/hours of energy. The first step in this process will be \$250,000 in updates to the ice rink roof, which will enable the roof to last the next 25 years. The repairs are scheduled to happen in May of 2016.

New Structure, New Projects, and a Bright Future for Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg

The 2015-2016 Academic year brought about many changes to the face of Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg College. The Environmental Stewardship Committee is now officially recognized as a sub-committee of the newly formed University Council, which officially convened in January of 2016. This official standing provides Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg, increased opportunities to bring environmental stewardship to the forefront of life at Augsburg. This report provides highlights of the projects and initiatives that the Environmental Stewardship Committee has been involved in facilitating over the past year.

Upcoming Events

Film Screening

April 13, 2016

Film "This Changes Everything" 6:00 p.m. in the Sateren Auditorium.

Aenean id tellus:

[Date]

Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices.

Ut ante:

[Date]

Integer ornare mollis sapien. Nullam imperdiet lectus nec mi.



Environmental Stewardship Departmental Outreach

Engaging Augsburg College Departments in the Commitment to Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg College

In the Spring 2016 Semester, Amber Lewis, the Environmental Stewardship Committee Fellow, and Graduate Student in the Master of Arts in Education program, has spread the message of Environmental Stewardship to departments on the campus of Augsburg College. The central characteristic of these departmental presentations has been in

encouraging departments to self-analyze the environmental effects of their departmental practices. Departments are then challenged to commit to make changes to their behaviors, and report their progress via email and through Twitter posts. Issues addressed include: transportation, waste reduction, recycling, composting, and energy use. Departments that show progress have the opportunity to earn a sustainable office party gift basket.

Environmental Student Leaders Action Network (ESLAN)

The University of Minnesota, Augsburg College, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and the North Hennepin Community College, recently joined forces to establish a pilot project known as the Environmental Student Leaders Action Network (ESLAN). The project is a behavior change project funded by a Hennepin County Green Partners grant. ESLAN students were tasked with designing and implementing a project, which would engage their campus and affect meaningful environmental behavior change. The Augsburg College team consists of four students (Elise Linna, Hanan Farah, Jennifer Kochaver, and Oscar Martinez), one graduate student (Amber Lewis), and two faculty (Emily Schilling and Christina Erickson). Augsburg's ESLAN team has focused on recycling difficult to recycle, personal care products inside bins found in each residence bathroom floor of Urness Hall and on the Re-Use table in the Auggies Nest. Products collected will be sent to Terracycle, a company that will then take those products and find ways to recycle or upcycle them.

Contributions by Oscar Martinez





Augsburg College Awarded \$50,000 Hennepin County Recycling Grant

Over the Fall 2016/Spring 2016 semesters, Bryan Massich and Michelle Nies from the Facilities Department, along with Jay Peterson from Development, and Christina Erickson and Amber Lewis from the Environmental Stewardship Committee(ESC), have collaborated in writing and submitting a grant application to receive a \$50,000 grant from Hennepin County. The grant will enable Augsburg College to improve their on campus recycling and composting programs, including the addition of new receptacles indoors and to the grounds. A sub-committee of student government, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC), has also been in discussion with the above-mentioned entities. The EAC has been working with the ESC and facilities in the discussion to use some of the green fee to provide a 25% match necessary to receive the \$50,000 recycling grant. This would be

approximately \$12,500. Our last communication from Hennepin County indicated that we are being approved for the grant, and they are sending over some final paperwork to fill out.



LED Lights

A brighter future for Augsburg College, as LED lights are added across campus

Quick Facts

Average savings:

Number of Lights:

Locations:

Future Plans:

Over the last year Augsburg has added LED lights to several locations across campus. This has reduced the energy used by the campus, and well as improving campus safety. Part of the funding for these projects have come from the student Green Fee, and further additions are being planned.

Solar Umbrellas

Augsburg College has recently seen the addition of solar umbrellas outside of the Christensen Center, in the Quad area. Students are able to use the energy obtained from these umbrellas to charge cell phones, tablets, and computers. The umbrellas were funded by a gift from Pepsi Beverages Company.

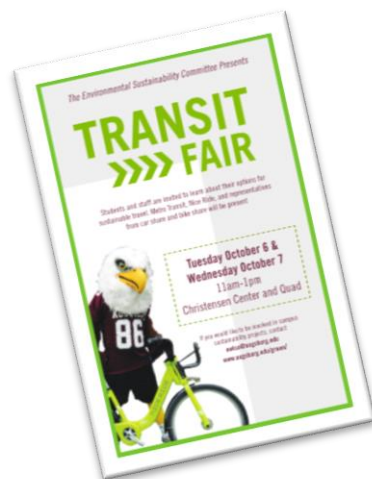


Metro Transit Go-To Cards a Success

Beginning in the Fall of 2015, incoming freshmen received a go-to card from Metro Transit. Metro transit gave passes to freshmen, which included an incentive if students added additional funds; 30% of students added more money

2015 Annual Transit Fair

In October of 2015, Augsburg College hosted another successful Transit Fair on their Minneapolis Campus. The fair included representatives from Metro Transit, Nice Ride, Augsburg's free bike rentals, and Car-2-Go. Students who stopped by the fair were able to win some great prizes and gain valuable information on how to utilize public transit.



The Beez Kneez Coming to Campus

The idea of having bee hives on campus has been in the works over several semesters, and has finally been approved. There will be 2 hives on top of Memorial Hall. Izzy Smith and Taylor Renquist, will be the student workers, helping to take care of the hives.

Student Government Convenes New Student Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

The Spring 2016 semester, marked the first time that Student Government convened a committee, dedicated to determining how the student green fees should be used. The green fee is a yearly fee of a few dollars that is charged to every student's account, and put into a depository to be used for improving environmental stewardship on campus. Up to this point, the fees have been used sparingly and usually at the request of groups other than the students, leading to a large sum, almost \$70,000 in unused green fees, this semester. The Environmental Action Committee, chaired by student, Nick StewartBloch, was formed this semester to gain student input in how this fund should be utilized. In a short amount of time this group has moved forward on some big issues including: planning for bike storage on campus, adding more LED lights, allocating matching funds for the Hennepin County Recycling grant, additional garden space for students, and the creation of a permanent student position with stipend to facilitate the continued work of this committee.

Residence Life Collects and Recycles 5000+ Plastic Bags

Every semester, the Department of Residence Life works to engage their residents with environmental stewardship on the campus of Augsburg. The Fall 2015 initiative created by Residence Life, was for the collection and recycling of plastic bags. The drive was extremely successful, resulting in the collection of over 5,000 plastic bags that were taken to the Recycling Association of Minnesota to be recycled properly. Every residence hall participated. The campaign involved a great deal of education for residents about the problems of overproduction and overuse of plastic bags. Communities that contributed the most plastic bags were given reusable Auggie branded bags, one for each resident.

Winning communities in each hall:

Oren Gateway 3rd floor: 338

Anderson Hall Floorhouses: 656

Mortensen 4th floor: 272

Urness first floor: 328

This project was carried out with the support of Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg College and the Batalden Faculty Scholars Program in Applied Ethics.

Contributions by Ted Nielson



How Do YOU Travel?

This campaign was part of Residence Life's Spring Safety and Sustainability project. This event was open to all students. Students could post to The Department of Residence Life's Facebook or Instagram accounts, photos of themselves using public transportation, biking, or other alternative forms of transportation that are eco-friendly.

They were then entered into a raffle to win go-to cards that give them free rides on the light rail or city buses.

Residence Life had over 40 submissions to How Do you Travel, with 20 Go-To cards handed out to winners. The event concluded on April 23, 2016.

This project was carried out with the support of Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg College and the Batalden Faculty Scholars Program in Applied Ethics.

Contributions by Ted Nielson

How do *you* travel?



Moving Forward to Green By 2019

Augsburg is committed to creating a more sustainable future for our college and our community. Since the signing, by President Pribbenow, of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, in 2009, Augsburg has been striving towards reducing their carbon footprint. Many of the topics highlighted in this report demonstrate that commitment. The link below gives access to the most recently reported carbon reduction data from the college.

http://rs.acupcc.org/search/?institution_name=Augsburg+College&commitment_type=Carbon&carnegie_class=MA&state_or_province=MN

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Augsburg College is a longtime member of AASHE. In 2015, the AASHE Annual Conference was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis Minnesota. Several members of the Augsburg community were able to attend this important conference including: five undergraduate students, one graduate student, one staff member, and two faculty members. The attendees were able to take the knowledge and resources gained at this conference, to enhance environmental stewardship at Augsburg and beyond.

Stewardship with the Center for Global Education and Experience

One of the goals of the Center for Global Education and Experience is to work toward a more just and sustainable world. Since its founding in 1982, CGEE has strived to follow socially responsible and sustainable practices at each of our Global Campuses in Mexico, Central America and Southern Africa, and staff regularly audit practices to continuously improve. Some of CGEE's green initiatives include: recycling, composting, and asking participants to use reusable water bottles, installing ecological dry toilets at our Mexico campus, investing in water purification systems to replace jugs of drinking water at both Mexico and Central America campuses, carbon "on-setting" at our Southern Africa campus, and sustainable, local, and fair trade purchasing as much as possible on all campuses.

CGEE values reciprocity in our communities, so faculty/staff in country are active members of the community and work to develop study abroad programming that reflects the interests and issues relevant to the community. An honorarium is paid to guest speakers and field trip hosts, and fair compensation is given to host families. Programming encourages students to develop ongoing relationships with host families.

Finally, issues of social responsibility are at the heart of all of CGEE's programming. Coursework encourages students to reflect on their impact on the environment and world, and guest speakers embody voices that are often underrepresented in the community. In Mexico and Central America, CGEE partners with socially responsible language schools. Also in Central America, we have partnered with rural communities working on sustainable agriculture; these communities often host our travel seminars.

Since students from around the country engage with our practices and programming each semester, at each campus, the impact of Augsburg's environmental example extends around the US as well as around the world.

Submitted by Andrea Dvorak

Campus Kitchens: Exemplar of Environmental Stewardship

With repurposed, recovered, and reheated food, 285 volunteers served 11,442 meals to youth, adults, and seniors in the Cedar-Riverside, Phillips, and Seward neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Campus Kitchens provides a sustainable alternative to food waste on a daily basis.

In conjunction with Campus Kitchens, the community garden on campus showed growth this year with:

- 4 new 10'x10' garden plots
- 10 new East African gardeners with the Health Commons Project
- A mentorship program pairing 8 new gardeners with seasoned experts
- Collaborative events and resource sharing with Cedar-Riverside gardens
- An incredible amount of beautiful, delicious, organic produce!

Contributions by Allyson Green

