



Environmental Stewardship Committee

2017-2018 Annual Report

AUGSBURG
UNIVERSITY



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*The University Council, formed in 2016 after a multi-year exploration of shared governance practices, leads Augsburg's internal deliberation of university-wide decisions, taking up—as advisory to the President—institutional considerations beyond the scope of faculty governance or any particular administrative unit. Started in 1999, the **Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)** has dedicated itself to stewarding the environment at Augsburg University. In 2016, the ESC was established as an official sub-committee of the [University Council](#). This change in structure has brought about new roles and responsibilities for the committee. Together, students, staff and faculty are members of the ESC and work to establish annual campus wide environmental stewardship goals and initiatives, prioritize projects, and delegate management by administrative units; develop and recommend campus wide policies toward environmental stewardship; collaborate with Student Government on use of Green Funds for campus projects; determine data collection needs, assign appropriate units for collection and management; and work to expand visibility and align programs and language to reflect the efforts of Environmental Stewardship at Augsburg University. Each of our responsibilities grow as we work towards realizing the potential to be good stewards of our place, however, we are pleased and grateful for the commitment we have found amongst the faculty, staff, and students on campus. We would not be able to celebrate this year's accomplishments without their continued support. Thank you!*

Our **2016-2019 Environmental Action Plan** (updated goals within Green By 2019) focuses on the following. Keep reading for a few updates on progress towards these and other goals!

1) GUIDE CAMPUS PRACTICES AND OPERATIONS TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Initiative: 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.

2) SUPPORT CURRICULUM AND SCHOLARSHIP THAT INTEGRATES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

Initiative: Work in concert with General Education to strategize implementation and measurement of the institutional learning outcome on sustainability and wellness.

3) CULTIVATE PERSONAL OWNERSHIP AND A COMMUNITY CULTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

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

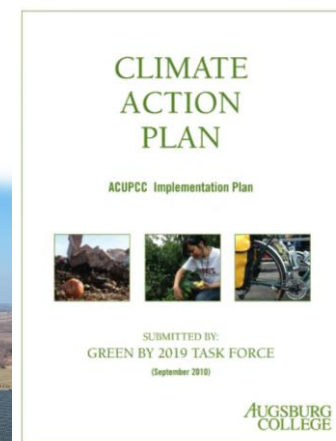


GREEN BY 2019 – PROGRESS WITH GREENMARK SOLAR!

Our 2010 Climate Action Plan, created in response to President Paul Pribbenow's signing of the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitment, called for Augsburg to work towards carbon neutrality by 2019. This forward-thinking goal is still out of reach but we took another step forward in 2018 by signing an agreement with GreenMark Solar to source **100% of our electricity** from new solar farms in Minnesota!

Plans for our own solar panels on campus are on hold for now, but we're excited to be able to support the growth of renewable energy across the state. Meanwhile, we continue to work towards a lower electricity use through energy conservation efforts, such as LED light fixtures.

The urgency of climate change calls us to take action on multiple levels – individual energy conservation, moving our campus away from a dependency on fossil fuels, and acting on a systemic level to change policies and practices. As informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders, Auggies are equipped to act on all these levels. *Where do you feel called to act?*



AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY'S FAIR TRADE INITIATIVE

Christy Mattingly

Christy Mattingly sought to bring Fair Trade coffee to campus after being influenced by a study abroad trip to Nicaragua and attending the Nobel Peace Prize Forum High Level Dialogues Worker-Owned Cooperative in Post Conflict Societies. An open forum on Fair Trade was conducted in conjunction with Associate Professor of Political Science, Sarah Combellick-Bidney, who invited her class to be curious. Students discussed Fair Trade vs. Free Trade, environmental sustainability, and economic stability while exploring how to engage in changing systems. Fair Trade USA offers campuses a "Fair Trade Certification" if the main food venues provide at least two fair trade products, so four undergraduate students, two Augsburg staff, and the A'viands Manager organized a Fair Trade Committee for the 2017-18 academic year to pursue this certification. On April 2, faculty members Marc McIntosh, George Dierberger, Ibrahim Kieta, and Mark Lester participated in a Fair Trade panel discussion organized by the committee.



Although Fair Trade Certification wasn't achieved this year, an [Augsburg University Campaign Site](#) now tracks Fair Trade products sold at Augsburg as well as courses where Fair Trade is integrated into the curriculum. Raising awareness of the Fair Trade movement led to a research project in Macroeconomics. Previously, Fair Trade had been taught in Religion, Political Science, and once in a graphic arts course to develop a campaign for Fair Trade chocolate in a Communications course. A major obstacle to certification is finding Fair Trade products offered by current suppliers for our cafeteria, The Commons. Through the partnership with our food service vendor, Fair Trade coffee now exists on campus at Nabu (Peace Coffee, a company founded by an Augsburg Alum) and the new Hagfors Coffee Shop (City Kids Java). There was Fair Trade coffee at Einsteins' Bagels, however it was discontinued. Caribou has at least one Fair Trade coffee option which will need to be requested.



Students on the committee planned a scavenger hunt where students will post pictures of Fair Trade products found on and around campus on Instagram. The scavenger event is planned for Fall 2018. One student, Cassie Dong, designed a logo for the committee. The Fair Trade Committee will move under the umbrella of the Environmental Stewardship Committee in an effort to institutionalize the effort to raise awareness of Fair Trade and to keep the tasty coffee on campus.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Clara Higgins



*The **Environmental Action Committee (EAC)**, a sub-committee of Day Student Government, has been working on various projects throughout the 2017-2018 school year. They sponsor and implement many projects on campus – funded by the Student Green Fee – in collaboration with campus operations and the Environmental Stewardship Committee.*

SUSTAINABILITY HALL

A Sustainability Hall has been approved by Student Government in order to reimagine how Augsburg can share environmental stories, provide information, and encourage students, staff and faculty to participate in environmental initiatives on campus. The hallway, located in the Christensen Center, will include an information board with a permanent section promoting the Environmental Action Committee, the Environmental Stewardship Committee, and other environmental programs as well as an interchangeable section where students, student groups, and faculty can share information. EAC will be working with Marketing and Communications to design the hallway.



VENDING MACHINE MISERS



In order to decrease Augsburg's Carbon Footprint, the use of vending misers was proposed by a student in the fall of 2017. A vending miser is a device that can be installed in vending machines in order to reduce electrical energy consumption while still maintaining the necessary cooling temperature. By using a sensor to detect pedestrian traffic, the miser will shut off the vending machine after 15 minutes if no one is close to the machine. If someone walks by the machine, the motion sensor will send power back to the machine. Campus wide initiation is under consideration.

WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

Four water fountains around campus have been upgraded to include water bottle filling stations in order to encourage students to use reusable water containers. Environmental Action Committee partnered with the Environmental Stewardship Committee and the Batalden Faculty Scholars Program to financially sponsor the water bottle filling stations on campus.



WATER BOTTLE REUSE PROGRAM

While water bottle filling stations have been strategically placed around campus, we realize that not all students have access to a reusable water container or may forget their vessel on a given day. In order to fully utilize the greening efforts on campus, a water bottle reuse program is in the works. This will allow students to donate reusable water bottles they no longer use so that a student who needs a container can have one. A'Viands has agreed to sanitize the water bottles collected for this program so that Campus Cupboard can have reusable water bottles available for students. EAC hopes this will support the use of the water bottle filling stations that have been placed around campus and minimize plastic waste.

URBAN ARBORETUM TREE SPONSORSHIP



EAC sponsored a tree in the Urban Arboretum in honor of the Day Student Body of 2017-2018. This effort supports an already established green campus project – creating our Urban Arboretum. The serviceberry trees have delicious purple berries each year in June that can be picked and enjoyed by anyone on campus!



URNESS HALL MOTION LIGHTING

The Urness Hall Motion lighting project is aimed to conserve energy in the first year residence hall. The lights in Urness are kept on all night, which uses quite a bit of energy and can also disrupt sleep. EAC wants to install motion lighting in the hallways of Urness so that lights are not being used when they are not needed. LED lights are already in the works for Urness, and Facilities is investigating motion sensor capabilities.

BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

The Bike Share Program will allow students, staff and faculty to check out a bicycle through the Lindell Library. This effort is meant to promote exploration around the Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood as well as non-fuel dependent transportation to neighborhood jobs, internships, and city cultural events. EAC hopes to make being environmentally friendly “fun” through this program. The new bikes were delivered in April and are available to check out at Lindell Library! Bike locks and helmets included!



METRO TRANSIT CARDS CHECK OUT



Five Metro Transit Go-To Cards are now available to checkout at the Lindell Library in order to promote utilization of Minneapolis/St. Paul's massive public transportation system. EAC will monitor this program and refill money on these cards as necessary.

CAMPUS KITCHENS: TEACH. REACH. FEED. LEAD.

Campus Kitchen focuses on creating a sustainable and healthy food system through free meals, a community garden, local connections to farmers markets, and educational opportunities. Although much of their programming focuses on serving meals and building community using the recovered food, they also educate and advocate. This year, Campus Kitchen student leaders tabled about food security, cooked a homemade Friendsgiving Dinner for over 40 students, hosted a fruit leather workshop in the Hagfor's Center Food Maker Space, and provided a meal and education with local ELCA church youth groups in partnership with Growing Green Hearts.



THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECTSM

NEW DESIGN FOR AUGSBURG COMMUNITY GARDEN

Josh Marose



The new Hagfor's Center for Science, Business, and Religion brings many new elements to campus, including the layout of the community garden we have known and loved since 2007. With the design of the new building, a new campus Master Plan, and a growing need for gardening space to expand across campus, Augsburg has updated the garden design so that it is a permanent fixture of the campus and visible commitment to have public space on campus. Working with Sandra Rolph from Oslund and Associates, gardeners, and campus stakeholders developed shared goals and principles to inform a design. The new garden will have a more modern

look while still making space for the creativity of gardeners.

With newly planned accessible pathways and irrigation systems replacing the dirt trails that have gotten smaller and smaller over the years, some garden space needed be taken for better organization, so the total number of spaces has decreased from ~70 to 63. The new plots are easily distinguishable and farther from each other with pathways in between. Benches will now serve as both storage and gathering spaces for gardeners, people taking lunch breaks or doing homework, and neighbors looking for a quiet space.

The garden opened in June. If you were unable to get a plot, fear not. The new plots are designed to be replicated across campus. Spaces where there is open green grass may one day be turned into more garden plots! Because the new space will have both raised beds and in-ground garden plots, gardeners are partnering with local gardening consultants, [A Backyard Farm](#), this spring to learn new techniques to make the most of the growing space.

MN GREENCORP MEMBER: CLAIRE NORMAN

"The Minnesota GreenCorps program is a statewide initiative, coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals." This year, Augsburg University's first MN GreenCorps Member, 2017 Macalester grad Claire Norman, joined the ESC and Campus Kitchen. Claire has worked extensively with the ESC undergraduate interns, helping to organize and deliver meals for Campus Kitchen, and participating in the redesign of the Augsburg community garden. One of her favorite moments of the year was the 2nd Annual Environmental Synergy Event organized by the EAC and ESC Undergraduate Interns. The success of this well-attended event showcases the increased awareness of sustainability efforts across Augsburg University's campus. Claire reflects, "My

organization of a successful tour and joint sustainability team meeting at Hamline University was another personal highlight. My hope is that this connection will encourage increased collaboration and sharing of resources between the schools moving forward". Thank you for your hard work Claire!

SEWARD MONTESSORI SPRING CAMPUS CLEAN UP

In April, Seward Montessori middle school students walked over to Augsburg University, helping out in a spring campus clean up. Students helped to pick up trash, recyclables, and compostable items. Students also toured the new Hagfors Center and community garden. With a late snowfall, these students' work was extra helpful in getting the campus ready for graduation. Thank you Seward Montessori!

WHATS BUZZIN'?

Two years ago, Augsburg became an Urban Apiary Partner of the Beez Kneez, LLC. Two hives were placed on the roof of Memorial Hall and Augsburg committed to increasing pollinator habitat and reducing potentially harmful chemical use on campus. Hosting a successful hive can be difficult for any number of reasons along with maintaining the overall health and production of the bees, but not to worry! This year was a successful year for Augsburg's bees who produced over 300 jars (130lbs) of local honey!



ESC BOTTLED WATER POLICY UPDATE

In May 2017, The University Council and President Pribbenow approved the following Bottled Water Policy:

Augsburg will use already available local tap water and eliminate the sale, reimbursement, and provision of bottled water on campus. This policy aims to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions and supports the provision of water as a human right and not a commodity.

Progress to date:

- September 2017: Bottled water is no longer offered through catering and price reductions for the delivery of water by the gallon (thanks, A'Viands!)
- February 2018: Purchases of bottled water no longer reimbursed by any campus funds.
- New Hagfor's Center includes water filling stations in hallways and office sinks!



ENV 100 STUDENT PROJECTS

The Fall 2017 ENV 100: Environmental Connections: Water, was taught by Emily Schilling and Kristen Chamberlain. This course focused on water sustainability and how our everyday water use impacts local and global levels. To support the Water Policy, students did these incredible projects!

#LOVELOCALWATER: A WATER BOTTLE REUSE PROGRAM



With the unveiling of the #LoveLocalWater and the Bottled Water Policy, the question was posed, where could campus members get reusable water bottles at a low cost? Students brainstormed their plan to start a water bottle reuse program and reached out to the EAC to make this a reality. Read more about this program in the EAC section above.

BLOG POSTS

To dive deeper into issues they were learning about, students wrote blog posts on the environmental impacts of bottled water, the social issues of bottled water, and what other institutions are doing to reduce their impacts of bottle water use. These blogs were shared with the Augsburg community in January.

Read student blogs at: <http://www.augsburg.edu/green/blog/>



AUGSBURG'S WATER BAR: TASTE-TESTING OUR CAMPUS WATER



This project was designed to promote the water bottle initiative through a personal interaction with the campus community coupled with a fun activity, taste-testing water. The students took samples of water from three different sites on campus: Urness, Mortenson, and Luther. This blind taste test had surprising results! Urness Hall was ranked the best tasting water on campus, beating out the bottled water, Luther Hall, and Mortenson!

WATER BOTTLE INITIATIVE: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Students designed and sent out a survey assessing the water habits of the campus community and gauging the impact that the Bottled Water Policy would have. Questions ranged from where the individual lived (on or off campus), water drinking habits, plastic water bottle use, cleanliness of Augsburg tap water, etc. Overall, students were able to obtain an understanding of the undergraduate students' drinking water habits, and the data collected supports the idea of phasing out bottled water on campus.

WASTE AUDIT: WHERE ARE WE THROWING OUR PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES?

Curious about where the plastic water bottles are ending up on Augsburg's campus, this student group organized 4 different waste audits. Of the sites surveyed, approximately 80% of the plastic water bottles were recycled, with 20% found in the waste bins. 80% isn't a bad sign, but these students feel that with more communication and education, Augsburg can do better!



ENV COURSES FEATURED NATIONALLY

Along with ENV 100, Emily Schilling and Joan Kunz's ENV 120: Environmental Science were chosen as one of *Facilities Manager* magazine's 36 campus best practices in sustainability and environmental stewardship and education. ENV 120 students tested tap water from around campus and found all samples met federal water quality standards for various measures. Read the full case-study on page 16 of the magazine: <http://digital.corporatepress.com//956583-facilities-manager-mar-apr-2018>

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY
 Environmental Stewardship
 Submitted by Alyson Green, Chair Sustainability Office

INTRODUCTORY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COURSES LEARN TO "LOVE LOCAL WATER"

Augsburg University has a wellspring approach to implement a policy phasing out bottled water, including infrastructure change, education, and culture shift. Using the campus and community as lab, Environmental Studies faculty participated by integrating experiential learning into two courses, one focusing on the global water crisis and one on water quality. Students undertake learning projects to address knowledge gaps, perceptions of health and safety, and infrastructure needs on campus.

Environmental Connections, an introductory environmental studies course, spent the semester exploring sustainable water use and our local Midwestern River watershed. Environmental Science students conducted water quality testing, taking samples from taps and fountains across campus. Minneapolis city water consistently exceeds clean drinking water standards, but building trust in our own taps is identified as a priority as we move away from bottled water.

Alongside experiential learning with community partners, including a trip to "Voyager" courses with Wilderness Inquiry's conducting surveys and water "tasting" at Water Bar, these students also track action on campus. Students helped shift culture through blogs, our own "water bar" taste test, water audits, and reusable water bottle sharing program. All efforts to shift the entire campus culture to recognition of local water as a valuable, safe, human right.

BROWN UNIVERSITY
 Environmental Stewardship
 Submitted by Jessica Barry, Director Sustainability Initiatives

OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Brown University's Office of Energy & Environmental Initiatives implemented a composting program in FY17 after two years of planning, piloting, testing, and infrastructure placement. With the University's increased focus on greenhouse gas mitigation and waste diversion, and the 80 benefit reported to be at capacity by 2020, adapting compost program at the University was a natural fit to Brown's commitment to sustainability. Each dining facility has a pre-consumer composting program, and three facilities are piloting post-consumer programs.

Additionally, three office compost plans are underway and, as momentum grows, more are expected to be added, in an effort to promote 85% economy, a key component to the program in FY18. The compost is in turn sold as a locally owned small business product. The successful implementation of the program can be attributed, in large part, to the many student interns and volunteers who dedicated their time to marketing, training, and education efforts. In FY17 Brown University diverted 262 tons of material to be composted and the University is devoted to reach about 300 tons FY18.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE'S UNDERGRADUATE INTERNS

The academic year of 2017-2018 boasted a record number of undergraduate sustainability interns! Together with the collaboration with the Environmental Action Committee, the interns were able to work on projects ranging from compost education, #LoveLocalWater, meetings with faculty and staff, posters and infographics, and the 2nd Annual Augsburg Synergy event.

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY TOUR



In November 2017, the ESC Undergraduate interns crossed the mighty Mississippi to visit the Thrive team, a collaborative of sustainability fellows, interns, and environmentally minded students at Hamline University. This included a sustainability tour, as the Augsburg interns were guided through different areas of Hamline showcasing environmental sustainability. This meeting was the first time that undergraduate interns from both Augsburg and Hamline have met, engaging in a fulfilling discussion. Many of the same challenges were discussed, and it was heartening to hear about different ideas that were presented to both groups. Working in a collaborative environment is essential in successfully working through the challenges and hiccups often found in environmental sustainability. There were lots of ideas that we took from this meeting, from a sustainability interactive map, to understanding that even the smallest projects have a large impact on campus. We look forward to more meetings and exchanges in the future! Thank you Hamline!

ZERO WASTE EVENT INITIATIVES

ESC interns piloted a process for supporting campus events to increase awareness and cultivate a behavioral change with all campus members. Interns were present to help sort waste at the annual Taste of Augsburg and Velkommen Jul events posting infographics, handing out "I composted" stickers, and engaging participants as they sorted waste. In Fall 2018, ESC interns are looking forward to expanding their presence at campus-wide events and piloting a process with student groups that

will provide compostable food supplies such as plates, cups, forks, spoons, and compost bags, in addition to a waste sorting team to help educate attendees.



2018 2ND ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYNERGY EVENT

On April 11, the EAC and ESC Interns hosted the 2nd Annual Environmental Synergy Event around the theme of *“Change for Self, Community, and Society.”* With the unpredictable April weather, the event was hosted in Christensen Hall with lots of tables, “I Composted” t-shirt giveaways, a smoothie bike and more! Student groups such as Compassionate Action for Animals/Vegan Club, Campus Kitchen, Augsburg Latin American Students (ALAS) as well as community groups such as Transition Longfellow, Leave No Trace MN, and the Women’s Environmental Network participated in tabling, with loads of information and fantastic conversation. Following these festivities, Megan Dobratz of Native Sustainability spoke over dinner about the challenges and successes found by working in the sustainability field.



Smoothie Bike provided by The Hub!



Dwayne Williams and Alana Goodson give honey samples and engage in conversation around food waste and food security.



Augsburg's Compassionate Action for Animals student group sharing delicious vegan snacks.



Megan Dobratz of Native Sustainability talks with students about zero waste projects, practices, and careers.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE GRADUATE FELLOW: ANDREA DOLAN

In December 2016, the ESC welcomed Andrea Dolan as their Graduate Fellow. Andrea has been working on her licensure in Secondary Education in Life Sciences and finished her Masters in Arts in Education in Spring 2018. Over the past several years, Andrea has worked with Allyson Green, the Chief Sustainability Officer, and Christina Erickson, Chair of the ESC, to help coordinate, participate in, document, and enthusiastically help to implement the ESC's initiatives on campus.

"Some of my favorite moments working with the ESC, has been witnessing real changes occurring on and off of campus. From the water bottle policy, to working with A'viands to find compostable food packaging products, to working with the ESC Interns utilizing their energy as we creatively push the initiatives forward. In my undergraduate work, I never got involved in student government; instead, I unknowingly benefited from the hard work that my peers were doing. When I began to work with the ESC, I was taken aback by the huge amount of work that students, faculty, and staff are doing behind the scenes. This newfound perspective helped me to understand the importance of collaboration not only between departments but with the campus community as a whole. I feel that I have learned a tremendous amount about sustainability from my work on campus, which has directly translated into other areas of my life. Because of the work I have been doing with the ESC, I have been successful in implementing two additional composting initiatives outside of Augsburg: the first at a small restaurant, and the second at a non-profit community sailing center. Without the influence of my work with the ESC, I do not think I would have ever considered reaching out to discuss the needs of my community. I will miss seeing the amazing changes happening on campus, but I will carry these lessons into my future classroom! Thank you Augsburg and the Environmental Stewardship Committee!"

GET INVOLVED!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WORKING TO MOVE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FORWARD AT AUGSBURG!

Didn't see your sustainability efforts included in this year's report? Contact us to be a contributor next year! We know that environmental stewardship is a collective effort across campus and many practices, initiatives, and stories are happening outside of ESC and EAC. We know there is more happening than is documented here. Share your stories and get involved!

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

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

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