



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of Sustainability &  
Campus Enrichment



# 2024 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



The Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment at Texas A&M University provides education and outreach to foster hope and promote change. Hope that collective efforts can make real differences for the future of our campus, our community and our world. And change that comes from tireless championing, protecting, and promoting of the environmental, social and fiscal resources we hold dear. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Director Wellman and her team for the past two years. Their devotion to sustainability's guiding principles is inspiring and provides optimism for a brighter, and greener, tomorrow.

The Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) remains a road map for building this future with nine themes, 16 evergreen goals, and 47 targets. The Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment steers the course by overseeing this plan, expanding knowledge, and mentoring student and campus community leaders to be ambassadors for the cause.

The team's University Sustainability Advisory Committee connects leadership from across the campus in addressing goals ranging from waste management to energy consumption and social awareness. This report details the important successes the office and their partners have achieved during the 2024 calendar year through data generated for the 2024 Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) submission.

Every Aggie should contemplate ways to provide hope and change with respect for the tenets of sustainability and through acts of selfless service to the Texas A&M community. Glean ideas as you read this report and engage with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment to find out how you can get involved. Together, we can make a sustainable difference.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Scott Shafer**

Professor and Executive Director  
Campus & Community Enrichment

*"Director Wellman and her team's devotion to sustainability's guiding principles is inspiring and provides optimism for a brighter, and greener, tomorrow."*



# ABOUT THIS REPORT

In coordination with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment and with guidance from the University Sustainability Advisory Committee (USAC), Texas A&M University monitors institutional sustainability performance using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). STARS is a program managed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

The highlights in this report come from the campus' most recent STARS submission, where Texas A&M University earned its ninth STARS Gold rating. STARS evaluates institutions based on performance in four categories, and this report provides highlights for each. To view the entire submission, visit [STARS AASHE 2024](#).



## ACADEMICS



## ENGAGEMENT



## OPERATIONS



## PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

The report also celebrates our stakeholders who drive STARS performance as well as campus members who received Sustainability Champion awards. We are grateful for the more than 30 stakeholders who contribute to reporting on sustainability across our campus.



# 68.03

2024 STARS Score



# 47.51

2012 Original STARS Score



# 97.7%

data accuracy, awarded top performer by AASHE STARS



**RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.**

*Texas A&M University defines sustainability as the efficient, deliberate, and responsible preservation of environmental, social, and economic resources to protect our earth for future generations of Texas Aggies, the Texas A&M University community, and beyond.*



# ACADEMICS

The **Texas A&M University Libraries** is an active advocate of open access, empowering researchers to distribute their scholarship freely and to stimulate learning and innovation so their knowledge can transform to public benefits.

Innovative programs include:

- Support for dissemination and preservation of scholarly output through its open access digital repository, OakTrust.
- Open access journal hosting, offered via Texas Digital Library, using Open Journal Systems (OJS) software.
- No-cost and discounts for scholars to publish open access.
- OpenEd, library purchases of course materials, and course reserves are a few ways the University Libraries is supporting students in lowering their costs by providing free access to course materials.



**\$2.2M**

student savings  
from library  
materials



**83**

out of the 100 academic  
departments (or equivalent)  
offer at least one course that  
includes sustainability

**301**

of the 1,194 continuing  
education courses offered by  
Texas A&M Extension Services  
address sustainability

**2,099**

out of the 12,331  
total courses offered  
are sustainability  
focused or related





# ACADEMICS

Founded in 1992, **Texas Target Communities (TxTC)** partners with communities to assist with needs that would otherwise go unmet through partnership with researchers and leveraging student talent in transformational learning experiences.

Recent projects include:

- Students helped the City of Deer Park (pop. 34,495) to assess parks & recreational facilities, conduct community surveys/needs assessments, hold a community charrette, and presented their concepts to the Park Commission and City Council.
- In Dallas' Tenth Street Neighborhood, students and faculty produced a 3D model of the neighborhood, explored housing typology, and developed a design guideline template.



## HOW IMPORTANT IS SUSTAINABILITY TO AGGIES?



**88%**

think climate change is at least somewhat important globally



**92%**

think it is at least somewhat important for Texas A&M to be using renewable energy



**82%**

think it is at least somewhat important that Texas A&M addresses climate change resilience



**51%**

of sponsored researchers at Texas A&M are engaged in sustainability research



**70%**

of Texas A&M departments with sponsored researchers conduct sustainability research



# ENGAGEMENT



Created by Residence Life, the **Aggie Eco-Reps** is a program in which students educate their peers about how to live a sustainable lifestyle.

Aggie Eco-Reps educate fellow students by:

- Hosting informational presentations in the residence halls and on-campus apartment communities.
- Participating in campus-wide events such as Campus Sustainability Day, Texas Recycles Day, and Earth Day.
- Promoting a sustainable lifestyle by living as an example for fellow students.

The goal of the **Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment's Internship Program** is to bring people from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives together to create a dynamic team that works to create a culture of sustainability at Texas A&M.

TO DATE, THE PROGRAM HAS SERVED **173** STUDENTS.







# ENGAGEMENT



Texas A&M participates in the **Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS)**, a conference which serves as a forum for Texas higher education institutions to share ideas and collaborate on advancing sustainability efforts.



**The Big Event** facilitated the contributions of **16,455** Aggie volunteers, who have collectively provided **1,144,872** service hours since **1982**.

**46%** OF THE STUDENT BODY PARTICIPATES IN DOCUMENTED COMMUNITY SERVICE.







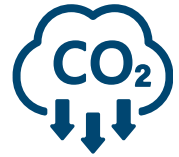
# OPERATIONS

Through a long-term **Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) with Samson Solar**, Aggieland now meets 50 megawatts of its electricity demand with clean, renewable electricity. Samson Solar is located in Franklin, Lamar, and Red River counties in Northwest Texas and when complete will generate 1,020 megawatts of renewable energy.



**9.48%**

of total energy consumption from renewable sources



**10%**

reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions in the last year



Photo Credit: Samson Solar, Invenergy

**100%**

of managed grounds are in accordance with an Integrated Pest Management program

**100%**

of waste from Texas A&M owned electronics are disposed through Logistics Services' University Surplus Property Program

**100%**

of janitorial paper products purchased are eco-certified



# OPERATIONS

**Borrow a Bike** is a free program for those who need a bike for a short period of time.

- If you borrow a bike today, it is due back by 10 a.m. the next morning.
- If you borrow a bike on Friday, it's not due until the following Monday.
- Customers may borrow a bike 12 times per semester.
- The program is free to anyone employed or currently enrolled at Texas A&M.



**72%** OF STUDENTS USE SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING OPTIONS AS THEIR PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

**Duncan Dining Hall** became a 3-Stars Certified Green Restaurant through the Green Restaurant Association. As a result, alongside Sbisa and Commons Dining Halls, more than 50% of on-site food service (by sales) are third party certified.



**DIVERTED FROM  
LANDFILL**

**80%**

of all the construction and demolition waste produced by Texas A&M

**62%**

of waste through recycling, composting, and/or donation and reuse





# PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION



Launched in 2013, the **12th Can Food Pantry** is completely student-led and built to serve Aggies in need of assistance. This year, their work and that of many other campus organizations received 10-year funding to combat food insecurity and ensure no one goes hungry at Texas A&M.

Annual funding will be allocated to:

- **12th Can Food Pantry** stock and expansion
- **Pocket Pantry** program expansion
- **Student Assistance Services** cardswipes and meal plans for students in need
- **Text Away Hunger** to redistribute leftover food from events
- **Residence Life** Meal plans for live-in RAs

## TEXAS A&M STRIVES TO MAKE BEING AN AGGIE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE



**76%**

graduation rate for low-income students



**63%**

students graduating without student loan debt

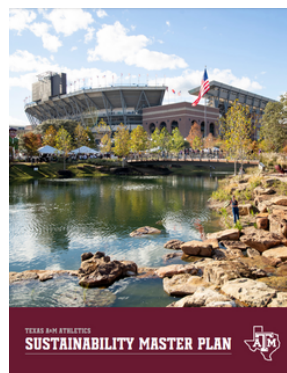


**\$1.1M**

committed annually to address food insecurity on campus



**Living Well at Texas A&M** received Gold level recognition in the American Heart Association's 2024 Well-being Works Better Scorecard for its commitment to the health of its workforce and community.



**Texas A&M Athletics** led with a first-of-its-kind Athletics Sustainability Master Plan, providing a living strategic guide for how Aggie Athletics will support the achievement of campus-wide sustainability goals.





# PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

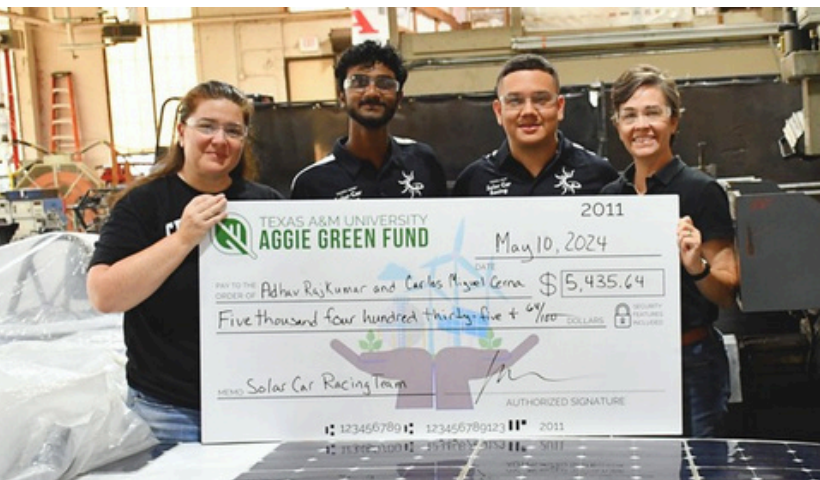


The Aggie Green Fund is a grant-making organization for sustainability projects at Texas A&M. It offers Major Grants on an annual basis and Micro Grants on a rolling basis to empower students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring creative sustainability improvements to our campus.



**\$2.79M**

awarded since 2011



## MAJOR GRANTS

- MSC Student Programs Office LED Lighting Upgrade
- Sustainable Furniture for Forster Courtyard
- The Bush School Water Bottle Filler Station
- Texas A&M Solar Car Racing Team

## MICRO GRANTS

- Aerogarden
- Fill it Forward
- Recycling bins at GSC and Allen Building
- ECCB Menstrual Product Availability
- Earth Month Textile Recycling
- Scraps to Sprouts
- Zero Waste: One Bag at a Time



**\$169.8K**

provided for Major Grants in 2024



**\$18K**

provided for Micro Grants in 2024



**\$188K**

awarded in 2024

# 2024 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

## CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENTS

In April 2024, the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment hosted its annual awards ceremony to recognize members of the Aggie community who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to making Texas A&M more sustainable.



**Madelyn Lewis**  
Undergraduate  
Bioenvironmental  
Sciences

**Ian Burress**  
Graduate  
Mechanical  
Engineering

**Christopher Dieckert**  
Staff  
Utilities & Energy  
Services

**Weisueh Chiu, PhD**  
Faculty  
Veterinary Medicine



**Athletics Sustainability Master Plan**  
Team



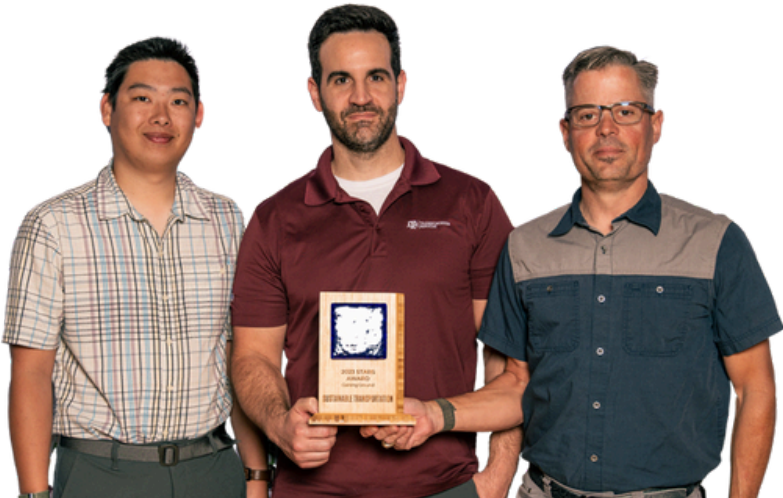
# 2024 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

## STARS AWARD RECIPIENTS

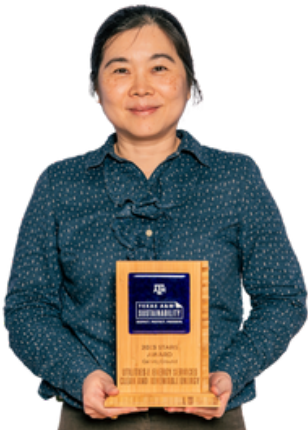


STARS Awards recognize stakeholders whose achievements made important contributions in the 2023 STARS report submission.

### GAINING GROUND



Transportation Services  
Commute Modal Split



Utilities and Energy Services  
Clean & Renewable Energy

### MOST IMPROVED



Utilities & Energy Services  
Waste Minimization

### OVERALL TOP PERFORMER



Residence Life





**RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.**

**Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment**

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