

AGGIE SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 13



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Office of Sustainability Staff's Favorite Vegetarian Recipes

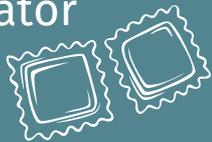


Kelly Wellman - Director
Black Bean & Quinoa Soup



Ben Kalscheur - Assistant Manager
Plant Based + Dairy Free Mac & Cheese

Jesse Carswell - Operations Coordinator
Creamy Vegetarian Ravioli



Ali Mueller - Social Media Intern
Celery Salad with Feta and Mint

Sylvia Wegwu - Graphic Designer
Vegan "Flaky" Fish and Chips



Jaedyn Medrano - Technician
Air Fryer Stuffed Mushrooms

Recipes can be found in the email!



PRIZES

Tier 1 (One Winner)

- Ronin Full Moon Dinner – 2 tickets
- Rec Sports Membership Pass for 1 semester (available only to faculty and staff)
- Yeti Cooler Roadie 24 Hard Cooler or Hopper Flip 8 Soft Cooler
- GoPro Hero8 Black
- Buffy Breeze Comforter

Tier 2 (Two Winners)

- 1 Year Veo-Ride Bike
- Eno DoubleNest Print Hammock
- Patagonia Arbor Lid Pack 28L
- Pact Airy Waffle Bath Sheet Set
- JBL Flip 5 Eco Edition Speaker

Tier 3 (Five Winners)

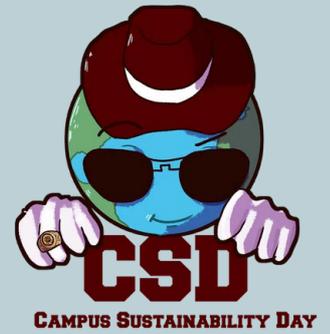
- 11 PC Gardening Tool Set with ¼ Lb Texas Wildflower Seed Mix
- Cocokind Essential Routine
- Grove Co. Cleaning Concentrate Essentials 3-Pack
- Roman Earth Squishmallow
- Durecopow 20000 Solar Charger

CSM SCHEDULE

- 10/14 @ 12:00 p.m.
Racism in the Media* (via Zoom)
Maci Konen and Delia Pastore,
TAMU Sustainability Interns
- 10/18 @ 1:00 p.m.
Impact of Water Disparities Between
Different Socio-Economic Groups Around
the Globe (via Zoom)
Adrien Shipou and Claudia Martinez,
TAMU Sustainability Interns
- 10/19 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Campus Sustainability Day
@ Rudder Plaza
Join us and over 20 student organizations,
community partners, and TAMU
Departments that implement sustainable
initiatives.
You can earn a BTHO Climate
Change T-shirt!
- 10/20 @ 12:00 p.m.
Food Waste and the Devaluation of Goods
and Agricultural Labor from the Global
South to the Global North* (via Zoom)
Cam Kasmiersky and Kat Hicks,
TAMU Sustainability Interns
- 10/21 @ 3:30 p.m.
Environmental Refugees: Uprooted by
Disaster* (via Zoom)
Madelyn Lewis and Olivia Shelburne,
TAMU Sustainability Interns

* Collect codewords from these live presentations to enter the giveaway. Up to 5 codewords will be given live but only one will be given in the recording!

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO ENTER THE CSM GIVEAWAY?



Take our Virtual Sustainability Tour of Campus

There are 13 locations around campus that have implemented sustainable elements.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to watch the videos and answer the short questionnaires for each location. This activity can give up to 13 entries into the giveaway.

Tour answers must be submitted between October 1 and October 31, 2022.

Donate Compostable Items to The Urban Howdy Farm

Donate your compostable items to The Urban Howdy Farm and scan the QR on location to submit a Google Form. Each visit to donate will be worth 5 entries into the giveaway.

Visits must be on different days between October 1 and October 31, 2022.

Certify your dorm through the Green Dorm Certification

Join the Department of Residence Life's Green Dorm Certification in making sustainability an Aggie tradition by getting your room Green Dorm Certified.

Certifications must be submitted between October 1 and October 31, 2022.

Get Certified through the Aggie Sustainability Alliance

Submit a Sustainable Office or Sustainable Student Organization Certification. Members listed on the submission that have certified at least at the Supporter Level certification will earn 10 entries into the giveaway.

Certifications must be submitted between October 1 and October 31, 2022.

Join Our Instagram Event

Participate in our Instagram Event, October 10 – October 17, 2022.

October Events

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 3 - F.R.E.E. Voting Plans and Sex Ed Tabling | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | MSC
- 4 - Juvenile-in-Justice: Conversations on Confinement with Richard Ross *
- 5 - F.R.E.E. Political Advocacy Meeting | 5:30 - 6:30 | MSC 2504
- 6 - Fall Festival with Aggie Dining | Academic Plaza | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 8 - Aggie Eco Reps Campus Clean Up | Student Services Building | 10 a.m.
- 10 - People with Disabilities: World Mental Health Day
- 11 - Indigenous Peoples' Day
 - National Coming Out Day
 - Step In Stand up Mini Session: Green Dot Bystander Intervention *
 - Step In Stand Up Mini Session: STAND Up Trauma-Informed Care *
- 12 - Deconstructing Masculinity Workshop *
- 14 - Cooking Around the World *
- 14 - Aggie Eco Reps Swap Shop | Hullabaloo 117 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 17 - F.R.E.E. Voting Plans and Sex Ed Tabling | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | MSC
- 18 - Von's Vision *
 - Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education Day 1 *
 - Pride Late Night *
- 19 - Campus Sustainability Day
- 19 - 9th Annual Residence Life Sustainability Dinner
- 21 - LGBTQ+ Spirit Day
- 22 - Environmental Health and Safety Stream Clean
- 22 - Aggie Eco Reps Campus Clean Up | Student Services Building | 10 a.m.
- 23 - Green Dot Training for Students*
- 24 - International Day of Climate Action
- 26 - Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education Day 2*
- 26-28 - Project Clean Plate | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | SBISA
- 29 - Aggie Eco Reps Trashion Show | More details coming soon
- 31 - F.R.E.E. Halloween Condom Crawl | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | MSC
- 31 - Aggie Eco Reps Halloween Bake Sale | More details coming soon

*Link for event is in email



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AGGIE GREEN FUND

Big news! The Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee has voted to expand funding to include holistic sustainability projects.

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.

Do you have an idea for a sustainable improvement on the Texas A&M College Station campus, Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen campus, or the Texas A&M University School of Law campus? Consider applying for an Aggie Green Fund grant.

The Aggie Green Fund provides grants to students, faculty, and staff for their sustainable project ideas. We offer Major Grants annually and Micro-Grants on a rolling basis throughout the year to help create a more sustainability friendly campus. The Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee oversees the Aggie Green Fund, which typically grants \$215K per year and has awarded over \$2.2 million to over 100 campus improvements projects since 2011.

Some examples of projects that can be funded are below.

- Accessibility
- Animal Rights
- Biodiversity Concerns
- Built Environment
- Circular Economy
- Climate Change
- Energy Conservation
- Environmental Justice
- Erosion Minimization
- Fair Trade
- Food Security
- Food Waste Reduction
- Gender and Sexuality
- Green Technology
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Hazardous Materials
- Human Health and Wellness
- Justice and DEI
- Labor Issues
- Pollution Prevention
- Poverty and Income Inequality
- Public Health
- Race and Ethnicity
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainability Education
- Sustainable Buildings
- Sustainable Communities
- Sustainable Purchasing
- Stormwater Contamination
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Walkability
- Waste Management
- Waste Minimization
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Conservation
- Zero Waste
- And so much more!

Micro Grant applications open September 15, 2022 and Major Grant Abstracts open October 3, 2022. Visit greenfund.tamu.edu for more information.



Dr. Natalie Johnson

**Associate Professor
Vice Chair, Interdisciplinary
Program in Toxicology**

"I am an environmental toxicologist studying how chemicals in our environment impact health. My research is focused on how air pollution exposure during pregnancy affects maternal and child health. Through several ongoing projects funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, my team is determining the risk for lung disease following air pollution exposure. We are also investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying how inhaled air pollutants cause lung disease to help inform treatments."

Dr. Johnson's *Motivation*

"Air pollution exposure is a major cause of disease worldwide, accounting for millions of premature deaths. In fact, the tiny particles in pollution, known as fine particulate matter, or PM, are responsible for many infant deaths due to complications from low birth weight and lower respiratory infections. As a mom and scientist, I am motivated by this substantial burden on public health, which presents a challenge to solve but also an opportunity to protect the most vulnerable. Our research is also motivated by many critical gaps in current knowledge. For instance, are current regulatory standards for air quality protective against maternal and infant effects when exposure occurs during pregnancy.

Also, there are a lack of clinical recommendations for pregnant women. For instance, mothers know to avoid tobacco smoke exposure, but what can moms do if they are unavoidably exposed to ambient air pollution? We design our research to inform guidelines for safe levels, and in cases when levels exceed these standards, inform nutritional recommendations that may help improve health."



What is the biggest takeaway from your research?

A major finding from our research is that infant respiratory infection is enhanced following even low dose prenatal air pollution exposure. We have also found that pregnant women are more susceptible to severe influenza infection when they are exposed to PM. These findings signify the importance of limiting maternal exposure to protect moms and their children.



What has surprised you the most from your research?

Initially in our experimental research, we hypothesized that prenatal exposure to particulate matter would enhance allergic responses to house dust mite, a common allergen, indicating a risk for allergic asthma. However, in our model, we found prenatal exposure to PM reduced the overall immune response. We were first surprised, but then realized we had uncovered a window of immune suppression, where the infant immune response was delayed. This was an important finding and led us to study how infants exposed to PM may be more susceptible to viral infections. This may pose an immediate risk and present a long-term risk for the development of asthma.

In your opinion, why is research in the different areas of sustainability important?

Sustainability research across a broad spectrum of disciplines is important for advancing public health.

Although my research is mainly biomedical-related, studying how air pollution impacts lung disease, overall, the field needs complementary engineering and technology-related sustainability research to help inform solutions for limiting air pollution exposure. A unique aspect of the Texas A&M Superfund Research Center, which I lead a project within, is that it combines biomedical and engineering approaches to find solutions to environmental health issues like air pollution. In this work, our team expanded capabilities to study early life exposure to hazardous VOCs, volatile organic compounds, of which many are known to cause cancer and irritate the respiratory tract. Our team developed the mobile responding to air pollution in disasters (mRAPiD) laboratory, which encompasses a high-resolution instrument within a van that can be deployed to measure air pollution. With this technology, we can inform the levels and types of VOCs present within mixtures in communities that border point sources or in areas impacted by environmental disasters. These data advance our toxicity testing to enlighten the risk for children's lung disease.



FAIR TRADE

PRODUCT FEATURE

You can keep purchasing Fair Trade products through the spooky season!

Divine Chocolate is the world's first and only Fairtrade and B-Corp certified premium chocolate company that is co-owned by cocoa farmers. Driven by a mission to fight exploitation in the cocoa industry, Divine champions the needs of farmers to improve their lives and to build a sustainable and fair world.

Kuapa Kokoo owns 20% of Divine Chocolate and therefore, receives 20% of Divine's distributable profits. Farmers benefit from the Fairtrade Minimum Price, the Fairtrade Premium, and Divine's investment in farmer-led initiatives in adult literacy and numeracy, labor rights, gender empowerment, and sustainable agricultural practices that empower farmers and their families to thrive and prosper.

Their Milk Chocolate Minis are perfect for Trick or Treaters!



sustainability tip of the month

Compost Your Jack O' Lantern Waste

Those spooky jack o'lanterns you carved can be fully composted. The skin, meat, stems, guts, and seeds can all be broken down.

However, pumpkin seeds are hardy so don't be surprised if you find a few pumpkin plants in your garden next year if you compost it!

