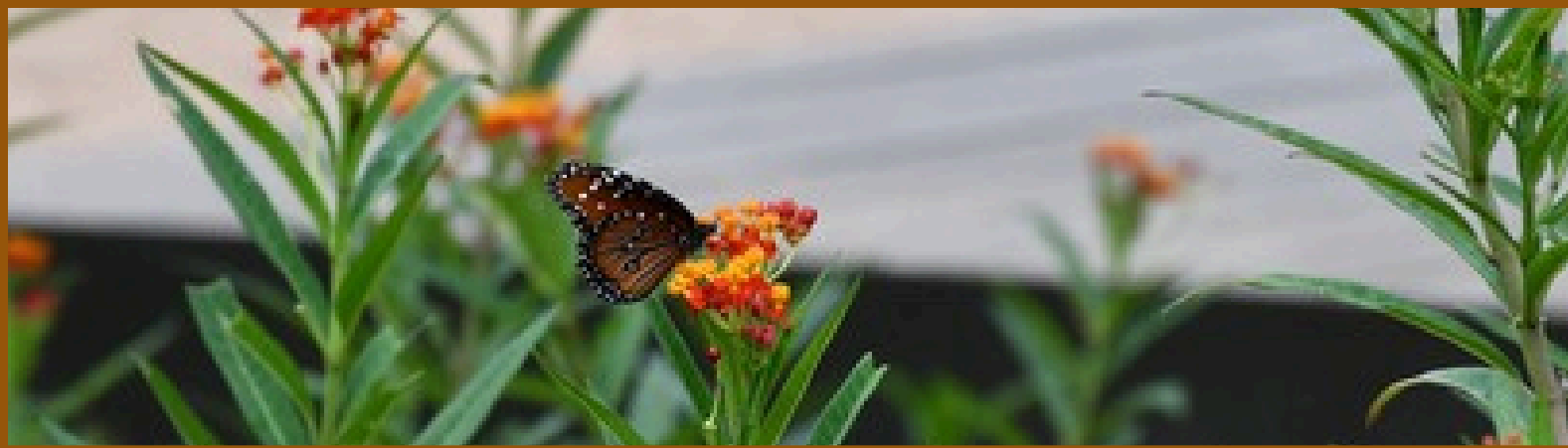


AGGIE SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 33



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CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY MONTH 2025



Interact with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment at various events this month to earn codewords for our **Campus Sustainability Month** prize giveaway! And don't forget about...

**CAMPUS
SUSTAINABILITY DAY**

**OCTOBER 15TH, 10 AM - 1 PM
AT RUDDER PLAZA**

(More info on the next page!)



OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

Find more Texas A&M events at
calendar.tamu.edu

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

28

29

30

1

AGF Major Grant
Abstracts Open

Sustainability
Champion Awards
Nominations Open

Week Without Driving

2

Major Grant
Informational

6-7pm,
Virtual

Office Hours

1-3pm,
Pavilion 229

Week Without Driving

3

First Friday
5:00pm, Downtown
Bryan

Week Without Driving

4

5

Internship
Applications
Open

6

Aggie Green
Fund Showcase

2:30pm,
MSC 2401

Silver Taps

10:30pm, Academic
Building Plaza

8

Intern Talk #1

9:30-10am,
Virtual

12th Can
Pantry Opening

10:30-4:30pm,
330 Agronomy Road

9

Office Hours

1-3pm,
Pavilion 229

12th Can
Pantry Opening

10:30-4:30pm,
330 Agronomy Road

10

11

12

Fall Break
No Classes

13

14

Fall Break
No Classes

15

Campus
Sustainability
Day
10-1pm,
Rudder Plaza

16

Office
Hours
1-3pm,
Pavilion 229

17

Maroon &
White Night
5:00pm,
Downtown Bryan

18

Stream Clean
8-11:00am,
Parking Lot 97 off
John Kimbrough
Blvd
RSVP

19

Intern Talk #2
9:30-10am,
Virtual

20

Howdy
Health Fair:
Spooktacular
Healthoween
11-2pm,
Rudder Exhibit
Hall

22

12th Can
Pantry
Opening
10:30-4:30pm,
330 Agronomy Road

23

12th Can
Pantry
Opening
10:30-4:30pm,
330 Agronomy Road

24

The Gardens
Fall Festival
9-11:30am,
The Gardens at
Texas A&M
University

25

26

Tips & Tricks:
Halloween
Safety
5-6pm,
Commons 109

28

29

Intern Talk #3
9:30-10am,
Virtual

30

Office
Hours
1-3pm,
Pavilion 229

31

Halloween

1

October is Campus Sustainability Month!

Texas A&M University will host its 17th Annual Campus Sustainability Month (CSM) celebration throughout the month of October. CSM consists of in-person events, virtual events, and more. Enter our giveaway by collecting code words and earning entries to win prizes and rewards!

**Campus Sustainability Day will be held on
October 15th, 10 AM - 1 PM, at Rudder Plaza.**

Learn more at: <https://sustainability.tamu.edu/get-involved/csd.html>



HALLOWEEN EDITION



Howdy Ags! This Halloween, don't let sustainability spook you! Learn how to make your Halloween eco-friendlier to celebrate the scares *AND* Campus Sustainability Month!

SAY "BOO!" TO NEW

As with regular fashion, buying a thrifted costume is greener than buying new! Or, gather your unused supplies to make your own costume and decor at home!



CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CANDY

Choose candies with recyclable packaging, such as little paperboard boxes. Some treats contain animal products, increasing carbon emissions. Look into vegan options like Swedish Fish, Twizzlers, Skittles, and more!



PRACTICAL PUMPKINS

Maximize the sustainability of your pumpkins! Buying from local farms reduces their travel distance. Instead of painting them, carve your pumpkins: this ensures that they remain compostable after use, or reuse them for dishes like pumpkin pie!



BUY LOCAL

Sourcing your Halloween haul from local vendors reduces your carbon footprint. For food items, visit farmer's markets selling fresh and locally-grown produce. If buying costumes or decor, look for local arts and crafts shops.



ECO-EVENTS

If you're hosting an event, combine all of the above tips to make it more eco-friendly! This can include serving plant-based foods with reusable dishware, using homemade, recycled, or locally sourced decor, and more.



»» INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Last month, the interns got to visit...

CHALLENGEWORKS!



As a teambuilding exercise, the interns visited **ChallengeWorks**, an action-based experience to hone their coordination skills and build trust.



They participated in challenges where they had to follow-the-leader while blindfolded, balance on a log pillar while crossing over each other, and swing from a rope while passing items to one another.



INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The interns also got to learn about...
CAMPUS GARDENS!



Dr. Sarah Gatson informed the interns about growing your own produce at home.



They concluded with a quick visit to the Urban Howdy Farm, with Caroline as their impromptu tour guide!



SUSTAINABLE STAFF SPOTLIGHT



DR. C. SILVA HAMIE

*Instructional Associate Professor,
Department of International Affairs*

Dr. C. Silva Hamie is a leading voice in the field of sustainable development and governance at the Bush School. Her work is driven by the belief that true progress begins with people and attempts to bridge the gap between research and practice in fragile and crisis-affected regions. She is focused on understanding and addressing the systemic challenges that hinder recovery and resilience—especially in communities affected by conflict, natural disasters, and displacement. Dr. Hamie's interdisciplinary approach integrates field experience with academic inquiry, focusing on the interconnectedness of corruption, migration, forced labor, and the water-energy-food nexus as critical dimensions of global development.

WHAT MOST SURPRISED YOU IN YOUR WORK?

Dr. Hamie said that what has surprised her most in her research and fieldwork is how deeply informal institutions and local networks shape recovery and resilience in post-conflict and disaster-affected communities. Despite the presence of formal governance structures and international aid, it is often the informal systems—community ties, local leadership, and cultural norms—that determine the success or failure of interventions. She's also been struck by the persistence of corruption and clientelism even in humanitarian settings, and how these dynamics complicate efforts to promote justice and sustainable development. These insights have challenged her to rethink conventional development models and advocate for more context-sensitive approaches that center the lived experiences of affected populations.

“Sustainable impact is achieved not by imposing solutions, but by **empowering people.**”



SUSTAINABLE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

One important takeaway of Dr. Hamie's work is that sustainable recovery in post-conflict and disaster-affected settings cannot be achieved through top-down interventions alone. True resilience and long-term development emerge when local communities are empowered, informal institutions are acknowledged, and governance is adaptive. She's learned that addressing corruption, forced migration, and resource insecurity requires not only technical solutions but also a deep understanding of social dynamics, trust-building, and the lived realities of those most affected.

A truly rewarding aspect of her work, on a personal level, is seeing her students move beyond theoretical knowledge. She said, "The moment of awe on their faces, when they grasp the realities of a situation firsthand, is when I know they've moved beyond textbook knowledge to a deeper, more meaningful understanding."

When she isn't working, Dr. Hamie enjoys taking care of her family, reading, listening to music, and watching the sunset with her coffee. A fun fact many may not know—she used to participate in rally racing until her dad caught her!





PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE



Project Green Challenge (PGC) engages students in climate action and social justice through 30 days of eco-themed challenges. It empowers participants with knowledge, resources, and mentorship to drive change on campuses and in communities. By promoting individual and collective actions, PGC encourages systems thinking and informed consumption for a healthier, just, and resilient future.

The PGC runs from October 1st to 30th, with daily challenges revealed at 6am PST. Each challenge lasts 24 hours, allowing participants to earn points and prizes by submitting photos, videos, and written content on the PGC site and social media. Up to twenty daily prizes are awarded for exceptional submissions. At the end of the month, 14 finalists compete in the PGC Finals for the grand prize.



Learn more at projectgreenchallenge.com



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AGGIE GREEN FUND

MAJOR GRANT ABSTRACT & MICRO GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

The Aggie Green Fund (AGF) awards funding for students, faculty, and staff to bring their campus sustainability project ideas to life. Since its launch in 2011, the Aggie Green Fund has awarded approximately \$2.8 million to over 170 projects.

The Micro Grant is available for projects with a proposed budget of less than \$5,000 and implementation timeline under six months. Got bigger ideas? The Major Grant is available for projects of a larger scope.

Major Grant Abstract Submissions close on **November 3, 2025 at 5pm** and **Micro Grant Applications** close on **March 2, 2026, at 5pm**.

Previous projects have included...



Aggies Meditate



TAMU Urban Farm United



Water Bottle Filling Stations



Window Film



Solar Panels



Recycling Bins



Fix It Stations



AGGIE GREEN FUND NEWS



Fill-It-Forward



Rack 'Em Aggies



Aerogarden



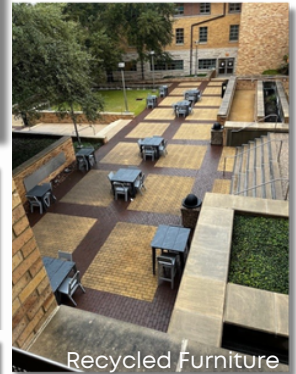
Rainwater Catchment



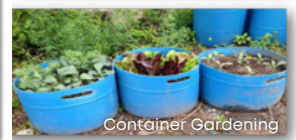
Composting



Sanitary Door Openers



Recycled Furniture



Container Gardening

...and so much more!

Want to see the real-world impact of the Aggie Green Fund? You're invited to the **AGF Showcase**, where past grant recipients will share how their projects are making Texas A&M a more sustainable place.

This is your opportunity to hear directly from the students, faculty, and staff who are turning innovative ideas into reality. You'll learn about a range of projects and from every corner of our campus.

Join us to get inspired, ask questions, have a snack, and celebrate the incredible work being done to create a greener campus.

The AGF Showcase will be held in
MSC 2401 on October 7th, 2025, at 2:30pm.

For more information:

Attend the virtual Major Grant Informational on
October 2nd, 2025, at 6-7pm
or
visit greenfund.tamu.edu