

# AGGIE SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 37



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



**International Women's Day (IWD)**, celebrated annually on March 8, is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

2026 marks 115 years of IWD, first celebrated in 1911.



[Learn more about IWD here.](#)



# MARCH EVENTS CALENDAR

## MARCH 2026

Find more Texas A&M events at [calendar.tamu.edu](http://calendar.tamu.edu)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>AGF Micro Grant Applications Due</b> 5:00pm	3	4 <b>Página a Página</b> 4-5pm, MSC SPO - Gonzales RM 2248 <b>Education Abroad 101</b> 2:00-2:30pm, via Zoom	5	6 <b>First Friday</b> 5:00pm, Downtown Bryan	7
8	9 <b>Spring Break</b> <i>No Classes, March 9-13</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <b>OSCE Internship Applications Open</b>	17 <b>Yoga at Aggie Park</b> 2:00pm, Aggie Park Amphitheater <b>Farmer's Market</b> 11:00am-1:00pm, Rudder Plaza	18	19 <b>Maker Zone: Intro to Knitting</b> 3:00-5:00pm, Evans 208	20 <b>Maroon &amp; White Night</b> 6:00pm, Downtown Bryan	21 <b>THE BIG EVENT</b> 8:00am-2:30pm, BCS Community
22	23 <b>Maker Zone: Introduction to the Glowforge</b> 3:00-4:30pm, Evans 208	24	25 <b>MSC Lost and Found Sale</b> 10:00am-1:00pm, Bethancourt Ballroom	26	27	28 <b>Physics and Engineering Festival</b> 10:00am-4:30pm, MPHY
29 <b>TEDxTAMU 2026</b> 10:00am-3:00pm, Rudder	30 <b>Week Without Waste</b> <i>March 30 - April 3</i>	31	1	2	3	4

## March is National Women's History Month

In March 1978, Women's History Week began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California, coinciding with International Women's Day on March 8. In 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women's History Month. This month honors the many contributions of women throughout American history.

[Learn more about Women's History Month here.](#)



## SPRING BREAK EDITION

Howdy, Ags! We hope you enjoy your well-earned spring break this semester! Got exciting plans? Here are some tips you can incorporate to enjoy a sustainable spring break!

### ECO-FRIENDLY TRAVEL

When travelling, choose eco-friendly transportation options that produce lower carbon emissions. This could include carpooling, riding a bus, or selecting flights with reduced emissions.



### LOW-WASTE LUGGAGE

Pack light and choose reusable items like water bottles, utensils, and bags. In addition to reducing waste, opting for reusable items can save you money as well. You can also consider choosing biodegradable items such as soap or shampoo to further reduce waste.

### SUSTAINABLE STAYS

Choose hotels that have strong sustainability practices in place. Keep an eye out for locations with renewable energy usage, recycling or water conservation programs, or even LEED certification.



### RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

Enjoy outdoor activities that honor nature, such as hiking, kayaking, or bird watching. Remember to respect wildlife and local ecosystems by following the “Leave No Trace” principles: take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.



### LOCAL DINING

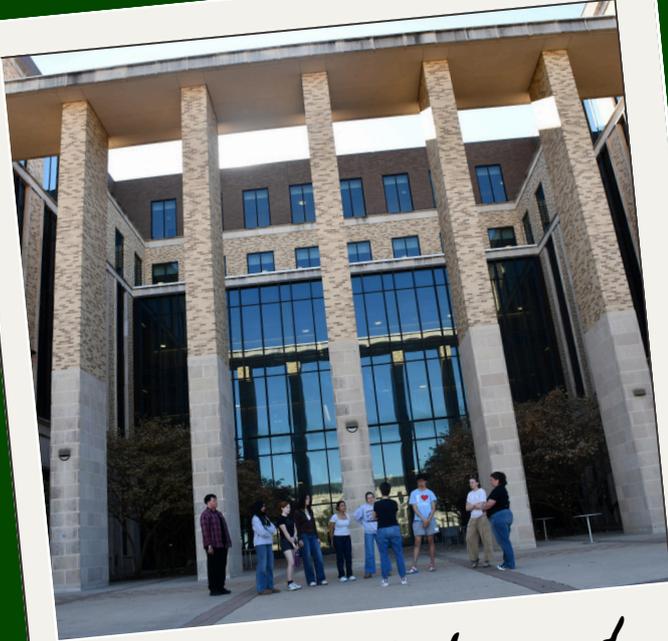
Indulge in local cuisine by dining at restaurants that source ingredients locally and sustainably. This not only supports the community but also reduces the carbon footprint associated with transporting food over long distances.





# INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Last month, the OSCE interns had a guided tour highlighting sustainability features on campus!



*Liberal Arts and Humanities Building*



*Engineering Quad*



*Zachry Engineering Education Complex*



*Mitchell Physics Building*

Keep an eye out for their exciting Campus Earth Month projects next month!

# DR. MINERVA BONILLA

*Assistant Professor  
College of Architecture*

Dr. Bonilla's research focuses on making transportation infrastructure safer and more efficient while supporting a sustainable workforce. This is achieved by focusing on two pillars: innovative intersections and interchanges, and education and attrition of the existing and future workforce.

## ***What is the Motivation for Your Research/Work?***

Dr. Bonilla is motivated by experiencing the meaningful societal contributions of her work, not just from an efficiency and infrastructure perspective, but also from a safety, fairness, and long-term sustainability point of view.

## ***What has Surprised You the Most About Your Research/Work?***

In design or project planning practices, Dr. Bonilla has been most surprised by how small changes can have an unexpectedly large impact on safety, cost, and schedule. One example of this is how simple constructability improvements can significantly reduce delays and claims for complex transportation projects, translating into monetary savings and fewer disruptions to the public.



## Which Sustainable Development Goal(s) Does Your Work Identify with Most?



- **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)
- **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities)



**“There is so much more value in the lessons you learn from interacting with others ... than what you can learn on your own.”**

## What Advice Would You Give to Someone Entering Your Field?

Dr. Bonilla suggests spending time in the field observing projects, talking to stakeholders, and understanding how decisions are made. Applying this context can make your work more meaningful and relevant. Most importantly, she advises choosing topics you're passionate about; that sense of purpose serves as a strong motivator through the challenging, long-term work involved in research.

## What Do You Do When You Aren't Working?

Dr. Bonilla enjoys spending time with family, trying new cuisines, and exploring new places and cultures. She especially loves discovering and exploring new hiking trails, a hobby she picked up at her graduate institution of NCSU in Raleigh, NC.



*Dr. Bonilla's Favorite Trail*

*Join the Texas A&M OSCE at our new upcoming events this semester:*

S U S T A I N A  
S O C I A L S



Join us on Slack using [this link](#) (or visit the link in our Instagram bio, @sustainabletamu) to stay updated on office news and upcoming **Sustainasocials** events!

Take the opportunity to get involved on campus and meet others interested in sustainability.

*Next Event:*

**YOGA AT AGGIE PARK**

**MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 2:00PM**

Amphitheater in Aggie Park



*Come join us for an outdoor, beginner vinyasa flow class with Living Well instructor, Madalyn Smith!*