

AGGIE SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Campus Earth
Day

T-Shirt Design
Contest

Intern Highlight

Sustainability
Awards

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN





CAMPUS EARTH DAY

Thanks to everyone who came out for our annual Campus Earth Day Celebration! We had some great activities from our interns, and student and campus organizations!



Sustainability Intern showing off the plant she got from one of the other tables.



Participants turning in their passports.



University Health Services reminding us about mental health!



Visitors to KAMU's table got to do seed planting to take home.



Texas Conservation Alliance teaching us about bird migration!



CAMPUS EARTH DAY



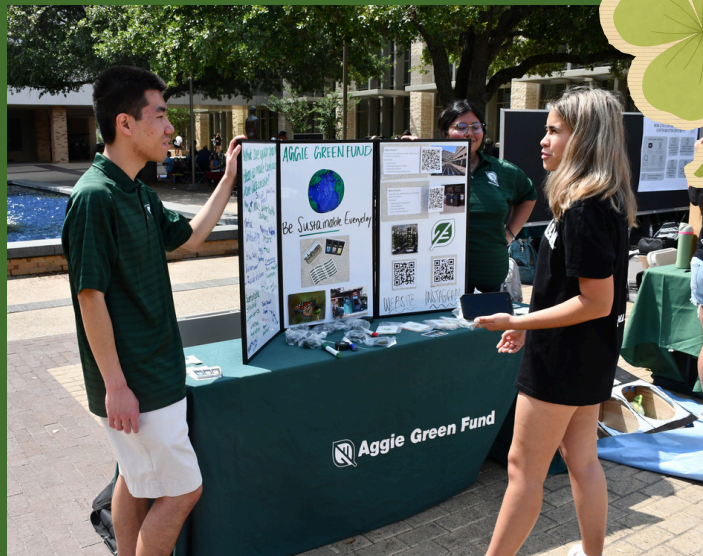
Interns hard at work talking about sustainable shopping!

TAMU Transportation Services & their bike service!



Queen Rev!!!

Howdy Aggie Green Fund!



Interns talking about greenwashing.

Sustainable Cornhole!!





T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

We have a winner for our T-Shirt Design Contest!!!



Thanks to everyone who submitted a design!

We'll also be making stickers out of the runners-up!





Bilal Mazhar

Political Science

"Seeing the versatility of sustainability is one of the things that has made me grow passionate about pursuing a career in the field, as someone who enjoys learning new ideas and trying new experiences. If not for this internship, I may not have realized that the flexibility of a career in sustainability is something that could potentially be a good fit for me!"

Eline Guantos

Political Science

"During my internship with the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment, I have expanded my knowledge and advocacy efforts, particularly regarding the intersection of environmental issues with gender and politics. This experience has provided me with a platform to amplify the voices of communities disproportionately affected by environmental injustice."





Sritha Tanikella

Architecture

"Going into the internship, I knew that we'd be working on bringing awareness to our peers on campus about topics related to sustainability, but I didn't realize how often we'd be interacting with them or what that would even entail. I found that this was an amazing way to feel more connected with our fellow Aggies, as I wouldn't have thought that so many people would have an interest in what we're doing."

Sophia Cruz

Political Science

"Going to First Friday was definitely my favorite experience since it felt more like friends hanging out rather than an assignment for the internship. Not only did I get to see more of Bryan and explore new things around town, but we were able to support local businesses and create a reel out of it. I truly believe that the people make the place, and I feel like I got so lucky with my intern group."





Julianna Roth

Supply Chain Management

"Picking a favorite project would be impossible because I learned something meaningful from each one. But honestly, the best part of this internship was how genuine my interest stayed the whole time. Every project felt personal, like it wasn't just another school assignment, it was something I wanted to understand better. And that feeling, that connection, is rare."

Kushal Bhattarai

General Engineering

"My favorite thing I learned was the three pillars of sustainability. I did not realize how broad the field was until I came into the office, and my perspective encompasses a lot more than before. I feel like I can apply sustainability to more of the work I do in and out of the classroom now."





Rebecca Krenek

Environmental Studies

"Working with the team of interns also gave me the chance to meet and work with new people that I may not have met or had the chance to work with otherwise. This was a fun part of the internship because it showed how sustainability can be incorporated into so many different backgrounds and majors, giving us the chance to combine our different strengths and interests."

Isabella Treviño

Bioenvironmental Science

"My all time favorite time was when we went off all around on campus for sustainability cam. I never realized how many students actually practice sustainability until I started looking for it and it made my heart happy to see. It showed me that even if they aren't involved in our office or majoring in something environmental related, that it is still something that people consider."





SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

The Sustainability Awards were presented during the 9th Annual Sustainability Breakfast.

The purpose of the Sustainability Champion Awards is to recognize and reward those who have demonstrated exemplary effort, dedication, and leadership throughout the year in fostering a campus culture of sustainability.

STAFF CHAMPION *Stephanie Walker*



Stephanie has gone above and beyond integrating sustainable practices multiple ways through her work in MSC Programs.

She received a grant worth over \$100,000 from the Aggie Green Fund for an LED lighting upgrade. She has worked diligently every step of the way to write the grant, work with the vendors and SCC, and conducted pre- and post- surveys with the students and staff to document the project impact on their enjoyment of the space.



SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

STUDENT CHAMPION

Subiksha Sankar



Subiksha is a biology major with a passion for sustainability and advocacy. During her freshman year she transformed her apartment into an open garden where she grew onions and basil. And over 40 students benefited from her produce, which not only provided fresh produce to other students, but also planted seeds for them to think about how they could start their own self-sufficient practices.

She partnered with her student org to bring a local market to campus that over 200 students attended, and worked on campaigns to bring environmental awareness to campus leading to the creation of three new recycling stations.

Recently, Subiksha was admitted into the “SEC in DC” program which allowed her to share sustainable policies with Federal legislators in March. This opportunity is a testament to her ability to combine her passion for sustainability with impactful action on a larger scale.



SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

TEAM CHAMPION

Residence Life Operations & Events

Dr. Rob Webber, Meagan Alexander, Emiel Medrano, Lauren Watson, and Amy Ullrich



Residence Life Operations and Events have successfully managed year-round collections and e-waste diversion by partnering with Zappos through Soles4Souls and plastic film for Trex in partnership with HEB. This project involves monitoring, collecting, and moving items from multiple locations to various vendors, engaging residential students, and diverting waste from landfills. Moreover, they have done outstanding work on campus and beyond by partnering with Bancos de Tapitas for the recycling of plastic bottle caps to support pediatric chemotherapy patient support in Mexico. The Department of Residence Life's Operations & Events Team has created a positive ripple effect, leading other staff and departments to adopt more sustainable practices.



STARS AWARDS

The STARS Awards recognize the stakeholders who helped compile and enter the data needed to complete the report and the departments they represent.

Most Improved: Utilities & Energy Services *STARS Liaison: Yasuko Sakurai*



Most Improved is awarded to the department which, compared to the previous STARS submission, made the greatest improvement in points earned from their respective STARS credit.

Utilities and Energy Services received this award for their improvement in two related credits:
Operations Credit 2 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions and
Operations Credit 6 – Clean & Renewable Energy.



STARS AWARDS

Overall Top Performer: Residence Life *STARS Liaison: Kenya Reeves*



Overall Top Performer is awarded to the department with multiple credits who achieved the highest cumulative point total from their respective STARS credits.

The 2024 Overall Top Performer was awarded to Residence Life for earning 100% of the points available in their respective STARS credits. This is the seventh consecutive year that Residence Life has earned this honor.



STARS AWARDS

The Gaining Ground award goes to the department which has made positive improvement in one of their respective credits.

Gaining Ground: Living Well at Texas A&M

STARS Liaison: Kourtney Basset

For work on Innovation Credit 44-Wellbeing Certification.



Gaining Ground: University Libraries

STARS Liaison: Simona Tabacaru

For work on Academic Credit 11, Open Access Research.

