



Council for
Sustainable Futures
STANISLAUS STATE

Sustainability Report 2019/20



SUSTAINABILITY



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As AY 2019-2020 draws to a close, The Council for Sustainable Futures wishes to memorialize at the outset of our report that we, like the rest of the University, were suddenly obliged to change as the Covid-19 Pandemic caused economic and interpersonal activity in the Central Valley to grind to a halt, separated us all from one another, and forced us to pivot to virtual interaction. Major events, such as those we had planned for Earth Week, had to be postponed. The pandemic itself, and many of the responses to it that have taken place at all levels of government and culture, are symptoms of a lack of sustainability and of the ongoing need for initiatives and movements such as the ones that emerge from groups like ours. This year we have divided our report into three broad sections: The Faculty Fellows, The Eco-Warriors, and The Sustainability Program.

Faculty Fellows

The Faculty Fellows, in addition to serving on the Council for Sustainable Futures and assisting the group in its day-to-day operation and the furtherance of its mission, also pursue their own activities related to their teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, and service. What sets Faculty Fellows apart from their instructional colleagues is that, in their role as ambassadors of the CSF, they incorporate sustainability into their professional work. Examples of each Fellow's professional contributions as they relate to sustainability follow:

Julia Sankey

- Diana Avalos, Vice-President of the Eco-Warriors, presented on the sustainability student organization and their activities to classes during fall, 2019.
- Participated in the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab faculty learning community in fall, 2019. This brought the campus as a 'living lab' concept to the foreground in course content and delivery through exercises that positively impacted student engagement and learning. Classes and labs were partially conducted outside, especially at the pond adjacent to the Naraghi Hall of Science.
- Delivered the following lectures: "Teaching about the Climate Crisis Across the Curriculum" (California State University, Stanislaus, Faculty Development Center. Nov. 25, 2019); "Teaching about the Climate Crisis" (Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab faculty learning community presentation, CSU Stanislaus. Dec. 3, 2019); "Society and the Global Climate Crisis: How Is This Affecting California and What Can We Do?" (Modesto Junior College, Science Colloquium Series. February 5, 2020).



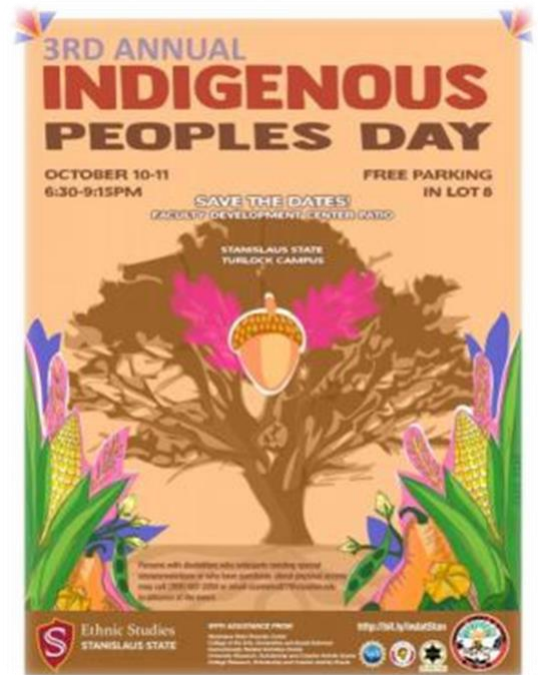
- Attended Modesto Junior College's Institute Day on January 10, 2020, and through networking at the meeting, was invited to join and attend monthly meetings of a climate education activist group.
- Led a special session focused on the climate crisis at the Science Day event on the Stanislaus campus (March 7, 2020).
- Served as faculty mentor to Chemistry major Grace Parsons for her research, supported by the current STEM grant, on the effectiveness of Science Day climate crisis activities and will provide guidance for Grace's submission of an abstract and presentation of results at a STEM conference in 2020/21.
- Submitted an IDEAS grant proposal for a "Teaching about the Climate Crisis Across the Curriculum" one-day workshop on the climate crisis for Stan State faculty.
- Drafted a proposal for a new major: "Sustainability, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy" (a collaborative effort with Dr. Jeffrey Mirocha of San Jose State University).
- Reviewed the STARS Report for the CSF.

Cueponcaxochitl Moreno Sandoval

- Participated in the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Community; presented course plan for: "Indigenous Sustainability in ETHS 2300, 3400 and 4950" (Spring 2020).
- Presented Online: Moreno Sandoval, C. D. (2020, February 23). "Indigenous Sustainability." 3rd Annual *Sustainability Education Summit*, University of Minnesota.
- Grant, Funded: Carroll-Miranda, J., **Moreno Sandoval, C. D.**, Fleming, J., Chatman, M., and Lindala, A. (2019-2021). "Ancestral Computing for Sustainability: Researching Experiences of Undergraduate Women of Color in Computer Science Education." \$300,000. Collaborative research project. National Science Foundation EAGER Grant.
- Program Coordinator: Indigenous Peoples Days at Stan State (Fall 2019). Over 600 attended; 90% students, 94% satisfaction.



- Published a book (2019) on weaving Ethnic Studies and Computer Science Education for Sustainability called *Ancestral Knowledge Meets Computer Science Education: Environmental Change in Community* with Palgrave Macmillan. The book has been used in several courses nationwide, has received attention from the National Science Foundation, and inspired another research project.
- Hired two student research assistants for an *Ancestral Computing for Sustainability* National Science Foundation grant using the campus as a living lab. Research goals are to learn about the experiences of one of the most vulnerable populations in computer science education: women of color and gender non-conforming students. Currently in the early data collection stages, the plan is to create an intervention program for increased retention of these populations in computer science as well as a sustainability-focused course—*Ancestral Computing for Sustainability*—cross-listed by Ethnic Studies and Computer Science with Dr. Melanie Martin as a collaborator on the research project.
- Grant, Funded: Writing a book prospectus for Son Jarocho Indigenous Sustainability research, Teachers College Press. RSCA, Office of the Provost. Research is on learning the experiences of students engaging in establishing a culture of fandangos in son jarocho in the Central Valley. This research involves community-based participation of multiple entities including continued generations of son jarocho learners taking the course, elementary school students, other faculty participation, continued programming on campus, and family involvement.
- Grant, Funded: Indigenous Sustainability professional development: Unearthing Ancestral Knowledge Systems in Teotihuacan, Mexico as Pedagogy for Awakening Genetic Memories on Campus and Beyond.
- Hired two student research assistants to assist in a literature review of culturally sustaining and revitalizing education, analyze data, and co-write findings. Students are also two generations of participants in the son jarocho ETHS 4950 course. Methodologies are drawn from Indigenous epistemologies and participatory action research.
- Grant, Funded: Instructionally Related Award grant to advance Indigenous Sustainability on campus through programming. \$54,331. Three components to this grant include advancing Indigenous Sustainability in 1) BioAg Field Site community garden as a project of service learning classes, 2) annual Indigenous Peoples Day

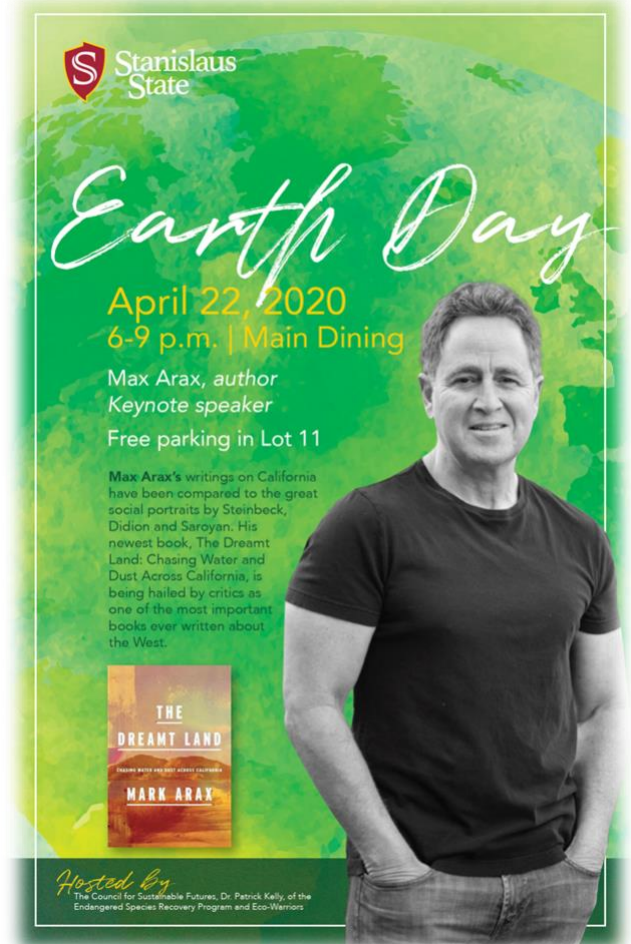


programming, and 3) artistic expressions of communal fandangos of son jarocho, a musical genre created during the African diaspora in Mexico.

- Online Earth Week programming, including a poetry writing workshop and a poetry performance at an online fandango gathering with the themes: Nurturing Sounds of the Earth: Experimental Son Jarocho in the Time of Physical Distancing. These events attracted attendance as far east as Veracruz, Mexico and San Antonio, Texas, as far north as Oregon, and as far south as San Diego and Mexicali. Students were at the center stage sharing their poetry about social and environmental sustainability.
- Created a community garden in the BioAg Field Site as a service learning project for classes. Supported by some Instructionally Related Award grant monies for developing structures including a potable water system and permanent shade structure for student participation.
- Faculty Adviser to the Eco-Warriors and Faculty Adviser to the Indigenous Students in Activism.

Dave Colnic

- Co- organized the keynote speaker event, with Dr. Patrick Kelly, featuring Mark Arax, author of *The Dreamt Land: Chasing Water and Dust Across California*, and a faculty book discussion, scheduled for Earth Week 2020 and rescheduled to Sustainability Month in October, 2020
- Presented a successful proposal, with Vice-President Michele Lahti, to the Senate Executive Committee requesting that Professor Emerita Pamela Roe be honored by a room naming of Room 101 in the Naraghi Hall of Science, to be commemorated with a plaque and celebration during Sustainability Month in October, 2020. Dr. Roe joined the faculty at Stanislaus State in 1971 and retired in 2011. She passed away on August 10, 2019. During her 40 years of service as a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Roe built an academic program and a legacy, founding the M.S. in Ecology and Sustainability, and demonstrating her early vision for the environment and sustainability.
- Reviewed the STARS Report for the CSF.
- Liaised with faculty governance and university administration for Council for Sustainable Futures projects.



Tony Perrello

- Published a book chapter co-written with a recent graduate of the Master's program in English. The Chapter looks at the climate crisis and its representation in popular culture: Tony Perrello and C. Anne Engert. "Driven to Extinction, Again: *Cadillacs and Dinosaurs* and the Irresistible Apocalypse." *Apocalypse TV: Essays on Society and Self at the End of the World*, edited by Michael Cornelius and Sherry Ginn, McFarland & Company, Inc., 2020, pp. 86-101.
- Wrote a conference paper concerning the climate crisis and its effects on the ocean that was accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the *Shakespeare Association of America* (2020): "Monsters of the Deep: What Watery Dreams May Come" (February, 2020).
- Participated in a Zoom Panel: "Watery Thinking: Cognitive and Ecocritical Perspectives on Water in Early Modern England." This virtual roundtable discussion was staged in lieu of the face-to-face meeting that was canceled due to Covid-19. The Panel was run by Steve Mentz, Professor of English at St. John's University and noted scholar in the environmental humanities, ecocritic, and founder of the Blue Humanities (April, 2020).



The Eco-Warriors

Established in October of 2019, The Eco-Warriors is a sustainability club open to all students at Stanislaus State. The Eco-Warriors promote sustainable practices and environmental awareness through

service, peer education, and organizing and overseeing environmental activities and projects on campus and in the local community. Their purpose is to encourage sustainable practices and environmental awareness through public service, to promote a sustainable future, and to improve the campus community.

Since October of 2019, the Eco-Warriors have:

- Attracted participants from among the student body, elected officers, and composed a mission statement.
- Hosted "Clothing Swap in the Quad:" the clothing swap brings awareness to unsustainable practices inherent in the "fast fashion" industry, giving students sustainable options.



“Fast fashion” is the rapid production of trendy and cheap clothing done by mass-market retailers. At the Clothing Swap, students purchased items for two dollars or simply swapped a piece of clothing for an item in the inventory at no charge. Students also donated clothing, which was eventually delivered to a non-profit. At the first Clothing Swap, a local fashion designer joined the club to support locally-sourced clothing and the second Clothing Swap was held in honor of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, emphasizing the Eco-Warriors’ concern for social justice.



- Made a promotional video to encourage Stan State students to join the Eco-Warriors.
- Reviewed the STARS Report for the CSF.

Planned Events suspended due to Covid-19:

- A Clothing Swap was planned at the State Theatre of Modesto. Event to include a film on fast fashion, a clothing swap event before and after the film, the presentation of educational material correlating homelessness and fast fashion, and networking with stakeholders and other community members.
- A series of activities was planned in honor of Earth Day. These were set to take place in the quad in collaboration with the Pre-Health Society and the Biology Student Association. Activities were to include trash sorting competitions, a DIY game of horseshoes made from recycled material, a sustainability trivia game, the display of an animal made entirely of plastic materials collected by students in order to demonstrate the volume of plastic waste on campus, and a local park clean-up at the end of Earth Week.



Capital Planning & Facilities Management The Sustainability Program



With the hire of Wendy Olmstead as the full-time Sustainability Coordinator in fall, 2019, the Sustainability Program, in Capital Planning and Facilities Management, launched multiple outreach activities designed to engage and empower the campus community through sustainability literacy and education.

Program Administration and Outreach

- Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, co-facilitated a faculty book discussion, with Dr. Matthew Cover, of *There's Something in the Water*, by Ingrid Waldron. This exploration of environmental racism in Canada, was held during the Indigenous Peoples Event, Fall 2019.
- Copies of *Braiding Sweetgrass-Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, were gifted to staff and administrators during the fall and spring semesters. Made possible by an Innovate, Design, Excel, & Assess for Success (IDEAS) grant from the Division of Strategic Planning, Enrollment Management & Innovation (SPEMI), the distribution of Kimmerer's gentle and loving approach to sustainability facilitated meaningful discussions during department meetings of sustainability as a concept, campus accomplishments to date, and future sustainability initiatives.
- Guest lectures regarding the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainability were provided to the Honors Issues and Advocacy Class and a Business Ethics Class in fall 2019.
- During Sustainability Month in October, 2019, the Sustainability Program joined forces with the Eco-Warriors for Warrior Wednesdays' tabling in the quad with the following themes: Green Pledge, Clothing Drive/Fast Fashion, Let's Talk About Trash/Recycling Challenge, World Food Day (in partnership with Chartwells), a Campus Litter Walk, a Climate Change Challenge, and participation in the Basic Needs Initiative Event with education about sustainability and homelessness.



- With the assistance of University Communications, the sustainability website was improved to include campus operations, student and faculty resources, news and events, Council for Sustainable Futures' and Eco-Warriors' initiatives, and links to other organizations and websites related to sustainability.



- Stan State Sustainability broadened our regional and state engagement through monthly meetings with the CSU Sustainability affinity group, a collaboration with the Modesto Junior College Sustainability Committee, and an alliance with the UC Merced Sustainability team that included a partnership for Earth Day 2020 documentaries and videos via zoom. Wendy Olmstead, Diana Avalos, and Cynella Aghasi attended the *This Way to Sustainability Conference (TWTS)* hosted by CSU Chico—March 26, 27, 2020—via zoom.

- With the support of an IDEAS grant in Fall 2019, and funding from the Provost Office in Spring 2020, 17 faculty from 12 different disciplines participated in the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Communities, co-facilitated by Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, and Shradha Tibrewal, Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Participating faculty presented their course plans to incorporate a unit or module on sustainability, a sustainability challenge, or a sustainability-focused activity during a campus presentation in each semester.

- An award application and a presentation proposal were submitted to the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (July, 2020) for the institutionalization of the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Communities.

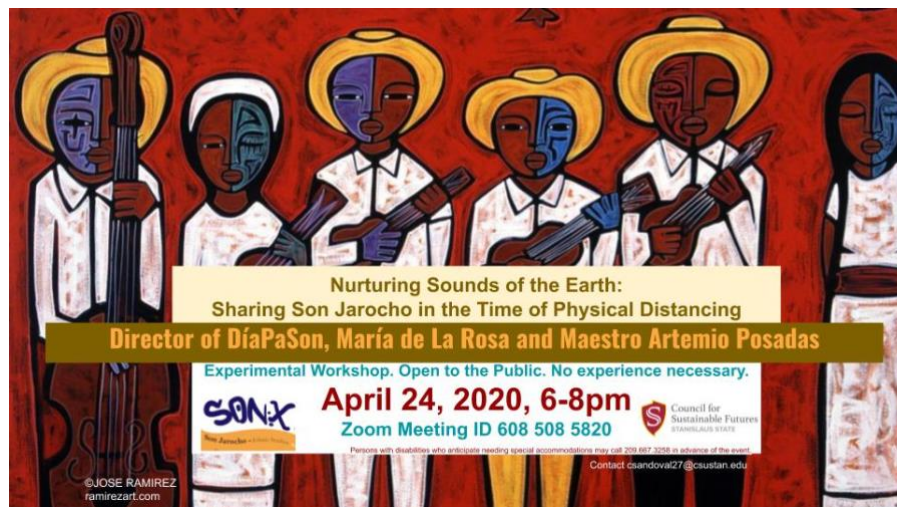
- During Spring 2020 New Student Orientation, a sustainability overview and Climate Change Challenge were provided during the campus showcase including a draw for the new sustainability t-shirts.

- Earth Week Events, listed below and organized through a joint effort by the



Sustainability Program, Council for Sustainable Futures, Eco-Warriors, and Climate Action Now, were postponed to Sustainability Month in October, 2020 due to Covid-19.

- Climate Action Lightning Talks
 - Mark Arax, author of *The Dreamt Land*, keynote speaker
 - WALL-E screening and themed dinner (with Chartwells)
 - Eco-Warriors Fast Fashion at State Theater in Modesto
 - Eco-Warriors Recycling Challenge
 - Climate Change Symposium (Climate Action Now)
 - Son Jarocho Demonstration
- A series of online Earth Week activities were provided to the campus community in April, 2020 via the StanNews and Warrior Weekly newsletters:
- Stressed Out? Art Can Help Us
 - Grow a Warrior Garden
 - Stan State Warriors Join UC Merced Bobcats for Earth Day Movie Screenings
 - Join Earthrise, a Global Digital Network to Celebrate Earth Day
 - Take Action! Take the Pesticide Pledge
 - Express Your Inner Sustainability
 - Watch the Story of Plastic
 - Nurturing Sounds of the Earth: Experimenting Fandango in the Time of Physical Distancing (Presented by Ethnic Studies Program and Indigenous Students in Activism).



- On the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020, the Sustainability Coordinator led a Diversi-Tea Talk with the university's Diversity Center about the social equity dimension of sustainability via Zoom.

- Stan State’s first Sustainability Student Assistants, Emma Denison and Ashley Camarena Morales (R to L in the picture), provided significant contributions to this year’s sustainability initiatives through:
 - Data collection for the STARS audit
 - Outreach during Warrior Wednesdays and New Student Orientation
 - Marketing via social media, the sustainability website, and printed signage
 - Creation of a green office program
 - Support of Indigenous Peoples Event, fall 2019
 - Audit of external recycling receptacles
 - Research of bamboo cutlery



Program Development

Beginning fall, 2019, the Sustainability Program expanded its involvement with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the leading higher education sustainability organization, comprised of over 900 members across 48 U.S. states, 9 Canadian provinces, and 20 countries. Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, entered the AASHE Mentorship Program with Jillian Buckholz, Sustainability Director at CSU East Bay, assigned as her mentor to share knowledge and cooperate on projects. In spring 2020, Olmstead was selected by AASHE to review session proposals for the 2020 AASHE conference to be held entirely online in October, 2020.

STARS Report

With a campus announcement from President Junn in September, 2019, Stan State launched its first Strategic Tracking & Assessment Rating System (STARS) report, a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS data collection from October, 2019 to May, 2020 was a campus-wide effort with responsible parties providing extensive information regarding academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. Prior to submission of the final report, the STARS report was subjected to



an external review by Ryan Todd, Sustainability Manager, and his team, from Sacramento State and an internal review by the Council for Sustainable Futures. Following a review by President Junn and Cabinet, the final report was submitted to AASHE in May, 2020, and based on AASHE's review, the report will be revised, as necessary, and re-submitted for its final ranking according to this global sustainability standard.

Stan Food Text Program

- The Sustainability Program worked with Associated Students Inc., Auxiliary & Business Services, Chartwells, and Safety & Risk Management to establish a food text program for opted-in students to access left-over food from Student Center catered events.

Green Office Program (GROW)

- Piloted in Business & Finance and with Facilities' Managers, the green office program was designed to guide employees through the process of creating a more sustainable workplace with a focus on office energy consumption, paper and office waste, employee health and wellness, transportation, and food and packaged goods.



Campus Dining

- Working with Chartwells and Auxiliary & Business Services, sustainable dining options were explored in the areas of increased vegan dining options, the purchase of ethically and locally sourced and plant-based food, the logistics of food waste composting and the inclusion of the Chartwells Teaching Kitchen as a Campus as a Living Lab presentation for the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Community.



Recycling & Food Waste Composting

- An audit of external recycling receptacles was conducted in fall, 2019 and a plan was created for the standardization of all external recycling receptacles and signage per recycling best practices. Twenty custom-designed recycling

receptacles, will be installed in summer, 2020 with the sustainability word cloud created by University Communications and shown on the first page of this report, featured on the door of each recycling bin.

- In fall, 2019, a meeting was held with Turlock Scavenger to discuss the logistics of food waste composting and a food waste audit was planned for the Main Dining kitchen with Auxiliary & Business Services, Chartwells, and Capital Planning and Facilities Management.
- Construction recycling efforts for the Student Center resulted in a diversion rate of 96% during demolition and construction.

Energy, Water, and Plastic Waste Reduction

Capital Planning and Facilities Management continued efforts to reduce the campus carbon footprint to meet California Senate Bill 32 goals and to comply with the CSU Single Use Plastic Policy.

- Campus electricians replaced high pressure sodium pathway lights with LED lights equipped with motion sensors resulting in savings of 276,385 kWh and approximately \$30,402 annually.
- Campus custodians and electricians replaced 11,650 fluorescent lights with LED lights reducing the wattage of each bulb used from 32 to 12. The project is estimated to reduce kWh used on campus by 531,578 with a related estimated dollar savings of \$58,478 annually.
- Water refill stations were installed in Naraghi Hall of Science (donated by Associated Students, Inc.), the Child Development Center, and the Classroom Annex by campus plumbers to encourage the use of refillable bottles and to reduce the use of plastic water bottles in compliance with the CSU Single-Use Plastic Policy (5236).
- Energy Management System upgrades have been implemented to meet American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers guidelines to optimize campus operations of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure.



2020/21 Proposed Initiatives

- Revise the Sustainability Strategic Plan to reflect the four STARS categories—Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration—and their sub-categories.
- Conduct a sustainability literacy assessment of students.
- Develop programs to encourage faculty and student sustainability research.
- Research opportunities for formal Community Partnerships with school districts, government agencies, and private sector organizations to advance sustainability on a regional, municipal, community, or neighborhood scale.
- Work with University Procurement to increase the percentage of post-consumer recycle, agricultural residue, and/or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified content in university purchases of office paper.
- Identify and implement source reduction strategies to reduce the total amount of waste generated (materials diverted + materials disposed) per weighted campus user.
- Audit and standardize internal recycling receptacles.
- Install solar panels in Parking Lot 4.