

# SDSTATE SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

August 30, 2017



## Upcoming Events

**8/30 (TODAY!)** – Student Sustainability Council meeting (6pm in room#255 Student Union)

**9/5-6** – Bike Booth – Learn how to properly lock your bike on campus. Bluestem Bicycles coupons will be available! (11-1 west side of Union)

**9/20** – Waste Audit – Sustainability Specialist along with volunteers will sort through bags of trash and recycling to better understand SDSU's recycling culture.

**9/26 & 11/8** – Sustainability Chatter - Bring your lunch and enjoy conversations with fellow faculty about sustainability and your curriculum. (12pm Briggs 130)

**9/28 & 10/26** – Brookings Sustainability Council Green Drinks – Hear about community & campus sustainability projects. (6pm at Wooden Legs)

**10/5** – Campus Sustainability Tour – Visit sustainability hotspots on campus! Spots are limited. Tour starts at Facilities and Services at 2:30. [E-mail](#) for reservations.

**10/10** – Tiny Home Open House – Tour Creative Animal's 200 sq. foot tiny home. In the evening, tiny home owners, Stephanie Arne (SDSU grad!) and Tim Davidson will present on the importance of sustainable living. Watch for details on [Facebook](#).

## Calling All Jackrabbits

Sustainability is a community effort, and that plays true here on campus as well. For sustainability to take hold, all must be on board.

As true jackrabbits, we are striving to increase our campus sustainability. And we need your help.

Two years ago, SDSU completed our first sustainability benchmark report, earning a bronze rating. This report looked at over 70 aspects of campus sustainability and rated us on our effort. These aspects covered areas such as academics, engagement, operations, and administration. We are now aiming for a silver rating.

Here's a rundown of how you can help campus reach our goal.

A good portion of points are available by adding sustainability concepts and activities to courses regardless of discipline. By adding a campus-wide learning outcome, we would earn 8 points. Our goal this year is to have 250+ courses that include sustainability concepts. Adding a sustainability minor adds 1.5 points. There's even points available for increasing faculty research that includes aspects of sustainability and offering financial support, mentorship, or other incentives to encourage faculty and students to conduct research around sustainability. Another credit looks at providing a way for students to publish and share their sustainability research.

Peer-to-Peer education plays a large role in engaging students in living sustainably. In

the sustainability report, there is an entire credit that looks at creating a peer-to-peer education program. Other credits dive into having a sustainability speaker series, a common read centered around sustainability, creating a student run sustainability fund, and having a cultural event centered around sustainability. Still others look at how we can collaborate with the City of Brookings to create a sustainable community.

The operations section of the report looks at a wide variety of areas from creating sustainable purchasing policies, reducing campus greenhouse gas emissions, conducting an assessment of endangered and vulnerable species on campus, and increasing the number of students and employees who commute to campus in sustainable ways. A big part in this report is reducing our campus waste. As part of this we want to increase our recycling rate to 25% by the end of June 2018.

Last, but not least, points are available for diverting SDSU investment into sustainable investments and making a portion of campus investment holding publicly available. The Planning and Administration sections also looks at reducing the number of workplace injuries, assessing diversity, and increasing affordability for low-income students.

If you have any questions about sustainability efforts or how you can help, contact the [Sustainability Specialist](#).

[Click here](#) to see the full campus sustainability plan.

## Bike for a Better Future



Figure 1: SDSU Bicycle Club president, Mark McLaughlin, rides past Mathews Hall.

Riding your bike has many benefits from lowering your carbon footprint and saving money to improving your health. It's also incredibly fast and easy.

At SDSU, bicyclists are welcome both on the sidewalks and streets. However, bicyclists need to follow basic rules to keep everyone safe.

- When riding on streets, bicycles must follow the same rules as motor vehicles, unless otherwise noted.
- When riding on the sidewalk, bicycle riders must yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists must always ride as far to the right as possible and stop at intersections before crossing the street from a sidewalk.
- Bicycles should be operated at a reasonable speed with regard to visibility, traffic, weather, pedestrians present, and surface condition.
- Bicyclists must announce when passing others by using an audible signal and use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Bicyclists must be predictable and not veer suddenly. Bicyclists should be alert and pay attention at all times.
- Bicycle parking is ONLY allowed at bicycle racks. All other bicycles will be impounded.

In your daily commute to and on campus, consider riding your bike or using another means of sustainable transportation (i.e. walking, skateboarding, carpooling, etc.). They are fun ways to exercise or socialize with colleagues. Throughout this academic year, campus' goal is to have 50% of students and 23% of employees commute to campus by more sustainable means.

## Faculty Workshops

Throughout the year, the Sustainability Specialist and the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning are joining together to offer a sustainability in curriculum workshop series. This workshop series is open to all faculty in **all disciplines** and will dive into a variety of ways to add sustainability concepts to your courses. It will also look at how to assess student's learning in sustainability.

- **Higher Education and Sustainability: Approaches and Assessments**  
September 19, 2017 10:30-12:00 [Briggs 125]
- **Syllabus and Learning Outcome Analysis through a Sustainable Lens**  
October 24, 2017 1:00-2:30 [Briggs 130]
- **Experiential Learning within Sustainability**  
February 7, 2018 12:00-1:30 [Briggs 125]
- **Assessment of Sustainability Experiences**  
March 22, 2018 10:00-11:30 [Briggs 130]



Figure 2: Word cloud made from SDSU definition of sustainability.

## Sustainability Tidbits

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Bike Count** – Throughout the semester the SDSU Bicycle Committee will count the number of bike riders on campus sidewalks. The Committee is in need of volunteers to sit at assigned locations and count how many bicycles pass during an allotted time. If you are interested, contact the [Sustainability Specialist](#).

**Keep Campus Clean Initiative** – Is your student organization looking for volunteer hours? Campus is seeking groups to help pick up litter in designated campus areas once a month. Contact the [Sustainability Specialist](#) to sign-up! Bags and gloves will be provided.

**Waste Audit** – Help the Sustainability Specialist sort through bags of trash and recycling to better understand our campus recycling rate. Contact the [Sustainability Specialist](#) to volunteer!

### Fun Fact

Through energy conservation efforts the North Chiller Plant, which helps cool campus during the summer, saved 1,329,681 kilowatt hours of energy from April 1-Aug. 25, 2017. That's equivalent to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 105,150 gallons of gasoline or nearly 100 homes over a year period!

### Get Involved

Follow SDState Sustainability on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram @SustainSDState.

SDState Sustainability website.  
[www.sdstate.edu/sustainability](http://www.sdstate.edu/sustainability)

Contact the Sustainability Specialist at 605-688-6821 or via [e-mail](#).

[Click here](#) for a basic resource guide for integrating sustainability into your curriculum.