

SDSTATE SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

September 2018



Upcoming Events

SDSU. Sustainability. & YOU

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. West Side of Union

- 9/5 - Healthy Planet = Healthy People (Sip on a free bike-blended smoothie and learn about health & sustainability!)
- 9/19 - Waste Not. Want Not. (Learn what can be recycled and watch the SDSU Fall Waste Audit.)
- 9/26 - Wa-Ter You choose? (Ever heard of a water tasting booth?)

Campus Sustainability Tour*

Oct. 16 @ 2:30 p.m.

Millennium Recycling Inc. Tour*

Oct. 26 @ 12:30 p.m.

Brookings Regional Landfill Tour*

Oct. 31 @ 8:15 a.m.

Advancing Your Sustainable Lifestyle Workshop

Learn about sustainability, current SDSU efforts, and how you can make your life more sustainable.

Nov. 8 @ 4:00 p.m.

Honors Hall 118

*Reservations required

SDSU Launches Sustainability Minor

Do you feel a desire to dive deeper into sustainability? Do you want to learn more about what sustainability is and how it relates to your major? Starting this fall, SDSU is now offering a sustainability minor! This minor is open to all majors and explores the three pillars of sustainability.

Students who complete the requirements for the minor will be able to:

1. Define sustainability and articulate an understanding of the linkages between social, economic, and environmental perspectives.
2. Recognize and assess how sustainability impacts the natural environment and human communities.
3. Apply measures of sustainability and an evidence-based, interdisciplinary approach to issues of social, environmental, and economic justice.

Sustainability is a concept that is becoming increasingly used as human societies recognize the finite nature of many natural resources and the lingering ill effects of overconsumption, pollution, and poorly planned land uses. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and to do so while maintaining ecological processes, functions, biodiversity, and productivity into the future. An understanding of sustainability includes the scientific basis for sustainable resource use as well as the social and economic implications and/or costs of sustainable practices. Understanding the challenges facing society today requires an interdisciplinary perspective of the problems faced in moving toward a sustainable future.

Students/graduates in nearly any career will benefit from this minor. Sustainability skills may be applied to a large range of the workforce.

Employers across many sectors are seeking workers trained in systems-thinking and sustainability who can help them compete in a world of limited resources.

For more information, contact Bob Watrel, Interim Department Head, Department of Geography, Wenona Hall, Box 506, 1101 Medary Avenue, 688-4155

While you were away

If you have ever spent a summer on campus, you will observe right away that there is never a dull moment! Here are a few highlights from the summer.

- Solar panels and wall were installed on the Stanley J. Marshall addition. The 50kW solar panel system will supplement the electrical usage for the entire Stanley J. Marshall Center. The Center also has a solar wall installed which uses the south facing wall of the equipment penthouse to preheat the ventilation air going to the space. In the winter, this reduces the amount of energy needed to heat up the ventilation air while in the summer time, the solar wall is bypassed. The SDSU Facilities and Services department is continuing to pursue possible photovoltaic projects on future construction projects on campus.
- Thanks to the 2017 Coca-Cola/Keep America Beautiful Public Space Recycling Bin Grant, all dorm rooms are now equipped with a recycling bin!
- Through a collaboration with Residential Life, all incoming Freshman received a sustainability move-in guide before they arrived on campus. This guide provided 6 tips to students on what to bring to campus to start their Jackrabbit years in a sustainable manner.
- Move-Out Donation Program – SDSU's first ever move-out donation program was hosted during move-out week in May. Two hundred twenty-six items were collected, which diverted roughly 1,784 pounds from the landfill!
- In many ways, there is nothing more sustainable than reusing what we already have. SDSU has done this by repurposing Harding Hall, now home to the Economics Department. Over the course of the past year Harding Hall has been transformed from a minimally renovated former dormitory into a contemporary office and classroom building, built using LEED standards. A few sustainable highlights include: upgrading the envelope thermal performance, heating and ventilation equipment, digital heating, cooling and ventilation controls, high efficiency LED lighting, all of which contribute to a 16% reduction in overall energy usage compared to the baseline. Reusing the building also maintained approximately 13,500 cubic yards of concrete and 8,400 pounds of steel that did not have to be demolished and recycled. The interior design takes advantage of new window openings that connect the building to surrounding green space, provide access to daylight and create informal gathering spaces that enhance the collaborative nature of the Economics Department.
- Two videos were created in collaboration with the University Marketing & Communication Department. [Sustainability Introduction](#) and [Tips for Sustainability](#)

Recycling Update

The recycling industry continues to change as the profitability and recyclability of products fluctuate. Thankfully, this year only one change is coming to campus with regards to what can be recycled. Starting immediately, glass is NO LONGER recyclable on campus. The updated recycling guide can be found [here](#).

But this isn't going to stop SDSU from continuing to improve recycling on campus. This fall you will see new labels added to dumpsters, more outside recycling bins will be placed, and students now have access to recycling bins in their dorm rooms.

Sustainability Tidbits

Student Sustainability Council

Are you interested in getting involved with sustainability on campus? Join the Student Sustainability Council! This passionate group of students are educating campus about recycling, volunteerism, and general sustainability practices. All majors are welcome!

Contact: Anna.barr@jacks.sdstate.edu

Volunteer Opportunity

Waste Audit—Help the Sustainability Specialist sort through bags of trash and recycling to better understand our campus recycling rate. The waste audit will be Sept. 19 from 10:30 to 1:30. Contact the Sustainability Specialist (605-688-6821 or [via e-mail](#)) to volunteer! Volunteers do not have to help the whole time, but must be able to volunteer a minimum of 1.5 hours.

Reusable Ware

Are you interested in reducing waste when you eat on campus? Aramark sells reusable cups, soup bowls, and to-go boxes! These items can be purchased in The Market and C-Stores and can be used at all dining locations. When using reusable ware, you will not be charged the normal to-go pricing.

Take the Pledge

Join hundreds of other SDSU faculty, staff, and students committing to sustainability and take the SDSU Sustainability Pledge today!

<https://www.sdstate.edu/sustainability/take-the-pledge>

Get Involved

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

SDState Sustainability website.

www.sdstate.edu/sustainability

The Sustainability Specialist is also available to give presentations.

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