

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Facilities & Services
Sustainability



Sustainability Benchmark Report Submission Soon

SDSU is gearing up to submit its second Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or STARS as it is called for short, is a sustainability benchmarking tool for higher education institutions. It's used by over 900 universities and colleges.

[Read about the benchmark report](#)



[SDState Participates in RecycleMania for Ninth Year](#)

For the ninth year in a row, SDSU is participating in RecycleMania. RecycleMania is a nationwide recycling competition that takes place every February and March. What's the purpose you might ask? It's simple! The goal of the competition is to increase recycling and decrease the amount of waste on campus.

[Learn about recycling](#)



[Sustainability Institute Coming in May](#)

Facilities & Services – Sustainability in partnership with the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning is co-hosting the 2019 SDSU Sustainability Institute. This day long opportunity will provide SDSU faculty an opportunity to learn about sustainability through the lens of the courses they teach.

[Read more about the institute](#)



[Volunteers Needed for Don't Dump! Donate!](#)

Facilities & Services – Sustainability, Residential Life, and the Department of Sociology & Rural Studies are



[Students Prepare for Second Annual "The BIG Event"](#)

On April 13th, students will be hosting the second annual "The Big Event"!

excited to host the 2nd annual Don't Dump! Donate! This program takes place during finals week and has a goal of keeping reusable material out of the landfill during move-out by providing an opportunity for students to donate items to local non-profits.

[Learn more about volunteering](#)

The Big Event is a single-day volunteering event held each spring. During the event, hundreds of students visit community homes and businesses to help with projects. The purpose of the event is for students to say "thank you" for everything the Brookings community does for them.

[Read more](#)

[Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Sustainability Events!](#)



[Earth Hour 2019](#)

March 30th from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Briggs Library Basement

The event is free and open to the public (all ages welcome!).

Earth Hour is an international event where everyone turns off their lights for one hour to show their commitment to fighting climate change. Facilities & Services -Sustainability along with the Ecology Club, Student Sustainability Council, and UPC will be playing glow-in-the-dark games and have educational booths about sustainability. There will be games, popcorn, and raffle prizes. Come join



[VANG](#)

April 1st at 7:00 p.m

Fishback Studio Theater, PAC

The event is free and open to the public (high school+).

VANG ("farm" in Hmong), a drama, was created by Mary Swander, Poet Laureate of Iowa, photographer Dennis Chamberlin and Matt Foss. Vang documents the journeys of four recent immigrant couples as they make farming a part of their daily lives. Based on true stories woven together by Iowa Poet Laureate, Mary Swander, Vang is a story about survival and the deep desire to return to the land.

the fun!

Sponsored by: UPC, Ecology Club,
Facilities & Services - Sustainability,
and Student Sustainability Council.

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center and
Facilities & Services - Sustainability



Sustainability, 1451 Stadium Road, Brookings, SD 57007, United States, 605-688-6821

[Unsubscribe](#)

Sustainability Benchmark Report

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | MARCH 19, 2019

SDSU is gearing up to submit its second Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or STARS as it is called for short, is a sustainability benchmarking tool for higher education institutions. It's used by over 900 universities and colleges. Through the self-reporting framework, universities assess themselves in over 60 different credits, covering sustainability in academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. Upon the report's submission, universities are rated based on the percentage of points earned: Reporter (<25%), Bronze (25 – 44.99%), Silver (45 – 64.99%), Gold (65 – 84.99%), and Platinum (≥85%).

SDSU's inaugural submission in 2016 earned a bronze rating. This year, we hope to improve our score!

In addition to efforts conducted by the Sustainability Specialist, the Sustainability Specialist has reached out to departments whose work encompasses efforts covered in the STARS report. The goal is for sustainability efforts to stem from across campus. To read SDSU's 2016 STARS report visit <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/south-dakota-state-university-sd/report/2016-03-31/> If you believe your work or your department's work might pertain to sustainability and STARS, please connect with the [Sustainability Specialist](#).

RecycleMania 2019

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | MARCH 19, 2019

Let the competition begin! For the ninth year in a row, SDSU will be participating in RecycleMania. RecycleMania is a nationwide recycling competition that takes place every February and March. What's the purpose you might ask? It's simple! The goal of the competition is to increase recycling and decrease the amount of waste on campus.

The competition takes place across campus, so all students and employees are encouraged to do their part by recycling everything they can. As a reminder, there are three main categories of items you can recycle: paper, cans, and plastic. Paper items include white paper, colored paper, newspapers, and magazines. Aluminum can items would include soup cans and pop cans. Plastics are a little trickier. To determine if a plastic item is recyclable, check the bottom of the item for the recycling symbol, the number in it, and the letters below the symbol. If it is a number 1-7 and has the letters PP, PET, or PETE below it, it can be recycled.

All recyclable items must be placed in a recycling bin. Bins are located across campus both inside and outside and are signified as recycling bins by their blue lids. Offices and dorm rooms also have small blue bins for recycling. Students are responsible for emptying their dorm room recycling bin in the blue doored dumpsters outside.

The simple task of recycling is great for the environment as it allows resources to be reused as opposed to extracting new materials. It's important to remember the value of recycling and that every item recycled is beneficial.

As we progress through RecycleMania 2019, let's see how much we can increase our recycling!

Spring Sustainability Institute

Jennifer McLaughlin [605-688-6821](tel:605-688-6821) [Email](#)

Share:

Event Details

REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, in collaboration with Jennifer McLaughlin, SDSU Sustainability Specialist, is excited to announce that on Thursday, May 9, 2019 we will be co-hosting the 2019 SDSU Sustainability Institute. This day long opportunity will provide SDSU faculty an opportunity to learn about sustainability through the lens of the courses they teach. Jim Zaffiro, Professor of Political Science at Central College, and Brian Campbell, Director of Sustainability Education at Central College will facilitate the event. Jim and Brian bring a wealth of knowledge related to integrating sustainability into curriculum and are excited to join us for this event.

What Will be Covered?

- Techniques and resources for integrating sustainability into curriculum with special attention to experiential learning.
- A chance to review your course individually with the presenter.
- Tour of SDSU sustainability hot spots.
- Hear from peers who have integrated sustainability into their curriculum.
- ...and more!

Why Should I Attend?

- Join the growing movement around sustainability.
- Meet faculty from across a variety of disciplines.

Related Departments



Sustainability



Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning

- Learn a diverse set of classroom teaching styles.
- Create a culture that supports sustainability & increases quality of life (goals in IMAGINE 2023!).

Logistics

- Date/Time: May 9, 2019 9:00 a/m - 5:00 p.m.
- Lunch provided.
- CETL POINTS – 5 points

Plan to join us for this opportunity to learn more about integration of sustainability into curriculum. We look forward to bringing this opportunity to the SDSU community.

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Event Audience

Public includes SDSU Faculty/Staff/StudentsSDSU Faculty/Staff

Thursday, May. 9, 2019

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

[On-Campus](#)

Volunteers Needed for Don't Dump! Donate!

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | MARCH 19, 2019

Facilities & Services – Sustainability, Residential Life, and the Department of Sociology are excited to host the second annual Don't Dump! Donate! This program takes place during finals week and has a goal of keeping reusable material out of the landfill during move-out by providing an opportunity for students to donate items to local non-profits. We are excited to partner with organizations such as Jack's Cupboard, the Domestic Abuse Shelter, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and more. Through the partnerships, we can collect quality items that students no longer want but that can be put to good use elsewhere. Some of these items include unopened non-perishable food, binders, notebooks, shampoo, laundry detergent, futons, mirrors, and blankets!

Our first year running the program was a success, collecting over 200 items and weighing nearly 1,800 pounds! We are excited to make this year even bigger and better by increasing the number of drop-off locations and items that we can accept. To make this successful, we need your help! Each drop-off location needs to have one person monitoring the area to make sure we receive quality products. The task is easy and helps immensely to ensure the area does not become a dumping ground for trash. This volunteering opportunity is open to students and employees. Would you be willing to help?

Don't Dump! Donate! will run April 30th – May 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Volunteer shifts are split into 1-hour increments. Volunteers will receive detailed instructions so that they feel comfortable monitoring the area.

Don't Dump! Donate! volunteer sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FAEAA2BAAFA7-dont>

Thank you for considering this opportunity! If you have questions, please contact Jennifer McLaughlin, Sustainability Specialist at jennifer.mclaughlin@sdsstate.edu or 688-6821.

Second Annual "The Big Event"

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | MARCH 19, 2019

On April 13th, students will be hosting the second annual "The Big Event." The Big Event is a single-day volunteering event held each spring. During the event, hundreds of students visit community homes and businesses to help with projects. The purpose of the event is for students to say "thank you" for everything the Brookings community does for them.

This year, the students want to continue to grow the event and get even more students and community members involved.

Students can sign up to volunteer via the "Student Volunteer Form" on <https://www.sdstate.edu/sustainability/big-event>. They will enjoy 2 hours of volunteering with the community followed by a social with fellow students and community members. Registration must be completed by April 1st.

Community members can submit a job for students to come help them with. Projects can be for individual homes, businesses, or organizations. Examples of job requests include (but are not limited to) yard work, spring clean-up, cleaning, organizing rooms or garages, helping with big projects, etc. The event is not need-based so job requests are open to everyone. If you are interested in having students come help, fill out the "Job Request Form" by April 1st at <https://www.sdstate.edu/sustainability/big-event>.

Earth Hour 2019

Jennifer McLaughlin [605-688-6821](tel:605-688-6821) [Email](#)

Share:

Event Details

Starting as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring millions of people to take action for our planet and nature.

Join us March 30, 2019 from 8-9PM in the Briggs Library basement and take part in Earth Hour 2019. Play glow-in-the-dark games and learn about the environment and sustainability practices through fun activities, booths, and talks. Sign up for a chance to win a succulent plant, solar panel, and reusable ware package.

This event is open to the public and all ages are welcome!

Brought to you by: Facilities & Services - Sustainability, UPC, Ecology Club, and Student Sustainability Council

Event Audience

Public includes SDSU Faculty/Staff/Students SDSU Faculty/Staff SDSU Students

Saturday, Mar. 30, 2019 **8:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

[Hilton M. Briggs Library](#) , Basement



Related Departments



Sustainability



VANG: A Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers

[605-688-6821](tel:605-688-6821) [Email](#)

Share:

Event Details

VANG ("farm" in Hmong), a drama, was created by Mary Swander, Poet Laureate of Iowa, photographer Dennis Chamberlin and Matt Foss. Vang documents the journeys of four recent immigrant couples as they make farming a part of their daily lives. Based on true stories woven together by Iowa Poet Laureate, Mary Swander, Vang is a story about survival and the deep desire to return to the land.

Event Audience

Public includes SDSU Faculty/Staff/Students SDSU Faculty/Staff SDSU Students

Monday, Apr. 1, 2019

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

[Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center](#) , Fishback Studio Theatre



Related Departments



Sustainability

