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**OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**ANNUAL INTERN  
REPORT**

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2018 - 2019

**PREPARED BY**  
IAN JOHNSON & MAE ROHRBACH

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# BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Benjamin Swift ('21) putting an Offset fleet sticker**  
PC: Daniel Sarché



**Bryna Coyle ('19) just before her Zero Waste Excel@CC class**  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



**Quinn Yawger ('20) & her team during the office Meet & Greet**  
PC: Mae Rohrbach

Colorado College (CC) has an ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2020; this goal will be met. Since the 2008 base year, CC has already reduced total greenhouse gas emissions by nearly forty percent, with on-campus emissions sources down fifty-nine percent. CC will achieve its carbon neutrality goal eliminating the remaining emissions through investments in off-site projects that remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere and through the continued support from the administration, the CC community, and the work of the Office of Sustainability. Even after achieving this milestone, CC will continue to model its commitment to a thriving future, honoring the economic, social, and environmental narratives of our complex ecosystem.

There are many areas at CC in which there are opportunities to further evolve; to get involved; to innovate, create, and have impact. The current structure of our office allows for the topic of sustainability to be at the forefront of many campus conversations and efforts.

In order to do this, the Office of Sustainability places a great deal of responsibility on motivated and passionate CC students who lead the office toward its goals. Their respective roles are to foster communication, collaboration, and coordination between the college and stakeholders in the broader community.

This report dives into the individual contributions of the 2018-19 intern teams as they took on both specific and broader topics of sustainability. Intern responsibilities varied from data collection and reporting, to campus life and academics, creative communication, and buildings and grounds work.

Our office works to support the greater mission of Colorado College through the exploration of our internship program. "To challenge students... to develop habits of intellect and imagination that will prepare them for learning and leadership throughout their lives."

# INTRODUCTION



The panel at the Environmental Action Summit  
PC: Unknown



Interns sorting trash at Trash Peak during Earth Week  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



Students on the Sense of Place Water Tour during break  
PC: Mae Rohrbach

CC became a signatory to the Second Nature's Carbon Commitment, pledging to become a carbon neutral campus by 2020. The commitment set forth by President Dick Celeste in 2009 has continued to be supported by the current leadership, President Jill Tiefenthaler. In 2013, the Office of Sustainability was created in order to support the CC campus in its endeavors to reach this goal.

Since its inception, the [Office of Sustainability](#) has continuously grown in both size and impact. It started as an office of one, with Ian Johnson as the Sustainability Director. A full-time Sustainability Paraprofessional was added in the 2017-18 academic year, and a growing team of student interns and dedicated volunteers continue to increase the scope and depth of the offices' impacts.

Interns and volunteers are a central piece in the office working on a variety of collaborative and independent projects and initiatives that are often embedded in many different offices across the college.

This report dives deeper into the structure of the office. In 2018-19, there were 9 paid positions: Community Engagement, Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS®), Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Zero Waste, Marketing, Buildings & Grounds, Residential Life, Academics & Curriculum, and Dashboard Intern. In the next few paragraphs, a brief summary of each position will touch on the responsibilities of the role. Within the Intern Summaries are descriptions of projects and initiatives that were achieved this year.

The STARS® Intern worked to collect, organize, and report on previous years' data to submit reports on our progress that result in national college and university rankings.

Focused on collecting emission data from the previous year, the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Intern worked to calculate CC's annual greenhouse gas emissions and track progress in lowering our overall emissions.

# INTRODUCTION CONT.



Trash Peak event signage during Earth Week  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



Swap Space pop-up in Tutt Library during Earth Week  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



The office tabling during the CC picnic at the start of the year  
PC: Mae Rohrbach

The Community Engagement Intern worked on various projects increasing awareness about food related topics and strengthened existing relationships between on and off campus organizations and offices.

Engaging with many professors in various departments, the Academics and Curriculum Intern continued work to increase the overall presence of sustainability topics in the classroom.

The Residential Life Intern worked with the team to develop 'sustainable' habits in residence halls, offices, and events across campus - educating on the small changes that individuals can take to become more aware.

Efforts updating the signage across campus was no small feat for the Zero Waste Intern who focused on waste diversion efforts and held several opportunities educating students, staff, and faculty.

The Buildings & Grounds Intern took on many projects and conversations, including addressing emissions from CC's rental vehicle fleet.

By applying innovative mediums of storytelling, such as short film and laser-cut signage, the Marketing Intern took the office's communication to the next level.

The Dashboard Intern has continued to develop and further the Energy Dashboard to be used by the CC community.

In conclusion, the information contained in this report documents the diverse nature of the work being done in the Office of Sustainability by the intern teams. Sustainability isn't optional at Colorado College; it's central to our community and to the examples we set through all of our work.

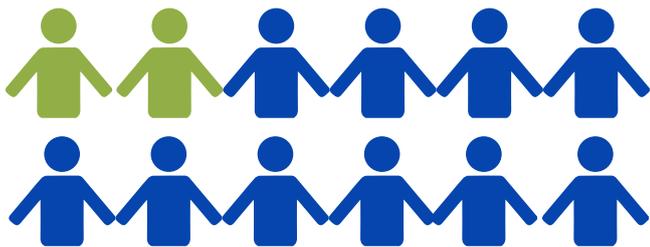
# BY THE NUMBERS



Interns and volunteers during the annual office Fall Retreat  
PC: Mae Rohrbach

## WORK FORCE

Since 2012, the [Office of Sustainability's working force](#) continues to grow. This year, there were 2 full-time staff members, 10 Interns (who filled 9 roles).



## PARTNERSHIPS

The work that is done in our office would not be possible without the many people on and off campus that we work with on a day-to-day basis. Below are just a few of the many offices and individuals that our office works with.

- ADMISSION** COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES
- RESIDENTIAL LIFE & CAMPUS ACTIVITIES** CCE
- CATALYST ITS** FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
- ALUMNI AND FAMILY RELATIONS** GEOLOGY
- BON APPETIT** ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
- PRESIDENT'S OFFICE** PROVOST FAC USAFA
- OUTDOOR EDUCATION** FACILITIES SERVICES
- ADVANCEMENT** COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
- CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION & FIELD STUDY**
- STATE OF THE ROCKIES** SYNERGY SODEXO
- SWAP SPACE** WELLNESS RESOURCE CENTER
- CCSGA** ENACT INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

## COOL STATS

**30** **632**

# of volunteers # of volunteer hours

**17,277**

# of hours worked by Interns

**50** **45**

# of individual projects and/or initiatives pursued by Intern teams

# of people who sit on the Campus Sustainability Council



The majority of the Intern 18-19 team posing on the roof of the Tutt Library with the Director, Ian Johnson  
PC: Mae Rohrbach

# INTERN SUMMARIES

## STARS INTERN



The STARS® Intern position was shared by Rob Gardner ('19) and Sara Dixon ('22.) Together, they were the primary drivers in the data collection and reporting on 2 major reports: Sierra Cool

Schools and the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS®).

Sierra Cool Schools ranks North America's greenest colleges and universities. As of 2018, Colorado College is ranked in the top 25% of all universities and colleges participating.

STARS® is the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System, administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). It is a comprehensive, self-reporting metric that rates institutions across broad sustainability efforts. This report collects data over 5 main categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, Planning & Administration, and Innovation & Leadership. Over the course of the year, the STARS® Interns have been responsible for collecting over 90 subcategory data points, for a total of over 300+ individual data points. As of 2018, CC remained in STARS® Gold standing, which represents significant sustainability leadership and impact on CC campus.

At the end of the year, the STARS® Intern creates a comprehensive and condensed version of this larger report called the [State of Sustainability Report](#).

## GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY INTERN

Colorado College is a signatory to Second Nature's Carbon Commitment. As a signatory, CC has pledged to track our greenhouse gas emissions across the college annually. For this reason, we have a dedicated Intern who takes on the responsibility for the data collection.

This year, the GHG Internship was held by Annabelle O'Neill ('19). O'Neill and her team (comprised of three dedicated CC student volunteers) collected a wide variety of emission data from various sources. These emission sources are organized through 3 main scopes. The scopes categorize the emissions as indirect or direct sources that impact CC's overall carbon emissions.

Apart from the data collection, the team worked to submit data to [Second Nature](#) and produce a [Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2018 Technical Report](#)



The report discusses in depth the results, highlighting major changes, trend lines, and opportunities. Major takeaways from both reports indicate a 39% reduction of CC's total carbon footprint since the baseline year of 2008. CC saw a significant decrease in Scope 2 emissions by 70% due to renewable energy purchases and installations on site. The team recommends that radical behavioral improvement must occur to reach CC's goals by 2020, including creating a mandatory offset requirement for business air travel.

# INTERN SUMMARIES

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTERN



One of the more broad positions in the Office of Sustainability is the Community Engagement (CE) Intern role. This year, Westly Joseph ('21)

took on the responsibility to work with on- and off campus organizations around issues of sustainability, especially as they relate to equity and access. Below are the majority of projects and roles that Westly took part in.

### Soil Cycle Campaign

Worked with Colorado Springs Food Rescue to promote Soil Cycle in the surrounding COS community.

### Food Impact Awareness Campaign

Worked with Bon Appetit to track food waste over the course of 6 weeks and educate students through a campaign in Rastall.

### Green Events

Collaborated with Bon Appetit to develop a new branch of Green Events through catering with reusable dishware and cutlery that anyone on campus can use for their events.

### Real Food Challenge

Organized the Real Food Challenge and the data collection and held a feedback session.

### Food Coalition

Led the Food Coalition club on campus, by organizing conversations around food issues.

### Food Advisory Committee

Sat on the FAC, as the student representative.

### Creek Week

Over 50 people from the Colorado Springs community showed up to participate in Creek Week, part of the CC Week of Action and co-hosted by EnAct.

### Community Development Coalition

Sat on the CCE Co-Op Sustainable CDC as a representative for the office.

## ACADEMICS AND CURRICULUM INTERN

Academics & Curriculum Intern, Zach BeneventoZahner ('21) worked to identify and solicit faculty for course designations. There are two categories in which a class can be designated: Sustainability-focused courses (T1) explicitly concentrate on 3 or more identified sustainability learning objectives; Sustainability-related (T2) courses focus on one or two identified [sustainability learning objectives](#) and contemplates connections to other topics. There were a total of 74 course that met these designations. More information about these sustainability learning objectives and designated courses can be found by clicking the image.



## RESIDENTIAL LIFE INTERN

The Residential Life Intern, Naomi Tsai ('19) was responsible for bringing sustainability issues to the forefront of student life on campus. The team works mostly within Residential Life, but through several established Green Programs, is able to reach the broader campus such as Green Events and Green Office.



# 78

# of Green Room  
Certifications  
awarded to  
students



# 10

# of Green Offices  
Certifications  
awarded to staff  
and faculty

# INTERN SUMMARIES

## ZERO WASTE INTERN

Waste diversion is an ongoing effort at Colorado College. Efforts this year was led by Bryna Coyle ('19) and her team comprised of CC student volunteers. The Zero Waste team worked on over 10 projects throughout the year creating, educating, and delivering consistent and transparent system of waste diversion. Projects are highlighted below.



### **Residential Life Composting w/ CE & Res Life Intern**

Compost bins were placed in all of the on-campus apartment buildings.

### **Residential Life Waste Education**

Waste sorting and diversion flyers were sent to all RA's to discuss with their halls & small flyers were developed to go into every room.

### **Packard - FAC Recycling Improvements**

Max-R bins were purchased to accommodate the 3-bin sorting at CC.

### **Sodexo Outreach**

Worked with Sodexo custodial staff to dispel rumors about waste diversion on campus and published a Catalyst Article about it.

### **Waste Education**

Conducted classes for FYE, Italian House, Excel@CC, and the Women's Lacrosse team.

### **Waste Signage**

New waste signage was designed and is being deployed across campus.

### **Trash Peak**

Organized a waste audit on the Worner Quad during Earth Week in which students participated in properly sorting waste generated on campus.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS INTERN

This year, Benjamin Swift ('21) took over the responsibilities of the Buildings & Grounds Intern. This Intern works mainly with Facilities Services on sustainability issues as they pertain to buildings, energy use, water use, grounds, central heating plant, construction, and transportation.

The Building & Grounds Intern and volunteer team started many projects over the course of the year that will continue on into next year and are highlighted below.

### **Environmental Action Summit w/CE Intern**

Over 100 individuals attended the EV Action Summit, which worked to connect those who are committed to sustainability efforts on campus and in the community.

### **DIA Shuttle Transportation w/CE Intern**

Collaborated with CE Intern to initiate more consistent and affordable shuttle service to DIA over significant breaks for students by surveying over 400 students. In 2018, 296 students used the airport shuttle during winter break.

### **Voluntary Travel Offsets**

Assisted in the development of a voluntary travel offset program for students, faculty, and staff to offset personal or work travel.

### **Vehicle Offset Marketing**

Completed the vehicle offset project by implementing a per mile offset fee and designing a designated sticker that is posted on every CC fleet vehicle. This was also published in the Catalyst. All fleet vehicle travel is now fully offset.

### **Solar Crowdfunding**

Worked with Annual Giving and Advancement to run a crowdfunding campaign to 'adopt a solar panel'. Over \$1,200 was raised!

# INTERN SUMMARIES

## MARKETING INTERN

The Marketing Intern is responsible for effectively communicating the latest sustainability-related efforts to the campus. This year, Quinn Yawger ('20) took on this role and explored various mediums in which stories and information could be shared. Since August 2018, the number of followers on FB has increased by 70 people and on average each post on FB has a reach of 1,000 people.

### Halloween 'Who We Are' Campaign

Introduced the 18-19 team through an Instagram & FB take-over to the CC campus.

### 'Who We Are' Short Documentary

Created a short documentary of the 'faces' of sustainability, helping to define what it means and why it is important.

### Campus Sustainability Council Notes

Attended and took minutes for every Campus Sustainability Council meeting.

### Marketing Collaborations

Collaborated with several Intern teams to help market their events and campaigns: Environmental Action Summit, Recyclemania, Food Impact Awareness, and Waste Disposal Awareness Campaigns.

### Earth Week

Led the marketing of Earth Week by creating material, posting on social media, exploring laser cut signage, and putting up posters.

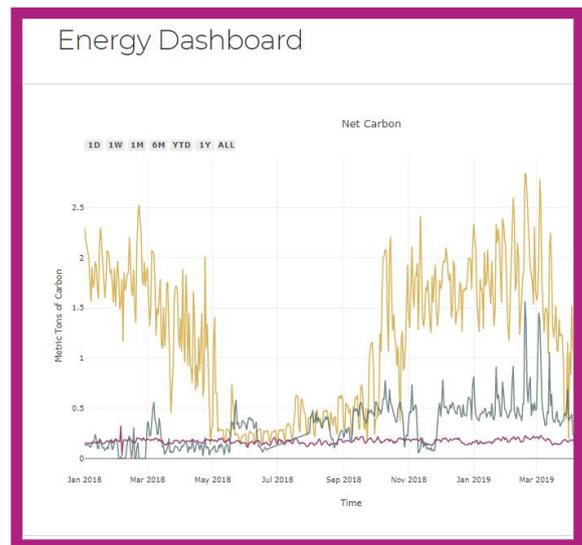
### Trash Talk Video Series

Created a series of videos posted on social media that educated viewers on the proper diversion of waste items. The series had over 42,000 views.

### Food Sustainability Marketing Campaign

Created plant-based written recipes and recipe videos that were published on social media accounts.

## DASHBOARD INTERN



Ben Kirhman '20 worked to develop an interactive energy dashboard that would communicate energy, carbon, electricity, and heat data of many on campus buildings. Originally hired to develop an energy dashboard for the library, this project has greatly expanded and continual maintenance and features are added.

Additionally, since the energy dashboard is near complete, Ben took on several smaller projects working with other Intern teams, such as the Carbon Offset Calculator, creating a more user friendly interface for inputting travel data. He also began working with the Zero Waste team on create a Smart Bin Interface. The project will continue into next year as Ben resumes this role with a new title of Software Development Intern.



Check out our FaceBook page for the latest updates.. Be sure to 'LIKE' our page while you are visiting it!

## NOTES FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY PARAPROFESSIONAL



**Interns and volunteers during annual office Fall Retreat**  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



**Student volunteers digging a hole to plant a tree for Arbor Day '19**  
PC: Mae Rohrbach



**Interns at the Palmer Land Conservation Dinner**  
PC: Unknown

As the Sustainability Paraprofessional, my primary role is to oversee the internship program. I work with the students on a daily basis throughout the year supporting their projects and initiatives from behind the scenes. I've really enjoyed having the opportunity to lead this passionate and hard-working group of students. Which is why this report focuses directly on their collective work in the office and why I am writing these final thoughts.

I wanted to discuss further in-depth the unique structure of our office. If you haven't gotten a chance to interact with our office yet - our doors are always open, so stop on by! But I digress. As you probably have picked up by now, our office places a great deal of responsibility on our Interns.

We feel that is important that the Interns have the experience and freedom to pursue their interests within their position; to be given the opportunity to lead and engage with a small and dedicated team of peer volunteers. To succeed and fail, and in doing so, taking away lessons that will aid them long after CC.

I also wanted to thank you for taking the time to read this report. I believe that it is filled with important information that shows the reader just how interwoven the Office of Sustainability is within the fabric of CC. It demonstrates the diverse nature of the work that is being pursued by the people who makeup the Office of Sustainability.

The work that has been done and will continue to be done wouldn't be possible without: the ongoing commitment from CC's leadership, the guidance of the Campus Sustainability Council, and the continued support and engagement of the campus community and beyond.

This work is just a snapshot to a much larger effort that expands beyond the Office of Sustainability, beyond CC, and into the greater Colorado Springs community.

Best,

*Mae Rohrbach*

Sustainability Paraprofessional  
2018-19