



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT  
2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR



COLORADO COLLEGE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY  
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## Office of Sustainability Progress Report

“The Colorado College mission commits us to providing the finest Liberal Arts education in the country by embodying our core values. Sustainability isn't optional at Colorado College; it's central to our community and to the examples we set through all of our work. We aspire to make Colorado College a model for sustainability at all levels – an academic community that lives its commitment to a thriving future, honoring the economic, social and environmental narratives of our complex ecosystem.”

Since 2008, the Colorado College has been committed to becoming a net neutral campus through the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. Along with efforts in facilities, construction, and maintenance, the influence of the Office of Sustainability and Campus Sustainability Council has been critical in the reduction of the college's carbon footprint.

The Office of Sustainability, created in 2012, is comprised of Ian Johnson, Colorado College's Sustainability Director, and teams of student interns paired with dedicated student volunteers who work on independent projects and are often embedded in different offices in the Colorado College administration. The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to foster communication, collaboration and coordination between the college and stakeholders in the broader community. The Campus Sustainability Council is an advisory council appointed by and reporting to the President's Office and is composed of students, faculty, staff, and community members. The mission of the Campus Sustainability Council (CSC) is to make Colorado College a model for campus and community sustainability by designing, promoting, and implementing initiatives that are ecologically viable, economically sound, and socially just, now and for future generations. The CSC plays a key role in raising campus awareness and keeping sustainability issues at the forefront, reminding us all to live up to Colorado College's core value of nurturing a sense of place and an ethic of environmental sustainability.

The information within this document is intended to provide a record of our efforts through both the Office of Sustainability and the Campus Sustainability Council for the 2016-2017 academic year.

## Office of Sustainability

The Office of Sustainability currently consists of Sustainability Director, Ian Johnson, a full-time paraprofessional, 10 interns, and over 20 volunteers. Interns and volunteers are broken into teams based on areas of interest. The current teams are State of Sustainability, Curriculum Development, Local Food and Community Engagement, Communications, Web Development, Buildings and Grounds, Waste Diversion, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and Residential Life. The following progress reports come from the teams in each area.

### State of Sustainability

After the completion of the audit for the 2015/2016 STARS report the team began familiarizing themselves with the new version of STARS: STARS 2.1. We successfully created a spreadsheet of STARS 2.1 credits to be submitted for Sierra Cool Schools and Princeton Review Publications. We plan to submit both on March 3rd. After this deadline, we began to focus more on our project of both completing the STARS 2016/2017 as well as compiling a spreadsheet/database for recording how credits are scored and hopefully learning where more points can be earned in order to reach our goal of a Platinum rating by 2020. *UPDATE: STARS reporting was completed and submitted in early June and is pending review by the STARS review committee.*

### Curriculum Development

The goal of the Curriculum Development team is to increase sustainability understanding and awareness across campus through academics. This year, the Curriculum Development team started by obtaining course designations for sustainability-focused and sustainability-related courses. We then moved to creating online resources for students interested in sustainability. We are creating a database for student and faculty research on sustainability, and an online resource for students interested in careers in sustainability. Colorado College has been selected by AASHE to hold a “Sustainability Across the Curriculum” workshop, which will be a pilot of the inter-institutional curricular collaboration program. We are facilitating this event, which will occur on May 18-19, 2017. We are also working on implementing sustainability in the First Year Experience program through “Sense of Place” education and programming. In collaboration with the Buildings and Grounds Team, State of the Rockies, and the Innovation Institute we are making efforts towards integrating Monument Creek into the campus identity as well as making it a healthy ecosystem that can be used as a “living classroom”. Our long-term goals include a sustainability certificate, a sustainability general requirement, and a campus-wide sustainability literacy assessment.

### Local Food and Community Engagement

The goal of the Local Food and Community Engagement team is to improve education about sustainable food practices as well as build and maintain partnerships with campus and community groups addressing inequality, environmentalism, and community service. This year, the campus Food Coalition was reestablished and successfully revitalized. The Food Coalition and Office of Sustainability is responsible for the ongoing assessment of the college’s food purchasing via the Real Food Calculator; the results of which will be used to encourage student input in the college’s dining service contract and operations process. We have also gained a seat on the Collaborative for Community Engagement’s advisory board, and after staffing transitions,

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we plan to establish and promote more volunteer opportunities in connection with the Community Engaged Scholars program. We have also strengthened the office's partnership with the Butler Center in discussing issues of environmental and agricultural racism via film screenings and sustainable cooking classes.

### Communications

The goal of the Communications team is to improve the visibility and transparency of sustainability efforts on and off campus as well as provide an avenue for sustainability news and inter-campus communication. This year, we have implemented a blockly sustainability newsletter, a weekly news update titled the "Crunchy Grind," and created a sustainability communications space in the student center including a corkboard and digital screen. Minutes are also taken during the Office of Sustainability intern meetings and Campus Sustainability Council meetings, which are shared via list-serve.

### Web Development

The goal of the Web Development team is to maintain and improve digital communication of the Office of Sustainability's efforts, particularly via the office's webpage. This year, the webpage was updated and redesigned to create a cleaner and more organized look. We have also developed a digitized EcoFund application, a streamlined Course Designation application, and an external application for the Sustainability Across the Curriculum Workshop. In collaboration with the Office of Advancement, we have designed and implemented a web page and payment form to voluntarily contribute funds to offset personal travel via car or airline.

### Buildings and Grounds

The goal of the Buildings and Grounds team is to improve the practice and transparency of sustainability efforts in building construction, building maintenance, grounds keeping, and transportation. This year, the Colorado College became Tree Campus Certified by standardizing the health and management of trees on campus. A committee for Tree Campus has been created and an official tree care plan has been published. We created a document including Sustainable Buildings and Landscapes Guidelines as well as requested the creation of a related committee to ensure future construction and maintenance projects are streamlined and sustainable. For Earth Week, we will implement a plastic-free week in the dining halls as well as have an Arbor Day tree-planting program to replace trees lost in a recent storm. We have studied other institutions' transportation plans and policies and are working to establish guidelines, provide reduced-cost bus pass to all students, and address the impacts of staff and faculty commuting. *UPDATE: Tiger Transit program will provide free access to all current Colorado College students on all Mountain Metro Transit buses beginning in the 2017-18 academic year.*

### Waste Diversion

The Waste Diversion team has taken on a range of projects that handle back-end facilities operations, electronics waste, and outreach events with the CC community. In the fall of 2016, we reassessed the schools e-waste management system, which was solely operated by ITS, and brought in facilities to take on more of this responsibility to ensure the programs integrity long-term. We have already officially transferred all toner recycling and small e-waste management over to facilities and purchased a new MAX-R bin for disposal in Worner Center. Now we are engaging with the issue of large-scale e-waste, with plans to get a receptacle in Worner by the end of the year. In addition to e-waste, waste diversion also conducted research about the success of signage on waste bins on campus and have new, revised

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designs underway. In an effort to engage with the community and recycle old logo'd paper that was donated to the office, we conducted craft workshops throughout the semester. In these workshops, we used old Tutt library books and logo stationery to make notebooks. We also did a collaborative workshop with the Press at Colorado College, making signage for compost bins on campus and getting more students engaged with the Press. In 2017, we are launching a "Ditch Disposable" campaign in collaboration with the CCSGA, running Recyclemania programming, which includes a recycled material art show, working on end-of-year waste reduction, designing new signage for waste bins and events, and collaborating with the Llamapalooza committee to provide reusable cups at the event.

### Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The goal of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory team is to collect and input data in to a carbon calculator to help assess the college's carbon emissions. There are four categories that must be completed. The institutional data is data about the school for which the data is being collected. Scope 1 consists of the direct emissions from sources that are owned and/or controlled by the institution. Scope 2 consists of all of the college's purchased electricity. Scope 3 consists of the indirect emissions caused by the existence of the college. This includes, for example, the emissions caused by commuting, waste and water use, and college-funded travel. The collection of this data and publishing of the calculator results will be done by the end of Block 7. *UPDATE: Greenhouse Gas Inventory data was publicly submitted and is available at <http://reporting.secondnature.org/institution/detail!655##655>*

### Residential Life

The goal of the Res Life team is to improve and implement new sustainability programming and practices in residential spaces across campus. This year, the Res Life team consists of one paid intern and seven Eco-RAs. This year through this team, we improved Green Room Certification participation by almost double. We also placed conservation-minded signage on the light switches throughout most of the residential areas on campus. Additionally, we acquired and dispersed compost bins to every on-campus apartment to encourage greener living. We have also further developed the green event program, applying it to both Llamapalooza and the office's Investival Festival.

## Campus Sustainability Council

The Campus Sustainability Council is divided into subcommittee each with a student intern and faculty/staff member as co-chairs. These subcommittees work at least once per CSC meeting to further the goals fitting their interests and expertise. This year, the subcommittees were Academics, Investments, Operations, Conservation Campaigns, and Green Science.

### Academics

The Academics subcommittee is working to support the goals of the Curriculum Development team in improving access and understanding of sustainability on campus. We are creating a database for student and faculty research on sustainability, and an online resource for students interested in careers in sustainability. We are helping to gather the information and create a useful online platform to display this information. We are also working towards the long-term goals of a sustainability certificate, sustainability general requirement, and a campus-wide sustainability literacy assessment. We are currently conducting surveys and creating proposals, and will continue to move these projects forward throughout the rest of the year.

### Investments

The Investment Subcommittee has successfully implemented a proxy voting system based on guidelines developed last year. We are also in the process of accessing the Portfolio 21 money in hopes of proving that green investments can be just as lucrative, if not more, than the college's current, less-sustainable investments. Moreover, we have begun the process of creating a committee of both alumni, staff/employees, and current students (increasing the relationship between CSC and student Investment Club) in charge of investor responsibility. We have acquired a number of contacts and are in the process of reaching out. We also are in the beginning stages of planning an 'Investival' for 8th block of this year to increase the positive conversation around green investing as well as raise awareness on how people can invest money, time, themselves, etc. in sustainable practices.

### Operations

The Operations subcommittee is reviewing the Sustainable Buildings and Landscapes Document. We are now Tree Campus certified, which will standardize tree health management on campus. Tree Campus Committee Meetings will continue throughout the spring in preparation for Arbor Day. We are working on improving student transportation with our referendum for Tiger Transit, and improve the sustainability of our fleet and field study trips. We are supporting the Monument Creek Project and creating a proposal for a campus xeriscape project. We are working with the waste team regarding efforts to reduce food-packaging waste. *UPDATE: The Sustainable Buildings and Landscape guidelines are complete and available at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/sustainability/campus/buildings/>*

### Conservation Campaigns

The Conservation Campaigns subcommittee has worked closely with Res Life, Campus Activities, and ITS on several initiatives. With Res Life, we have nearly doubled Green Room Certifications, promoted conservation-minded signage, and provided compost buckets for every apartment on campus. With Campus Activities, we have promoted Green Events and made this more accessible and will be able to

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make two of the largest campus events, Blues n' Shoes and Llamapalooza, green events for this academic year. With ITS, we have increased the frequency of printing-related emails to inform users on campus of their paper and printer usage. We have also piloted the Green Office Certification program for offices across campus.

### Green Science

The green science subcommittee is involved with sustainability initiatives within the sciences at CC. This year, the focus of our work has been on strategic preparation for the planning process of the forthcoming new science building. Olin Hall, where many of the school's science labs are located, is energy inefficient with aging facilities. The architecture firm MOA was hired by the school to do an assessment of the building, in which they concluded that it could not be retrofit for use by science departments. The committee has met with the architects and spent time discussing what the future of this project will look like. Right now, we must wait as there is no official planning underway, but Green Science has been in communication with constituents from the departments that use Olin as well as President Tiefenthaler to ensure that faculty and student voices are heard, and the best possible sustainability practices are upheld, once the process begins. With the Environmental Science Department, an audit of energy usage of all labs across campus has been initiated to better understand the needs of different users and departments.

*UPDATE: The lab equipment audit is complete and is being reviewed by the Green Science committee.*