

sustainability

AT MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



BECOMING A LEADER

HOW THE UNIVERSITY IS FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL,
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY.

SUSTAINABILITY

NOUN [suh-stey-nuh-bil-i-tee]

The most widely accepted and used definition of sustainability is

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS.

This means that when we talk about sustainability, we are talking about more than increasing recycling. We are talking about fostering environmental, social and economic sustainability.

While many of our campus programs focus on environmental stewardship, because that is at the core of sustainability, we are also striving to promote values such as community service and engagement, support our local economy with our purchasing choices, provide sustainable compensation to our employees, and ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion are a priority not only on our campus but in our community as a whole.



As a higher education institution, we are in a unique position to adopt and model sustainable actions to the surrounding community and to educate students in lifelong strategies for sustainable living. Ultimately, it is our duty and our goal to provide education on how to be sustainable citizens and consider the global ramifications of our actions and the actions of others.

SUSTAINABILITY VISION STATEMENT

We have adopted a Sustainability Vision Statement expressing our commitment to advance the three pillars of sustainability, as measured by continued improvement within the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, also known as STARS.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO
ADVANCING THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

In accordance with the Public Affairs Mission, Missouri State University is committed to incorporating sustainability into campus operations and fostering principles of environmental stewardship among all University employees and students. Therefore, the University commits to advance environmental, social and economic sustainability, as measured by continued improvement within the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).



STARS allows us to not only compare our sustainability performance to other institutions, but also serves as a roadmap for becoming a more sustainable university.

WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTEWORTHY RECOGNITION FOR OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES.

In 2017, we were named one of Princeton Review's Green Colleges, which means we were in the top 365 schools out of over 2000.


In 2014, we were recognized by the Governor's office for the energy saving and education programs implemented across campus.

In 2015, we submitted our second STARS report and received a Silver STARS rating, which was a significant improvement over our 2011 submission when we received a Bronze rating. Not only did that demonstrate that we are truly committed to sustainability, it also allowed the campus community to work together toward a common goal.



As a result of that 2015 STARS submission, we ranked 80th in the nation on the Sierra Club's 2015 list of Cool Schools and we were recognized as one of the "Rising STARS" in AASHE's 2015 Sustainable Campus Index.





**IT IS OUR DUTY
AND OUR GOAL
TO PROVIDE
EDUCATION ON
HOW TO BE
SUSTAINABLE
CITIZENS**

As a University, we are committed to reducing energy usage on campus through efficiency upgrades and education.



We have installed LED lights outdoors (parking lots, pedestrian lights, underpass, etc.) and in indoor spaces such as classrooms, offices, theaters, athletic venues, gyms, etc. For instance, by replacing the 374 pedestrian lights with LEDs we will see a 74% reduction in electricity resulting in over \$14,000 saved each year.

In addition, motion-activated occupancy sensors control lights in several areas of campus buildings, including classrooms, hallways, conference rooms, break rooms, offices, and restrooms.

We also schedule academic and event spaces with energy efficiency in mind.

OVER 30% OF OUR ENERGY COMES FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

Beginning in 2017, our local utility, City Utilities, began providing us with more than 30% renewable energy, generated from both solar and wind farms in the region.

On campus, The Solar Stop, located outside of Meyer Library, provides shelter for bikes, renewable energy for the University, and serves as an educational tool and symbol of our sustainability commitment.



Many campus buildings have been renovated with energy efficiency as a top priority. In fact, several buildings have received LEED Certification for their sustainability features such as the Foster Recreation Center. .

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$150,000?

One of our most unique and innovative sustainability programs here at MSU is the Student Sustainability Fund.



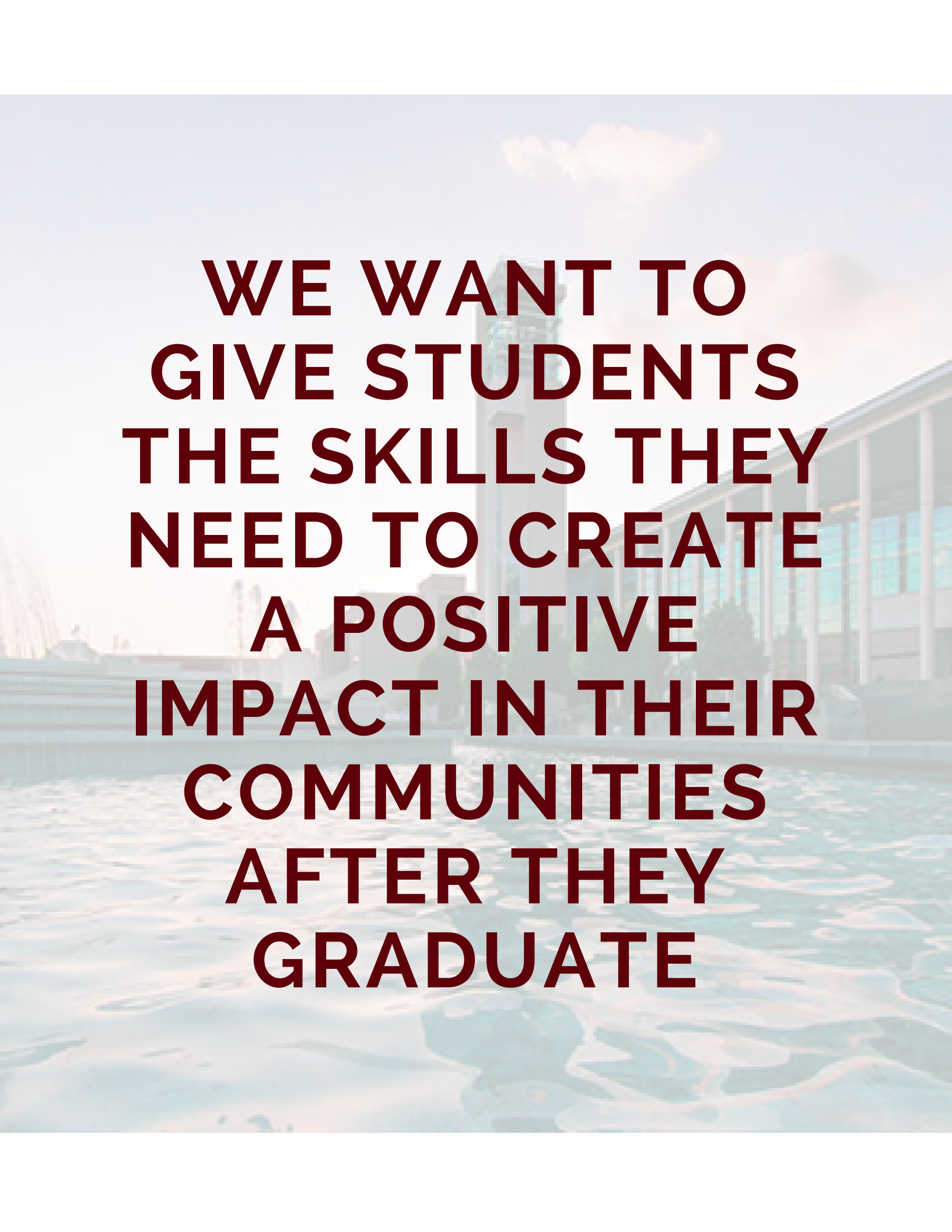
One of the many projects funded include our Solar Tables (right) which not only produce and store energy, but are also made from recycled materials! This is a great place to hang out with friends or do your homework while charging your electronics with the power of the sun! The tables are located between the Foster Recreation Center and Blair-Shannon dining hall.

Each semester, students pay a \$2 fee, which is matched by the president resulting in nearly \$150,000 a year that can be spent on campus sustainability projects.

A major barrier faced by universities when expanding their sustainability programs is funding. This fund demonstrates the importance our University has placed on sustainability. In addition, because it is a student managed fund, it also empowers our students to create change through the implementation of projects that are important to them.

Our academic recycling program is also made possible by this fund through the procurement of indoor and outdoor bins (left) as well as the wages paid to our student recycling coordinators.



The background of the image shows a modern building with large glass windows and a curved roofline, situated behind a body of water with gentle ripples. The sky is a pale blue with soft, wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and airy, suggesting a positive and forward-looking environment.

**WE WANT TO
GIVE STUDENTS
THE SKILLS THEY
NEED TO CREATE
A POSITIVE
IMPACT IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES
AFTER THEY
GRADUATE**

SERVE. EDUCATE. GROW.

Serve. Educate. Grow. That is the mission of the MSU Campus Garden. The garden exists to serve as a sustainable and educational resource that integrates public affairs through fostering experiential relationships with the campus and Springfield communities, while providing organic produce to students, faculty, and staff.

One of the ways they provide produce to members of the campus community is through the Campus Garden Membership program that operates on the principles of community supported agriculture. Each week, members pick up a supplemental amount of produce from the garden. The remainder of the produce grown is donated to The Well of Life food pantry, which serves the campus and surrounding community.



IN THE 2017 GROWING SEASON, OVER 400 LBS OF PRODUCE WAS DONATED

Volunteering at the Campus Garden is a great way to get outside and earn volunteer hours, while also meeting other students and enjoying fresh produce you helped grow!

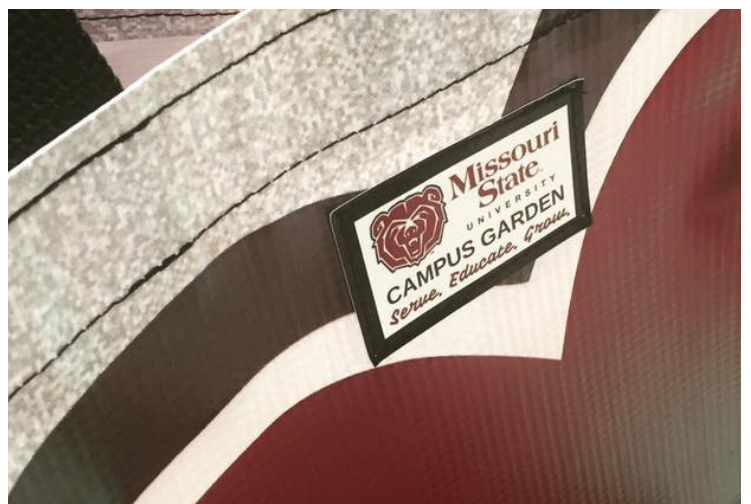
Over the summer of 2017, the Office of Publications, the MSU Campus Garden, and the Missouri State University Bookstore came together to save some of our old campus banners from the landfill.

With the help of Relan, these banners were upcycled into reusable bags in an effort to reduce waste and create a symbol of our commitment to be more sustainable.

GIVING OLD CAMPUS BANNERS A NEW LIFE



About half of the banner bags are being used by the MSU Campus Garden, a student managed project, for their Campus Garden Membership program (CGM). Pictured above was the first day of produce pick-up



The other half of the banner bags will be available for purchase at the Missouri State University Bookstore at the start of the fall semester (top right). Be sure to grab one quick, as there is a limited supply.

A TRULY INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAM

Our minor in sustainability was brand new to campus in fall 2015. This minor took several years to develop and implement and we are excited to now offer this interdisciplinary program to our students as a way for them to expand their knowledge on sustainability topics and to compete in this growing field.

A DOZEN
DIFFERENT
DEPARTMENTS AND
23 DIFFERENT
DEGREE PROGRAMS

We have enrolled over 60 students in the minor. These students represent a dozen different departments and 23 different degree programs, including philosophy, psychology, sociology, global studies, biology, interior design, anthropology, communication, construction management, economics, wildlife conservation, geology, geography and agriculture. This diversity demonstrates a truly interdisciplinary and complementary program.



A modern classroom with large windows and a whiteboard. The text is overlaid on the image.

**WE OFFER
NEARLY 200
COURSES THAT
INCLUDE
SUSTAINABILITY**

WE'VE SAVED OVER 2.7 MILLION PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES FROM BEING USED AND SENT TO THE LANDFILL

We have over 60 filtered water bottle refilling stations (or hydration stations) on campus, covering more than 30 buildings. Many of the hydration stations on our campus have been funded by the Student Sustainability Fund, while others have been funded by dedicated offices and departments, or installed during new construction projects or renovations.

More information and a list of hydration station locations can be found on the sustainability website.

Choosing to refill a water bottle instead of buying a disposable one is much more environmentally friendly and cost effective.

Each of our hydration stations includes a Green Ticker, which tracks the number of plastic water bottles that are avoided by refilling a reusable water bottle.

Since they were installed, the hydration stations on campus had saved over 2.7 MILLION plastic water bottles from being used and then sent to the landfill!



HYPERLOCAL FOOD GROWN RIGHT HERE ON CAMPUS

A new and exciting program on campus is our ZipGrow Towers program.

These hydroponic growing towers allow us to provide our students with hyper local, sustainably grown, all natural produce year round.



By growing produce on our campus, we are able to cut back on our greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, with our recent expansion of our zip grow towers program, we will avoid having to ship in tens of thousands of dollars of produce each year. Not only will this enable us to reduce our environmental impact, we will also be having a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our students by providing them with fresh, all natural, nutritious produce!



With the expansion of the ZipGrow Towers program in fall 2016, the School of Agriculture and Chartwell's partnered on an internship program that gives students the opportunity to gain real world knowledge and experience with this innovative sustainable agriculture technology. Sustainable Ag is a booming field, and this unique educational experience allows the University to provide our students with the skills they need to be successful after they graduate.

IN AN ACADEMIC YEAR 420,000 POUNDS OF FOOD WASTE IS SAVED FROM THE LANDFILL

We compost all of our pre- and post-consumer food waste in all of the dining halls. Staff have buckets in the kitchens where they collect all of the scraps from the food preparation and then all food waste from the consumer is also collected and composted.

Dining Services is currently working to expand this same composting program to the vendors in the PSU. We've also switched all of the Styrofoam Chick-fil-A cups to a compostable cup and made several other changes with the help of Chartwell's and our vendors in the Plaster Student Union to opt for more sustainable containers.

In addition to our composting efforts, we also work to provide food to those in need through our participation in the Food Recovery Network.

Since 2014, student volunteers have been recovering food from the dining halls, which would otherwise be thrown away, and delivering it to local senior communities.

Every semester, the dining halls conduct a program to measure the amount of food wasted in clear 5 gallon bins as a demonstration of the amount of food that is thrown away during just one meal.





GET INVOLVED

ECO-REPS

Student advocates who provide sustainability education to their peers, increase involvement and encourage behavior change

STUDENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Educate students, faculty, staff, and the community about the reality and effects of global climate change

BEARS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

This LLC houses 40 students and allows them to engage in sustainability related activities throughout the year

SGA SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Implement lasting changes at Missouri State by voting on the proposals submitted to the Student Sustainability Fund

For more information, visit:

missouristate.edu/sustainability or contact Jordan Schanda, Sustainability Coordinator at jordanschanda@missouristate.edu