

Green Campus Sustainability Newsletter

Fall Semester 2021



Announcements

A New Way To Keep Up With Green Campus Events



Sign up for our Remind 101 text updates and never miss out on Green Campus events! To sign up just text “@GreenChico” to 81010 or click here! If you have trouble signing up you can also text “@GreenChico” to (520) 224-3608. You can opt-out at any time.

Interested in working with Green Campus or learning more about what we do? Visit us at the [Green Campus page](#) on CSU Chico’s website.

Wildlife Habitats on Campus



Chico State University has recently achieved both the Monarch Waystation Certification for the Holt Phenology Garden and the Wildlife Habitat Certification for the Yolo Hall Bioswale. The requirements vary, but the main goals are to increase native vegetation and incorporate sustainable management practices such as the use of bioswales, drip irrigation, and organic mulching. Chico State is helping protect species threatened by habitat loss and climate change. Specifically, pollinator species are a large focus of this project. Pollinators are crucial in plant reproduction and many foods such as berries, apples, and nuts would not exist without them. These certifications also fulfill a portion of the goals in the school’s Climate Action and Resilience Plan. For those interested, progress and updates can be found on the Chico State Vegetation and Arboretum page.

Announcements

Campus Cup 2021



This year for the first time ever Chico State teamed up with All Matters, a company that makes eco-friendly feminine hygiene products, and launched the 2021 Campus Cup Campaign. This campaign allowed for students to receive a free menstrual cup as well as teach them how they can have a more sustainable menstrual cycle. While these products are taxed as luxury items, they are most definitely a basic necessity for anyone who menstruates. On average, a medium-sized university – such as our campus – used over two million disposable products in a single year. This creates about 200,000 pounds of waste that get sent to the landfill each year. The plastic in a singular pad or tampon alone will take 500-800 years to break down. With

over a hundred students signing up for a free cup, this will reduce plastic waste being sent to landfills. The amount of plastic that is made with single-use products contributes to our campus's carbon footprint even if no one else is thinking about it. In addition to launching this campaign, the Gender & Sexuality Equity Coalition (GSEC) hosted their 23rd annual Womxn's Conference with the theme intersectional eco-feminism where a presentation was done by Green Campus's Zero Waste Project Coordinator on sustainable menstruation. Education is key to student learning about the impacts of single-use menstruation products as well as ending the stigma associated with menstruation. We hope to launch this campaign again next school year!

Announcements

The New Faculty Learning Community



In Spring 2022, the first-ever state-wide faculty learning community (FLC) will be launched here at Chico State, with a total of five other CSU campuses participating. This FLC is centered on Teaching Climate Change and Resilience, where participants are encouraged to think about teaching and learning with a focus on climate change! Faculty who participate will be required to re-design a specific area of their course (syllabi, assessment, course activity) to integrate climate change and resilience into student learning outcomes. This FLC was a result of a 2019 ballot initiative that asked students on campus if the university should incorporate climate change education in all fields

of study. To meet such a goal, Green Campus collaborated with the Office of Faculty Development to work on integrating sustainability and resilience into all disciplines to better assist students in a rapidly changing 21st century. The Teaching Climate Change and Resilience FLC are being facilitated by Dr. Mark Stemen, along with Green Campus' FLC Teaching Assistant, who is responsible for curating resources, cataloging curriculum models, and launching outreach and educational materials. In the future, Green-Campus and the Office of Faculty Development hope to make this FLC an annual learning community that will continue throughout the years.

Wildcat Spotlight



Our very own Faith Churchill and Natalie Pangilinan have been hard at work securing funding for their SFAC proposal. This is a two-part project that aims to bring a touch of sustainability to graduation at Chico State. The first part of this project is the free eco-confetti that will be given to students to use while taking graduation photos. This confetti is biodegradable and easier to clean up compared to the usual plastic confetti and glitter thrown by our grads. The second part of this project is the Green Grad Pledge. As Faith puts it in her own words, “We want students to commit to being sustainable, no matter what field they are in.”

Taking this pledge and attending a sustainable event on campus will make a student a Green Grad and they will be given a green cord to wear around their neck at graduation signifying their commitment to “carefully consider the social and environmental impacts of every job they choose”. While funding has been secured for graduation in May 2022, Natalie and Faith are hopeful that this project can become a yearly tradition, partnering with the Graduation Pledge Alliance on behalf of Chico State to become one of the more than 100 schools. In this partnership. If you would like to take the pledge, receive your biodegradable confetti, and become a Green Grad, keep an eye out for the Green Campus table around campus or reach out to Faith Churchill at fachurchill@csuchico.edu.



Upcoming Events

March 24 -25, 2022

This Way To Sustainability

This year, the TWTS Conference will be held in-person and virtually as a hybrid event. The event aims to “elevate the many voices of climate justice” with speakers from around the nation and the globe. Planning for the conference is well underway and proposals for speakers are being reviewed and considered. To learn more, check out the TWTS page on the campus website.

May 8, 2022

Green Graduation Deadline

The last day to become a Green-Grad and receive your green honor cord is May 8th, 2022. But don't delay and look out for the Green Campus table as well as our Green Graduation updates on Instagram(@ChicoGreenCampus) for more information!

Spring 2022

Chico State Waste Audit

In the spring semester, Chico State will hold a waste audit. A portion of the waste generated by Chico State will be sorted and analyzed, giving us valuable insight into how waste is being generated and dealt with here on campus. If you would like to volunteer and help out at our waste audit, find us on Instagram or email us at: greencampus@csuchico.edu!