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.

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.
This year for the first time ever Chico State teamed up with All Matters and launched the 2021 Campus Cup Campaign. This campaign allowed for students to receive a free menstrual cup as well as teaching them how they can have a more sustainable menstrual cycle. While these products are taxed as a luxury item, 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 gets 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!
The Campus Sustainability Committee includes several subcommittees with the charge and purpose of working on actionable goals to progress our campus sustainability efforts, including achieving carbon neutrality. The subcommittees cover many facets of sustainability and reach every corner of our campus. Subcommittees include students, faculty, staff, and community members, all bringing unique perspectives and expertise to the work.

**Energy**  
*Lead: Mike Guzzi*  
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**Curriculum**  
*Lead: Tim Sistrunk*  
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**Student Engagement**  
*Lead: Kendall Ross*  
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**Water**  
*Lead: Mike Alonzo*  
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**Alternative Transportation**  
*Lead: Cheri Chastain*  
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**Natural Environment**  
*Lead: Eli Goodsell*  
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Subcommittee Updates Cont.

Research
Lead: Sandrine Matiasek
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Agriculture
Lead: Cindy Daley
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Zero Waste
Lead: Bri Saseen
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Procurement
Lead: Sandrine Matiasek
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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@csuchico.edu.
Upcoming Events

February 26 / March 9 / March 25 2021
Faculty Development Workshops

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March 25-26 2021
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March 30 2021
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