BUILDING A BETTER CAMPUS

WONDERING HOW UWG GAUGES ITS PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABILITY? WHAT ABOUT OUR FUTURE PLANS? KEEP ON READING TO FIND OUT!

Each year, the Center for Sustainability looks at how to better improve sustainability efforts on campus. Recently, the Center came up with a three year sustainability plan (2018-2021). This plan is based on the categories that are offered in the AASHE STARS survey, and calls for a 5% improvement in each category, as well as a 15% increase in our overall score. Hopefully, we will have completed a number of new goals by the time we resubmit our report.

What are the AASHE STARS?

The AASHE STARS are a way for colleges and universities to track their progress in sustainability initiatives. It encourages long term sustainability goals and provides incentives for colleges and universities that show consistent improvement in their sustainability oriented goals. The AASHE STARS has a number of categories that schools can choose to improve upon.

UWG’s Sustainability Plan: What will change?

Students can expect to see a change in the curriculum that is offered. Sustainability focused curriculum is already offered, but the Center is seeking to increase the amount of courses that are being offered, as well as increase the amount of degrees that have a sustainability focused outcome. Campus engagement will also become a priority. Incoming students will have a chance to see a short film at orientation that will hopefully be made by the UCM; it will be focused on campus sustainability. In addition, they will be e-mailed a copy of our new sustainability handbook. The Center will also be working with the dining facilities to see if they can increase the amount of certified sustainable products, as well as the purchasing of products from smaller, regional producers. The Center hopes to develop a sustainable dining policy, and explore ways in which Dine West can work with and support the local farmer’s market. The Center also wants to explore ways to get students involved in Dine West’s transition with new events. These events would include sustainability themed meals and low impact meals to help get the word out about sustainable sourced food products. Last year, UWG rolled out its new Bike West Plan. To increase the impact of Bike West, the Center hopes to install more bike racks around campus. The Center also wishes to explore the idea of carpooling. Zimride, an app that connects drivers and passengers that are heading to the same area, will be explored. This app can also be used to form carpool groups among friends, and be used to split the cost of gas. Preferred parking for those that use electric vehicles or carpool to campus will also be visited.

How can you get involved?

If you are looking to make a change on campus, you can contact the Center for Sustainability to figure out how to get involved. There are also a few sustainability centered groups on campus; these groups include the Ecoleaders, TriBeta, and the Geosciences Club.
In 2009, Tanya Fields created The BLK ProjeK after noticing a lack of fresh, quality food available to her. After noticing several undeveloped lots in her community, and its adjacency to a local food distribution center, a plan began to unfold. The BLK ProjeK's main goal is to harness good, local food in order to address food justice and economic development by beautifying local spaces for urban gardening and providing education that is culturally relevant. They focus on helping underserved women and youth of color by providing small business and career opportunities, and by creating resources that are easily accessible by all members of the community. By focusing on including low-income families, they established a solid base for a local food system. The BLK ProjeK seeks to provide a path away from poverty and support local growers to strengthen the health of the public. Currently, they have two tiers to this unique program: Holistic Hood and Healthy Hoods. Holistic Hood focuses more on the community part of the movement; it encourages residents to build up their community to help build positive interactions. This tier to their program includes the Bronx Grub Meal series, which seeks to bring the community together in order to provide a sustainable and low cost (or free) meal. Community meetings and wellness and holiday events are also part of this tier. Healthy Hoods focuses more on the economic development side of their plan, and includes their Libertad Urban Farm Project, as well as the South Bronx Mobile Market. The Libertad Urban Farm project took an old undeveloped space and turned it into a community garden where residents can garden alongside each other. The South Bronx Mobile Market is a unique initiative undertaken by the BLK ProjeK. It is a school bus that runs on vegetable oil, and drives around South Bronx Communities to provide residents with local produce. Not only will this help develop a local food initiative, but it will also act as a starting point for workforce development and job creation to help support local farmers.

A popular public speaker, Tanya Fields is the creator and executive director of The BLK ProjeK, a movement that fights for local food justice. She is also the creator and main star of Mama Tanya's Kitchen, an online cooking show that teaches viewers it's possible to cook affordable and healthy dishes. Tanya has received awards like the Women Stop Hunger Award and the Can Do Award for her work. She has also spoken at the Just Food Conference in 2012, the City University of New York School of Professional Studies commencement in 2013, and the 2016 Greenthumb Conference: Grow Together.

You can follow Mama Tanya's Kitchen and The BLK ProjeK on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram.

*All pictures and information on this page from http://www.theblkprojek.org unless otherwise stated.*
STUDENT WORK

Outside
By Amber Ducksworth
Wind is blowing, the sun is out
What a wonderful day to be outside
Bikes are cycling, Skateboards are rolling
What a wonderful day to be outside
Not much chatter, birds are chirping
What a wonderful day to be outside
Dogs are relaxing, while the owners are working
What a wonderful day to be outside
Look at there it’s finally Spring
What a wonderful day to be outside

EARTH WEEK FACTS

- The first Earth Day had more than 20 million participants.
- Over 100 billion pieces of junk mail are delivered to citizens each year in the United States.
- Half of the world's forests are now gone.
- Three to five times the energy that is used to power a waste incinerator can be saved by recycling.
- In about six weeks, one aluminum can can be manufactured, filled, sold, recycled, and re-manufactured.
- Almost 200 billion beverage containers are sold each year in the United States. Only 1/3 of those containers are recycled. The other 2/3's of those containers are either tossed in a landfill, incinerated, or are tossed as litter.
- 3.1 million jobs in the United States are related to recycling, reuse, and re-manufacturing.

Source: http://www.henslemursy.indiana.com/earth-day-fun-facts/

Earth Week Calendar

Monday, April 23rd
Pollinator Planting, 2:30 PM
Meet in the Coliseum Parking Lot
UWG Trail Walk, 3:30 PM
Meet in the Coliseum Parking Lot

Tuesday, April 24th
Tree Planting, 1:00 PM
Meet at the Student Rec Center
Bat Box Demo
Held in the Campus Center Ballroom

Wednesday, April 25th
Sustainability Expo, 5:00-8:00 PM
with guest speaker Tanya Fields
speaking at 7:00 PM
Carrollton Cultural Arts Center

Thursday, April 26th
Sweetwater Creek Hike, 2:00 PM
Join UREC on a hike at Sweetwater Creek State Park! Free transportation available for those that reserve a spot

Friday, April 27th
Community Garden Harvest,
11:00 AM
Meet in front of the Z-6 Dining Hall

Saturday, April 28th
Farmers Market Bike Ride, 9:30 AM
Free bike rentals available for the event!
Meet at University Recreation