

Executive Summary:

The Seattle Central College (SCC) Sustainability Council (SC) met throughout the year to include students and produce campus events; by collaborating with partners and stakeholders, the SCC community engaged with sustainability topics like never before.

Accomplishments, Projects, Activities: The following is a list of 2017-2018 priorities established in summer 2017 and progress made on each.

Improvement of Campus Waste Management

Similar to last year, our priority this year has been on improving our waste streams. To accomplish this we had more of an emphasis on outreach and campus engagement, rather than marketing and signage.

1. Custodial Training

In partnership with Seattle Public Utilities, the SC continued to offer waste sorting training for all custodial staff. The annual training is meant as a reminder for seasoned employees and basic training for new employees. In 2018-2019, the SC plans to partner with Auxiliary Services/Dining to extend this training to all dining staff.

2. Responsible Recycling Team/"Trash Talkers"

The SC partnered with Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members to provide informative assistance with food waste sorting during Unity Fair, Student Leadership's end-of-the-year music and cultural celebration on Thursday May 24, 2018. The Sustainability Council provided three waste trainings to PTK members and volunteers before the fair, and then assisted day-of with coordination of volunteers and answers to commonly asked questions. **Nineteen** students participated as part of the project. Our hope is to continue to partner with PTK next year, to provide Trash Talker volunteers in the Atrium during the first week of each quarter.

3. Training for offices and departments

Adam Maurer, Sustainability Coordinator, and Becca Barbanell, SC member and Office of Sustainability Intern, conducted a training for Siegal Center staff as part of the move toward centralized waste stations. The quick training included a fun quiz and prizes. As a result of this project, Student Leadership reached out to the SC and will receive training and centralized waste systems for the office. In addition, the SC continues to solicit interest from other departments and offices.

4. Centralized Waste Management Pilot at Siegal Center

Siegal staff received new recycling receptacles, accompanied by a mini-garbage receptacle. Staff is responsible for emptying their own desk side recycling and garbage receptacles into a centralized waste station. No bags are provided for desk side receptacles, reducing plastic bag waste and expenses. Additionally, compost collection was added to several kitchenettes/breakrooms and paper towel compost collection in bathrooms- both reduce garbage expenses and greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill waste. The SC plans to implement this structure in other offices/departments at Seattle Central.

Compost and Centralized Waste in Student Leadership:

Building on the program success of centralized waste stations at Siegal Center, Student Leadership recently reached out to the Sustainability Council to replicate the program in their building. Initial

meetings and assessments are complete, indicating that four centralized stations with compost, recycling, and garbage will be offered, as well as paper towel composting in bathrooms. Facilities plans to implement the new program before start of fall quarter.

5. New Signage for Main Campus

The SC partnered with SPU to design and print new compost, recycle, and garbage signs for Seattle Central. These signs have been hung in most areas in BE, SAM, Maritime, and Wood Tech. at this point.

Sustainability Council Website

In late January, the Council went live with our [official webpage](#)¹, hosted under the *Councils* → *Committees* → *Taskforces* page within the *College Leadership* section of Seattle Central's website. The Council webpage includes our mission statement, current members and contact information, our bylaws, priorities and year-end reports. We hope to also include a calendar that links with 25Live, to encourage participation at our monthly Council meetings.

Sustainability into Orientation

Waste Sorting PowerPoint for NSOs:

Adam Maurer, District Sustainability Coordinator, created and then updated a waste sorting PowerPoint slideshow for use with the START new student orientations, as well as international new student orientations. This initiative will assist us with student engagement as we continue our ongoing waste management campaign. This is effective in reaching new students to campus, and specifically helping us to educate our international student populations, who may not have recycling/composting in their home communities.

Participation in Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)

The Seattle Central Sustainability Council again sponsored a group of students (5) to attend the annual Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Coalition conference in February 2018, this year held at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. The Central group was part of a larger district-wide coalition of faculty, staff and students attending with members from North, South, and the district. The WOHESC conference provided opportunities for those within higher education in the region to come together and learn about sustainability in academics, operations, and research. In an [article with more details](#)² on the Seattle Colleges Sustainability website, Seattle Central student Dior Aldarez noted, "the [WOHESC] sessions had a big impact in the way I see the world. Knowing that I come from a country, Venezuela, where there is lack of education about the way we live and the negative effects it has on the planet, I now feel like education is the base of any society, it manages and changes the way people think and act. So now I think that the first step to help the world is on us, we have to educate ourselves."

Earth Week

This year's Earth Week theme was *Food Justice & Resilience*. The Council planned for 3.5 months, then promoted and executed a week's worth of events for the campus community. More details about Earth Week at Seattle Central can be found on the [Seattle Colleges Sustainability webpage](#)³

TUE:

Waste Audit in North Plaza

¹ <https://seattlecentral.edu/about/councils-committees-and-taskforces/sustainability-council>

² <http://sustainability.seattlecolleges.edu/spotlight-on-equity-and-diversity-at-wohesc-2018/>

³ <http://sustainability.seattlecolleges.edu/seattlecentralearth2018/>

9 students volunteered, including several PTK members,
and one ESL class observed

Film Screening: Seed - The Untold Story

WED:

Women in Food & Agriculture Lecture –
Partnership with Farmer’s Market & Culinary, with
over **30** students in attendance

Good Food, Healthy People Lecture –
Partnership with Culinary division and over 7
students/faculty/staff participated in a small-group discussion

THU:

Earth Week Fair

10 regional organizations participated, representing agriculture, food, and bike
share companies, with more than
20 students/faculty/staff participating

COSI: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice

Over **40** participants in attendance (mostly students, some faculty/staff)

Partnerships

PTK

Our partnership with PTK members was impressive and fruitful this past year, resulting in increased student participation during Earth Week and a ‘Trash Talker’ waste-sorting project that we hope to continue next year. One reason for this success is due to PTK members selecting a sustainability-related theme for their required year-long “Honors in Action” project. Another partnership strategy was regular Sustainability Council announcements & calls for volunteers during weekly PTK meetings.

Culinary

Partnering with the Culinary Arts division increased our faculty and student participation during Earth Week, and can provide an effective example for future Earth Weeks and special projects. Strategies we implemented included reaching out early to specific faculty/staff and creating a theme that directly connects to the classroom for Earth Week, which helped solidify faculty engagement. Another strategy the Council has been meaning to employ is attending faculty department meetings, to seek faculty buy-in early on.

Public Information Office (PIO)

The Sustainability Council successfully collaborated with PIO to promote Earth Week events this year and would like to continue seeing that beneficial relationship continue.