

Executive Summary

The Seattle Central College (SCC) Sustainability Council (SC) met throughout the year to include students and host campus events; by collaborating with partners and stakeholders, the SCC community engaged with sustainability topics in ways different from past years.

Accomplishments, Projects, Activities

The following is a list of 2018-2019 priorities established during summer 2018 and the progress made on each.

Student Sustainability Position

The Sustainability Council established a new student Sustainability Engagement Ambassador position to assist in campus involvement around sustainability-related issues. The first student was hired in Fall 2018 and was succeeded by another student during Winter 2019. The student chaired the Earth Week committee in preparation for Earth Week events and works to create partnerships between the SC and Student Leadership, clubs, staff, faculty, and classes. We are recruiting for another student to step into the yearlong role starting in Fall 2019.

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.

a. Custodial Training

In partnership with Seattle Public Utilities, the SC offered a waste sorting training for all custodial staff. The annual training is meant as a reminder for seasoned employees and basic training for new employees. The training will be especially important in summer 2019 as more compost bins will be distributed to staff break rooms.

b. Responsible Recycling Team/"Trash Talkers"

The SC again 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 23, 2019. Representatives from the SC provided training to the food vendors during their Food Vendor Orientation prior to the event. The Sustainability Council provided two 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. Volunteers were solicited at the end of the event to thoroughly sort materials and divert as much waste as possible from landfill. Our hope is to continue to work with PTK each year as a sustained partnership, to provide Trash Talker volunteers in the Atrium during the first week of each quarter.

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.

Waste Sorting and Sustainability Efforts PowerPoint for New Hire Orientation:

Adam Maurer created a PowerPoint presentation for use with the monthly New Hire Orientation. It highlights sustainability efforts at the Seattle Colleges, the STARS rankings for each of the colleges, and sustainable lifestyle and workplace actions that can be taken. The presentation engages the new employees with a waste sorting game and encourages them to get involved in on-campus sustainability councils and committees.

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

The Seattle Central Sustainability Council again sponsored a group of students (4) and staff (2) to attend the annual Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Coalition conference in February 2019, this year held at UW in Seattle, WA.

“As a student looking to enter the field of environmental and social responsibility, WOHESC provided me with new insight into how diversity and inclusion play a major role in this movement. The conference gave me new energy to tackle the environmental crises and injustices that are happening today, and has helped me put together a toolkit for contributing to positive changes in the future.” – Rachel Arneberg, student

“WOHESC truly opened my eyes to the ways sustainable living benefits us all. I learned how to look at things on campus through a sustainability lens, which helps you realize problems exist you did not know about. I cannot wait to take the information I learned and put it to work.” – Andrea Hendricks, student

“WOHESC is a great way for students to learn about the growing field of sustainability, communicate with fellow students and career professionals, and explore pathways to many careers.” – Vinnie Mauer, student

“As a faculty member, I felt inspired during my interactions with students, who have fresh perspectives in problem-solving and an infectious optimism about the future.” - Alyssa Jocson Porter, faculty

Earth Week

This year’s Earth Week theme was *Environmental and Social Justice*. The Council planned for 2.5 months, then promoted and executed more than a week’s worth of events for the campus community. Earth Week events included two COSI talks, a homelessness forum, environmental

conservation volunteer opportunities, a pop-up food pantry, a waste audit, poetry, free bike repairs, and a student-initiated panel on climate change/sustainability.

More details about Earth Week at Seattle Central can be found on this Seattle Central webpage: <https://seattlecentral.edu/campus-life/explore-campus/earth-week>.

Partnerships

Phi Theta Kappa

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 each 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. Members presented their idea for a container garden project to the SC, and received guidance by Jeff Keever and Kjrstin Fitch who pointed in the direction of FOMAC for support.

We also partnered with PTK to host a food drive and provide a pop-up food pantry during Earth Week, as it fit under the year's theme of Environmental and Social Justice. Regular Sustainability Council announcements & calls for volunteers during weekly PTK meetings was an effective partnership strategy.

Environmental Science Classes

We partnered with Katie Chenu's Environmental Science classes during Earth Week events in order to use the campus as a living laboratory. Student volunteers assisted with the campus Waste Audit as an opportunity for hands-on learning and place-based education. They class then reflected on their findings in a discussion board and related it to their course objectives.

Student Leadership

Along with partnering with SL to put on a successful Unity Fair event, the SC partnered with student boards for Earth Week's Conversations on Earth's Future Panel. This student-organized event showcases student interest in sustainability topics and their capability to lead.

Community Partnership

We have continued to grow our network of organizations and individuals from the community, including but not limited to BikeWorks, Sunrise Movement, the Capitol Hill Eco-District, the Chamber of Commerce, Forterra, and EarthCorps.

2019-2020 Goals and Upcoming Projects

1. Distributing compost bins to offices and breakrooms and appointing "Waste Champions" for each office/department.
2. Establish a student Sustainability position within Student Leadership.
3. Explore a student green fee initiative.
4. Create a Green Event Guide to facilitate sustainability at public and private SCC events.
5. Carry out a sustainable living survey for students, faculty, and staff.
6. Continue to collaborate with classes to build sustainability into curriculum by providing place-based project opportunities and involving classes in sustainability events.