

DU Center for Sustainability Annual Report 2019-2020



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY



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Letter from the Director

This was an exciting year in sustainability at DU. As a University we stepped forward, building a strong foundation for future, gaining momentum through innovative projects and programs. Although the COVID pandemic and response impacted the end of the year, and may alter the timeline for future work, the inequity exposed by the virus and in the surging Black Lives Matter movement drive a deeper dive into the overlap of social justice and sustainability we have discussed at DU for years.

Building a just and sustainable future must be centered in equity. Sustainability solutions will not come without social justice. In order to address growing economic and educational disparities, we need to deeply examine the foundations of how our society and cities are planned and managed. We need all voices to be heard, beginning with those that have been marginalized for years, in order to build a coalition for action. Together, we may then address root systems in order to bring about necessary changes to the power structures that lead to injustice, inequity and an unsustainable future. As a University, we must examine our own structures, even as we host conversations and create knowledge for the future we desire.

Highlights of sustainability efforts on campus showcase all aspects of the University. We are designing and building cutting edge buildings, such as the Burwell Career Achievement Center with its novel cross laminated timber design demonstrating a low embodied carbon, high efficiency building. This building will become a laboratory and classroom for green building for campus and the region. Our Denver Advantage Buildings were designed to build community on campus. Economically these projects are building wealth in the Denver region, as we set and achieved goals for attracting and including local, women, minority and veteran owned contractors, with over \$30 million going to these companies,. Photovoltaic solar arrays constructed on 18 roofs will provide on campus renewable energy production for decades, starting in the fall of 2020. Our campus shuttle continues to provide innovative mobility options, introducing app based on demand last mile connections, modeling microtransit for the city.

Deep planning efforts are leading to action in sustainability focused community engaged learning and emerging research. The Sustainability Council, a representative shared governance body that includes students, staff and faculty, has a new charter, an operating structure that promises to reinvigorate and broaden sustainability planning, projects, policies and reporting. The DU Grand Challenges Urban Sustainability Cohort has engaged community members in growing collaborations , including metro Denver Nature Alliance (a collaborative of over 50 organizations working on equitable greenspace planning for the Front Range), the City of Denver, Denver Public Schools, and regional experts seeking to quantify human and ecological well-being. The concept of an Institute for a Just and Sustainable Future, a research institution to address inequity and sustainability, continues to evolve, with co-development of a research agenda based on conversations with regional experts.

In all of these efforts, we have centered the student experience. Opportunities abound for students to become active participants in advancing sustainability efforts on campus and in the community. Courses and degree programs build foundational knowledge, often with projects allowing deep learning through applied projects and research. Independent studies allow students to follow their passion and work directly with faculty. Our on-campus internship program provides rich experiential learning that bridges academic outcomes and career readiness, while hosting peer educational programming to engage and educate students from across campus. Off campus internships allow students to begin on their career path. Collectively, these opportunities develop the whole person and embed sustainability concepts and action across all degree programs.

In this annual report, we have prepared a snapshot of the last year. Highlighting achievements and outcomes from across campus, illustrates that this is the work of everyone at the University of Denver. We celebrate these successes collectively. From our operations to our academics and research, we are taking steps toward our sustainability and climate goals. We hope this report inspires you to join the effort.

Sincerely,
Chad King
Executive Director for Sustainability
University of Denver



About the Center for Sustainability





From its humble beginnings in 2012, as one coordinator and a handful of students, the Center for Sustainability has moved to being a prominent voice in the DU and Denver Community around sustainability leadership, operational best practices, and student development. Students working at the Center for Sustainability engage in holistic, hands-on co-curricular work to investigate real-world problems and develop tangible solutions with measurable outcomes.

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS, IMPACTS, AND OUTCOMES

DU Bike Shop

Crew of 6 students performed

185 total services

On **107** different bikes

Services provided had a retail value of over

➔➔➔ **\$6,300** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

with an average turnaround time of only:

2 days



Sustainability Internship Program

45 Undergraduate Students from

24 different majors at DU.

8 Graduate Fellows from

6 different schools at DU.

Students ran **30** distinct programs that reached more than

7,100 people

despite restrictions in spring due to COVID19

This year, the Center for Sustainability planned events with

➔➔➔ **15 major partners** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

including: The Library Sustainability Committee, the Center for Community Engagement to Advance Scholarship and Learning, Health Promotion, DU Programming Board, Housing and Residential Education, Denver Dining by Sodexo, DU Dialogues, DU Backpacking Club, the Bridge Community Garden, Advancement, Alumni Engagement, Discoveries Orientation, Parent and Family Engagement, the ESLLC, and Indigilogix

DU Food Pantry

The DU Food Pantry distributed

3,112 pounds of food to

87 unique users over

509 individual visits

➔➔➔ **1,587** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

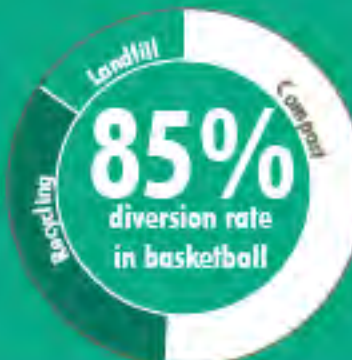
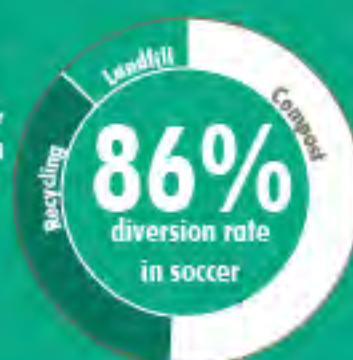
Pounds of food were donated from

➔➔➔ **14** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

organizations and departments all across the DU campus.

Zero Waste Athletics

We continued to see great diversion rates across all sports, with increased diversion in both soccer (+2%) and basketball (+5%)





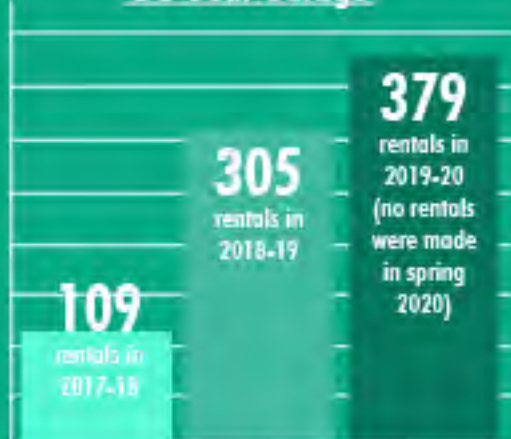
The relationships our students build while working at the Center for Sustainability increases a sense of **community**, gives students a feeling of **purpose**, and allows them to spend time with people who share their **core values**. These all lead to greater rates of **persistence** and feelings of **satisfaction**.

We provided various sustainability trainings to

7 Organizations

at DU, including
Resident Assistants,
Orientation Leaders,
Admissions Office,
DU Programming Board,
Alpha Phi Omega
Advancement, and
Office of International Ed.

DU Gear Garage



Gear Garage saw our rentals **increase** despite being closed during Spring 2020, which has historically been our busiest quarter

Presentations

Staff at the Center presented at:
5 classes in different programs
15 events hosted by other units at DU
4 regional conferences and summits
6 Talks at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education national conference
These talks reached nearly

2,000
people at DU and beyond

Renter Efficiency Program

Completed **20** Audits
Educated **40** Renters
Replaced **83** light bulbs
Installed **18** low flow faucets
Fixed **10** drafty doors
Fixed **12** drafty windows
Gave away **6** smart power strips
Programmed **6** thermostats
Adjusted **6** hot water tanks
Installed **27** feet of insulation

Fundraising

In partnership with the Advancement Office, the Center for Sustainability raised

\$15,000

for programs such as
DU Food Pantry
Carbon Offsets

Sustainability Programming

Sustainability Internships

through projects like One Day for DU, Text to Give Campaigns, and the Alumni Night at Zoo Lights.

Communications



Our audits will save renters a total of:
**11,367 kWh &
\$1,256 on energy bills**
every year



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DU Center for
Sustainability



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Community Collaboration

Staff at the Center are deeply engaged in planning processes across nearly every area of campus, from ensuring sustainability was at the core of the Denver Advantage buildings, to infusing sustainability throughout Discoveries Orientation, supporting sustainability efforts in Athletics, supporting independent research and class projects, and educational programming in partnership with offices like the Health and Counseling Center, The Center for Community Engagement to Advance Scholarship and Learning, University Librar

ies, DU Programming Board, and Housing and Residence Education.

Serving as a central hub for Sustainability at DU, the Center for Sustainability works to connect passionate faculty, staff, students, and administrators to projects, partners, and opportunities that allow them to create meaningful change across campus and the larger Denver community. Professional staff at the Center contributed to several key partnerships that explore new avenues of community engagement, operational best practices, and hands-on co-curricular learning.

DU Grand Challenges Urban Sustainability Cohort

The DUGC Urban Sustainability Cohort is one of DUGC's four collective impact cohorts in which faculty, staff and students partner with community leaders from the public, private, and civic sectors to improve daily life, now and in the future. Each cohort aims to increase the number of faculty, staff, and students engaged in community-based scholarship, increase the number of community partners actively engaged with DU, and increase the strength of existing community-university partnerships. Projects that emerged from this cohort include work to define a Human and Ecological Well-being Index, the Community Voice project, a partnership with DPS sustainability staff, students and champions, the concept of a Sustainability Clinic, and development of support structures for this group, including organization, networking, and grant writing. Quarterly Sustainability Community Collective meetings were launched to connect community partners with faculty staff and students to build long term relationships focused on community research needs. The goal is to build relationships where courses, class projects, capstones, independent studies, and theses can address these needs, providing solutions to the community. This cohort will continue to focus on creating deep and meaningful relationships that go beyond a single project or school year, developing rich projects over years and multiple project opportunities to create a sustainable Denver region where all thrive.



What is DU Grand Challenges

Our local and global communities face complex, urgent, and persistent challenges. DU Grand Challenges is a family of programs that bring together university and community change-makers to address the most difficult and far-reaching issues facing our society today. DU Grand Challenges addresses three inter-related issues in our communities: improving daily living, increasing economic opportunity and advancing deliberation and action for the public good. Each issue area is addressed in a 3-year cycle, allowing us, in partnership with our communities, to co-create Aspirations, Actions, and Achievements.



Our Approach

The Center for Sustainability has focused its efforts on providing holistic learning opportunities for students across the university. At the most basic level, professional and student staff from the Center are often featured as guest speakers during classes, club meetings, conferences, and other events. These opportunities allow our work to be shared in small ways to large audiences across campus. During the Spring 2020 quarter, while DU operated fully digitally due to COVID19, staff at the Center for Sustainability created a large library of instructional videos and pre-recorded trainings around sustainability topics, which allows us to continue to educate our audiences despite physical distancing.

The Center for Sustainability also works hard to fuse its operational and outreach work with curricular opportunities through serving as the client for several student class projects and independent studies. These projects provide authentic experiential learning while producing materials that advance sustainability efforts across campus. Problem based learning allows students to apply knowledge to creating a solution in a tangible outcome. This year class partnerships included faculty in Communication, Geography,

and GIS. with students providing literature reviews and written materials, researching effectiveness of Center programs, and developing maps and websites to display campus sustainability efforts.

The deepest learning opportunity the Center for Sustainability has to offer is its Sustainability Internship Program, which brings together dozens of passionate and motivated students to investigate best practices and their applications across DU. From learning how to run a full-service bike shop, to organizing a food pantry that serves DU's most vulnerable communities, to strategizing how to impact tens of thousands of sports fans, the Center's student interns finish each year with rich experiences that equip them with the skills they need to succeed in future careers. Hands-on experiences are paired with intentional professional, personal, and leadership development training, much self-reflection, and mentorship from experienced staff and graduate fellows.

Eat Local Food

As a "private university dedicated to the public good" DU is also a key economic driver in the city. In fall of 2019, the Center for Sustainability partnered with the Denver Anchor Network and the Center for Community Wealth Building and key event planners from the Graduate School of Social Work, Advancement, Conference and Event Services and support from Shared Services to build intentional, specific partnerships as an Anchor Institution. The goal of this event was to highlight ways to use existing budgetary costs to support and Women- or Minority-owned businesses in Denver. By focusing spending in this way, we can support marginalized businesses, build wealth in our community, and we bring rich flavors to our gatherings. Ten caterers went through three trainings in preparation to succeed as a vendor at the University. A successful tasting event allowed caterers to introduce themselves and their food to over one hundred event planners across the University.



What is an Anchor Institution?

Anchor institutions are enterprises that are necessarily tied (anchored) to their locations, such as universities or hospitals. Because these institutions can't move to another city the way most private businesses can, anchor institutions have a great opportunity to build long, meaningful relationships, partnerships with other local businesses, non-profits and community members. Additionally, institutions like universities and hospitals wield vast economic, human, intellectual and institutional resources, which can serve to improve and grow local economies and build stronger communities.



Knowledge Bridge Proposal: Institute for a Just and Sustainable Future

Through a collaborative development process, an interdisciplinary team of faculty produced a well-received proposal for a research institute. This proposal focused on research to support the development of a just and sustainable future. The concept of “just sustainabilities” offers an unparalleled foundation for innovation, interdisciplinary research, and experiential education. As our population grows, becoming increasingly urbanized and straining the limits of our natural systems, the tensions between environmental protection and equity mount. Issues at the intersection of economic vitality, environmental quality, and social justice are among the greatest challenges of our time and require innovative thinking, creative problem solving, and a diverse community of scholars and collaborators. This concept merges existing faculty strengths with ongoing research partnerships to propose the DU Institute for a Just and Sustainable Future --a vibrant, interdisciplinary network to support rigorous scholarship that addresses the issues of just sustainabilities across multiples scales.

DU Programming Council

The DU Programming Council was formed in 2018 as a way for event planners in Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence to coordinate with one another, find opportunities for collaboration, and to share best practices across units. The Programming Council continues to grow across units, providing a way to infuse sustainability across more programs and departments on campus. These programming partnerships will help to shape student engagement activities to both operate in a more sustainable manner – from waste reduction to local food offerings – and to continue to show students that sustainability is a core value of the University of Denver.







Sustainability Internship Program





The Center for Sustainability provides a community and a “home” for students at DU who are passionate about sustainability and social justice work. These students pursue interests and projects that, for some, add depth and texture to their related courses, and for others, allow them to work meaningfully in an area they haven’t been able to pursue academically. The 2019-2020 Internship Team was led by eight graduate fellows, 23 undergraduate program leads, and 22 support staff. These students came from a diverse collection of majors, colleges, and backgrounds, and managed 30 different programs split into six different program areas.

Throughout the year, our students met weekly as a whole group to build community, share across teams, brainstorm programs and events, and to participate in professional and personal development. The Center partnered with DU Dialogues to give students a 2-part training in dialogic skills in order to deepen their ability to talk to diverse audiences about tricky issues around sustainability, other trainings focused on how to collect meaningful data and how to report on goals and metrics effectively. The spring quarter was dedicated to teaching professional skills such as writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing, and networking. Graduate student meetings revolved around effective mentorship and management, vertical leadership, emerging topics in the sustainability literature, and interdisciplinary discussions around student assessment and learning.

The chapters that follow this one will offer details and data around key programs that are led by the student interns at the Center for Sustainability. This cohort forms the backbone of the Center, and it is their dedication and passion which allows us to engage with the campus community in such significant ways.

Learning Objectives

This year, the Center for Sustainability continued to refine learning outcomes for its undergraduate student interns, identifying seven key goals for student development:

- ➞ 1. Utilize the communication, reporting, and networking tools required to work as an interdisciplinary team in the 21st century
- ➞ 2. Identify and analyze interdisciplinary connections, systems thinking approaches, and collaborator networks
- ➞ 3. Describe how individual strengths allow for personal and team growth
- ➞ 4. Demonstrate depth of knowledge on a broad range of sustainability topics



Sustainability Internship: By the Numbers

8 Graduate Students
from **6 different schools:**

Graduate School of Social Work
Graduate School of Professional Psychology
Daniels College of Business
Ritchie School of Engineering
Korbel School of International Studies
University College

In response to the COVID19 pandemic and the inability to host in-person events during the spring quarter, Sustainability Interns created

⇒⇒⇒ **26** ⇐⇐⇐
digital training presentations and videos to educate and engage students even when physically distanced.

45 Undergraduate Students

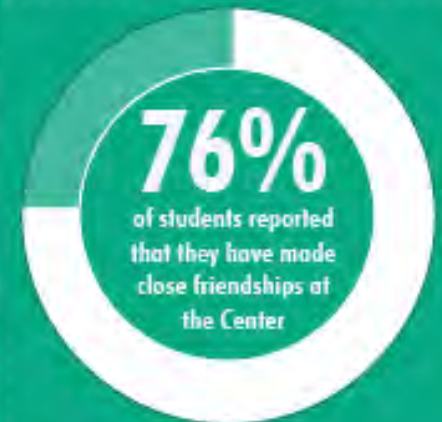


23 students in leadership roles
managing teams of **4-6** other students in support roles

7 teams who ran
30 total programs

Those programs impacted over

⇒⇒⇒ **7,100** ⇐⇐⇐
people at DU and beyond



- ⇒⇒⇒ 5. Demonstrate leadership in developing, managing and assessing team projects.
- ⇒⇒⇒ 6. Evaluate effectiveness of sustainability projects and operations
- ⇒⇒⇒ 7. Describe the links between social justice, equity, diversity, and environmental sustainability.

Students completed a self-assessment at the end of every quarter, evaluating their confidence in many of these listed learning outcomes. Additionally, each team created a quarterly report at the end of fall and winter quarters, and an annual report at the end of the spring. These authentic artifacts illustrated students' ability to communicate their work effectively, understand the goals they had going into each quarter, critically review the places they failed to meet those goals, and to analyze the data they collected during the quarter. Finally, students provided critical program feedback about their experiences, identifying skills requiring additional training, valuable experiences, and strengths and weaknesses of their time at the Center. Together these self-assessments, reports, and program assessments gave Graduate Fellows and professional staff a clear idea of student learning outcomes.

At the end of the school year, interns were asked to self-report improvement on a variety of skills. Each quarter, students self-reported levels of knowledge and skills. They ranked their comfort

with the material from 1 ("I have no idea what this is") to 5 ("I could teach a training about this topic") (see figure 1, page 18). Each quarter, students showed increasing confidence in each of these skill and content areas (see figure 2, page 19).



Professional Development and Training

Our professional development training is focused on the annual objectives and milestones identified by career services, namely:

- ➡ **MILESTONE 1: MAP YOUR PATH** : Identify skills, strengths and interests to complete a resume or CV.
- ➡ **MILESTONE 2: BUILD YOUR CONNECTIONS** : Develop your OneDU community to guide professional success.
- ➡ **MILESTONE 3: GAIN EXPERIENCES** : Fulfill professional experiences that align with your career goals.
- ➡ **MILESTONE 4: LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE** : Master your DU story to ace any interview and prepare for success as a new professional.

Our graduate fellows and undergraduate interns arrived on campus before Orientation week to undergo eight days of training that introduced them to the programs and policies at the Center for Sus

tainability, theories and research around behavior change, problem definition, and idea generation, setting goals and identifying key metrics, leading teams and managing projects, and the intersection of sustainability and social justice issues. The students used this time to get to know their teammates, set goals and begin planning for the upcoming school year, and start the school year with a strong sense of purpose and direction. The students also got an early lesson in team work as they had to figure out the best way for the Center to run its annual Orientation Thrift Store to maximize sales and information around waste reduction and Sustainability at DU.

At the end of the school year, interns were asked to self-report whether they felt like had improved on a variety of skills during this year at the Center for Sustainability (figure 1). Each quarter, students were asked to self-report their level of knowledge about a variety of content areas and skills. They were to rank their comfort with the material from 1 ("I have no idea what this is") to 5 ("I could teach a training about this topic"). Each quarter, students feeling increasingly confident with each of these skill and content areas (figure 2, opposite).

Figure 1: Self-reported Skill Acquisition for Student Interns



Figure 2: Content Understanding Over Time for Student Interns



Adjusting to COVID19

The spring quarter has historically been one of the busiest quarters at DU, and it is no different for the Center for Sustainability. With the warming temperatures and longer days, we typically see work days in the garden, rentals in the gear garage, activity in the bike shop, and excitement about Earth Day and other large events rise. However, when COVID19 forced all DU programming to go digital, our students had to think quickly to create a new plan for engaging their peers while at a safe physical distance.

What is typically a hectic and busy quarter turned into a time for planning and deep reflection. Our student interns spent the quarter thinking about the most important content they had expertise in and created 26 different videos and virtual presentations that will be used as engagement tools and workshops in the coming school year, as in-person events will continue to be extremely limited. Topics ranged from a series of videos about how to improve energy efficiency at home, to cooking with seasonal vegetables, to understanding what it means to Leave No Trace when you go camping.

Student Spotlight: Grace Houser

Grace was featured in the DU Newsroom series on the class of 2020, below are excerpts from that story:

"Since her first year at DU, Houser — who double majored in communication studies and Spanish...has been arm deep in a number of Center for Sustainability projects. She started off as an intern, but moved on to serve as the Center's Energy Programming lead, organizing events and activities that highlighted the need to reduce energy usage and invest in clean alternatives.

"I [got] to engage with the student body and get them more involved with sustainability efforts,' Houser says. 'I think we also cultivated a really fun environment — we like to create a positive connotation with sustainability that makes people want to participate.'

"Houser already had a budding passion for sustainability when she arrived as a first-year student. That only deepened during her time in DU's sustainability-themed Living and Learning Community. It was there that she first connected with the Center for Sustainability. Since then, Houser has organized numerous events, including the annual energy challenge, which she worked to improve from the start.

'Houser's work at the Center for Sustainability didn't just empowered her to make a difference on campus — it also gave her tangible career skills and connections that combine her academic training with a public good focus. After graduating, she will intern at Girls Inc., a nonprofit designed to inspire and support young girls.'





DU Food Pantry





CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
2019-2020



The DU Food Pantry is dedicated to reducing food insecurity throughout the DU Community. Open to everyone with a DU ID, the Food Pantry provides supplemental food to anyone who self-describes as food insecure. The DU Food Pantry has ignited a spirit of giving among the campus community, sparking food drives and monetary donations in partnership with dozens of departments, organizations, and generous individuals. This allows us to stock the pantry with local, sustainable, and nutritious foods, and create a community that works to end the stigma around using a food pantry. Together we support one another in order to thrive.

Food Insecurity in Higher Education

According to the 2019 #RealCollege survey on basic needs security among college and university students, about 41% of students attending a 4-year university reported having experienced food insecurity in the past 30 days. When looking at 2-year institutions, that number grew to 49%.

According to the report, “Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner. The most extreme form is often accompanied by physiological sensations of hunger.”

It comes as no surprise that students who struggle to meet their basic needs - such as food, shelter, and financial stability - are less likely to succeed in the classroom. Not only are these students distracted away from their studies trying to meet their basic needs, but without adequate nutrition, sleep, or peace, they will not be able to achieve the self-actualization that their time in college is meant to help them achieve.

Food insecurity often co-occurs with other types of basic needs, such as homelessness or housing insecurity. As the #RealCollege survey reports, “basic needs insecurity varies over time, such that a student might experience housing insecurity during one semester and food insecurity the next. Some students are housing insecure during the summer and homeless during the winter.”

Indeed, the Center for Sustainability has found that student need for the DU Food Pantry has a tendency to increase during the winter and summer months when campus dining halls are unavailable and housing can be less stable for students. Additionally, while the #RealCollege survey focused primarily on undergraduate student needs, we have found that Graduate Students are among the most economically vulnerable and food insecure.

Beyond the students at DU, there is a demonstrated need for the DU Food Pantry among staff, this has not been adequately studied in the larger higher education context.

#REALCOLLEGE™

Fundraising

A partnership with Advancement and Alumni Engagement has allowed the Food Pantry to see huge donor engagement over the last two years. This year, for the first time, a portion of all tickets sold for Alumni's Night at Zoo Lights event was directed to a charity, and the Food Pantry was chosen as the initiative's first beneficiary. Staff from the Center for Sustainability were present at the event and were able to greet attendees – over 1,000 people – and thank them for their contribution to the Food Pantry.

For the third year in a row, the DU Food Pantry was a beneficiary for One Day for DU, the annual crowdfunding event that attracts hundreds of students, staff, and alumni to donate money to campus causes. Additionally, the Food Pantry remained as a Text-to-Give campaign option throughout the year.

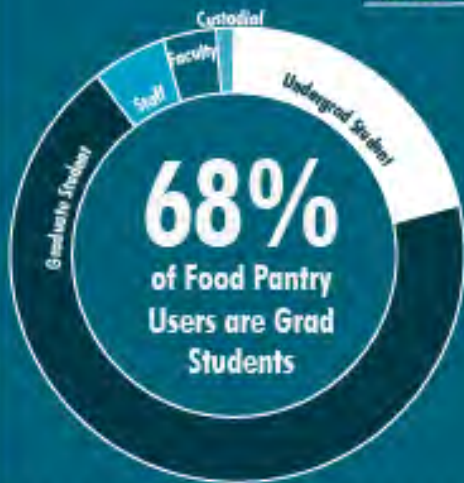
All told, over \$26,700 came into the Food Pantry this year through these generous partnerships and donors (figure 3). This money keeps the Pantry fully stocked, allows us to host community dinners, and supports student program managers.



Figure 3: Monetary Donations to the DU Food Pantry FY20



DU Food Pantry: By the Numbers



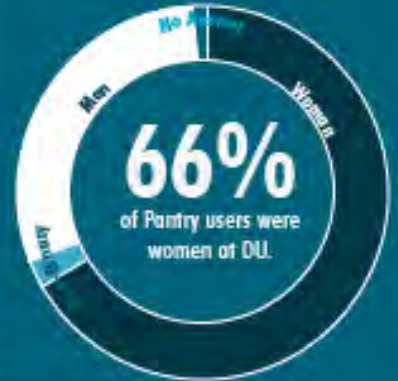
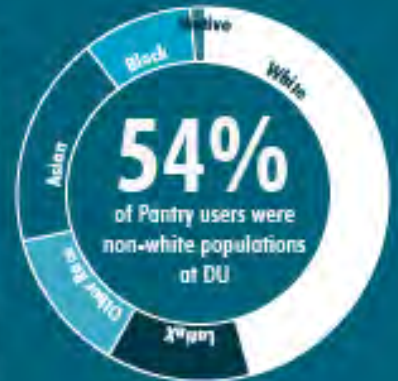
3,112 pounds of food were given away to
87 unique Food Pantry Users over
509 individual visits during the year.

This year, the DU Food Pantry was the major beneficiary for several Advancement giving campaigns, including Night at Zoo Lights. We saw 1,131 donors give

→→→ **\$26,776** ←←←
for this year's food pantry operations.

Food donations accounted for more than

→→→ **75%** ←←←
of food that went into the food pantry this year. Thank you so much to all of our generous donors and partners this year!



→→→ **1,587** ←←←
Pounds of food were donated from
→→→ **14** ←←←
organizations and departments
from DU.

Community Connections

Partnerships are integral to the Food Pantry's success. Working with Student Outreach and Support has allowed the Pantry to serve many more students, through referrals and co-sponsoring the annual Community Dinner. Occurring near Thanksgiving, this event provides a meal and a box of food to those on campus during the winter holidays – a time when the campus dining halls are closed and reliable meals can be harder for some students to find.

Departments and organizations provided generous food donations throughout the year (table 1, page 24). The Fisher Early Learning Center brought a class of kindergarten students to tour the food pantry and donate food for the second year in a row. The Butler Institute for Families, Athletics, International House, and Anderson Academic Commons all hosted drives as did Resident Assistants. Even in the chaos of moving students

off campus at spring break due to COVID19, our students showed thought and generosity in donating food to the Pantry instead of throwing it away. In total, 14 different organizations and departments at DU donated food to the Pantry this year. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed food to the DU Food Pantry; your kindness has helped ensure that students and staff at DU are able to have access to food when they need it.

For the second year running, the Food Pantry participated in the Winter Carnival Chili Cookoff, an annual event hosted by DU Programming Board. Student Leaders prepared chili with ingredients from the Food Pantry and provided information about the Pantry to the 60 or so students who attended. Participating in such high-profile campus traditions provide opportunities to share knowledge and reduce stigma.

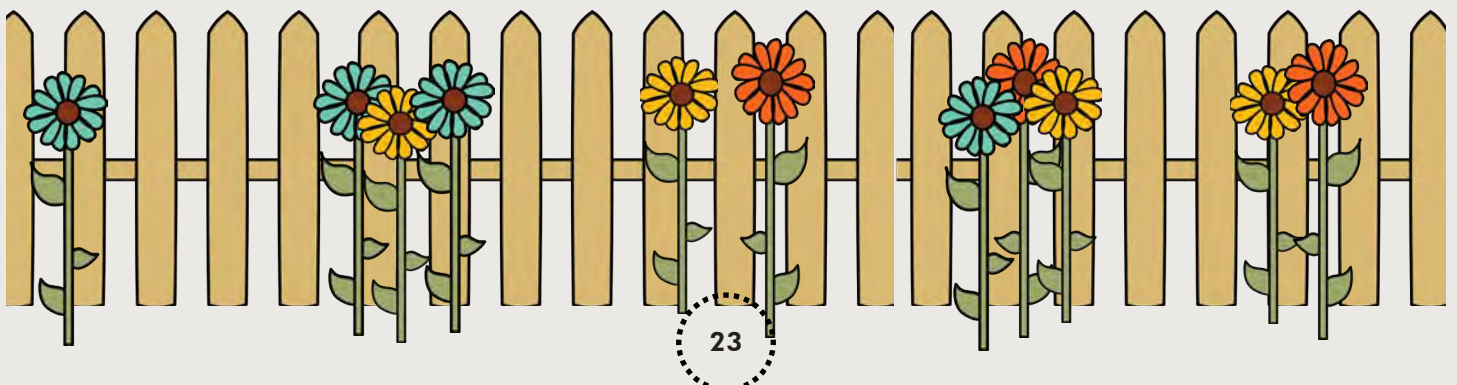




Table 1: Food Pantry Donations

Residence Halls	284 Pounds
Morgridge College of Ed.	251 Pounds
Student Outreach and Support	192 Pounds
Athletics	188 Pounds
University College	157 Pounds
Anderson Academic Commons	156 Pounds
Health and Counseling Center	77 Pounds
Fisher Center	67 Pounds
Individual Givers	61 Pounds
The Butler Institute	50 Pounds
IAALS	34 Pounds
Campus Safety	30 Pounds
Higher Ed Resource Services	28 Pounds
Alpha Phi Omega	9 Pounds
International House	3 Pounds
TOTAL	1,587 Pounds

Student Spotlight: Elizabeth Pepper

Elizabeth Pepper - or as she prefers, simply Pepper - is a rising senior majoring in Environmental Science. She has been working at the Center for Sustainability for two years, and has been a dedicated steward of the DU Food Pantry for that entire time.

"I am extremely passionate about sustainability and the Center has given me a platform to learn about sustainability and environmental justice in ways that traditional classes cannot.

"Through working at the Center I've learned self-confidence which has helped me grow as a leader. Before the Center, my understanding of sustainability was limited to actions that relate to the environment, but through working at the Center, and specifically the Food Pantry, I've learned that sustainability incorporates aspects of equity and community as well.

"Food insecurity is a large issue on college campuses across the U.S. including at the University of Denver. I love finding ways to make resources like the Food Pantry more available to students, faculty, and staff at DU can help reduce food insecurity.

"When I applied to be the Food Pantry Lead last year, it was because I was inspired by the passion, commitment, and thoughtfulness I saw from leaders before me. As a Food Pantry Lead, I hope I can continue to help inspire others in the same way I was inspired when I first started working at the Center.



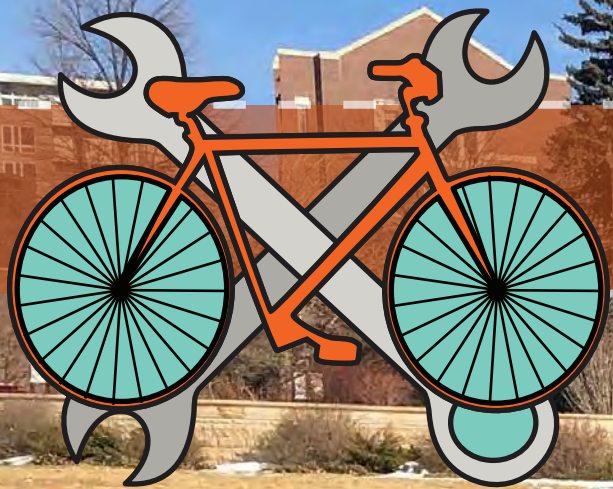


Quarter 19

LEAD	Project Lead	Team Members	Meeting Time
Jan	Grace H. / Alex / Stella	Laura, Small, Paul, Kaitlyn, DZ / Jovita	Wed @ 5:30 pm
Feb	Hannah / Noah / Kaitlyn / Alex	Alex, Gulliam, Sudev, Nathan	Fri @ 3pm
Mar	Max / Lauren M.	Jose, Laura	Thurs @ 12:00 P.m.
Apr	Elizabeth / Sophia / Kaitlyn / Alex	Jonathan	4pm Monday
May	Grace / Kaitlyn / Hannah / Stella	Alex & Jovita	Wed @ 5:30 pm
Jun	Elizabeth / Stella	Jonathan	Monday @ 5:30 pm
Jul	Elizabeth	Hannah	Monday @ 5:30 pm
Aug	Emily		
Sep	Emily		
Oct	Emily		
Nov	Emily		
Dec	Emily		

Takes 2 min!

Transportation



DU Bike Shop





The student-run DU Bike Shop is a, provides education and services to ensure that cycling is more accessible and affordable to members of the DU community. Anyone who has registered their bike with DU can take it to be repaired for free (paying only for the cost of parts). This provides thousands of dollars of in-kind value to students while keeping them rolling. The Bike Shop holds frequent workshops that allow students to learn how to maintain their own bikes with simple skills like how to change a flat tire and how to adjust your brakes. These workshops empower new cyclists to feel more confident biking regularly, while building a culture of cycling.

Expanding Our Reach

This year, the Bike Shop mechanics and Mobility team took on more outreach events than ever before – organizing 16 events over two quarters. This allowed us to reach more members of the community than ever before, expanding awareness and participation in annual events like Way-to-GoTober, Winter Bike to Work Day, and Mobility Munchies. Bike raffles every quarter also increased participation in events, and were often paired with information about how to access and use the Bike Shop, upcoming events, and basic cycling information.

New events like Parking Day and Rock the Bike further expanded our audience, as did a heavy marketing and information campaign

during Orientation Week. Students from the Bike Shop used our two cargo bikes to help families move their belongings into the residence halls, while handing out stickers and information about the Bike Shop, our hours and location, and the services we provide. This encouraged incoming freshmen to bike, knowing that there is campus support for this mode of transportation. As a result, we saw a significant increase in traffic at the bike shop this year, despite being closed for the spring quarter due to COVID19.



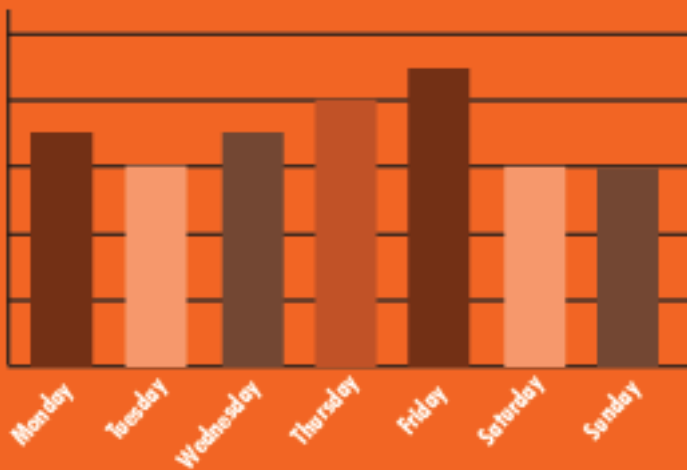
Creating a Cycling Community

We formed a key partnership this year with the DU Cycling Team, which allowed us to explore ways to create a feeling of community around biking at DU. During the Fall quarter, we hosted bi-weekly rides to the Farmers Market, and during the Winter Quarter we collected data about what other kinds of community bike rides students would be excited to see (figure 3). Weekend and lunchtime rides to nearby areas such as South Pearl Street and Wash Park were most popular, while others suggested longer or more involved group bike rides. This helps our team plan for future rides, as cycling is an easy, outdoor, community building activity that can be done safely during the COVID19.

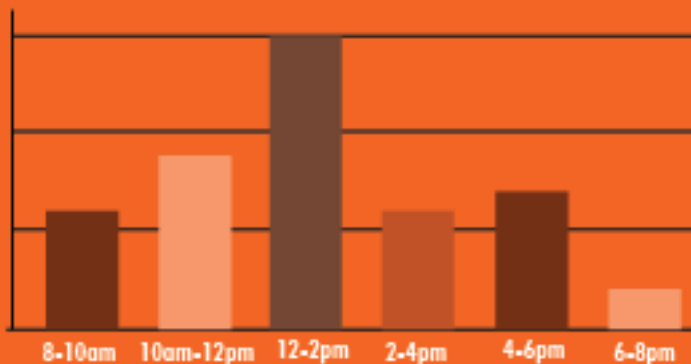


Figure 3: Mobility Team Surveys on Future Event Timing

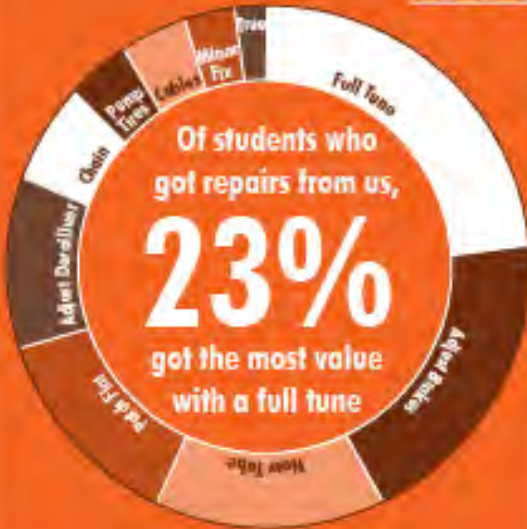
On What Day of the Week Would You Prefer Mobility Events to Occur?



On What Time of Day Would You Prefer Mobility Events to Occur?



DU Bike Shop: By the Numbers



Performed **185** total services

On **107** different bikes
Services provided had a retail value of over

\$6,300

with an average turnaround time of only:
2 days

Our biggest increase in service provision came in the Winter quarter, where we saw an increased patronage of

➡➡➡ **54%** ⬅️⬅️⬅️
compared to last year's winter quarter.



This year, the Bike Shop and Mobility team increased its programming significantly, offering

16 different outreach events

Including Mobility Munchies, Parking Day, Rides to the Farmers Market, and Winter Bike to Work Day

The DU Bike Shop saved students nearly

➡➡➡ **\$6,000** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

by only charging for parts, and not labor. Any parts or tools sold were sold at-cost, saving students mark-ups from local bike shops.



Student Spotlight: Dora Peregrine

"It is no secret that there is a lack of female representation in the cycling community. There have certainly been times in the past when I've felt alienated or disregarded in bike shop and group ride settings, experiences that have made me feel discouraged about my passion for cycling. There can be quite a bit of baggage that one must carry as a woman in the biking community from sexualization to assumptions about our capabilities as cyclists. But working in the DU Bike shop has given me the training and outlet to engage and educate other women from a perspective of understanding and of collective experiences. It is always empowering to show another woman even simple things like how to fix a flat tire or adjust brakes. Little experiences like these make the cycling community seem more welcoming.

They help to shed the idea that cycling must be an intense, exclusive endeavor, and helps to propagate the concept that cycling is for everyone and anyone, no matter your level of knowledge or how you relate to biking. The structure of the DU Bike shop encourages these experiences with its intimate and personal setting and outreach events like outdoor bike shop hours. It is these one on one moments that allow for real innovation in cycling and sustainability on our campus. This is what the cycling community needs more of, because truly, it will not be pink bikes or women specific geometry that makes biking more inclusive, but female leadership and genuine experiences."





Zero Waste Sports

COMPOST

RE

COMPOST

QBPI

ALL FOODS
& FIBERS

RE

CA



CYCLE

LANDFILL

Zero Waste Athletics is one of the foundational programs for the Center for Sustainability. Educating and empowering sports fans to understand the waste they create in attending a game allows proper diversion away from the landfill. Leaders from the Center attend nearly every ticketed sports event – hockey, lacrosse, basketball, gymnastics, and men’s soccer. This team of students talk to fans, sort through waste in the concourse, kitchens, and stands, and measure amounts of landfill, recycling and compost to determine the impact of the program. This illustrates a rich partnership with the Athletics, working together to find products that make waste diversion more successful, signage that will better educate fans and concessions workers, and setting goals to make the Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports and Wellness a model for sustainable athletics.

Partnerships

The partnerships we have built around the Zero Waste Athletics program are the backbone of our success. The Athletics leadership has been paramount to growing a successful Zero Waste program. Our student leaders work with these campus leaders as peers, discussing the program annually and strategizing for improvements. This builds students' confidence in their expertise and demonstrates departmental ownership of the program.

Sodexo and Flavors Catering are also central partners for achieving zero waste at the Ritchie Center. The materials from the concessions stands comprise the majority of waste at sporting events.

Sodexo leadership has procured the products to simplify waste disposal to maximize diversion rates. Consistent training with kitchen staff and concessions workers increases their knowledge of best practices and ensures that kitchen staff actively help us reach our zero waste goals.

Finally, the Custodial staff has been a key partner during set-up and game operations. They provide the gloves, bags, and support for the program. They have worked to make the post-game sorting run smoothly. These collaborations allow the Zero Waste Athletics program to continue to lead the way for large-event sustainability at DU.



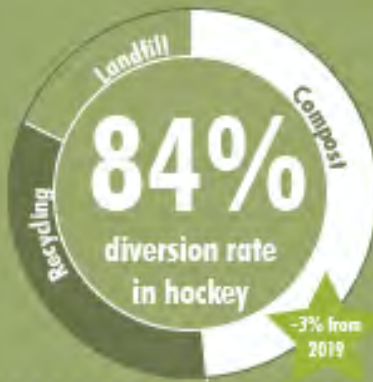
Student Spotlight: Jonathan Clark

"Working with the Center for Sustainability has been challenging and outstandingly rewarding. The staff is supportive and motivated, leadership is organized and accountable, and I've been constantly empowered to pursue my professional and personal development through my work at the Center. This is more than a job to me, it's also a powerfully inspiring community. Since joining the Center, I've been exploring leadership opportunities on the Waste team. They have been relentlessly welcoming and enthusiastic, and I feel both prepared and excited to employ my leadership experience, knowledge, and training from the current team of leads. This internship has been pivotal in developing a versatile portfolio of useful skills that I can

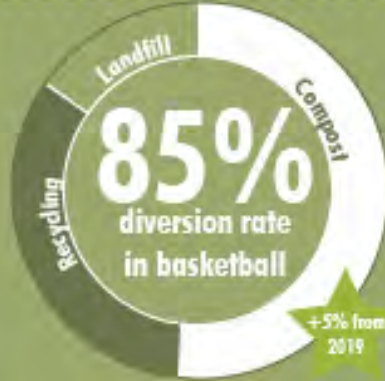
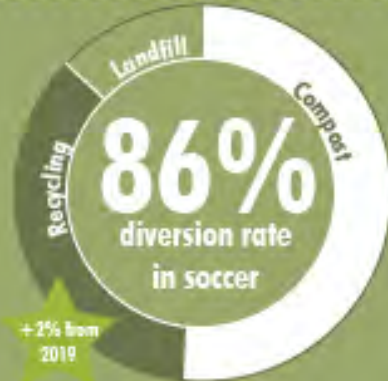
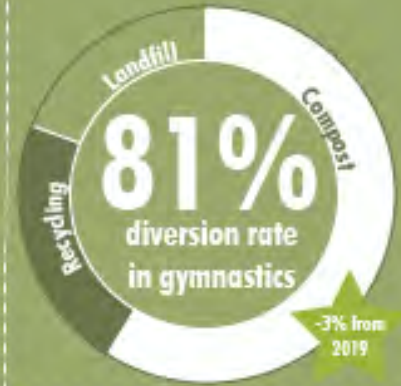
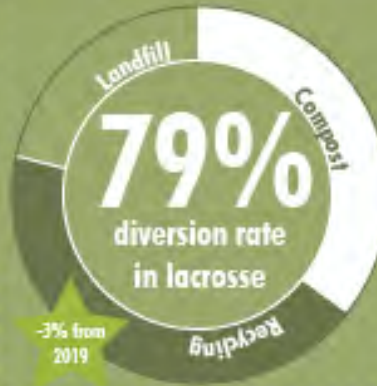
be proud of. Next year, I intend to help cultivate the same welcoming and inspiring environment that I was greeted with by modeling and sharing my knowledge with new interns. I always aim to build myself, but my current position at the Center for Sustainability has uniquely prepared me for deeper professional engagement with leadership and teamwork."



Zero Waste Athletics: By the Numbers



Goals were to see
90% diversion
in hockey,
85% diversion
for basketball, gym-
nastics, and soccer &
80% diversion
for lacrosse



Zero Waste staff worked at 40 games
which is the same number as last year, despite
all spring quarter sports being cancelled due to
COVID 19.

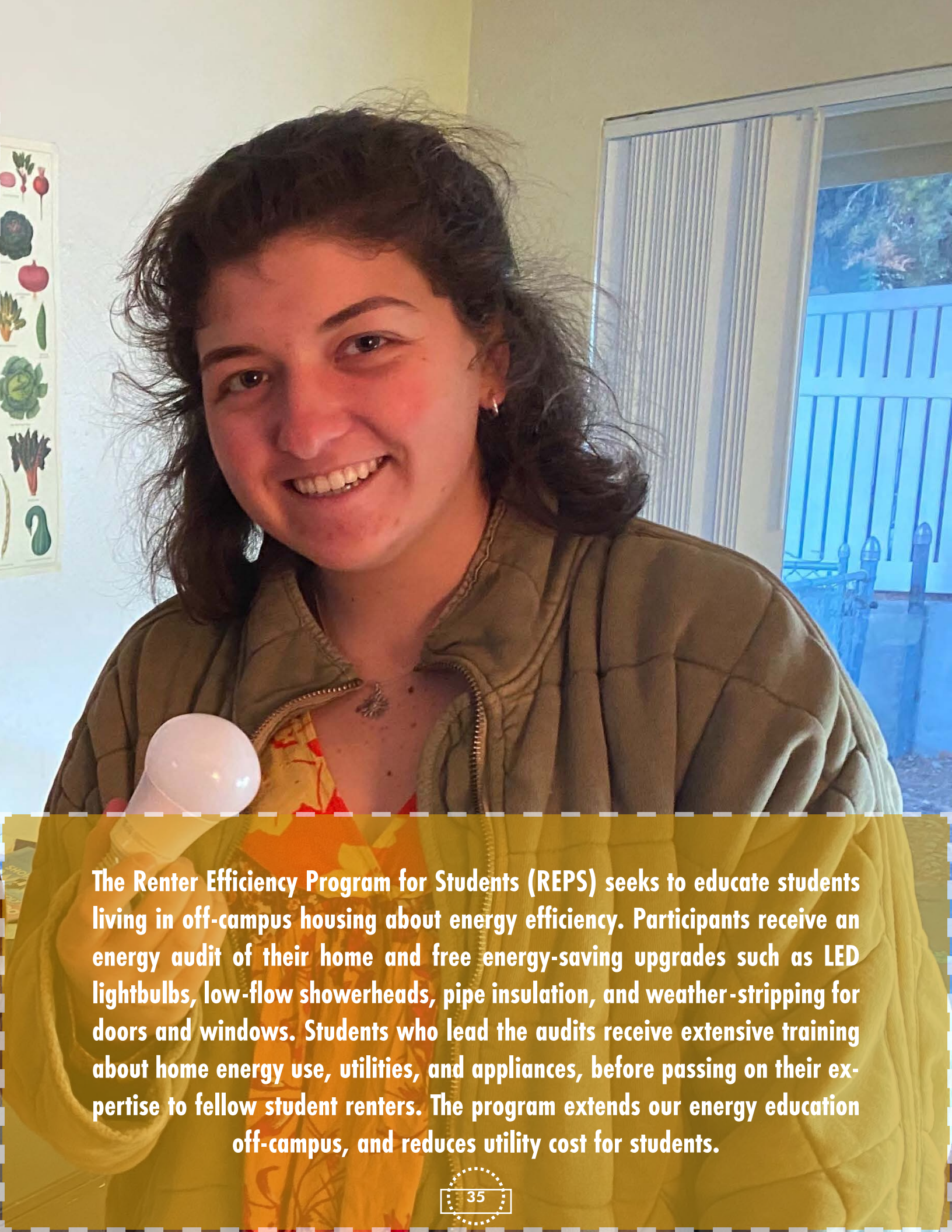
Reached 85% diversion at 13 games
Reached 90% diversion at 2 games





Renter Efficiency Program for Students





The Renter Efficiency Program for Students (REPS) seeks to educate students living in off-campus housing about energy efficiency. Participants receive an energy audit of their home and free energy-saving upgrades such as LED lightbulbs, low-flow showerheads, pipe insulation, and weather-stripping for doors and windows. Students who lead the audits receive extensive training about home energy use, utilities, and appliances, before passing on their expertise to fellow student renters. The program extends our energy education off-campus, and reduces utility cost for students.

The Split Incentive Problem

Efforts to increase energy efficiency in rental units are frequently stopped because of a catch-22 known as the split incentive problem.

On one side, landlords and others who own rental homes would typically be expected to make upgrades to the infrastructure and appliances in the home. However, the biggest incentive to make such upgrades is the cost savings on utilities bills that result from the upgrades. Since landlords do not typically pay the utilities bills for their rental units, they do not reap the benefits of increased energy efficiency.

On the other side, tenants - who would benefit from energy efficiency upgrades to the home through lowered utilities bills - often do not feel that the investment into major home upgrades is worth the potential savings because of the short-term nature of most rental agreements. Even though most efficiency upgrades begin to save money on utilities immediately, the payback term for many upgrades would take longer than the typical college renter would stay in the home.

Therefore, neither party has a good incentive to invest in energy efficiency upgrades. This leaves many rental units with old, inefficient appliances, HVAC systems, and lighting, leading to higher bills for renters, lower property values for landlords, and more CO2 released into the atmosphere.

The REPS program at DU seeks to disrupt this split incentive issue by offering small, reversible energy efficiency upgrades to renters for free. While these upgrades are not akin to replacing a furnace or water heater with a high-efficiency model, they have been found to be low-cost solutions that have a significant impact on energy use in the home. By offering these upgrades for free, student renters are able to see the benefits of energy efficiency without taking on the financial burden of the initial purchase cost.



Expanding Our Program

Since its pilot year in 2016, REPS has focused on energy use in the home, and behavior changes for efficiency. This year, our students realized they were missing out on a great opportunity: auditors are in a student's home, talking to them directly about how their choices can help lead to a more sustainable life, which doesn't just stop at energy.

The team collaborated with a Center for Sustainability alumnus (now a behavior change specialist for Denver Recycles) to expand the REPS audit to include materials waste. Together they developed a series of questions to investigate tenants' understanding of home waste best practices.

As the auditors continue to refine the audits, we will continue to transform them from Energy Audits to full Sustainability Audits.



Renter Efficiency Program for Students: By the Numbers

Our audits will save renters a total of:
**11,367 kWh &
\$1,256 on energy bills**
every year



REPS audits will reduce the lighting demand of homes an average of

➡➡➡ **49%** ⬅⬅⬅

every year, if they continue to use the LED lights we gave them.

Completed **20** Audits
Educated **40** Renters
Replaced **83** light bulbs
Installed **18** low flow faucets
Fixed **10** drafty doors
Fixed **12** drafty windows
Gave away **6** smart power strips
Programmed **6** thermostats
Adjusted **6** hot water tanks
Installed **27** feet of pipe insulation

➡➡➡ **10** ⬅⬅⬅

students were trained as REPS auditors in 2019-2020

This year, our team worked with **Denver Recycles** to add information and education about home waste management to our energy audits.



Whereas only 6% of participants heard through our social media channels



Student Spotlight: Kalyn O'Donnell

I was trained to do a REPS audit during fall quarter this past year. I started out only being able to help the leads by filling out the survey, replacing lightbulbs or showerheads, and minimally talking with the renters. By the end of my first quarter, I became a lead for audits and was able to communicate with the renters, know all of the information to be able to perform an audit on my own, use the P-Card to purchase burritos for renters, and replace and adjust the fixtures in the renter's homes. During the fall and winter quarters, I gained a lot of confidence when it came to renter information and communicating with renters. I really enjoy going on audits and talking with renters during audits. It is awesome to see that something you are doing is going to make a difference in someone's everyday life, even if it's as simple as replacing a showerhead or adjusting a refrigerator.





DU Gear Garage





The DU Gear Garage provides low-cost rentals of camping, backpacking, and other outdoor gear to any student, staff, or faculty at DU. This program increases access to the outdoors for people of all ages and backgrounds allowing development of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors. With the DU campus so close to the beauty of the Rocky Mountains, our campus's back yard is the perfect place to encourage outdoor exploration, a healthy understanding of our outdoor lands, and appreciate ecosystems threatened by climate change and other environmental challenges. The Gear Garage also provides free guided day hikes to provide equitable access to the outdoors. These day hikes provide safe educational experiences to students who may have little-to-no experience hiking or being in the mountains, offering basic lessons in safety and ethics. We hope these programs provide increase interest in the outdoors for all students, while increasing opportunities for everyone.

Student Spotlight: Halle Brown

"The Center for Sustainability is a vital asset to the DU campus in creating more environmental practices at the university. By working for the Center, I am able to advocate for these practices and educate more of the student body on sustainability at DU. For the Gear Garage, I have a vision as to how it could be expanded to accommodate more community members which I would be excited to explore.

"I have a lot of creative ideas I am enthusiastic about implementing next year. I would really like to have more workshops on outdoor education including a Leave No Trace session, basic camping set-up training, and a workshop or two on backcountry cooking.

"I think there is a lot of opportunities for the Gear Garage to grow by collaborating more with other student groups like student alliances in order to increase access for people of color to get outside. I also believe the Gear Garage could connect more with other teams at the Center as well as through social media campaigns, backcountry cooking with the Food Pantry Team, and providing alternative means to access the outdoors with the Mobility Team.

"While working for the Center, I would like to continue to gain more skills in bringing projects, ideas, and overall visions to fruition as well as learning to manage people empathetically as a lead. At the Center, there is a lot of potential for expansion especially in the Gear Garage and a lot of creative and visionary interns, however, I would like to learn how to move these ideas into hard-set plans. As for leadership skills, I admire leaders who express humility and empathy toward their team members. I believe it creates a more effective group with members who are more motivated to take on tasks to support the team's success. I aspire to initiate these characteristics for later expansion in my career."



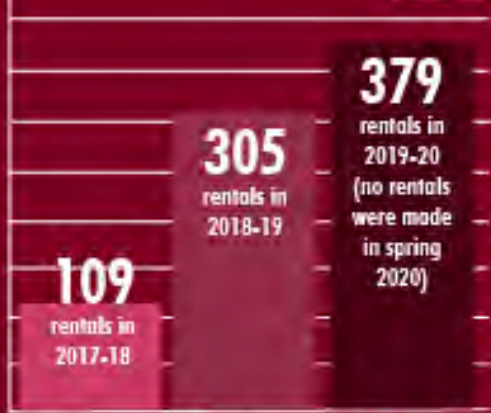
Expanding Our Audience

As awareness and use of the Gear Garage continues to grow, so too did our need for an expanded inventory and materials for marketing the Gear Garage. With funding from USG SusCom, the team replaced inventory that had been lost or destroyed over the previous years, and added high demand items, such as tents, stoves, and snowshoes.

Additionally, the Gear Garage partnership with the DU Alpine Club, resulted in a gift of snowshoes. The team also added items for outdoor leisure activities, such as lawn games, to appeal to a larger audience. With these expanded offerings, we saw our rental numbers grow significantly, despite closing during the Spring Quarter – typically our busiest time of year.



DU Gear Garage: By the Numbers



Saw our rentals **increase** despite being closed during Spring 2020, which has historically been our busiest quarter.

Supported a trip hosted by Indigilogix that brought

34 Native Students to the mountains to camp

323 Gear Rentals
1 Guided Snowshoe Trip for 3 Students
 and supporting DU Backpacking Club on
6 Weekend Trips

We were able to support trips for

➡➡➡ **4** ⬅️⬅️⬅️

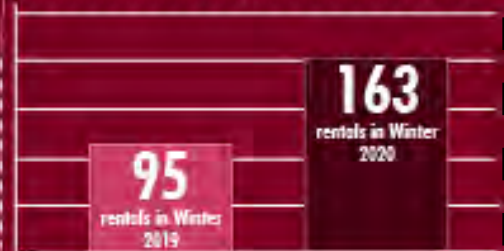
campus partners including:
 DU Backpacking Club
 Environmental Sustainability LLC
 Indigilogix
 DU Alpine Club



The Gear Garage secured a grant from the USG SusComm for

\$4,000

which allowed us to purchase **64** new inventory items such as tents, snowshoes & lawn games and covered costs for our day hike.



Our greatest increase in rentals this year were for rentals in Winter quarter, particularly for snowshoes.

Creating Community

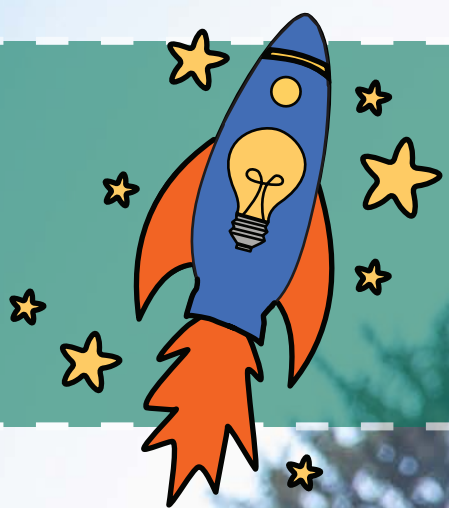
The DU Gear Garage fosters partnerships to increase the number of people who get to experience the outdoors. This year, we continued our strong relationship with the DU Backpacking Club (DUBC), supporting six of their trips during fall and winter quarters. Gear Garage also worked with the DU Climbing Club and DU Alpine club to provide equipment for their group trips throughout the year.

Additionally, we worked with Indigilogix – a group at DU dedicated to supporting Native students in STEM – to equip and support a trip for 34 Native students to Lincoln Hills, a resort dedicated to empowering youth to experience outdoor education and recreation,

who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to economic, social or family circumstances.

Professional staff from the Center for Sustainability presented at classes for the English Learning Center during summer, fall, and winter quarters in order to educate the students about Center activities and programs. These talks focused heavily on recruiting the students to the Gear Garage guided day hikes which received a lot of interest from the international students. Many of these students have little experience with hiking, backpacking, or the Rocky Mountains. Their participation advances our goal of making our beautiful back yard accessible to people of all backgrounds and skill levels.





Campus Engagement and Behavior Change





The Center for Sustainability has long worked from the understanding that a large number of individual choices and behavior changes can make a significant difference on campus and in the world. Working from this as a starting point, student interns spend a lot of time thinking through the intended outcomes of their events and projects, the most effective ways of approaching those outcomes, and how to measure the success of their work. With extensive training on behavior and what causes people to change, how to empathize with the people they are working to educate, and how to be more creative in the brainstorming process, our students create a variety of impactful and engaging programs and events throughout the academic year.

DU Energy Challenge

The DU Energy Challenge is a long-standing behavior change program that seeks to motivate and educate students to reduce their personal energy use by making simple, everyday changes. For many years, this event was held as a month-long competition between the various residence halls. In more recent years our students have found greater success and engagement positioning the program around individuals pledging to take specific action during the month of February and beyond. This year's Energy Challenge saw more participants than ever before – 137 pledges collected and more than 170 event attendees – while solidifying more partnerships with other campus groups than ever before as well.

This year, students from the Energy Team partnered with Health Promotion to offer resources about the Energy Challenge during the annual performance of The Monologues, and the DU Programming Board invited the team to be part of their “Revisiting New Year’s Resolutions” event. The team tabled daily at the Anderson Academic Commons and hosted an Open Mic Night at the Sie Center – a quarterly favorite event among students – as a closing event during Sustain-a-Winter. Additionally, the team worked directly with Fraternity and Sorority Life to increase participation in the Energy Challenge. This relationship allows members of fraternities and sororities to become vocal leaders in the campus sustainability movement.



The Local Market

The Local Market – formerly the Makers Market – is an annual event showcasing local artist and food artisans who use local, sustainable, and natural ingredients in their products. Occurring in February, the Local Market provides a boost for these small business owners during the off-season for the farmers markets and festivals. This introduces the DU community to local options for a variety of foods and products, and creates additional economic opportunities for small, local businesses in and around Denver.

This year, we partnered with seven local vendors who showcased their products for nearly 60 students, staff, and others in the DU community. From cans of tea to natural beard oils, our partners showed the community that there are local options for nearly all products. We hope to see both the number of vendors and attendees increase as the Local Market grows as an anticipated event.



Experiences: Open Mic Nights

Jack Harmon: “I want to thank everyone at Sustainability – the Open Mic Nights have fostered the most wonderful music community at du and totally revamped the music scene at DU, and for that I am eternally grateful.”



Campus Engagement: By the Numbers

We hosted our most successful Energy Challenge to date, with

3 hands-on events,
7 tabling events,
137 pledges collected,
176 event attendees

We worked with

3 community partners including:
Fraternity and Sorority Life
Health Promotions &
DU Programming Board



This year's Local Market partnered with

→→→ **7 vendors** ←←←
to provide local, sustainable products that
help stimulate the Denver economy.

→→→ **59 people** ←←←
visited this year's market.

We increased our Waste outreach by
working with

4 Community Partners

{
Slavens Elementary School
Ricks Center for Gifted Children
Housing and Residence Education
EcoCycle
}

to introduce waste education and best
practices to new audiences.

This year, we saw participation in
Mobility Munchies increase by

→→→ **42%** ←←←
despite holding no events during
spring quarter due to COVID19.



Mobility Munchies

Mobility Munchies encourages and incentivizes members of the DU community to walk, bike, light rail, bus, or carpool to campus instead of driving in a single occupancy vehicle. Previously known as "Bike to work Breakfast," we saw a huge uptick in participation by broadening the event to include all forms of alternative transportation. Our team provided breakfast to anyone who took alternative transit that day. We also provided information about mobility programs and events – such as Way-to-GoTober – as well as swag related to mobility.

This year's Mobility Munchies were a huge success, as we saw a 42% increase in participation over last year. Additionally, the Mobility Team offered a wider variety of other outreach and edu-

cation events, which helped to educate the community on how to get around on a bike, bus, or train.

For the first time, the team participated in Park(ing) Day, a national movement meant to show that public spaces dedicated to parking cars can have uses that are much more active: our team built a small park to lounge in, with music, trail mix, chairs, and shade all in the space of two metered parking spaces along Asbury Ave. We also partnered with Sodexo on Rock the Bike, which featured our mobile mechanics station, a bike-powered smoothie machine, and information about health, fitness, and active mobility. These events helped increase visibility of the Mobility Team, accounting for the large uptick in participation across all of our mobility programs.



Waste Outreach Events

This year, the Waste Team significantly increased its education and outreach efforts to engage the DU community outside of sporting events. Building on the success of an overflowing lunch and learn about proper composting and recycling practices in spring 2019, the team experimented with other ways to educate the wider DU community about how individual actions are at the heart of a successful waste diversion program at DU.

Students continued to complete building-level waste audits to provide insight and information to buildings about their waste streams and opportunities to increase diversion. This year, the team completed waste audits in Nelson Dining Hall, The Hub, and Driscoll South Suite 30 (the CLIE Suite). We found that the dining hall continued to be able to divert nearly all its waste

from the landfills. Driscoll 30 showed that it would benefit from adding compost service, while The Hub showed that there are several opportunities for reducing materials that must go to the landfill in the building. Taking a closer look at a building's waste gives our students the opportunity to offer specific advice for improvements, while educating staff and other students who use the buildings every day.

The Center for Sustainability continued its partnership with Slavens Elementary School, who invited our team back for a second year of waste education during students' recess. The team set up a game that let the elementary students practice sorting waste and learning about compost. We educated over 250 students. We were also able to partner with the Ricks Center for Gifted Children, who invited us to play a similar sorting game with their students. We engaged dozens of students that day as well.



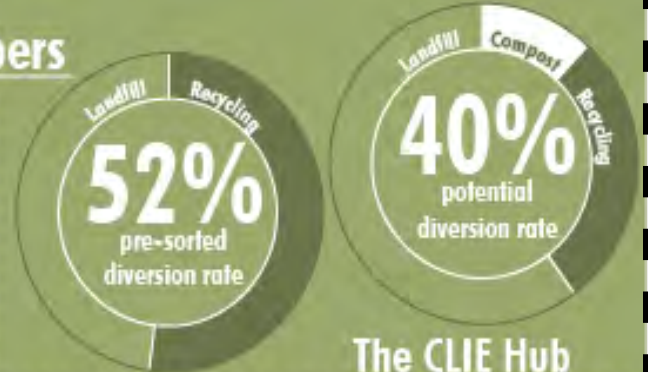
Building Waste Audits: By the Numbers

Completed **3** building/suite waste audits

Completed **2** building waste bin maps

Provided detailed **reports** and of **recommendations** to each building investigated.

Continued to take requests for compost service and streamline the process with Facilities and Custodial.



Nelson Dining Hall



Driscoll South Suite 30







Sustainability Events





Hands-on, engaging, exciting events are critical to the education and outreach mission of the Center for Sustainability. We host a wide variety of events every quarter, from Open Mic Nights to film screenings, lunch and learns to garden workdays. While there is almost always something to do around sustainability at DU, the Center's biggest events have typically been condensed into one big day of action, celebration, and learning every quarter.

Our Approach

Center for Sustainability events and programs vary widely quarter by quarter, directed by the seasons, the passions of our students, and the wider local, national, and global conversation about sustainability and social justice. However, with any event we plan, our goal is for them to be:

- ➡➡➡ **Meaningful:** Events are relevant and timely
- ➡➡➡ **Ethical:** When events are catered, they are vegetarian meals sourced through local, sustainable, women- or minority-owned businesses
- ➡➡➡ **Connected:** Partnerships with dozens of campus and community organizations bring expertise and a diverse audience
- ➡➡➡ **Intentional:** Partnerships with dozens of campus and community organizations bring expertise and a diverse audience
- ➡➡➡ **Data-Driven:** We are always seeking to improve our work and deliver the types of experiences and information our community wants and needs

Sustain-o-Ween

Sustain-O-Ween, our Fall quarterly event, worked to showcase our area-specific programming at the Center: the Energy Team hosted a Make Your Own Tea booth, the Mobility Team hosted a Bike Raffle and outdoor Bike Shop hours, the Food Team hosted a Make Your Own Reusable Beeswax Foodcloth workshop, the Waste Team hosted a Recycling Lunch and Learn, and the MarComm Team hosted “JamJam” – an event where we had local bands perform while the team made local and sustainable jam for the attendees. We continued a partnership with Health Promotion to bring the second annual Shop and Swap thrift store.

Overall, Sustain-o-Ween was a huge success, exceeding any metrics we had for past quarterly events: nearly 600 attendees and 13 community partnerships, including local caterers, campus organizations, and local bands. These events provide the Center with a tool for mass education while building community across DU.



Center for Sustainability Events: By the Numbers

Sustain-a-Ween:

8 events
13 partners
587 participants



Sustain-a-Winter:

7 events
12 partners
309 participants



Virtual Earth Week:

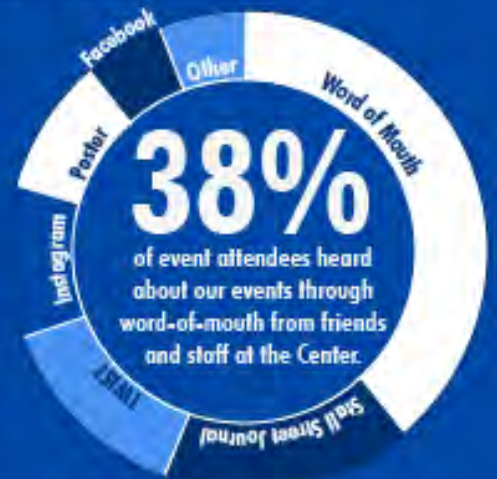
5 events on
Instagram
174 participants



Center for Sustainability student interns planned a total of

⇒⇒⇒ **30** ⇐⇐⇐
events during the year, which engaged more than

⇒⇒⇒ **5,300** ⇐⇐⇐
students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the DU community.



This year, the Center for Sustainability planned events with

⇒⇒⇒ **15 major partners** ⇐⇐⇐
including: The Library, CCESL, Health Promotion, ESLLC, DU Programming Board, Housing and Residential Education, Sodexo, DU Dialogues, DU Backpacking Club, Bridge Community Garden, Advancement, Orientation, and Indigilogix

Sustain-a-Winter

For our Winter quarterly event, Sustain-a-Winter, each team again hosted a content-specific event. The Mobility team did a second bike raffle and fix-a-flat workshops on Carnegie Green, the Mar-Comm Team partnered with the Gear Garage Team to do an outdoor gear swap and clothing repair workshop, the Waste Team hosted a trivia event with food and prizes, the Energy Team did another tea-making workshop as well as an Open Mic Night, and the Food Team hosted the Local Market and a film screening of a food waste documentary in partnership with the Library Sustainability Committee.

Despite space reservation challenges, the event was a successful follow-up to the Fall's event, with 12 community partners and over 300 attendees.



Virtual Earth Week

Last year's Earth Day of DUing was perhaps one of the most successful events in the Center's recent history, bringing together 230 volunteers to complete 16 community service projects all over the City of Denver. Planning for the 2020 event had already identified 38 projects hosted by over 30 local organizations, schools, and businesses. Unfortunately, the COVID19 pandemic forced us to cancel. Student leaders in the Center for Sustainability rallied together enthusiastically to pivot towards a virtual event to inspire action and collective change from the safety of our homes during quarantine.

Students planned a full week of events, hosted primarily on our Instagram page, which encouraged participants to donate money or materials to local COVID relief efforts, an exhibition of environmentally-inspired artwork from student artists, videos sent in from students taking action from their own homes, calling local representatives to lobby for pro-environmental legislation, and a happy hour featuring Center for Sustainability alumni working in the sustainability field. Nearly 200 people participated in events during the week, which offered a sense of hope and accomplishment in the face of trauma and uncertainty.

Building Community

WELCOME TO

SCHEDULE

Sunday, Oct. 27

Attendee Registration	7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Student Summit	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Pre-Conference Workshops (\$)	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Experiential Learning Opportunities	8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Opening Ceremony with Keynotes	4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Expo Hall Grand Opening Reception	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 28

AM Wellness Session (Chair Yoga)	7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Attendee Registration	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sessions	8:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Expo Hall	10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Learn n' Learn w/ Exhibitors	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sessions	2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Poster Session	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Networking Meetings	4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

AM Wellness Session (Chair Yoga)	7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
AASHE Member Meeting	7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
Attendee Registration	7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sessions	8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Expo Hall	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Poster Session	11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Learn n' Learn w/ Exhibitors	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Networking Meetings	1:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Sessions	2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Closing Ceremony & Keynote	4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Post-Conference Workshops (\$)	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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While much of the work at the Center for Sustainability focuses on the DU campus, our work has expanded far beyond. Students and professional staff from the Center have gotten to network, learn, and collaborate in spaces and with people from other sustainability-focused organizations in the Denver area, present their work and learn from peers at a national conference, and collaborate and coordinate with sustainability professionals from peer institutions in Colorado and beyond. This skill- and idea-sharing is valuable on multiple levels: from building community beyond DU to getting different perspectives on common problems, creating an expansive community with the same goals of sustainability and justice has vastly improved our work.

Sustainability Conference

The Sustainability Conference transformed four years ago as a new approach to the student-run Sustainability Summit. The Sustainability Conference now provides collective learning, skills building, and coordination for all populations across DU, in addition to highlighting networking and collaboration opportunities

The 2020 Conference attracted nearly 70 students and staff for a half-day of sessions and networking. Even the location was educational, as it was hosted in the Alliance Center, a historic building in LoDo that houses over 40 environmental non-profits dedicated to advancing sustainability across Colorado and the West in a vibrant co-working space. Sessions included information about DU as an Anchor Institution, Environmental Racism, Recycling Updates from Denver, and a panel of former student leaders from DU. As interest in the Conference continues to grow, so does our roster of presenters, topics, and attendees with the ultimate goal of continuing to build a community around sustainability work at DU.

AASHE Experiences

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is the professional association for college and university sustainability efforts, of which DU is an active part. Every year, AASHE hosts its annual conference, where over 2000 staff, faculty, students, and businesses converge to teach, learn, and network. The 2019 conference, which took place in Spokane, WA saw huge participation from DU students and staff: Professional staff presented a full-day pre-conference workshop, two groups of students gave 30-minute presentations during the conference, and 4 groups of students gave poster presentations.

As the Center for Sustainability continues to emphasize data, reporting, and sharing our students' expertise, we encouraged every team within the Center to submit proposals for the 2020 conference, now being held for a global audience in virtual format. Two proposals from professional staff were accepted, as were several from student interns at the Center for Sustainability.



Student Spotlight: Nathan Sirrett

"My time at the AASHE conference this past year was one of the most significant moments for my career development during my time at the University of Denver. This conference allowed me to learn, network and grow in numerous ways. Each day, I had the opportunity to choose from a wide array of presenters speaking on all kinds of topics. My favorite was an in-depth discussion on the creation of large-scale circular economies, something I had no prior knowledge of. The diversity of topics and level of expertise made the trip nearly as educational as a course at DU.

"From scheduled marketing sessions to casual conversations, AASHE gave me the opportunity

to meet sustainability professionals face to face, including those in my current field of laboratory sustainability. One of my favorite moments of the trip was a sports and sustainability marketing lunch where I got a brief insight into a field I hope to work in some day.

"Finally, this conference allowed me to grow in a number of ways. It pushed me to improve my ability to present the work I was involved in at the Center. It brought me closer with my co-workers and friends, while growing my knowledge of the career opportunities in the world of sustainability. I strongly encourage everyone at the Center for Sustainability to attend AASHE during their time at DU!"

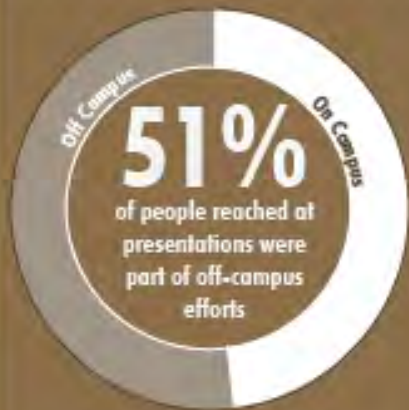


Staff Presentations: By the Numbers

The Center for Sustainability continued its partnership with **Slavens Elementary School** and were able to educate

⇒⇒⇒ **250** ⇐⇐⇐

young students about waste and energy reduction basics.



Staff at the Center presented at:

5 classes in different programs

15 events hosted by other units at DU

4 regional conferences and summits

7 Talks at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education national conference.



All told these lectures, talks, and presentations reached nearly

⇒⇒⇒ **2,000** ⇐⇐⇐

people at DU and beyond

We provided waste, energy, and sustainability training to

7 Organizations

at DU, including Resident Assistants, Orientation Leaders, Admissions Office, DU Programming Board, Advancement, Alpha Phi Omega, and Office of International Ed.

15 student

staff members at the Center took the lead on giving presentations on and beyond the DU campus

Colorado Sustainability Group

Sustainability work is collaborative with solutions and broad goals requiring a strong community that extends beyond DU or even the city of Denver. Sustainability staff at other Colorado colleges and universities have expertise and wisdom that can benefit DU, and vice versa. Over the last two years, professional staff at the Center for Sustainability has worked to organize sustainability staff from across the state for regular meetups and organizing sessions for coordination, learning, and camaraderie. During the fall quarter, this group, known as Colorado College and University Sustainability Staff (CCUSS), met up for a strategy session at the annual AASHE Conference, and during the spring quarter, we organized into a more formal listserv as we prepare for summer planning and organizing sessions.

The partnerships we have built across these fellow Colorado schools have led to a number of great successes for DU: the Solar Project that was completed this year started as a joint RFP process with Colorado State University, the REPS program was modeled after a similar program at the University of Colorado Boulder, and next fall, Center for Sustainability staff will be presenting at the 2020 AASHE Conference in partnership with sustainability staff at Fort Lewis College, to name a few.





Research



The Center for Sustainability serves as bridge between sustainable campus operations and research and curriculum. This can extend to building collaborations between community partners and faculty and students. This relationship building takes a variety of approaches, including classes that focus entirely on issues of campus sustainability, courses that have a project focused on sustainability, students who choose to focus a class project on sustainability, or opportunities for students to participate in independent study projects that push the boundaries of knowledge and action on campus. In all their forms, these projects provide authentic experiential learning while producing materials that advance sustainability efforts across campus and in the community. This year class partnerships included faculty in Communication, Geography, and GIS, as well as a number of students doing independent study research, some for credit, some as part of the Center for Sustainability internship program.

Class Projects

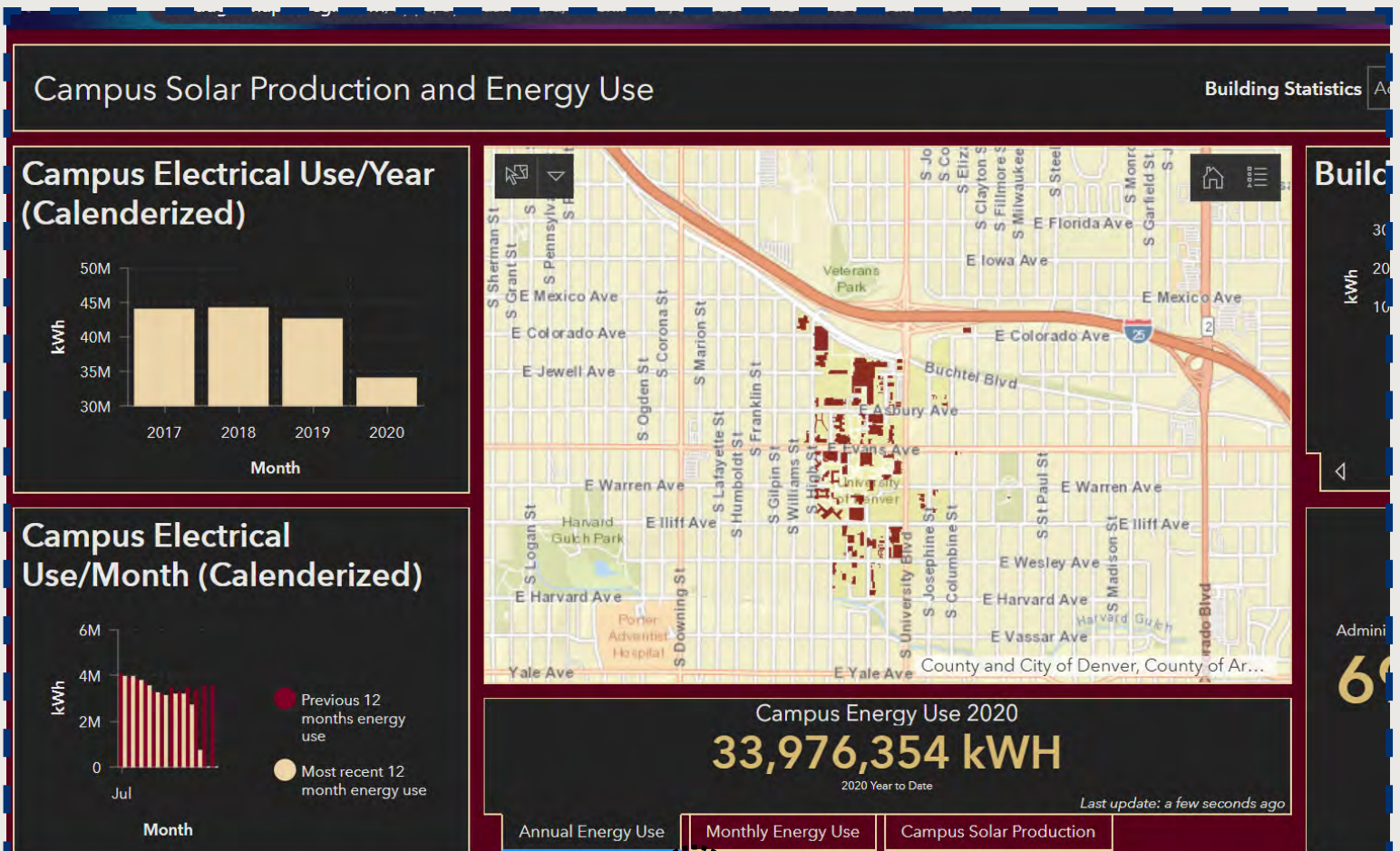
The Communication capstone class, taught by Dr Christina Foust, examined the intersection of waste and social justice through readings, discussions, and reflections. The class pivoted from an applied campus project to a more research focus due to courses going online in the spring quarter. Outcomes included a deep annotated bibliography focused on media, sustainability and waste, behavior, messaging, value and identity, environmental justice, municipal and university waste, campus environmentalism and food waste. This valuable resource will provide the foundation for future research. Some students focused on other sustainability communication outlets, including a letter to the Chancellor making the case for divestment of the endowment from the largest fossil fuel companies.

A GIS project-based course taught by Dr Rebecca Powell focused student learning on new mapping software, building ArcGIS Hubs. Hub sites are designed to engage the community building in initiatives through a spatial interface. Students experienced a deep dive in project management while building websites focused on sustainability initiatives on campus. Groups focused on campus grounds and the arboretum, buildings and energy use, transportation and mobility options, and the Earth Day of DUing. These projects all focus on community participation, while sharing valu-

able data from sustainability projects. After additional editing, we hope to go live with some of these hub sites in the future.

The Sustainability capstone course, taught by Dr Hanson Nyan-tai-Frimpong, focused on food insecurity, including research on the DU Food Pantry. This research looked at the operations and the impact of the pantry and sought to better understand clients and need on campus. Outcomes will directly impact the operation of this valuable resource.

A number of students worked directly with the Director of Sustainability on independent study projects, while these were not all for credit, they all produced new knowledge and outcomes to improve campus sustainability. One example is a small group of students who did a feasibility study for the implementation of reusable to go containers for campus dining. This included a research into best practices from case studies from other campuses, and modeled waste reduction and economic impact. While a pilot of this project was cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic, projected cost savings look promising. Other students developed outreach materials to educate users on the Burwell Career Achievement Center, analyzed food procurement for campus dining, and developed campus sustainability maps to spatially orient the many sustainability efforts on campus.



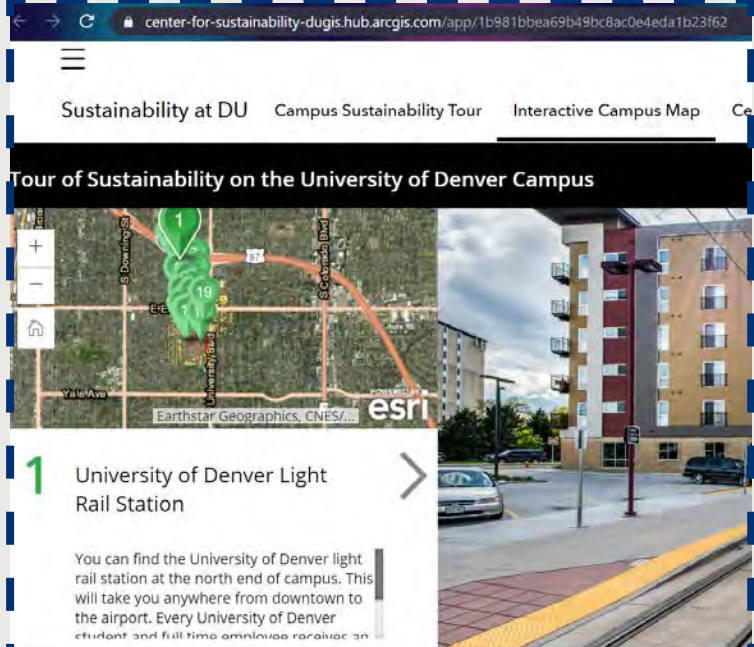
Transitioning to a Reusable Container System at the University of Denver

Ericka Bremer, Nadia Czebiulak, Ryan Keenan, Cricket Klein, Nathaniel Vance

Paige Bruns

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Denver's Newest Version of Sustainable Building



The Burwell Center for Career Achievement welcomes exceptional sustainability at the University of Denver as a foundation of inclusive innovation.

Clark, July 2020

The Burwell Center for Career Achievement is the most sustainable building this campus has ever seen. As an innovative hub for professional advancement, it offers all of DU's most competitive career and alumni resources with half the footprint of similar buildings. Weaving visions of social and environmental justice with practices that challenge the status quo, our sustainable development starts with community voices.

Before construction even began, architects at Lake Flato and Shears Adkins and Rockmore hosted a series of integrated design workshops where students, alumni, and faculty determined the metrics that would guide the project's success. They told designers to return a space for collaboration and learning that revolved around DU's ambitious sustainability goals. After a year of construction, the Burwell Center is now a flashpoint for students and alumni to connect with professionals while learning the skills to continue building a legacy of sustainability on and off campus.

Achieving a platinum rating from the fourth version of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), this





Looking Forward

Even as we celebrate the successes of the year, we look forward to the future. As the Denver Advantage buildings open, we will see opportunities to deepen our research into building efficiency and utilization, we will explore new options in food procurement and preservation (thanks to the commitment to a cook/chill facility in the Community Commons), we will open access to our first green roof, and the Center for Sustainability will move into our new home in the Community Commons. As our solar array begins to provide power to campus, we will meet several energy goals while we gain access for the first time to real time energy consumption and production data, opening the door to a wide range of research projects. Our internship program will continue to reach out to partners and students across campus, while exploring new possibilities in research and consulting work in the community. We will expand our connections to internships in local companies and nonprofits and grow our work with the City of Denver. We will take next steps from our campus framework plan and facilities planning to provide clear guidelines for campus landscape and bikeways, while deepening our understanding of ways to reach our carbon neutrality goals. We will continue to develop clear research agendas for co-creating knowledge with regional and national experts towards a just and sustainable future, and we will explore curriculum opportunities to provide a foundation for this work.

The future is full of opportunity, for ways to participate in meaningful action, action that must be impactful and urgent given the climate, justice, and economic crises that we face. Join us in this work of building a just and sustainable future.



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DU Center for Sustainability



@sustainableDU

Appendix 1: DU's Sustainability Principles

As a campus, we will adopt ways to adhere to the following principles through policies, commitments, standard practices and everyday actions to realize our vision of incorporating sustainability into our research, teaching, operations and campus life.

Inclusion and Interdependence

- ➡➡➡ Increase the University's role as an anchor institution that actively contributes to a thriving local economy.
- ➡➡➡ Build a more inclusive and cooperative community and enhance the One DU concept.
- ➡➡➡ Frame our operational and educational missions to emphasize systems thinking and the connections among our actions, natural systems and ecological services.
- ➡➡➡ Emphasize the understanding that a healthy economy and thriving environment is impossible without creating a just society.

Advancement of Application

- ➡➡➡ Emphasize and enhance existing and new research and teaching on sustainability and systems thinking.
- ➡➡➡ Increase interdisciplinary approaches in addressing sustainability in the curriculum.
- ➡➡➡ Utilize campus as a "living laboratory" for innovative applied research and teaching in operations.
- ➡➡➡ Provide clear methods for transferring innovation, research and operational best practices to the broader community.
- ➡➡➡ Provide clear pipelines for classroom innovations to become part of operational practice.

Resiliency and Well-being

⇒⇒⇒ Improve human and ecosystem health and well-being.

⇒⇒⇒ Innovation and Identity

⇒⇒⇒ Engage innovative ideas to eliminate our carbon footprint.

⇒⇒⇒ Develop a distinct identity by integrating sustainability with our other priorities.

⇒⇒⇒ Market our sustainability efforts to attract and retain excellent students, faculty and staff.

Core Value and Accountability

⇒⇒⇒ Frame sustainability as a core value at the University of Denver.

⇒⇒⇒ Improve energy, water, labor and other efficiencies in operational practices.

⇒⇒⇒ Improve our sustainability metrics and implement clear modes and protocols for sustainability reporting.

Appendix 2: DU's Sustainability Commitment

The University of Denver recognizes that one of the great challenges of our time is to make the decisions and investments — of both effort and money — that will simultaneously advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social justice. Economic vitality, environmental integrity and social justice are deeply connected in both the short- and the long-term. This triple challenge and deep connection are embodied in the concept of sustainability.

Recognizing sustainability as a core University value, we commit to exercising leadership in our community and throughout society by providing the knowledge, research and curriculum to produce informed graduates who are able to create a positive, just and sustainable future.

We will fully embrace sustainability and address climate change in our operations by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our approach to managing the built environment, energy, water, dining, purchasing, policies and transportation operations.

By integrating sustainability into the curriculum, research, co-curricular experience and campus operations, we will better serve our students and meet their social mandate to help create a vital, ethical and prosperous civil society.

We believe that our commitment to sustainability requires us to work with community partners in the public and private sector to ensure a thriving local economy, a sustainable urban environment and an equitable human community.

We reaffirm our commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050, as just one part of a holistic approach to becoming a sustainable University.

Appendix 3: DU's Sustainability Goals



- 1.** Reduce carbon emissions by 24% by 2020 and 45% by 2025 from 2007 levels.
- 2.** Produce 5% of DU's energy needs on-site through renewable sources.
- 3.** Continue reduction of on-campus electrical consumption by 500,000 kWh/yr.
- 4.** Investigate a 20-year PPA for 20% of DU's total energy needs.
- 5.** Reduce Energy Use Intensity on Campus to 40% below national standards
- 6.** Reduce SOV commutes to less than 40% of total trips.

- 7.** Eliminate the need for first and second year students to have a car on campus.
- 8.** Create a "Green Fleet" consisting of 50% alternatively fueled vehicles.
- 9.** Achieve Bicycle Friendly University gold status by 2020, platinum by 2025.
- 10.** Achieve a 70% diversion rate, on the way to a waste-free campus by 2035.

- 11.** Advance DU's role as an anchor institution by supporting and investing in local, women and minority owned, and alumni-owned businesses.
- 12.** Create and implement a campus Sustainable Purchasing Policy.
- 13.** Write and implement a campus Sustainable Storm Water Policy.
- 14.** Achieve a Water Use Intensity of 30% above national standards
- 15.** Reduce indoor water use by 30% from 2007 levels.

- 16.** Reduce outdoor water use for irrigation by 40% from 2007 levels.
- 17.** Purchase 40% of food from local or sustainably certified sources.
- 18.** Manage 50% of the grounds organically through a phased Integrated Pest Management approach, beginning with turf maintenance.
- 19.** Engage the entire DU community in sustainability programming or practice.
- 20.** Provide training in sustainability through a social justice lens for all new students and employees.

- 21.** Assess sustainability literacy, attitudes, and culture longitudinally through annual campus-wide surveys.
- 22.** Implement a curricular and co-curricular sustainability learning outcome for all students, and identify or create at least one class per degree program that explicitly focuses on sustainability.
- 23.** Increase the total students taking more than one sustainability-related course.
- 24.** Develop an Interdisciplinary Institute to serve as the backbone to support community-engaged collective impact through curriculum and research projects.
- 25.** Become AASHE STARS Gold by 2020 and Platinum by 2025.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

