

SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIP

Annual Report 2018-2019

DU CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY



SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIP

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS, IMPACTS, AND OUTCOMES



Energy Audits for Students

Our Renter Efficiency Program for Students (REPS) provided free energy audits to:

→ → → **29** homes ← ← ←
76 students

These audits will save students a total of **1,277 kWh** every month and **\$1,700** every year

Zero Waste Athletics

Our efforts continued to see excellent diversion rates, with an average diversion rate of 87% at our hockey games.

Overall, we saw an average diversion rate of

→ → → **85%** ← ← ←

across all sports: hockey, basketball, lacrosse, gymnastics, and soccer.

The Sustainability Internship:

39 Undergraduates from
19 different majors and
8 Graduate students from
5 different academic programs.

As a group, the interns ran **22** programs that impacted more than

→ → → **8,000** ← ← ←
students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends this year.

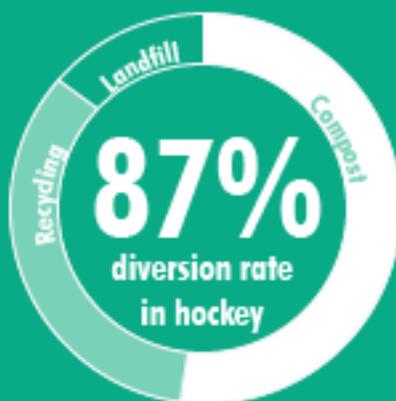


The Earth Day of DUing was the Center's Largest event of the year and involved:

3 planning partners and
13 community partners who hosted
16 projects and involved
230 volunteers who worked
700 volunteer hours

All told these volunteers:

Prepped **8** community gardens,
Sorted **800** pounds of waste,
Engaged **340** elementary students,
Picked up **7,000** cigarette butts,
Cleaned **2 miles** of trails, and
Installed **3.3 Kw** of solar energy.



In partnership with DU Advancement and Alumni Engagement, the Center was able to raise over

→ → → **\$2,800**
from **65** donors

for our Food Pantry and Gardens during the One Day for DU event this year.



| Zero Waste Athletics | Renter Efficiency Program for Students | ELC Garden | DU Gear Garage | DU Bike Shop | DU Food Pantry | Earth Day of DUing | The Fall Event | The Winter Event | Move Out Donations | Move In Thrift Store | Mobility Munchies | Green Greeks | DU Energy Challenge | Weigh the Waste | Open Mic Night | CSA Partnerships | Makers Market | Day Hikes | Way to Go-Tober | Zero Waste Newman | Waste Audits |



DU Food Pantry

2,194 Pounds of food donated from
20+ campus and community partners.

5,867 pounds of food were given away to
68 unique Food Pantry Users over
473 individual visits during the year.

88% of student staff reported that they were able to work in an

area of passion

at the Center for Sustainability



Collaboration within Campus and Community



Our programs and events would not be possible without the amazing partnerships we have built across DU and the wider Denver community. During 2018-2019 we collaborated with:



32 Campus Partners

including: Housing and Residence Education, Alumni Engagement, Career Development, Advancement, The Health and Counseling Center, The Center for Community Engagement to Advance Scholarship and Learning, Athletics, Undergraduate Student Government and several student groups.



27 Community Partners

including: Re:Vision Denver, The GrowHaus, GRID Alternatives, Ride Solutions, The Denver Regional Council of Governments, SAME Cafe, Westwood Unidos, Jovial Concepts, Sprout City Farms, Denver Urban Gardens, the Metro Denver Nature Alliance, Ela Family Farms, and Xcel Energy.

DU Gear Garage

The DU Gear Garage made access the outdoors a possibility for more students through:

305 Gear Rentals

2 Guided Day Hikes for

15 Students

and supporting DU Backpacking Club on

10 Weekend Trips

The DU Bike Shop

Sold **12** bikes to students

Repaired **112** bikes

197 total services performed

with a total value of over **\$2,600**

Average turnaround time: **2** days



Conferences and Talks

Staff at the Center for Sustainability presented at:

12 classes in 5 different programs

11 events hosted by other units at DU

5 regional conferences and summits

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

Move Out Donations

Filled **24** storage lockers with items to be sold in our Orientation Thrift Store

Donated **2** storage lockers of items to incoming international students

This would have filled **6** of the giant dumpsters outside the res halls at move out.

Recycled **1,500** pounds of used mattress pads and sheets

Sent **1,315** pounds of food and personal care products to the DU Food Pantry

Involved **54** staff and student volunteers from the DU Community



All told these lectures, talks, and presentations reached nearly

1,000 people at DU and beyond

Contact Us:

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DU Center for Sustainability



@SustainableDU



UNIVERSITY of DENVER

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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University of Denver 25x25 Sustainability Goals

25 goals completed by 2025!



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. Achieve an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 40% above Energy Star 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 (WUI) of 30% above Energy Star 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.

Letter from the Director



The challenge of building a sustainable future that is equitable and just captures the imagination of all generations. Realizing this future in a rapidly growing urban center within the ecological constraints of the Rocky Mountain West layers complexity into this vision. The Center for Sustainability provides a nexus for the application of knowledge into practice, utilizing campus as a laboratory for finding solutions in the midst of personal and professional development. Through project management, interdisciplinary team work, data collection and analysis, students' skills and confidence grow as campus provides a microcosm in which to address grand challenges that scale to the city, regional, and global contexts.

This year marked significant growth in the depth of our robust internship program. Providing opportunities for over forty students to bring their passion to practice on campus led to measurable impact across over twenty programs. Spanning the breadth of sustainability topics, students took the lead in addressing access to mobility options, reducing the environmental impact of our waste, measurably reducing emissions that contribute to climate change, connecting students to nature, and providing solutions to campus food insecurity, all through the lens of social justice. These student ambassadors reached over 8,000 faculty, staff, students and friends of DU.

Engagement in these programs is extending beyond our campus boundaries. A new program this year, the Earth Day of DUing built community through involvement by 230 students, staff, faculty and alumni volunteers. These individuals collectively supported projects with thirteen community partners through over 700 volunteer hours.

We are pleased to present here the impact of the passionate students employed through the Center for Sustainability. A just and sustainable future requires all of us to be involved in realizing this inspiring vision. We invite your collaboration next year, as we continue to grow these programs, amplifying the impact of the University for the public good.

**Thank you
Chad King, PhD
Sustainability Director**

About the Center for Sustainability

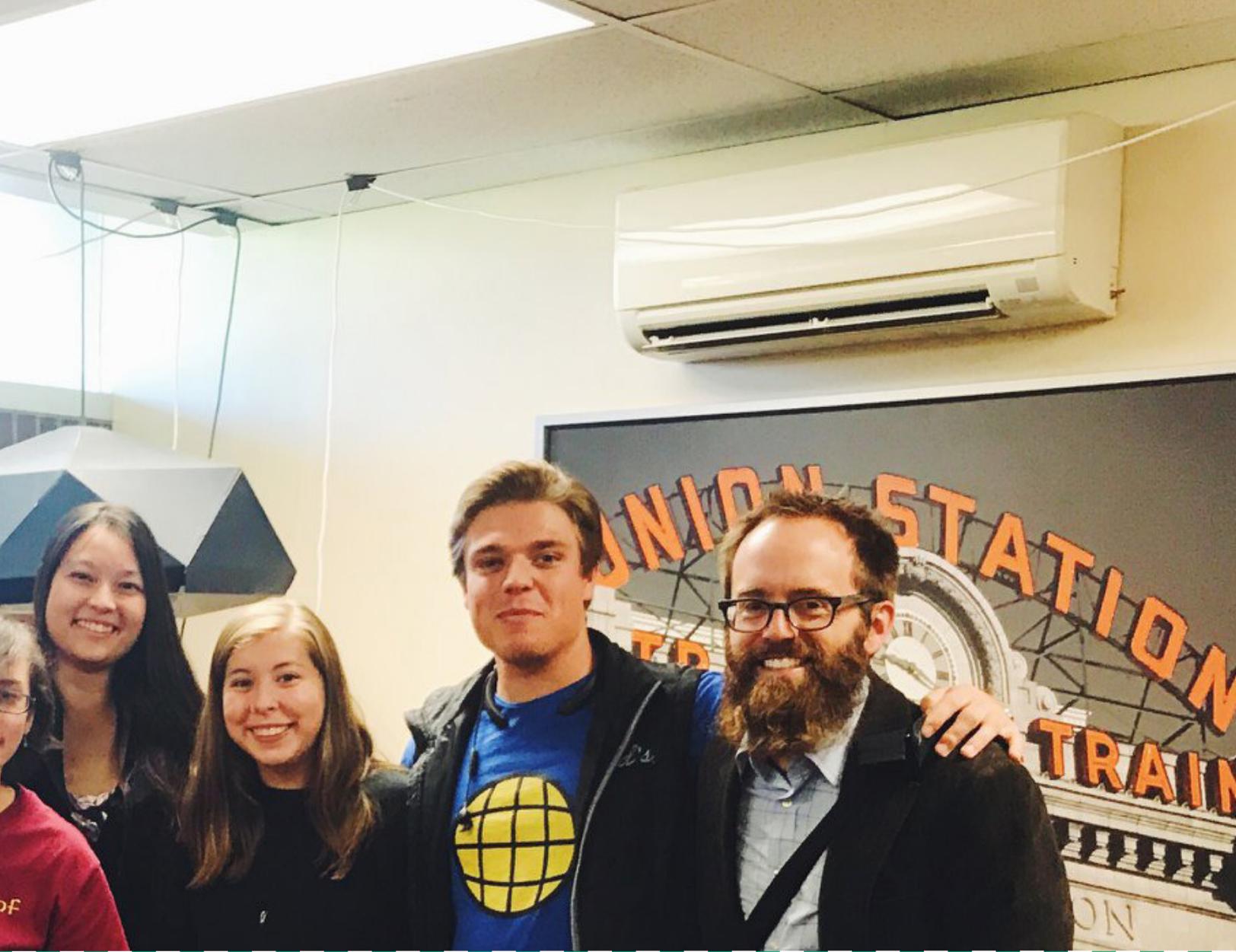


The Center for Sustainability exists to engage, educate, and inspire the University of Denver community to create a just and sustainable future. It is the clearinghouse for institutional sustainability information at the University, a bridge to city and regional efforts, and a resource to support co-curricular, curricular, and research efforts.

A main area of focus has been developing student-centered co-curricular programs that provide opportunities for engagement, education, organization, and leadership development. Students work through the Center to apply their learning to sustainability challenges facing the University and the broader community. This provides navigational skills, foundational and longitudinal support, voice,

and agency to students to impact positive change in their time at DU. This programming is continually refined through a robust internship program and additional opportunities for students.

Sustainability in the curriculum is supported through a variety of levels of engagement. At a basic level, Center for Sustainability staff provide presentations and tours to classes on a regular basis, focusing on campus or city sustainability efforts, and specific aspects of institutional sustainability. Class projects are also supported through numerous interviews for student projects. We also have a history of working with faculty to develop deeper experiential learning by co-creating class projects that apply to topics on campus or in the community. Similarly, the Center for



Sustainability provides campus data for research opportunities for students or classes.

Center for Sustainability staff work closely with the Sustainability Council in supporting a shared governance approach to drive campus wide goal setting, policy development, reporting, and information dissemination. The work of campus sustainability is accomplished through the work of many, coordinated across campus. Employee and student champions participate in educational opportunities and move this work forward collaboratively, our facilities and business partners embed the work in the operations of the University, and faculty and staff bring the work alive for students in classes and programs.

If you are interested in learning more, or joining us in creating a just and sustainable future for all, contact us at sustainability@du.edu.

The Sustainability Internship Program



HOW WILL YOU
MAKE YOUR
COMMUNITY
GREEN???

Make our tree come to life with your commitments for a just, sustainable life!





COATS

WOMEN

250

Professional, Personal, and Leadership Development for Co-Curricular Experiences



This report centers on the truly amazing work that our student staff was able to accomplish over the last year. The students who work in the Center step up as leaders, visionaries, goal setters, team players, exemplifying what DU students can accomplish during their time on campus. This year, we deepened personal, professional, and leadership development opportunities and paired them with real-world applications of their areas of passion and academic experiences to achieve measurable outcomes.

Sustainability Internship: By the Numbers

8 Graduate Students
from **4 different schools:**

Graduate School of Social Work
Graduate School of Professional Psychology
Morgridge College of Education
University College



88% of student staff reported that they strongly or moderately agreed that they were able to work in an



area of PASSION

39 Undergraduate Students



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

7 teams who ran
22 total programs

Those programs impacted over

⇒⇒⇒ **8,000** ⇐⇐⇐
people at DU and beyond



said working at the Center was a major reason they persist at DU

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This year we created an even stronger and fine-tuned team atmosphere among the 47 students who worked at the Center for Sustainability. A graduate student fellow led each of our major program areas - Food and Gardens, Energy, Waste, Mobility, Food Pantry, and Gear Garage - while an undergraduate team leader managed and ran each of our 22 programs. Undergraduate program leaders reported to graduate fellows, who provided advice and guidance around professional, personal, and program development.

Most students begin at the Center as “general interns” seeking a wide breadth of sustainability experience. General interns choose two teams to support every quarter. This allows them to explore a wide range of programs and aspects of sustainability, as well as get experience with different team dynamics and leadership styles.

By the end of the year, most of these general interns identify a focal topic area of interest, while this year, several started to take on a mentee role, preparing for a leadership position for the 2019-2020 school year. Nearly all of the general interns from this year are returning next year in a leadership position.

These longitudinal growth opportunities with layers of peer mentorship provide students with a wide range of train

ing and experience. Students’ strengths in contributing to an interdisciplinary team are valued at the Center just as much as strong leadership skills are. When students persist in this program, they become more confident leading and teaching others and develop into content-area experts for their teams and the community.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Helping our students develop professional, personal, and leadership skills that reach far beyond the work we do here on campus emerged as a key goal this year.

To this end, we developed programmatic sustainability learning outcomes aligned with Student and Professional Development outcomes. The sustainability learning outcomes are for students to be able to:

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
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 work

Trainings to address these learning objectives included building resumes and cover letters, social sustainability peer dialogue, planning and marketing events, high-impact behavior change, meaningful metrics, and professional networking in sustainability and environmental fields. Paired with the work our students do to manage programs, solve problems in dynamic teams, and mentor their peers, our cohort this year did much to move towards these learning outcomes.

Personal & Professional Development in the Sustainability Internship Program



Passion to Purpose: Students come to us because they are passionate about creating a more sustainable future. We give them the tools and training to do this, while letting them work on real-world problems.



Leadership Development: Our students start out as support staff, and eventually work up to leading their teams. They learn how to manage people, delegate tasks, collaborate effectively, and manage conflict well.



Community Engagement: Our approach comes from an understanding that our work does not happen in a vacuum. The students collaborate with a huge number of campus and community partners while at the Center.



Self-Awareness: Students go through a wide variety of exercises and workshops to better understand their strengths and how to leverage those strengths for success.

Student Spotlight: Lauren Collins

This year, a Graduate Fellow from the Center for Sustainability was featured in the DU News series on students graduating from DU in Spring 2019. From the DU News Article: "When Lauren Collins talks about her seven years at the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education, she speaks in questions.

'How can we create really transformational, impactful [study abroad] experiences?' she asks. 'What would be the best way to carbon offset study abroad programs? ... [And] how do we have more equal community partnerships?'

While at DU, Collins has been much more than a student. She has been a staff member in the Daniels College of Business, managing outdoor education and international student acculturation. She has been an instructor, preparing students for study abroad. She has been a graduate assistant in the Center for Sustainability, operationalizing the DU food pantry and exploring carbon offsets. And, she has served as a community engaged fellow with DU's Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL), where she developed a photo voice project for the city and county of Denver.

Collins has carved out areas of inquiry across campus, but that's just in her nature. 'I'm interested in problematizing things,' she explains...

'How do we design learning experiences that are really profound and get into the heart space for students that can then change how they live later?' Collins asks. 'How do we learn to listen rather than come and say, 'We should change something?' How do we show up in ways that benefit communities?'

Collins hopes to share her interdisciplinary approach to research and education in her post-doctoral position. 'I've been drawing on resources from sustainability, the Office of Internationalization, CCESL and other places to follow my path,' she says. 'I think the Honors College [at the University of Montana where I will be doing a post-doctoral program] will be a cool space to continue doing that because I can teach in any department I want to.'





THE INTERNS

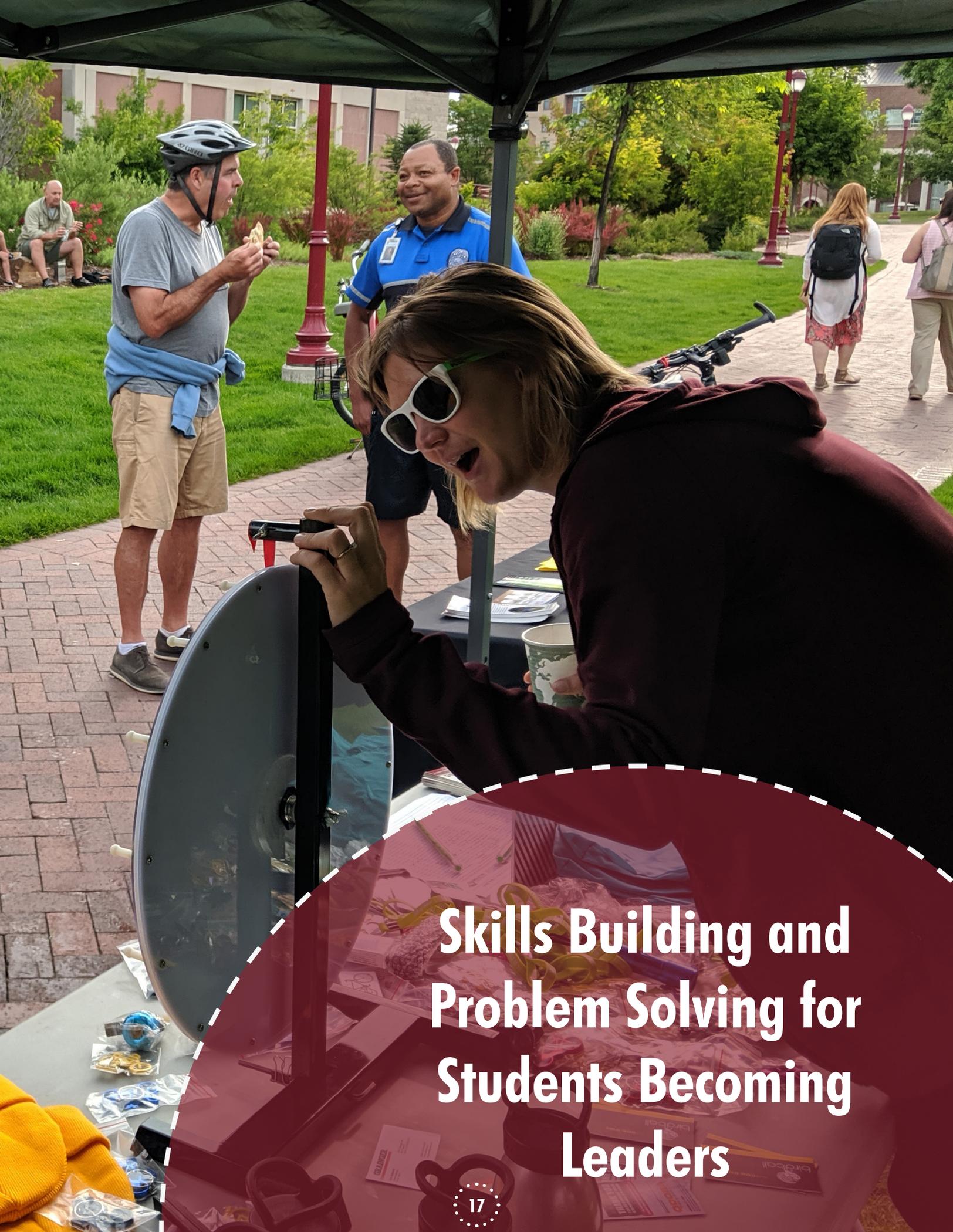
Interns come from nearly every college and school at DU, 19 majors, and diverse backgrounds. This models the diversity and teamwork required to solve truly interdisciplinary problems. This mixing of majors allows students to gain a different perspective on problem solving and content expertise as they spend time with people they would likely never meet inside the classroom.

Our Graduate Fellows from Morgridge College of Education, Graduate School of Social Work, Graduate School of Professional Psychology, and University College, provide a depth and breadth of disciplinary approaches to student and personal development, problem solving, project management, and leadership. Graduates also learn from one another and draw from a wide variety of experiences to increase the impact they have on their students and their projects.

The Center for Sustainability is leading the way to create truly interdisciplinary spaces for students to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to real-world problems with tangible and complex solutions. The chapters that follow will detail some of the ways the student interns at the Center are changing the culture and operations at the University of Denver, and how their impacts ripple from campus and out into the wider Denver communities.

Sustainability Programs





Skills Building and Problem Solving for Students Becoming Leaders



The core of the Sustainability Internship Program is the programs that our students manage and support. The students get nearly full ownership over their programs, which gives them the freedom to identify shortcomings in the existing program, experiment with new approaches, and learn from their own missteps, which in turn teaches interns how to be analytical, experimental, and to learn from failures. The following sections outline some of the Center for Sustainability's key programs and the real outcomes they produce.

Center for Sustainability Program Structure



Nearly all of the Center for Sustainability programs grew out of projects started by passionate and dedicated students. Giving students the space and support to pursue these projects is central to what we do at the Center for Sustainability. The Center now houses 22 unique programs, which were all run by an undergraduate program leader this year.

With the freedom and autonomy to run the program as they see fit, our student leaders get the opportunity to develop their leadership and management skills, while receiving feedback and advice from other leaders around them. Graduate fellows learn important skills in giving feedback to the students they supervise, which in turn teaches undergraduate students how to receive and use their feedback.

Undergraduate program leads are asked to set goals and metrics for success each quarter, which teaches students the importance of being intentional with their programs and working towards specific outcomes. They are also trained to understand setting goals around behavior change, and how to use their programs as a tool to change behavior and drive DU closer to our larger sustainability goals.

At the end of each quarter, the program leads provide a report on their program's activities and outcomes, along with the barriers that kept them from achieving or exceeding their

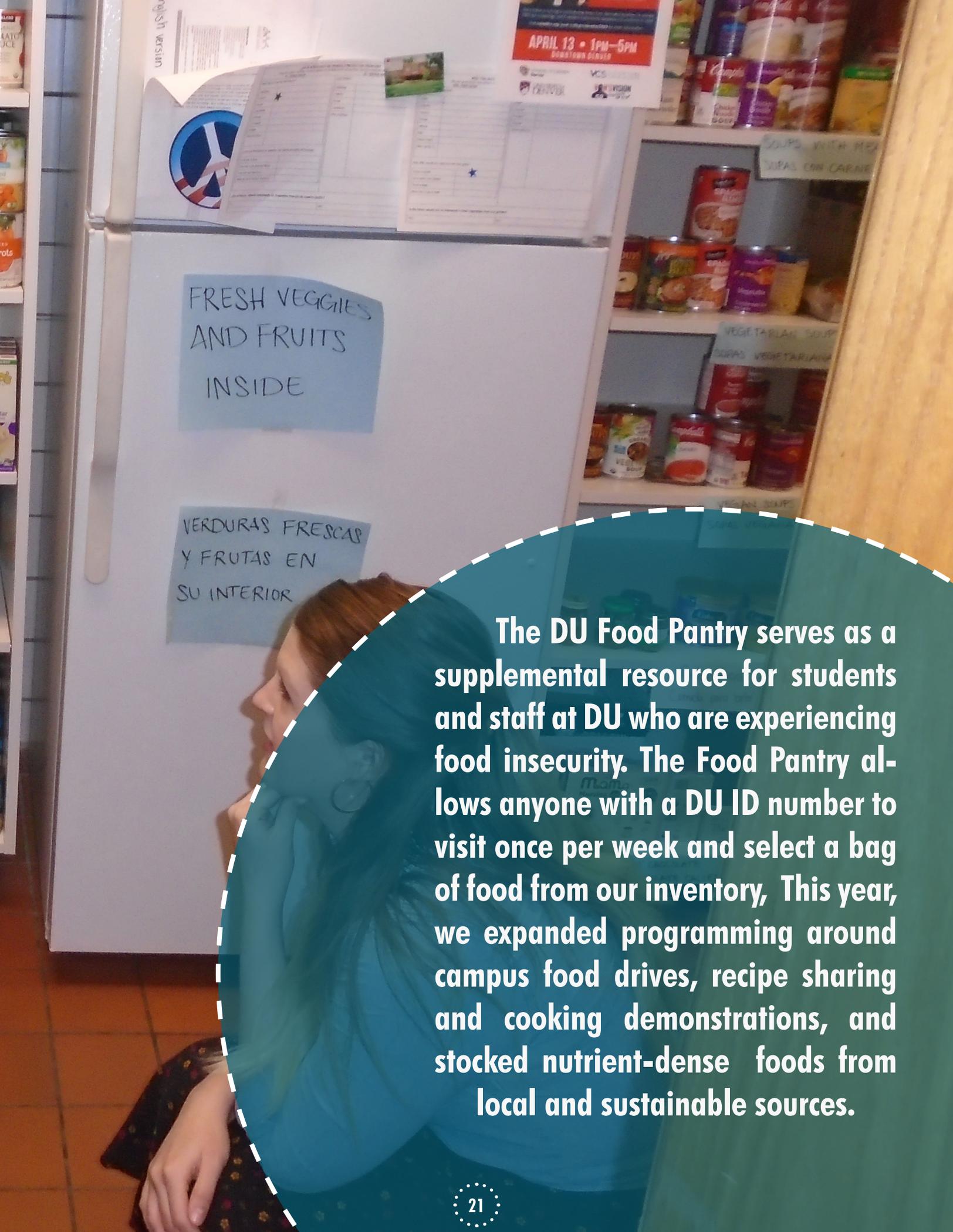
goals. Quarterly reports help students create a team annual report that focuses heavily on reporting data-driven outcomes, narratives around their decision-making processes, and reflections about the state of the program. This year, the students were also asked to provide recommendations about their programs for next year, which taught them critical skills in evaluating the effectiveness of the work they did this year.

The autonomy that our students get to explore their areas of interest and turn them into tangible solutions to complex problems facing our campus is unique. While this exploration does have to occur within some boundaries, we strive to give students the space they need to take ownership over their work and create something that is truly their own.

Each of our programs teaches interns different lessons and leaves them with expertise in a wide range of personal and professional development areas. These learning outcomes are listed with each program, along with the outcomes and some of the narratives developed by the students in their own annual reports.



DU Food Pantry: Fighting Food Insecurity with Nutrition and Sustainable Food



FRESH VEGGIES
AND FRUITS
INSIDE

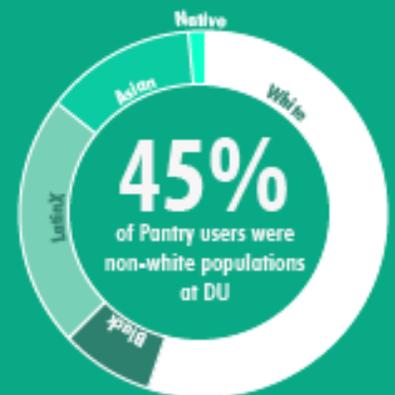
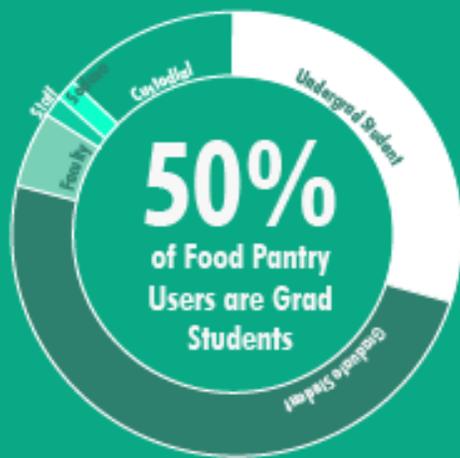
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SU INTERIOR

The DU Food Pantry serves as a supplemental resource for students and staff at DU who are experiencing food insecurity. The Food Pantry allows anyone with a DU ID number to visit once per week and select a bag of food from our inventory. This year, we expanded programming around campus food drives, recipe sharing and cooking demonstrations, and stocked nutrient-dense foods from local and sustainable sources.



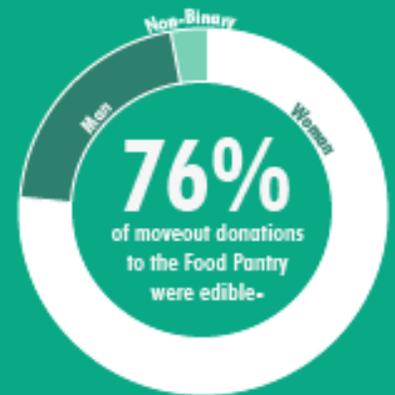
Demand for the DU Food Pantry continues to grow as more students hear about the resource and additional departments refer those in need to us. Because of this, our team focused on streamlining processes increasing our food distribution, increasing donations, and expanding educational programming this year.

DU Food Pantry: By the Numbers



⇒⇒⇒ **2,194** ⇐⇐⇐
Pounds of food were donated from
⇒⇒⇒ **20+** ⇐⇐⇐
campus and community partners.

5,867 pounds of food were given away to
72 unique Food Pantry Users over
473 individual visits during the year.
This equates to **4,513** meals given.



Highlights from the year included several large-scale food drive partnerships which brought in nearly 2,200 pounds of donated food, a successful OneDayforDU crowdfunding campaign that raised over \$2,800 for Food Pantry operations, over 1,300 pounds of food and personal care donations during move out, and implementation of an electronic inventory system for food donations and purchases. These successes helped to spread awareness of this vital resource around the DU campus, as well as gave student interns the opportunity to work with a wide variety of partners and work to solve new challenges as usership continued to increase.

This year DU participated in the Hope Lab #RealCollege Survey, which provided rich data about our baseline of food and housing insecurity on the DU campus. Partnerships with Student Outreach and Support and the Health and Counseling Center integrated the Food Pantry into the holistic student support structures across campus, which allow for students to be referred to the Food Pantry after receiving care from other units at DU. We piloted a recipe program during Winter Quarter 2019 and organized a series of community dinners made from ingredients we regularly stock.

The first Community Dinner during Fall Quarter featured several soups and desserts for Pantry visitors. We provided recipe cards for these dishes that highlighted the ingredi-

Personal & Professional Development at the DU Food Pantry



Budget and Finance: Our students keep track of the budget and use this money to strategically stock the Pantry with affordable and nutrient-dense foods for our users. The students also fundraise to increase budget.



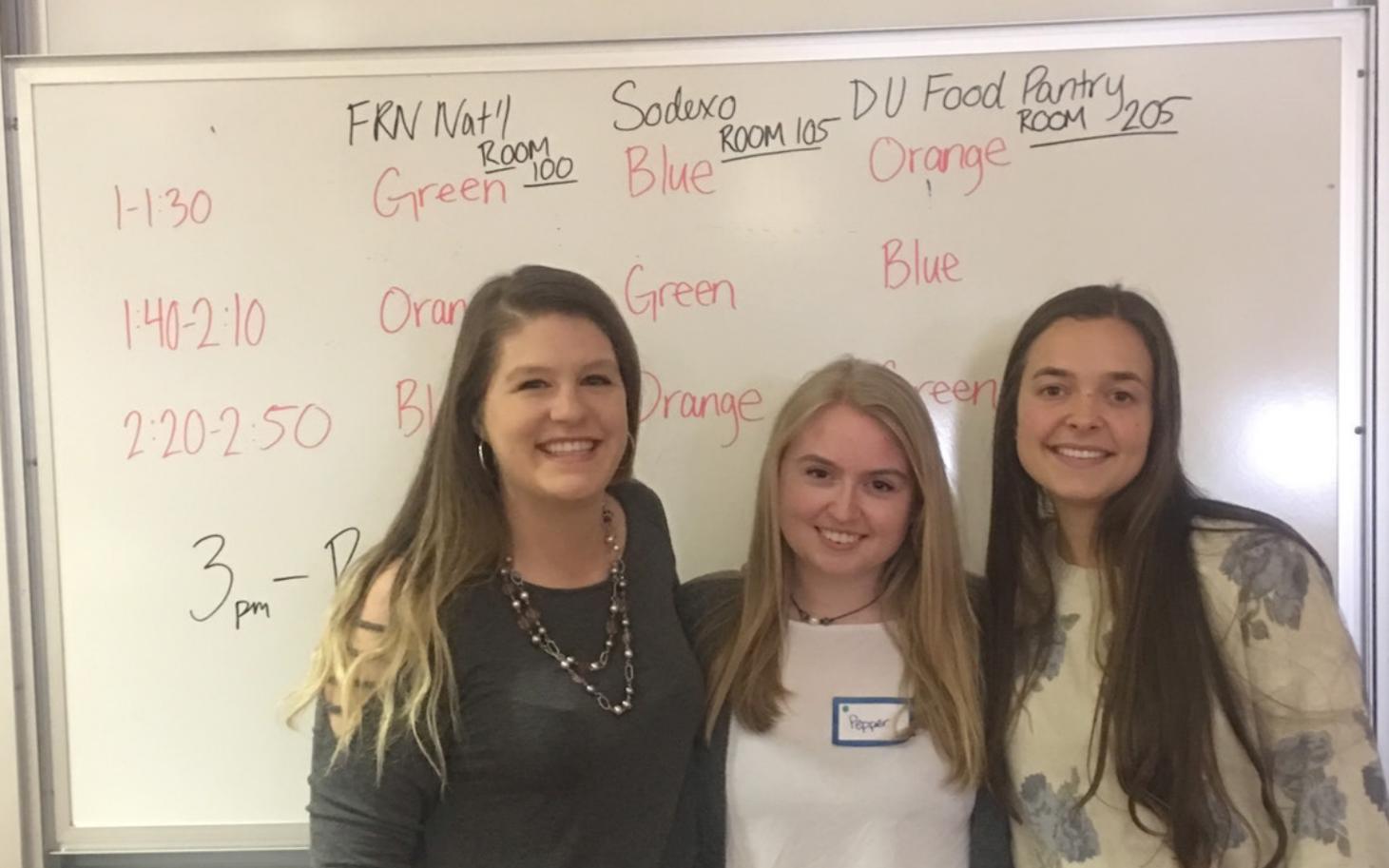
Cultural Literacy: The Food Pantry sees an extremely diverse group of people from all types of backgrounds and identities. Our students are able to work with all myriad populations that come through our doors.



Social Awareness: Food Insecurity is an issue that affects a huge population at DU, as well as people across all higher ed institutions and beyond. Our students learn about this real problem and manage a real solution.



Leadership Development: Every student on the Food Pantry team ran their own food drive this year, which taught them skills in collaboration and project management.



ents that could be found in the Food Pantry. After a successful first dinner, we also hosted Community Dinners during Winter and Spring Quarters. Creating a community around the Food Pantry sought to make it more welcoming to new users while helping to diminish any stigmas around food insecurity.

In the Winter Quarter the Food Pantry also participated in the annual Winter Carnival Chili Cookoff, hosted by DUPB. Participating in a high-profile annual event like Winter Carnival again put the Food Pantry in front of a wider audience which drove both more users and more donations to us.

Three interns attended the Food Recovery Network's Annual Summit, where they gave several presentations about our social sustainability mission, food justice focus, and our operations. Two interns attended the Campus Kitchens Summit where we interacted with the group in activities around food insecurity and how to manage a Campus Kitchen. Both of these opportunities connected students to peers who share their passion and concern for food security and food waste, and let students field questions and entertain ideas about the Food Pantry's future. Ideas emerged for potential future partnerships with Campus Kitchens and the Food Recovery Network.

As we worked to educate more of the DU campus about the Food Pantry, we hosted several tours for classes at DU. A pre-school class from the Fisher Early Learning Center toured the Pantry and brought donations. A class from the English Learning Center toured the Pantry after a presentation in their class about global food insecurity and how the DU Food Pantry is fighting it locally.

In our mission to make the Food Pantry as accessible to a diverse user-base as possible, staff members from Disability Services performed an audit of the Food Pantry, offering suggestions to improve accessibility.

Food Pantry Drives: By the Numbers

Olin Hall	41lbs
Women's Bean Project	71lbs
Daniels College of Business	101lbs
Graudate School of Social Work	23lbs
Shared Services	29lbs
Office of Graduate Education	34lbs
Campus Life	37lbs
Butler Institute	45lbs
Student Outreach and Support	82lbs
DUPB	125lbs
Athletics	1,019lbs
Advancement	265lbs
Nelson and Nagel Hall	9lbs
Anderson Academic Commons	13lbs
Hillel	21lbs
International House	4lbs
Lambda Chi Alpha	134lbs
Unknown Donor	183lbs

Student Spotlight: Elizabeth Kepl

Elizabeth started her experience at the Center for Sustainability during her freshman year as a volunteer with the Environmental Science Living and Learning Community. At that time, there were not very many students working at the Center, so even though her project was focused on Food and Gardens work, she was able to work across multiple realms of sustainability, such as energy conservation and event planning. In the years that followed Elizabeth held a number of positions at the Center, from working as an Orientation Education EcoRep during the summer before her sophomore year and planning Friday lunch and learns with local non-profit organizations.

During her senior year Elizabeth took the undergraduate lead position for the newly formed Food Pantry project. Throughout the year, Elizabeth and her team managed the inventory, solicited donations, and introduced a new scanning system to make inventory easier to track. They formalized operations in the Food Pantry, and researched ways to make the Food Pantry a welcoming and open space for all people at DU. "I am truly proud of the amount my team and I were able to accomplish in a single school year to make a difference in people's lives on our campus."

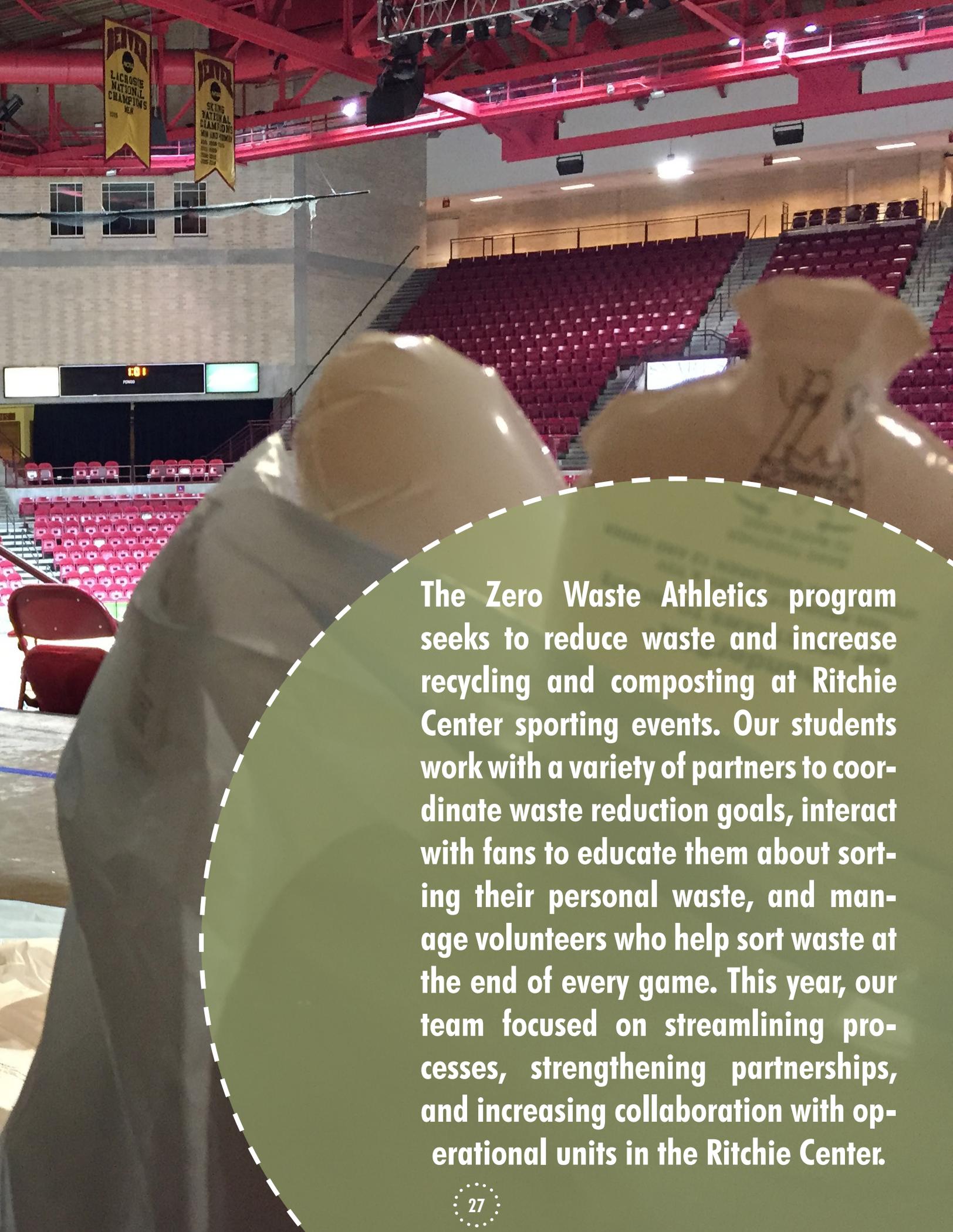
Her team's success became recognized by other organizations, and two extended invitations for her to speak at and support summits for food insecurity on college campuses: The Food Recovery Network Summit and the Campus Kitchens Summit.

Elizabeth finished her time at DU and the Center for Sustainability this Spring. "The Center for Sustainability has been the most wonderful place to work. I was able to work towards my passion with amazing team members that could collaborate together towards a positive goal. I learned how to lead a team, be a positive team member, speak my opinion, and hear other's opinions. I learned how to engage the community within DU and through outside partnerships. The many accomplishments I attained at the Center for Sustainability have helped me acquire skills that I will use the rest of my life and am excited to move forward with."





Zero Waste Athletics: Bringing Together Sports and Sustainability



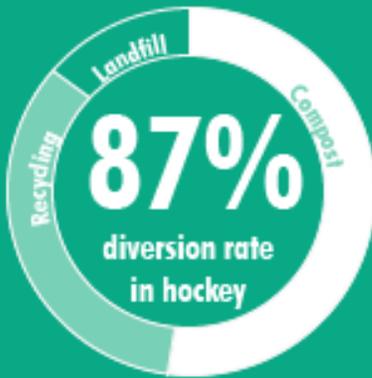
The Zero Waste Athletics program seeks to reduce waste and increase recycling and composting at Ritchie Center sporting events. Our students work with a variety of partners to coordinate waste reduction goals, interact with fans to educate them about sorting their personal waste, and manage volunteers who help sort waste at the end of every game. This year, our team focused on streamlining processes, strengthening partnerships, and increasing collaboration with operational units in the Ritchie Center.



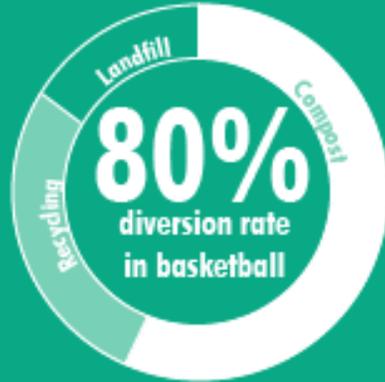
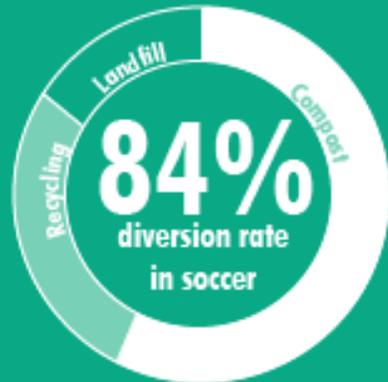
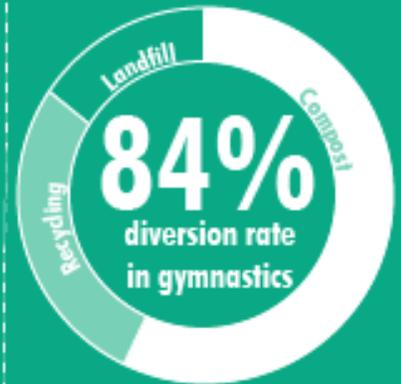
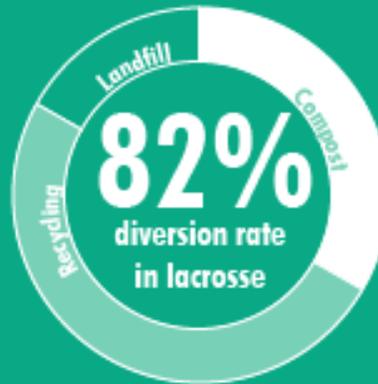
Hockey, gymnastics, and lacrosse games at DU are among the most visible events on campus, with over 125,000 people attending these and other sporting events annually. Because of this, waste minimization and educational efforts in the Ritchie Center engages a broad audience, many of whom do not engage with sustainability programs on campus otherwise. Additionally, because of the size of these events, Athletics provides an opportunity for us to have a huge impact on the waste diversion rates at DU.



Zero Waste Athletics: By the Numbers



Goals were to see 85% diversion rate in hockey and 80% diversion rate all other sports based on historic performance and striving to improve



Zero Waste staff worked at 40 games
Reached 90% diversion at 6 games
The highest diversion rate reached was 92%
50% of hockey games in winter quarter reached a 90% diversion rate or better.
We reached our diversion goals in **all sports**

The Zero Waste Hockey program began in 2013, and has since expanded to most ticketed sports at the Ritchie Center: Hockey, Men's Lacrosse, Gymnastics, Men's Soccer, and Men's Basketball. This year Zero Waste Athletics efforts led to a diversion rate of 85% across all sports, diverting 87% of waste to recycling and compost in hockey. We are fast approaching our goal to reach a 90% diversion rate across all games in all sports. A total of six games across all

sports reached the 90% diversion level, a single season record. This continues a trend of year over year improvement in diversion rates across all sports.

The success of this is built on the dedicated partners in Athletics, Sodexo, and Custodial services. Success and visibility of this program serves as a model of best practices and is inspiring change across campus.



Alumni Spotlight: Kaela Martins

Kaela began her journey at the University of Denver as part of the Environmental Science Living and Learning Community (ESLLC). This community set the stage for many opportunities she would have at DU and beyond. The ESLLC partnered her with the Center for Sustainability just as it was getting started in 2012.

Kaela worked with another student to plan DU's first zero-waste hockey game. Over the following years, Kaela continued to work on developing the Zero-Waste Hockey program, and soon took over for the program. With Kaela at the helm, the program began to expand into other sports. Kaela finished her undergraduate work in 2016, and continued at DU as a graduate student in Environmental Policy and Management at University College.

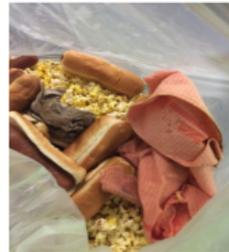
During her time at DU, Kaela was also was a senator of USG, president of the DU Environmental Team, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, and a member of the Sustainability Council. On top of this, Kaela interned for the City of Denver's Mayor's Office of Sustainability, Denver Arts & Venues, and Denver Recycles. "Without the support of the ESLLC and Center for Sustainability, I would not have had these opportunities and experiences," she says. "Leading the zero-waste athletics program gave me experience in management, research, reporting, public speaking, program development and more."

Kaela now works for Boulder County's Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE). Since 2017, she has advised over 300 businesses in waste, energy, water and transportation services in the City of Boulder. "I continue to primarily focus on waste, heavily aiding the City of Boulder with their Universal Zero Waste Ordinance. This job has also expanded my knowledge within energy, water and transportation. All the internships and experiences I had at the Center for Sustainability gave me the necessary experience I needed to do this work."

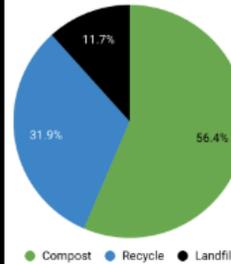


Zero Waste Hockey

DENVER PIONEERS VS. ALASKA-FAIRBANKS
OCTOBER 19, 2018
88% DIVERSION RATE



Overall Diversion Rate



- Notes**
- Concessions needed a lot of sorting at the end of the game
 - No C1 waste because it was taken before it was weighed
 - The picture to the left is from a concession
 - Orange cloths go in the landfill and food goes in the compost

Breakdown of Ritchie Center

Location	Compost	Recycle	Landfill	Total
Gold Club	82%	12%	6%	94%
Concessions	45%	34%	21%	79%
Party Room	29%	71%	0%	100%
Concourse	53%	33%	15%	85%
Restrooms	96%	4%	0%	100%
Bowl Pick	39%	58%	3%	97%

Breakdown of Concessions

Concessions Overview	C1	MK	C3	C4	C5	C6
Compost	0	26.5	19.3	32	8.1	17.3
Recycling	0	6.8	20.1	16	12.4	21.5
Landfill	0	4.3	15.1	8.1	15.7	4
Diversion Rate	0%	88.56%	72.29%	85.56%	56.63%	90.65%

sample zero waste hockey report

Personal & Professional Development in Zero Waste Athletics



Leadership Development: Our Zero Waste leads manage anywhere from 2-10 student volunteers at every game they work, which gives them the confidence to take charge and teach new staff the process and rules.



Project Management: Each game requires our students to be on time, organized, and ready to solve problems as they arise in the moment. Our students stay alert and are able to rise to this challenge at every game.



Passion to Purpose: Our waste students tend to develop life-long passions for waste management, and many of our Zero Waste alumni now work professionally in the waste and recycling field.



Self-Awareness: Our Waste students have expressed anecdotally that they often start out feeling nervous, but that working in this team helps them realize their strengths.



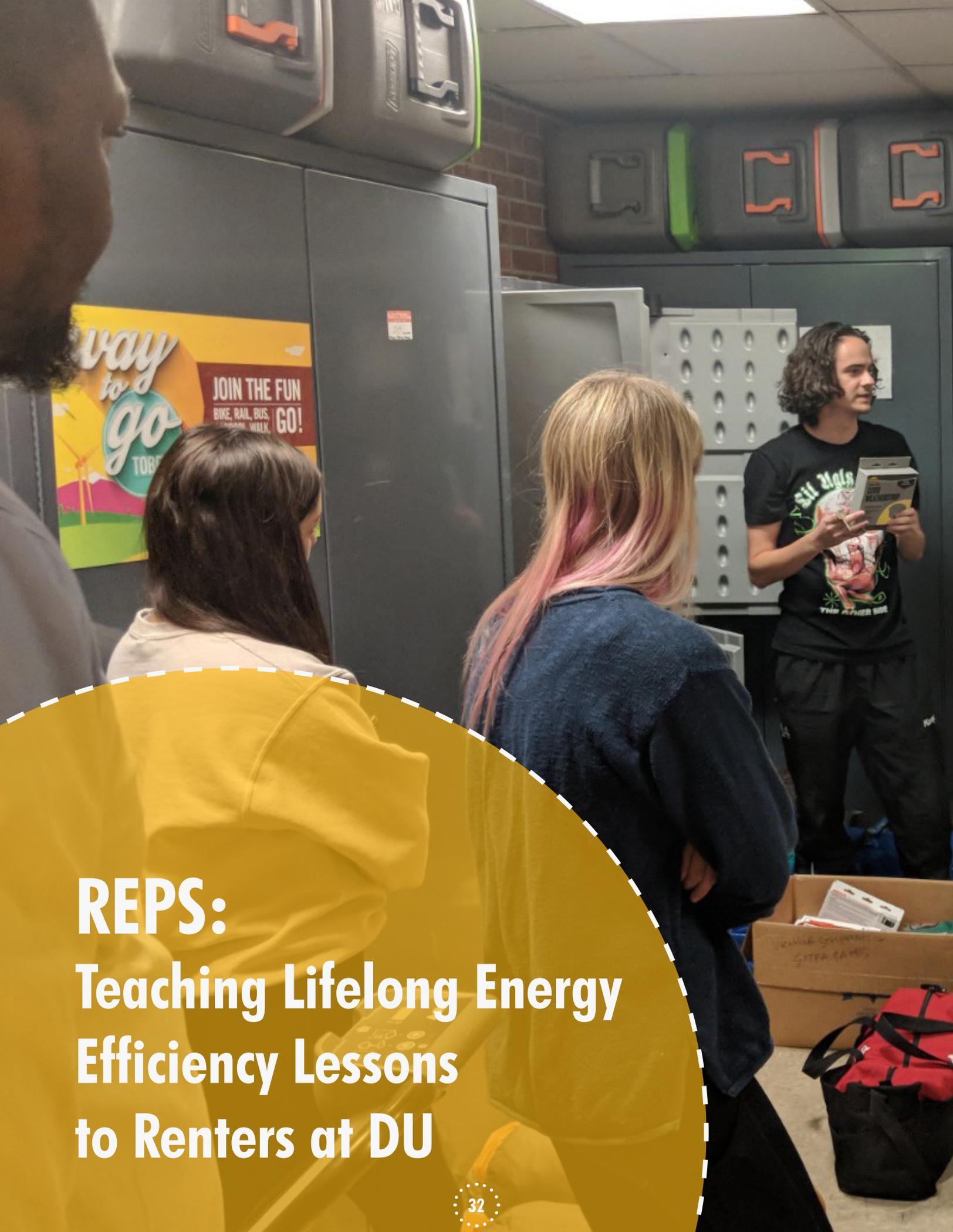
STUDENT LEADERS

Zero Waste Athletics has continued to attract passionate and motivated students over the past six years. Not only do these students become fast experts in Denver's recycling and composting systems, they also develop organizational, leadership, reporting, and data management skills.

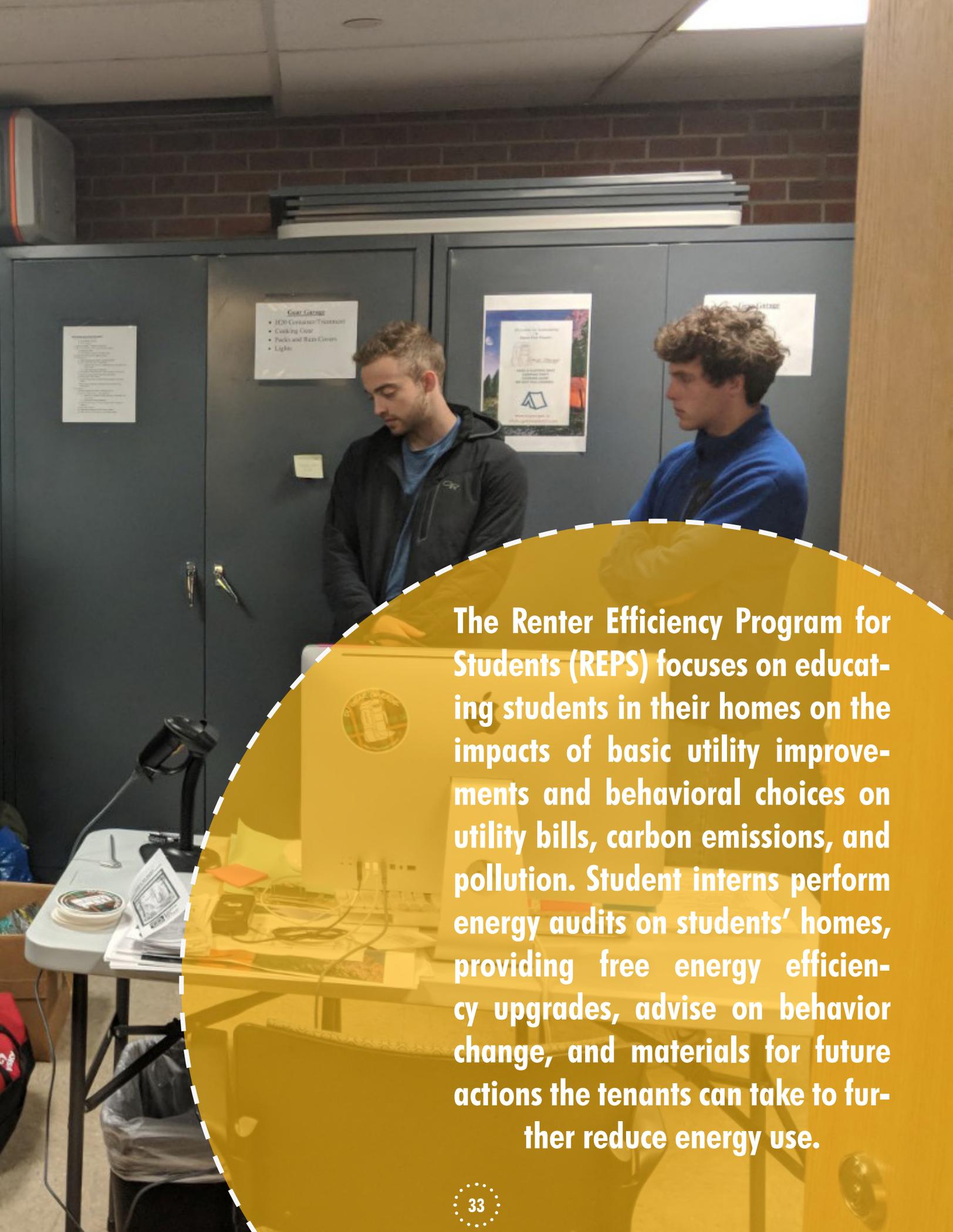
Each game engages anywhere from two to ten volunteers that must be trained and supervised during each event. Our undergraduate program leads must be in contact with volunteers before the game to give them information on what to expect and logistics information. Additionally, they must communicate clearly their expectations with both volunteers and partners in Sodexo, Custodial, and Athletics.

During the game, the students take detailed notes on waste weights and diversion rates, and after each game, they put together a detailed report about the diversion rates and opportunities for improvement. These reports highlight the areas of the Ritchie Center that require additional staff training around waste diversion, as well as recommendations for streamlining processes, improving communication, and increasing diversion rates.

These regular reporting requirements get students in the habit of keeping track of the data they collect and using it to provide concrete recommendations for projects going forward.



**REPS:
Teaching Lifelong Energy
Efficiency Lessons
to Renters at DU**



The Renter Efficiency Program for Students (REPS) focuses on educating students in their homes on the impacts of basic utility improvements and behavioral choices on utility bills, carbon emissions, and pollution. Student interns perform energy audits on students' homes, providing free energy efficiency upgrades, advise on behavior change, and materials for future actions the tenants can take to further reduce energy use.



Most apartment rental agreements disincentivize energy efficiency improvements. Renters shoulder the cost of utilities without the ability or resources to renovate the rental, while landlords have no financial incentive to put money into energy efficiency upgrades since they do not pay the utility bills. The result is that much of the rental stock tends to have out-dated and inefficient appliances which result in much higher energy use and utility bills for renters. The Renter Efficiency Program for Students (REPS) provides a solution by providing a free service to student renters and non-permanent upgrades that students can remove if the landlord requests it, or which they can take with them to their next rental.

Renter Efficiency Program for Students: By the Numbers

Our audits will save renters a total of:

15,324 kWh

780 gallons of water

\$1,693 on energy bills
every year

Completed **29** Audits

Educated **76** Renters

Replaced **149** light bulbs

Installed **48** low flow faucets

Installed **17** low flow showers

Gave away **10** smart power strips

102

kWh average
annual
lighting use
pre-REPS

52

kWh average
annual
lighting use
post-REPS

REPS audits will reduce the lighting
energy demand of homes by

49%
on average annually, if they continue
to use the LED lights we gave them.



10
students were trained as REPS
auditors in 2018-2019

The REPS team began to expand its
work into rental units for faculty
and staff this year.

The REPS team audited its first
Sorority House this year, a major
milestone for the program.

DELTA ZETA

Each energy audit consists of two student interns completing a walkthrough of a student's house or apartment, investigating items such as the furnace, water heater, electronics, windows, doors, water fixtures, and lighting fixtures. At each stage, the students offer advice on behavior changes that would reduce energy use, as well as upgrades or adjustments, such as programming thermostats, installing weather stripping, or replacing incandescent light bulbs with LEDs.

Students undergo an intensive training in order to lead energy audits, including training videos, materials and tool review, and a sample audit in a staff member's house. This year, 10 students completed this training. Interns who do not complete this training are encouraged to attend energy audits as a supporting auditor, helping to keep notes, install lightbulbs and other fixtures, and ensure the audits

run smoothly. This allows more students to participate in running audits, and gives the lead auditors the opportunity to mentor and train their supporting auditor.

Throughout the year, these interns audited 29 houses and apartments and educated 76 student tenants on energy efficiency best-practices. The impact of these audits is significant: the upgrades the students gave to their peers will result in saving these renters a total of over 15,000 kilowatt hours of energy, 780 gallons of water, and nearly \$1,700 annually.

Additionally, our students were invited to pilot a large-scale audit of the Delta Zeta house, the first time a Greek house has been audited by REPS. Seven students living in the house participated in the audit, which was by far the largest one the team has performed to date.



REPS Recommendations for the RENTERS



What You're Doing Well!



Where You Could Improve...



What We Did at Your Assessment:

- ✓ Fixed 2 feet of air leaks around your doors and windows
- ✓ Replaced 1 faucet fixtures

Thermostat

- ✓ You do not have a programmable thermostat. We encourage you to talk to your property manager about getting one installed. For now, you should set your thermostat back manually to save energy.

Vents

- ✓ Your vents were clear and adjusted well.

Space Heaters

- ✓ You don't use any electric space heaters, or you hardly ever use them.

Additional Tips and Information

- ✓ **Thermostat settings** have some of the most significant impacts on your energy bill. Exact heating and cooling costs are weather dependent and difficult to calculate, but a well programmed thermostat will certainly save. You can make adjustments to fit your personal preferences, but remember more heating and cooling come at a cost. The following setpoints are recommended to achieve the best balance between comfort and energy savings:
 - For heating (when it is cold outside), keep the temperature set around 68-70 °F or *lower*.
 - For A/C cooling (during the summer) keep the temperature set around 76-78 °F or *higher*.

sample REPS report for tenants

Personal & Professional Development in the Renter Efficiency Program for Students



Community Engagement: Our students work specifically with off-campus housing units in order to bridge the gap between landlords and renters around energy efficiency.



Project Management: The REPS manager is responsible for collecting information from renters, scheduling audits, and managing a challenging inventory system. The students have to manage many aspects around each audit to make sure they are completed fully and smoothly with each tenant.



Passion to Purpose: Energy auditing is a tangible skill that allows students to get work in this field after graduating.



Financial Literacy: Our students have to manage the inventory and many purchase receipts for this program, cataloguing the items they use at each audit and the savings they achieve for each tenant.

Alumni Spotlight: Marty Pool

Like many involved in environmental and sustainability work, Marty Pool's initial appreciation for environmental and sustainability issues was born from his love of the Colorado outdoors. Marty grew up in the suburbs of Denver and went to the University of Colorado for his undergraduate studies. After receiving a degree in Architectural Engineering, he worked in Fort Collins for a consulting firm focused primarily on green building projects.

After a few years in the field, he was interested in expanding his work beyond engineering projects, and entered into the Environmental Policy and Management Master's program at the University of Denver's University College.

Hoping to gain more applied experience, Marty connected with the Center for Sustainability. Along with another graduate student, he worked to develop the REPS program based on his past professional experience and current coursework at DU. "Working on this program gave me the opportunity to experience the real-world challenges associated with implementing the sustainability ideas I was exploring in my courses. In developing the program I had to create a project plan, develop training materials, recruit and manage students, oversee our budget, and promote the program. The experience at the Center for Sustainability solidified my desire to combine sustainability management with education," he says.

After graduating in 2016, Marty wanted to keep working for sustainability in higher education, and was hired as the Assistant Coordinator at the Environmental Center at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Marty was soon promoted to be the Coordinator of the Fort Lewis Environmental Center.

"I find deep fulfillment in shaping applied-learning co-curricular programs for students centered around environmental and social sustainability issues. The work I'm doing now is a direct extension of the experience I had working at DU's Center for Sustainability. I still keep in touch with Chad and Emily – now as a colleague in the realm of higher-ed sustainability professionals!"





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

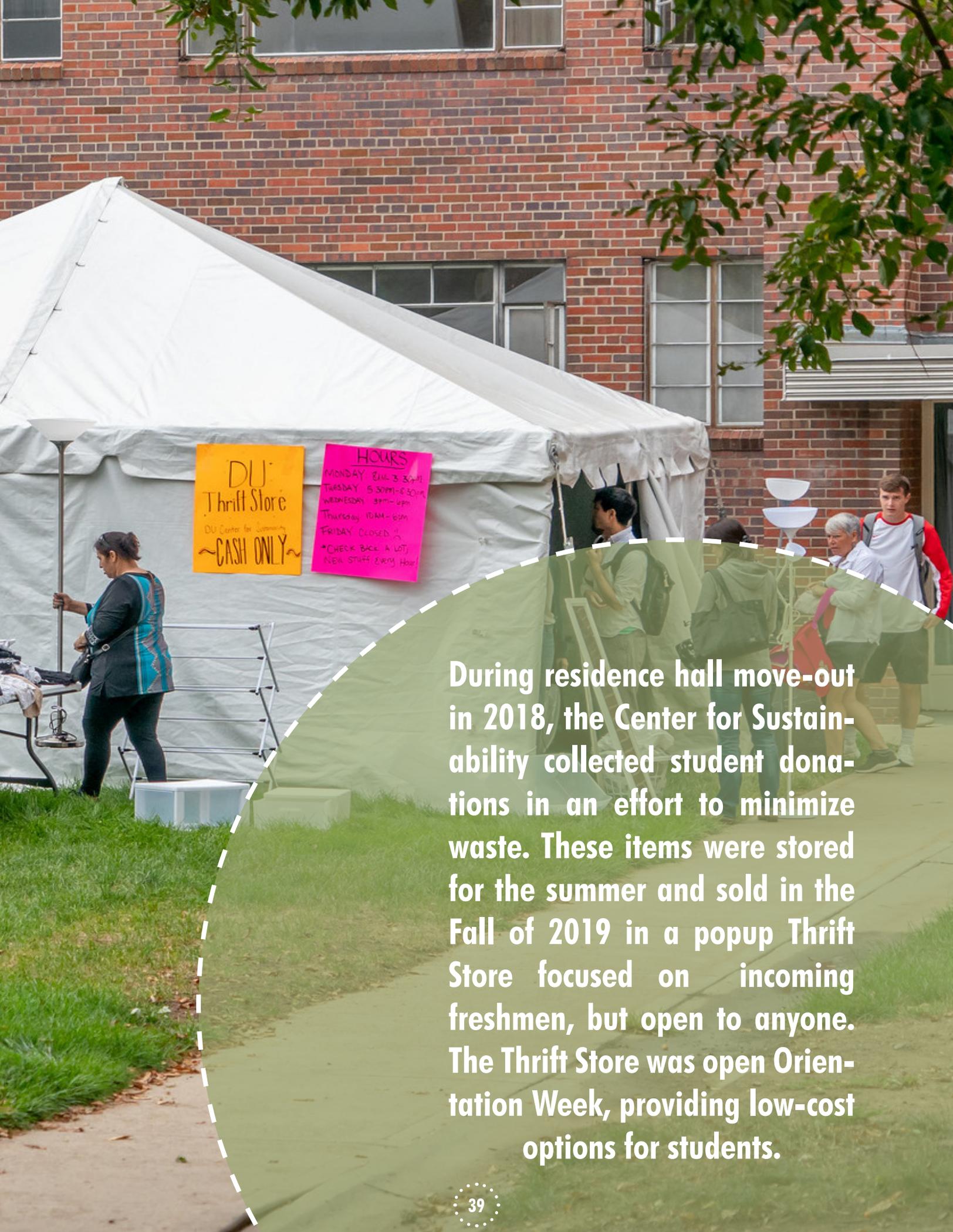
Interns who get trained to perform REPS audits leave the program with a tangible set of skills that will assist them in future careers in the energy field. Beyond their extensive knowledge of home energy sources and reduction, the students must also record and process large datasets about each home they visit. The students track the actions, recommendations, and upgrades they provide at each audit, and record this into a database to track overall program impacts.

Indeed, the interns must work through a lot of data before they even perform the audit, as each participant in the program provides information about their home which in turn allows the auditors to structure their visit to meet each tenant's needs. This teaches interns how to be adaptable to new situations and to do their research before diving into each home.

Scheduling the audits requires professional correspondence between the REPS team and the tenants, as well as clear communication between team members. Additionally, each audit results in a report for renters, and an additional report to send to landlords, both of which must be crafted in a clear and professional tone. As the subject matter experts, students learn how to educate their peers, even in unfamiliar settings.



Move-In Thrift Store: Addressing Waste and Equity Through Residence Life



During residence hall move-out in 2018, the Center for Sustainability collected student donations in an effort to minimize waste. These items were stored for the summer and sold in the Fall of 2019 in a popup Thrift Store focused on incoming freshmen, but open to anyone. The Thrift Store was open Orientation Week, providing low-cost options for students.



Since more than 70% of DU students are from out-of-state, they are often quite limited in what they are able to take home when moving out of the residence halls. As a result, there are thousands of pounds of items that students leave on campus at the end of the year. The items that students behind when they depart for the summer tend to be the same items that incoming students buy: lamps, fans, storage bins, clothes hangers, mirrors, and bedding. The Center for Sustainability took over donation collection in 2018, hoping to close this loop. The Thrift Store became the outlet for over 6,000 cubic feet of materials that were donated.

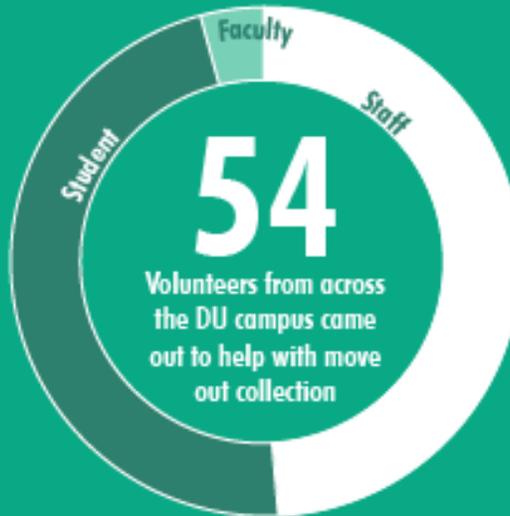
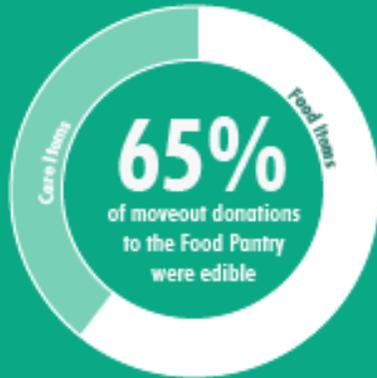
Move Out Donations: By the Numbers

This year, the Center for Sustainability collected **6,480 cubic feet** of donations to be sold at our move in thrift store during orientation week.



This would have filled **8** of the **30-yard roll-off dumpsters** that sit outside the residence halls during move out week.

Sent **1,315 pounds** of food and personal care items to the DU Food Pantry



We recycled:

1,300 lbs of mattress pads

200 lbs of bedding

100 lbs of textiles

Volunteers worked a total of

156 hours

assisting with move out donations collection and storage

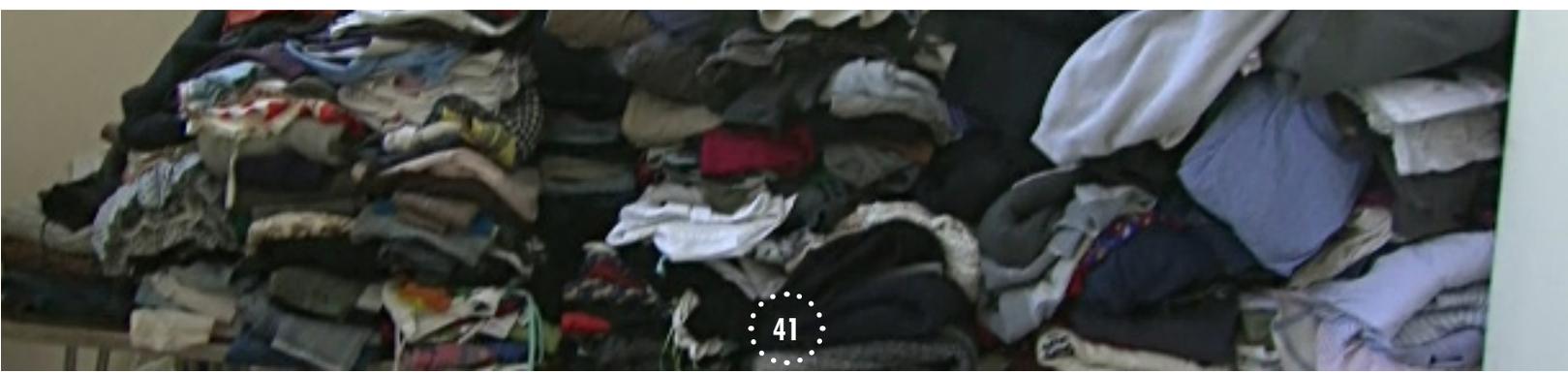
The Thrift Store opened during Move-In day, and remained open through Thursday of orientation week. All items were priced at \$5 or less, with most items priced at just \$1. Even with such low pricing, the Thrift Store made just over \$2,500 during the week. These funds went back into the budget for the 2019 move-out donation collection. This low pricing made these residence hall items much more accessible to incoming students, especially international students. Additionally, we found that upperclass students, staff, and even faculty were visiting the store.

At the end of October, we used remaining items to set up a Swap and Shop Thrift Store to raise money for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Everything was priced at \$1, and by the end of the day, we had raised \$250, half of which went to THRIVE at DU, a program in Health Promotion that runs programs around health and wellbeing on campus. All of the leftover clothing, particularly cold weather clothes, were donated to a variety of women's shelters around Den-

ver, allowing our donation items to reach beyond DU and help some of the most vulnerable populations in the city.

This process was repeated with the 2019 move out donation collection. We recruited volunteers to help with the immense task of sorting, organizing, packing, and moving the donations at each residence hall. In total, we had 54 volunteers - staff, faculty, and students who do not work at the Center for Sustainability - work a total of 156 volunteer hours facilitate this process.

All told, we collected many more materials this year than in 2018: nearly 7,000 cubic feet of materials, recycling 1,500 pounds of bedding and mattress pads, and over 1,300 pounds of food and personal care items donated to the DU Food Pantry. Additionally, we were able to recycle textiles that we would not be able to sell in the Thrift Store - such as soiled or torn clothing or used undergarments, diverting more than 100 pounds of items from the landfill.



DU Center for Sustainability THRIFT STORE

Open **ALL DAY** on move-in day!
Plus hours all during Orientation week in case you missed something on your first visit!

Everything priced \$1-\$20

CASH ONLY

We have everything you could need: mirrors, fans, lamps, storage bins, kitchen items, office supplies, organizational items, books, clothes, decor, and **SO MUCH MORE**



Thrift Store is located in the lawn on the northeast side of Hilltop apartments, a super short walk from Nagel Hall, Nelson Hall, and Johnson McFarlane Hall. There is short-term parking nearby for those of you bringing things back up to Centennial Towers or Centennial Halls.



Personal & Professional Development at the DU Thrift Store



Leadership Development: Collecting the end of year donations that eventually feed the DU Thrift Store is a huge effort led by highly motivated and skilled interns. They must recruit and manage volunteers to keep the operation smooth and organized.



Financial Literacy: The students manage all transactions at the Thrift Store, pricing for all materials, and ensuring customers are happy and satisfied with their experience.



Social Awareness: The Thrift Store gives our students a closer look at the immense waste produced by their peers at move out, and the help that affordable materials can be to marginalized populations at DU.



Community Engagement: The Thrift Store is visited by a diverse group of the DU and Denver communities; the students get to chat with them about their needs.

Project Spotlight: Color of Mud Studios, Gretna, Virginia

Jennifer Buckingham is an artist and the owner of The Color of Mud Studios, based in Gretna, Virginia. While Jennifer creates many beautiful treasures, her newest focus has been on making fantasy wall trophies and exhibit-sized art installations out of recycled bed sheets.

The Center for Sustainability found Jennifer



and it was clear that it was a match made in heaven. Move-out season at DU yields hundreds of bedsheets that students no longer wish to keep, and Jennifer was in the market for as many bedsheets as she could find in preparation of her newest exhibit, "The Origins of Dragons."

"I love the idea of getting materials from the Center for Sustainability; it embodies the reason I use recycled cloth is my pieces." Jennifer explains that her smaller dragon heads and other creatures are made from papier mache' first, then covered in cloth for both strength and a more realistic texture.

Terra, her life-size dragon, also has a metal frame to help keep her structure, and is covered in hand-printed scales made from the bedding we sent her during Summer 2018. Terra is to be the headlining piece of "The Origins



of Dragons" exhibit, which will open at the Olin Gallery January 2020.

Follow Jennifer and The Color of Mud on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thecolorofmud/> or on her website <https://thecolorofmud.com/> to keep up with all of her magical creations, or to buy a piece of DU move-out recycling for your own home.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

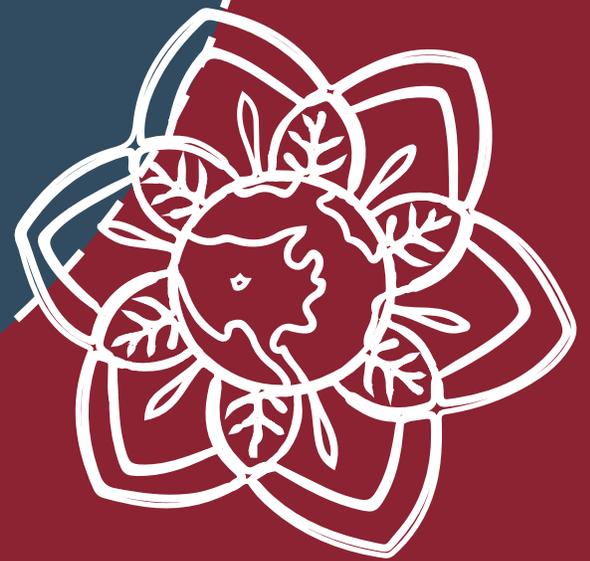
The process of collecting end-of-year donations and bringing together a Thrift Store before students have arrived for classes takes leadership, organization, and dedication from our interns. Move Out Week is perhaps one of the most intensive weeks at DU, as students must juggle their last set of finals, moving out of their residence halls, and finishing out projects before leaving for the summer. Our students add a massive collection and organization effort to this busy week, all in an effort to keep thousands of pounds of materials out of the landfill.

Over the course of the Spring Quarter, students met weekly to devise a plan for move out week, knowing that time was a limited resource and they would have to complete the project while completing their final exams. They contacted campus and community partners to recruit volunteers and find ways of diverting materials that could not be sold in the Thrift Store. They organized the storage space ahead of time, and made contingency plans for emergencies. They trained, and managed volunteers at six donation locations, and were in nearly constant contact with one another in order to move volunteers to locations where they were most needed.

During the Thrift Store, the students priced and organized our inventory, setting it up to be convenient and easy for customers to find what they needed. They kept track of sales, and made sure the Thrift Store was set up every morning, and closed down every evening. They spent time talking to parents and students about working at the Center for Sustainability, the other programs we run, and ways for students to be involved on campus. They were able to discuss waste diversion programming and the waste reduction goals of the Thrift Shop.

Spotlight: Campus Partnerships

for meaningful student programs



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DENVER

CAMPUS LIFE & INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
Housing & Residential Education

Housing and Residence Education: HRE is a vital partner in creating meaningful and impactful sustainability programs. The Center participates in the Resident Assistant Development Institute (RADI) annually, partner with Resident Assistant (RA) teams on programming every quarter, and rely on coordination with HRE for successful move-out donation drives every Spring.

Facilities Management and Planning: Facilities Management provides essential help with many of the Center's programs, from assisting with the building and maintenance of campus gardens, to recycling and compost operations, to conversions support for our events and other activities across campus. Facilities also remains a leader at DU in advancing our sustainability goals through a variety of energy projects.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & PLANNING

DENVER

DU Athletics: The Center's foundational program doing Zero Waste Athletics relies on a dedicated partnership and coordination with the Athletics Team at DU. Our Waste Team meets bi-annually with leaders in Athletics to discuss goals and strategies for each year of Zero Waste operations in the Ritchie Center, and to imagine ways to grow and expand the program to other sports, events, and operations.

Denver Dining by Sodexo: Sodexo has been a dedicated partner to the Center for Sustainability as we move to a more sustainable campus food system. Coordination with Sodexo is essential for our Weigh the Waste and other food waste reduction programs, while their cooperation in the creation of the DU Sustainable Food Policy is helping to pave the way to more local and sustainable food being served on campus.



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DINING BY SODEXO



Discoveries Orientation: Including sustainability in the Orientation for incoming students is essential for framing the campus sustainability conversation as more than just recycling while targeting ways of living on campus sustainably through mindful consumption, waste diversion, mobility choices, and energy consumption. This kind of work would be impossible without collaboration with Discoveries Orientation.

Custodial Services: Many of our waste programs - from Zero Waste Athletics to Waste Auditing - would be impossible if not for our dedicated partners in Aramark and Custodial Services. Building compost and recycling relies on porters to work with the Center for Sustainability on proper waste sorting, and it is their work that allows us to collect waste for analysis during our audits.



Conference and Events Services: Since events are so central to the Center for Sustainability's education and outreach strategy, our success depends on guidance and help from CES. Together, we are working not only to plan events that help educate the DU community about a more just and sustainable world, but to make sure all events at DU reflect our values of sustainability, equity, and justice.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

CONFERENCE & EVENT SERVICES



Undergraduate Student Government: The Center for Sustainability worked closely with USG in order to provide sustainability training to all senators and to pass important legislation that will reduce waste for all student-led events and show that students continue to be the foundation of all sustainability initiatives at DU. USG is a key partner in working to make sustainability the status quo for student events and activities.

Alumni Engagement: The Center for Sustainability has an active and successful network of alumni who now work in the sustainability field in and around Denver. Alumni Engagement works closely with the Center to keep these alumni engaged with successes that were borne from the hard work they did while they were on campus, and to bring them back to campus to share their experiences with current students.



DU ALUMNI



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PARKING & MOBILITY SERVICES

Parking and Mobility Services: Many of our mobility programs would be impossible without leadership and coordination with Parking and Mobility Services. They have worked closely with the Center to create engaging programs like Bike to Work Day and Way to Go-Tober, as well as a number of creative mobility pilots like the Campus Shuttle and ofo Dockless Bike Share.

Student Outreach and Support: SOS has been an invaluable partner as the Center has worked to make the DU Food Pantry more accessible to the students at DU who need it the most. Together, we have ensured that students are able to receive support from both services when needed, and to make additional resources - such as SNAP, other free meals, and other food pantries - available at both locations.



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CAMPUS LIFE & INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
Student Outreach & Support



Environmental
Sustainability
LIVING & LEARNING
COMMUNITIES

DU Living and Learning Communities: The Environmental Science Living and Learning Community has been a great partner to the Center for many years, with many of our most active students coming from the ESLLC to become interns at the Center. This year, we were able to expand this partnership, with ESLLC students volunteering at many Center events, while we engaged with several of the other LLCs as well.

Newman Center or the Performing Arts: The Newman Center's leadership on waste management has allowed the Center to expand its Zero Waste program outside of the Ritchie Center and reach audiences at concerts and events on the other side of campus. Together, we have reached truly zero waste operations for most concerts in just two short years of the program, and are soon expanding to daily operations as well.



NEWMAN
CENTER



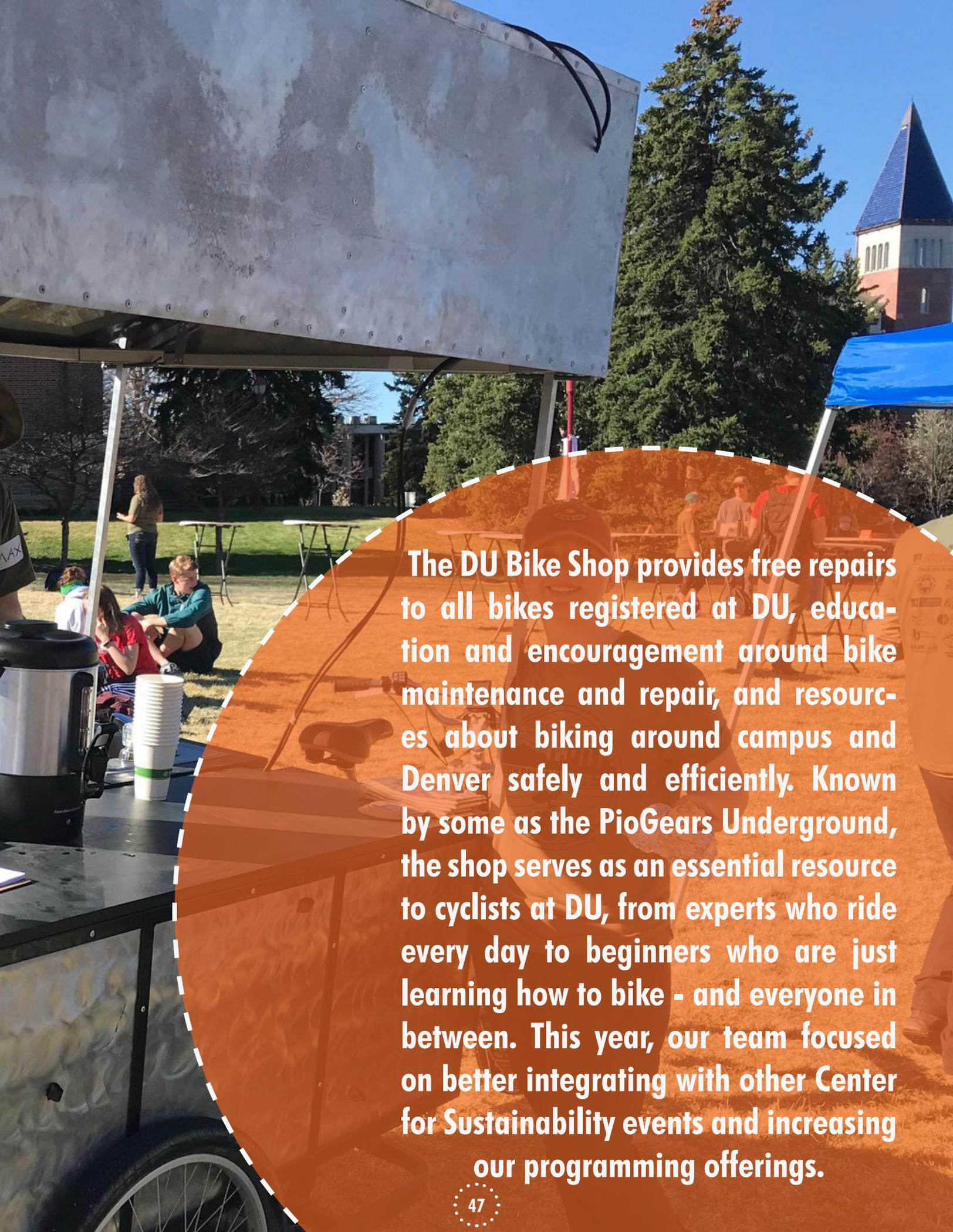
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NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS
Biological Sciences

DU Biology Department: Faculty in the Biology Department have been the key partners for the Bridge Community Garden and the greenhouse where we have moved our seed-starting program. We partner regularly in order to run engaging Garden Work Days, volunteer opportunities, and to teach students and staff alike about the benefits of gardens for food, pollinators, and ecological health.



DU Bike Shop: Keeping People on Two Wheels

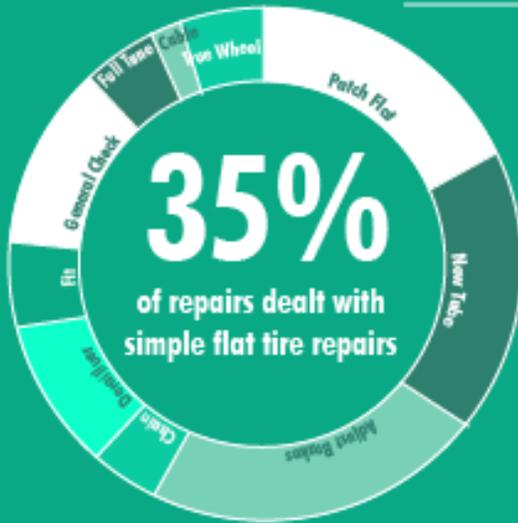


The DU Bike Shop provides free repairs to all bikes registered at DU, education and encouragement around bike maintenance and repair, and resources about biking around campus and Denver safely and efficiently. Known by some as the PioGears Underground, the shop serves as an essential resource to cyclists at DU, from experts who ride every day to beginners who are just learning how to bike - and everyone in between. This year, our team focused on better integrating with other Center for Sustainability events and increasing our programming offerings.

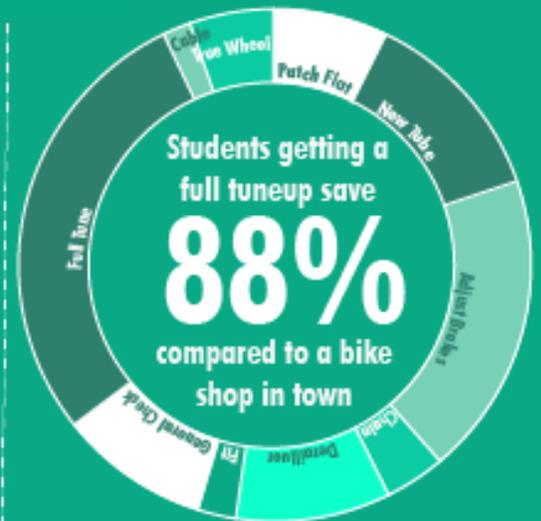


Founded in 2012, the goal of the Bike Shop was to increase access to bikes, repair, and information. This year, for the first time, bike mechanics in the Bike Shop became more fully integrated with the rest of the Center for Sustainability team, which allowed us to offer more frequent and better resourced programming opportunities, including mobile bike shop hours, several fix-a-flat workshops, two bike sales, a bike raffle, and Mobility Munchies - a regular breakfast to reward students, faculty, and staff who take an active mode of transportation to campus. We also partnered with IndigLogix to provide bikes to Native Students at DU.

DU Bike Shop: By the Numbers



Sold 12 bikes to students
 Repaired 112 bikes
 197 total services performed with a total value of over
\$2,600
 with an average turnaround time of only:
2 days



Mechanics at the Bike Shop repaired and donated
15 Bikes
 to the IndigLogix DU, which helped the creation of
IndigLogix Bike Club
 to provide bikes to Native Youth throughout Denver

The DU Bike Shop saved students over
\$2,200
 by only charging for parts, and not labor, an
84%
 total savings for students



The students working in the Bike Shop get essential, real-world experience as they essentially run a business, keep track of inventory, manage budgets and transactions, and provide excellent customer service to the students, faculty, and staff who use our shop.

The Bike Shop offers fairly routine repairs, mostly focusing on repairing or replacing flats, adjusting brakes and derailleurs, and making minor repairs or replacements of other parts. This year, the Bike Shop moved to regularly scheduled hours of operation, rather than being open based on mechanics' availability. This made it easier for students, faculty, and staff to visit the shop and provided the opportunity for non-mechanics on the intern team to work at the shop and learn many of the same business, finance, and operational skills as the mechanics. This year we saw 112 bikes and made nearly 200 repairs on them, a repair value of over \$2,600. Bike Shop users, however, only paid for the parts their repairs required.

In the Fall Quarter, the Bike Shop hosted fix-a-flat workshops and a bike sale during The Event, which successfully sold seven bikes. The Winter Quarter gave us an opportunity to offer mobile bike mechanic services during Winter Bike to Work Day, where we interacted with about 100 people. Spring Quarter, was our busiest time of year. We offered weekly outdoor bike repairs with our mobile bike shop, and a full month of programming through May, which included weekly bike maintenance workshops, another bike sale, and a raffle for one our remaining bikes.

This year, we partnered with IndigLogix to provide 15 refurbished bikes to Native Students working in the STEM fields at DU. The mechanics were able to learn from the students who received the bikes about the Native experience at DU and how the bikes would increase their quality of life at DU. This project sparked more work around bikes for IndigLogix, who received funding from the USG Sustainability Committee to start a bike club for Native high schoolers in Denver.



Personal & Professional Development at the DU Bike Shop



Budget and Finance: Our students manage all aspects of intaking orders, tracking transactions, and ensuring proper payment for services. Additionally, students submit grant proposals to fund events and projects.



Project Management: The students in the Bike Shop are fully in charge of inventory, services, and scheduling, ensuring that the shop is staffed and operational during all open hours.



Leadership Development: The Bike Shop manager leads a weekly meeting with shop mechanics, and provides updates to the rest of the Center staff about what is going on in the Bike Shop every week.



Passion to Purpose: Students come to the bike shop with a passion for bikes, and leave with a tangible set of skills that will allow them to get hired in the bike industry.

Alumni Spotlight: Nic Rorres

Coming into his senior year at DU, Nic Rorres knew he wanted to be more involved on campus. He was a passionate cyclist, and when he found the DU Bike Shop, he knew this was how he was going to make an impact on campus.

Nic worked to repair students' bikes and helped to set up a record keeping and inventory system for the Shop so as to collect better data about the repairs being done and so that work in the shop could go more smoothly. Nic quickly found himself involved with other bike projects, and was part of the team who initially put together the solar-powered Coffee Bike.

"These projects contributed directly to where I am today, as I've stayed in the transportation industry and worked in maintenance ever since." When Nic graduated in 2017 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he was able to take the skills he'd learned at the bike shop and get a job with RTD as a Light Rail mechanic. Nic now works as an engineer with RTD focusing on modifications and improvements on the electric buses on the 16th Street Mall.



Partner Spotlight: DU Ski Bus and Alpine Club

The ski bus is meant to help get students off campus and into the mountains to go skiing or snowboarding. The Center for Sustainability partners with Alpine Club who organizes and runs the trips. Alpine Club also offers discounted Ikon and Epic passes to DU students, which makes it easier and more affordable for many students to attend these trips. The Ski Bus not only allows students to go skiing without needing to have a car on campus, but also reduces the total number of cars being used to get into the mountains and offers a safe commute for students.

The bus costs \$10 for Alpine Club members and \$15 for non-members and comes with a burrito to eat on the drive up. The Ski Bus is an affordable and sustainable way for students to get out into the outdoors and reduce their personal carbon footprints.



Ski Bus: By the Numbers

Bus #	Destination	Riders
1	Vail	56
2	Winter Park	15
3	Copper Mtn	13
4	Beaver Crk	56
5	Keystone	51
6	Winter Park	Cancelled
7	Keystone	41
8	Vail	Cancelled
9	Vail	36
10	A Basin	25
11	Breckenridge	Cancelled



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

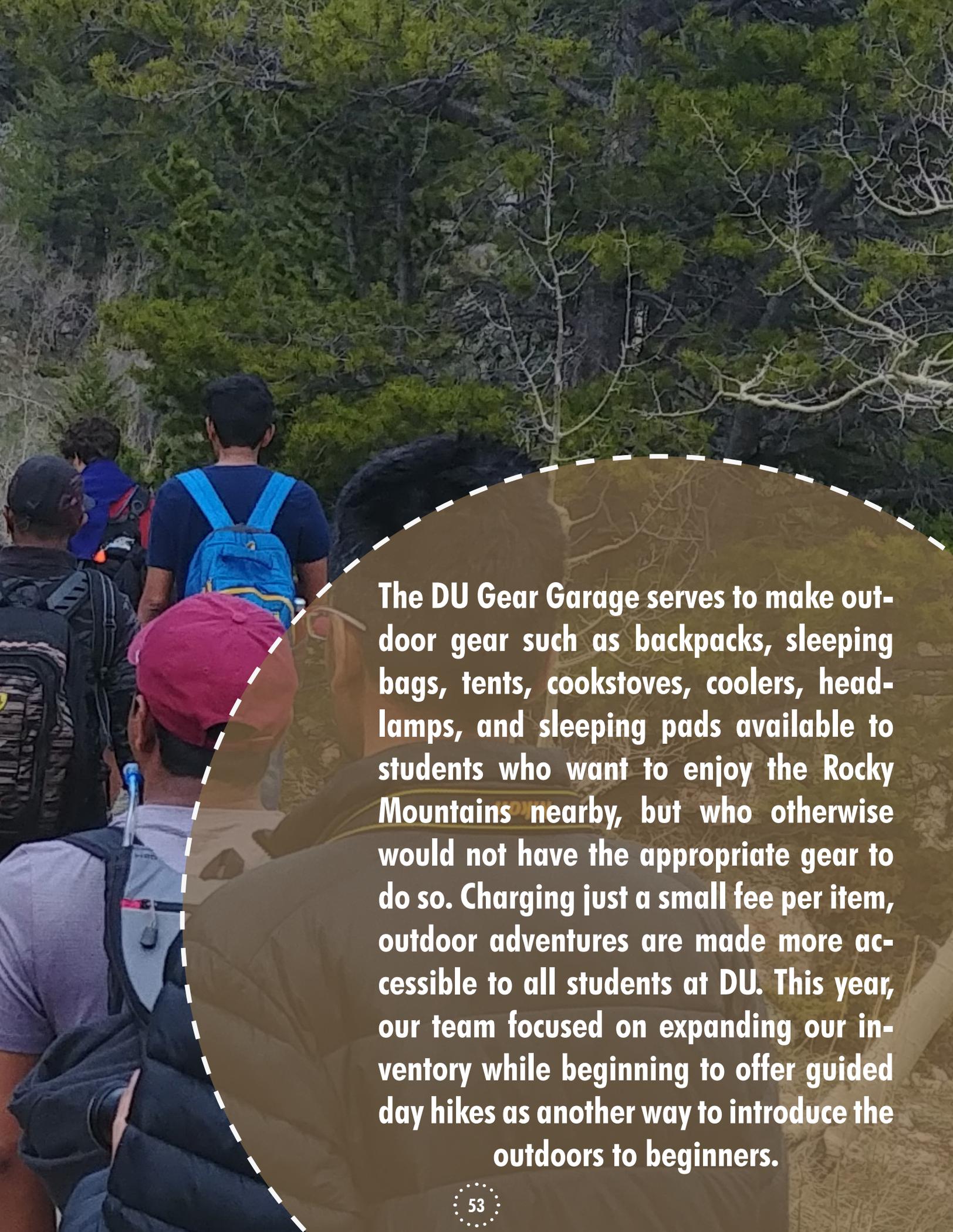
Some of our mechanics were able to go above and beyond to complete a series of side projects that provide new and innovative ways to bike around campus and reduce the carbon footprint for other Center for Sustainability programs.

The Center has long made use of a cargo bike to carry heavy and bulky items around campus. However, the bike was in poor repair, and had gone unused for much of the school year. However, one of our mechanics took the lead to develop a plan and budget, prepare a grant proposal, and manage the process to repair the cargo bike and outfit it with an electric assist. Additionally, our student mechanic took it upon himself to tackle repairing our Coffee Bike, a high-visibility event bike outfitted with a solar panel that powers a coffee maker. However, the components had worn out, leaving the bike stranded. Our student researched the best approaches to fixing the bike, and again applied for funding to get the bike back in operational order.

Students at the Bike Shop learn to be independent and to self-start projects they are passionate about. They run all parts of the Shop business, giving them real-world experiences around inventory management, budget development and management, financial transactions, data management, and team management. With the autonomy to run the shop as they see fit, the students are able to try new things, expand their skill-sets, and leave DU with a full toolbox of experiences to draw on in their careers.



DU Gear Garage: Making the Outdoors Accessible to All



The DU Gear Garage serves to make outdoor gear such as backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, cookstoves, coolers, headlamps, and sleeping pads available to students who want to enjoy the Rocky Mountains nearby, but who otherwise would not have the appropriate gear to do so. Charging just a small fee per item, outdoor adventures are made more accessible to all students at DU. This year, our team focused on expanding our inventory while beginning to offer guided day hikes as another way to introduce the outdoors to beginners.

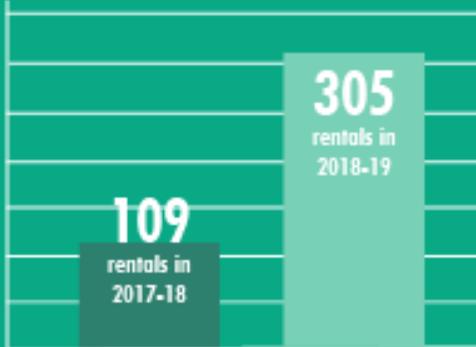


Research suggests that access to the outdoors leads to pro-environmental behaviors in other parts of people's lives, and that creating the opportunity for all to enjoy the Rocky Mountains is important to creating a more just and equitable community at DU. This year, we saw rentals in the Gear Garage triple as compared to last year, we were able to expand our inventory to include more first aid kits and backpacks, and we piloted our first guided hikes for beginners. Interns worked to strengthen partnerships with outdoor organizations like DU Backpacking Club and others and increased marketing efforts to grow awareness of the Gear Garage.

DU Gear Garage: By the Numbers

We saw our annual rentals increase

→→→ **300%** ←←←
over last year's rental numbers

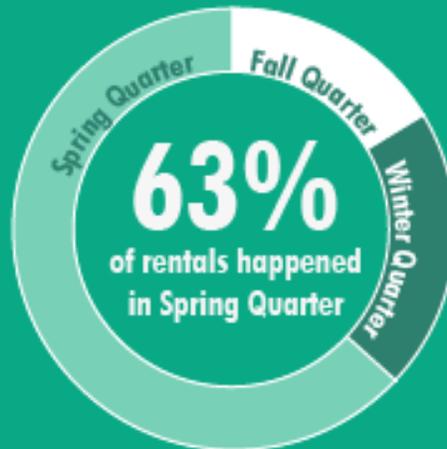


Our biggest increase came from Winter Quarter snowshoe rentals



305 Gear Rentals

2 Guided Day Hikes for 15 Students
and supporting DU Backpacking Club on
10 Weekend Trips



The Gear Garage secured a grant from the USG Sustainability Committee for

\$3,500

which allowed us to purchase
10 new backpacks
5 first aid kits
and covered costs for our day hikes

We were able to support trips for

→→→ **4** ←←←

campus partners including:
DU Backpacking Club
DU Climbing Club
Environmental Science LLC
CCESL

The 2017-18 academic year saw 109 rentals at the Gear Garage; this year we saw 305. A third of these rentals were for organizations such as DU Backpacking Club, the Center for Community Engagement to promote Scholarship and Learning, the Environmental Science Living and Learning Community, and others. The other two thirds were from individual students. We saw a dramatic increase in snowshoe

rentals this Winter, maxing out our rental fleet on several weekends.

We secured a \$3500 grant this year to help us purchase new and replacement gear. In total we purchased 10 backpacks, 5 first aid kits, and covered the logistics cost for our day hiking program.

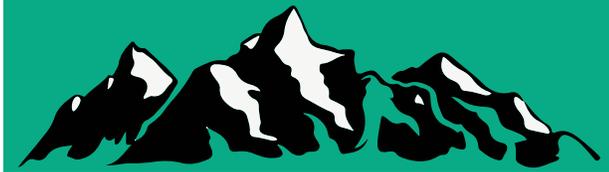


Intro Day Hikes **FREE!**

Want to get out of Denver and into the mountains? Jump on one of our free beginner day hikes to an apline lake this spring!



For registration/questions email:
geargaragedu@gmail.com.



GEAR GARAGE

DU Center for Sustainability



Personal & Professional Development at the DU Gear Garage



Cultural Engagement: Our Gear Garage team leads guided hikes for beginners, with a particular focus on international students. This gives our students a great opportunity to work with international populations and exchange cultural understandings of nature.



Project Management: Our students must manage weekly reservations, gear check-out, gear check-in, transactions, and an extensive inventory.



Financial Literacy: The team puts together grant proposals in order to get funding for guided hikes, additional gear, and gear repair/replacement. Additionally, students must manage the rental fees responsibly.



Community Engagement: The Gear Garage has cultivated partnerships with a number of student groups to support their activities and events, engaging with a diverse group.

Student Spotlight: Mat Stewart

Mat Stewart is a second-year PhD student at the Graduate School of Professional Psychology. He joined the Center for Sustainability in 2017 to take over management of the Gear Garage as a Graduate Fellow.

Before taking over the program, Mat worked for nearly a decade as an Outward Bound and wilderness therapy instructor for organizations across the Western United States. During this time, Mat says he "found a great appreciation for the impact our environment makes on our mental and physical well-being."

Mat decided to take this passion back to school, earning a master's degree in Psychology at American University. He published his master's research on the benefits of exposure to nature on mood and well-being. And now, Mat is continuing his research on the connections between mental health and access to the outdoors as part of his doctoral research here at DU.

"Our work at the Center for Sustainability helps me continue to give back to others, and further my research into the benefits of our natural environment. By teaching and reaching those who wish to venture out into the wilderness, we can help foster more sustainable attitudes within the DU community. We are also able to continue advancing our understanding of the environment's impact on our mental well-being, which is what I'm focusing part of my doctoral research on."

Mat provides surveys to students who rent gear from the Gear Garage and those who participate in guided hikes around their experiences, well-being, and attitudes about sustainability. He is excited that his work at the Center for Sustainability is able to contribute to research around the connection between exposure to nature and lowered stress, increased mood and cognitive functioning, and better physical health. "Not only do these findings help me achieve my academic goals, but they will help contribute to the greater health of our community."



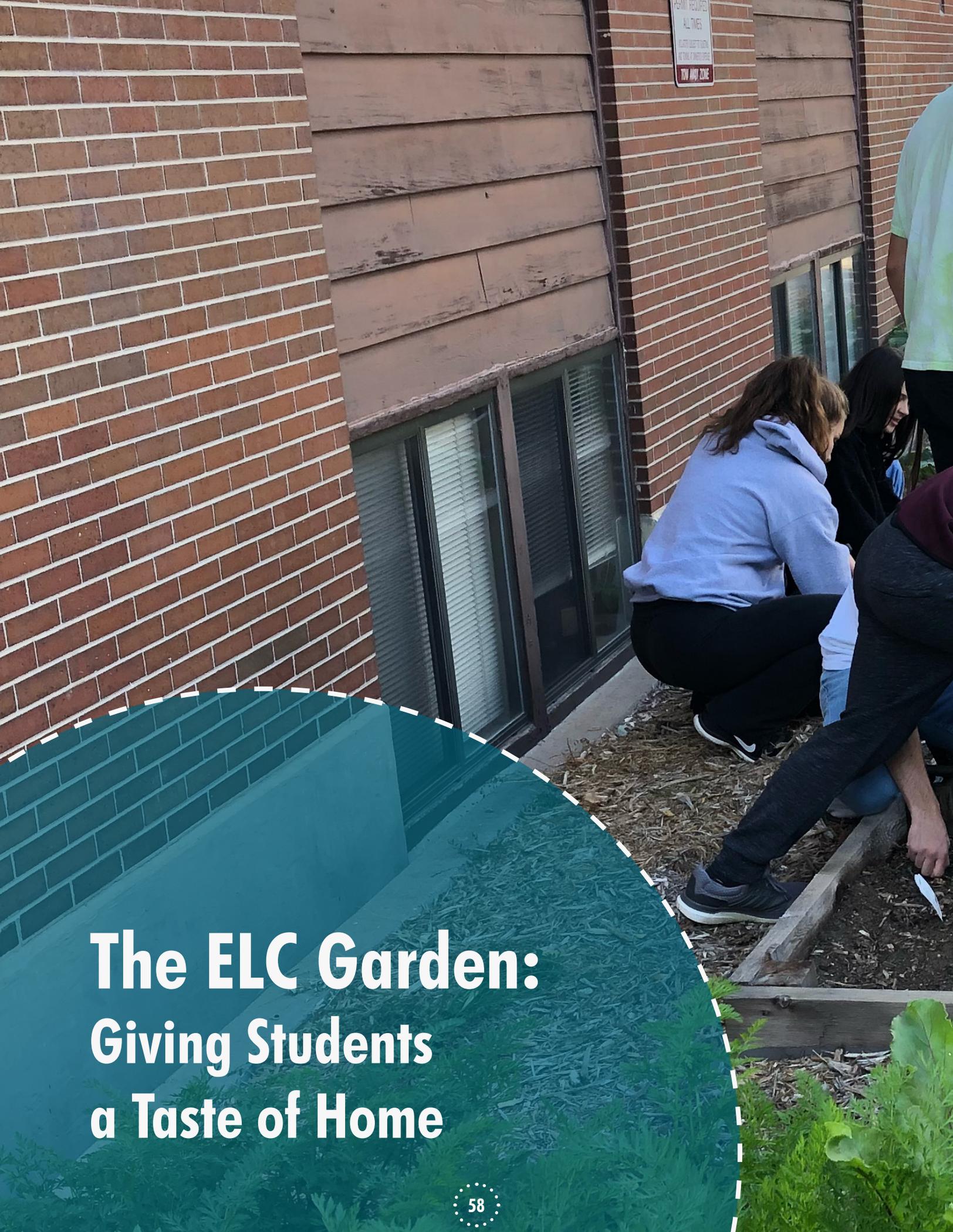


DAY HIKING PROGRAM

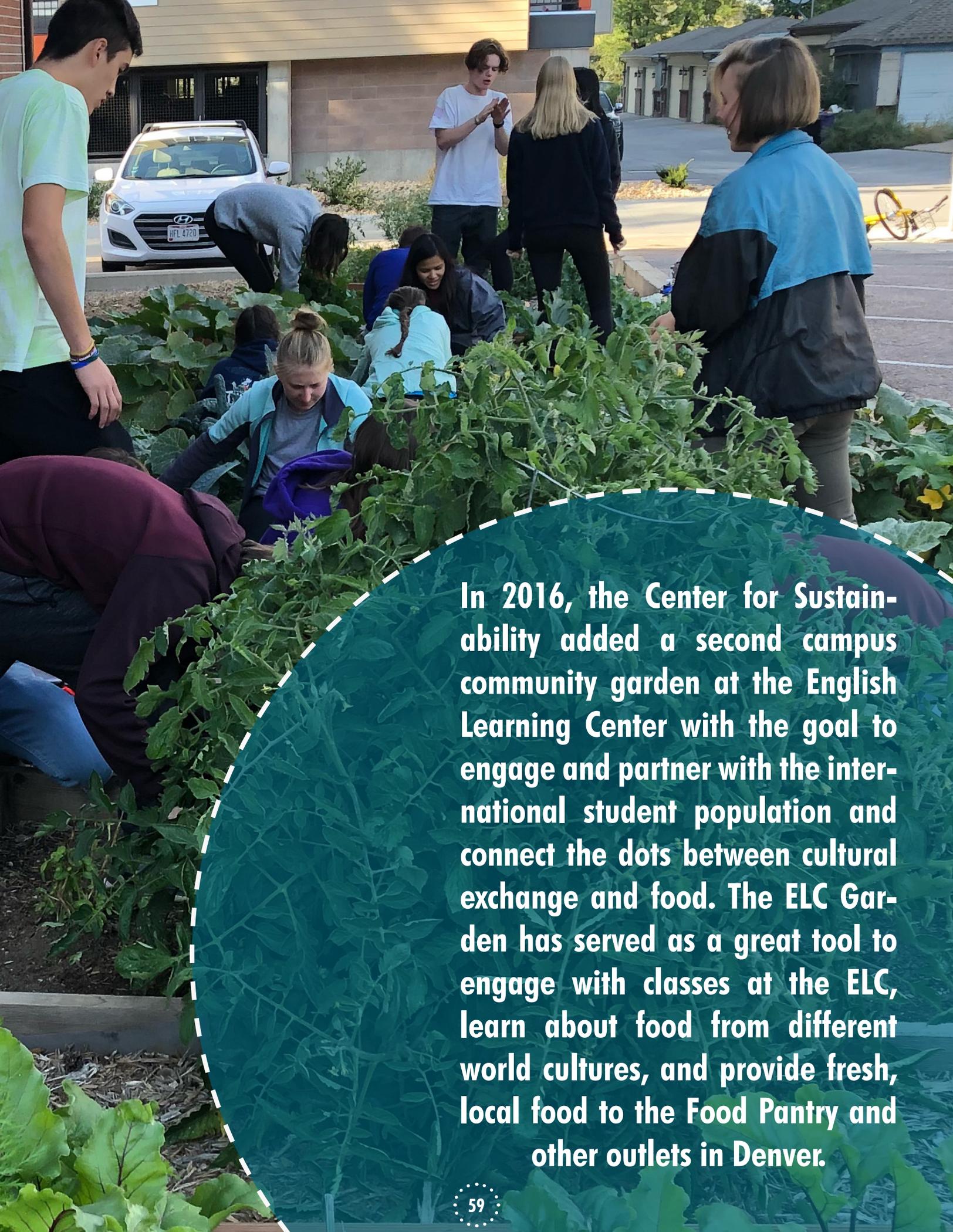
Several organizations at DU plan outdoor trips for students of varying levels. However, none of these programs cater to students who have never been hiking at all. Seeing this as a missed opportunity, we piloted guided day hikes for beginners this year.

In the Winter Quarter, our Graduate Fellow took a group of PhD students on a guided day hike to pilot the route, logistics, and planning. After a successful outing, we planned for two additional guided trips for the Spring Quarter, this time open to all students. We filled our registration for both trips, with several people on the waiting lists. We were able to offer transportation, snacks, and gear free of charge to all eight of the students who participated.

The students who came on the trip were largely from the International Student community, which is a group that often comes to DU with less experience with outdoor gear and alpine hiking. We partnered with the International House to cater to this population at DU, and provide a positive learning and bonding experience for them, as well as provide opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and shared experiences.



The ELC Garden: Giving Students a Taste of Home



In 2016, the Center for Sustainability added a second campus community garden at the English Learning Center with the goal to engage and partner with the international student population and connect the dots between cultural exchange and food. The ELC Garden has served as a great tool to engage with classes at the ELC, learn about food from different world cultures, and provide fresh, local food to the Food Pantry and other outlets in Denver.



The Bridge Community Garden has been a staple to local food advocates at DU for many years. In 2017, the Center for Sustainability received approval to build a second garden outside of the English Learning Center (ELC) located at Asbury Ave and Josephine Street. The ELC Garden was founded with the intention of engaging with our International Student population, to use as a tool for investigating regional vegetables and world cultures through the lens of food, and to give students a place to grow and eat some of the things they may have had available to them in their home countries. This year marks the first full growing season for the ELC Garden.

DU Gardens: By the Numbers

Garden programs engaged

7

Campus partners and

15

Community partners

Thanks to a partnership with the Biology Department greenhouse, the team started

179 garden starts

for the English Learning Center Garden on campus.



The Food and Gardens team hosted:

2 workdays

in the Bridge Community Garden and

2 workdays

in the English learning Center Garden, which, all together engaged

90

volunteers from the DU Campus

Spring plant sale sold

50 plants
and brought in
\$81

in donations to support garden projects

The Ela Family Farms CSA had

14

staff and student members while the GrowHaus box orders had a weekly average of

13

weekly food box pickups

The ELC Garden is cultivating

more than 23

different vegetables, herbs, and flowers including: kale, tomatoes, dill, basil, thyme, morning glory, brussels sprouts, echinacea, sunflowers and many more.

The Bridge Community Garden has been a staple to local food advocates at DU for many years. In 2017, the Center for Sustainability received approval to build a second garden outside of the English Learning Center (ELC) located at Asbury Ave and Josephine Street. The ELC Garden was founded with the intention of engaging with our International Student population, to use as a tool for investigating regional vegetables and world cultures through the lens of food, and to give students a place to grow and eat some of the things they may have had available to them in their home countries. This year marks the first full growing season for the ELC Garden.

Because of its small size, the ELC Garden functions well as a place to experiment with different cultivars, programming ideas, and service projects. Eight raised garden beds were completed in the summer of 2018, and some herbs and vegetables were grown at the end of the season last summer - the bulk of which were donated to either the DU

Food Pantry as a fresh food pilot or to SAME Cafe, a pay-what-you-can restaurant that seeks to make healthy and delicious food available to all.

In Winter 2019, we partnered with the DU Biology Department to gain access to and use of the greenhouse at Olin Hall for seed starting. The seeds were decided based on what could be started indoors, and whether they would do well in Colorado's climate once planted in the ground. Seeds chosen include four varieties of tomato, Brussels sprouts, kale, peppers, dill, basil, thyme, echinacea, and morning glory, and others - a total of 23 different cultivars. At the end of Winter Quarter, these seed starts were transplanted into the garden.

With the leftover seed starts, we hosted a plant sale, which sold 50 plants and earned \$81 in donations to go back into our gardens program.





Alumni Spotlight: Eva Horna-Lowell

Eva found her way to the Center for Sustainability as a way to explore her interest in gardening and local food. She served as the undergraduate student lead for the Food and Gardens team. Eva took the lead planning Farmer's Markets and Maker's Markets for the Center. Eva also worked closely with partners at Sodexo to experiment with sourcing herbs for the dining halls from the Bridge Community Garden.

"Working at the Center for Sustainability taught me how to create and maintain collaborative projects and relationships, and I learned how to effectively communicate with a variety of stakeholders," says Eva. "Overall, I learned the type of coordination, planning, and outreach that is essential to create meaningful and effective partnerships."

Eva graduated with a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) in 2017, and decided to stay for another two years for a master's in science program in EEB. Her research interests focused on honey bee foraging behavior. Eva was able to tie her experiences at the Center for Sustainability and work she did in the Bridge Community Garden to her research when she chose the Community Garden as her research site.

Eva will continue on to a PhD program at UCLA in fall 2019. She will take her experiences collaboration and planning with her as she studies ant behaviors related to nest architecture. "Most importantly, my time at the Center for Sustainability taught me communicative and collaborative skills that I am able to use throughout my graduate education."



Personal & Professional Development at the ELC Garden



Cultural Engagement: The ELC Garden was created as a space for the international community at DU to connect with others over cultural traditions centered around food. Our students collaborate with ELC students around foods from their native countries.



Project Management: Students must put together a plan for planting, manage the seed starts, organize work day volunteers, and ensure the Garden is maintained.



Community Engagement: The garden has provided opportunity to engage with a wide variety of campus and community partners, from ELC and LLC classes, volunteers on Earth Day, the DU Food Pantry, and SAME Cafe to plant, harvest, and eat fresh food.



Social Awareness: Our partnerships give our students a unique view of the larger food systems in Denver and the people affected.



ELC CLASS WORKDAY

We connected with one of the classes at the ELC and planned to do a joint project at the ELC Garden to foster community and curriculum between the ELC and the Center for Sustainability.

Prior to the garden work day, three student interns presented to the ELC class to prepare them for the upcoming work day and educate the students of the purpose of gardens at DU and to discuss food insecurity and the DU Food Pantry.

To prepare for the work day, the garden team created a plan for each of the eight garden beds, with a list of which and how many plants or seeds were to go in each bed. The students researched the best combinations and locations for the plants they'd started, and prepared a lesson for the ELC class to discuss the vegetables and herbs they were planting based on their home country uses.

The 20 students from the ELC class spent the afternoon weeding, turning, and planting the eight garden beds. The project was capped off by casual discussions around cultural connections to food and by creating signposts in various languages to identify the plants. Overall, the day was a perfect opportunity for students to engage in cross-cultural exchange, learn from one another, and create a space that feels special to the students who attend classes at the ELC every day.



Building Waste Audits: Paving the Road to Campus- Wide Zero Waste

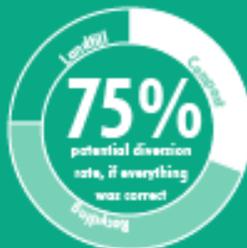


Improving the waste management practices at DU requires an accurate assessment of the waste stream and infrastructure we currently have on campus. To this end, the Center for Sustainability conducts regular building waste audits to get a close look at waste streams coming from various buildings, offer recommendations, and provide education around improving waste diversion. This year, we also focused on mapping existing waste bins in buildings in order to provide even better recommendations around improving waste management in buildings across DU.



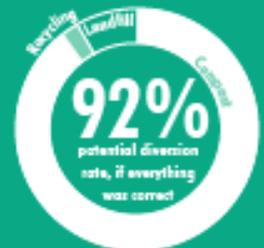
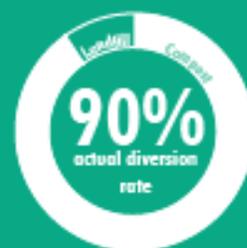
In the 2018-2019 school year, The Center for Sustainability was contacted by 14 different units for help adding composting services to their buildings. The high volume of requests led us to partner with Custodial Services and Facilities Planning and Management to develop a process for adding composting services to buildings in a smooth and organized way. On top of this, the Center does regular waste audits to check on the progress of buildings who have already started composting services in order to provide better recommendations and education going forward. This year, we completed three bin maps and ten waste audits across campus.

Building Waste Audits: By the Numbers



Anderson Academic Commons

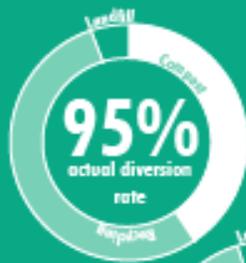
Completed 4 Bin Maps
Completed 9 Waste Audits
Received requests from 14 units on campus to provide compost and improved recycling infrastructure.



Nelson Hall Dining Facility



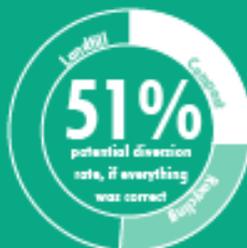
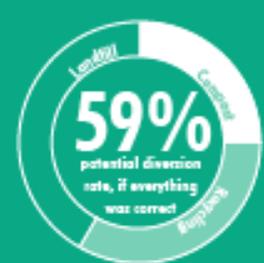
Fisher Early Learning Center



Centennial Halls Dining Facility



Sturm Hall



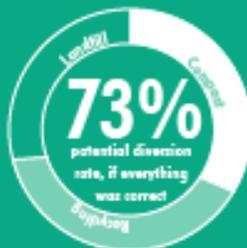
Katherine Ruffatto Hall



Daniels College of Business



Craig Hall



Sturm College of Law

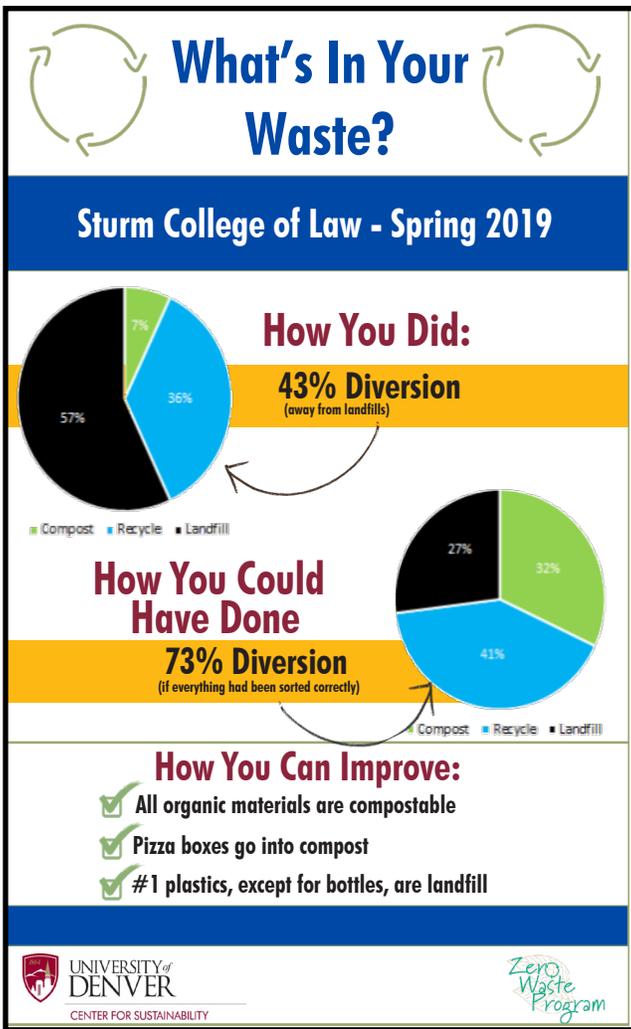
Bin Maps were completed for:
Sturm College of Law
Daniels College of Business
Craig Hall
Katherine Ruffatto Hall

BIN MAPPING

Often, the biggest barrier to proper recycling and composting in buildings is simply a lack of well-placed waste bins. To encourage more and more correct waste diversion practices, the first step our team typically takes when we get a request for composting services is to produce a Bin Map, which maps existing waste bins in the building and offers recommendations for moving existing bins or purchasing additional bins. This report includes an overview of what we observed, specific recommendations for moving

or purchasing bins, a budget for upgraded bins, and general recommendations that tend to improve recycling and composting in buildings.

This year, the waste team completed four bin maps: Ruffatto Hall, Sturm College of Law, Daniels College of Business, and Craig Hall. Each of these buildings is now moving forward with their own set of recommendations for adding recycling and composting bins throughout.



sample waste audit report

Personal & Professional Development in Waste Auditing

Project Management: Our Waste Team must manage an extensive process to bring new buildings on with composting services, and must produce several reports with budgets, recommendations, and conclusions.

Community Engagement: We work with a huge number of campus partners to discuss waste management best practices, plan Bin Mapping exercises, plus partner closely with Custodial Services to arrange waste audits.

Passion to Purpose: Our waste students join the team because they love recycling and waste reduction. Waste Audits teach them essential skills in data management, reporting, collaboration, and education.

Leadership Development: Our students are the subject matter experts on waste best practices, and must be able to communicate this confidently to staff and faculty as peers.

Alumni Spotlight: Mellick Gorton



Like many interns, Mellick got connected to the Center for Sustainability through the Environmental Science Living and Learning Community. He spent all four of his years at DU working with the waste team, working to help expand the Zero Waste Hockey program into other sports. He also managed solid waste at events, conducted waste audits all over campus, and revamped the move out process for student housing.

“The longer I worked for the Center for Sustainability, the more it became clear to me that zero waste practices are both necessary and tangible to mitigate human impact on the planet. Doing this work leaves me hopeful that it can be done in an equitable manner,” Mellick says. “I also learned about the challenges of this industry, the nuances of solid waste, and our addiction to consumption and disposal. I learned that this field of work is just a massive social experiment, working to crack the code on human behavior. And most importantly, I’ve learned that data will always be your best friend.”

Mellick graduated with his degree in Environmental Science in Winter 2018, and this year he joined Center for Sustainability alumna Megan Lane and DU alumni Jess Lally and Taye Dunklee at Denver Recycles, part of the City and County of Denver. He currently serves as the Education Assistant, supporting the programs and solid waste operations that are in place within the city to ensure residents and city employees compost and recycle more, and correctly.

Mellick spends his days designing education materials about recycling and composting for Denver residents, and doing engagement and outreach around waste management in every corner of the city. “The skills, experiences and connections I gained through my experience at the Center for Sustainability is the leading reason why I am doing work that I feel passionate about today.”



WASTE AUDITS

After the team completes a Bin Map of the building, the second step to achieving better waste diversion numbers is for the building to undergo a Waste Audit. A Waste Audit consists of our waste team sorting through all of the waste generated by a building over 24 hours. Afterwards, the team writes up another report to offer recommendations and advice on more accurate recycling and composting practices.

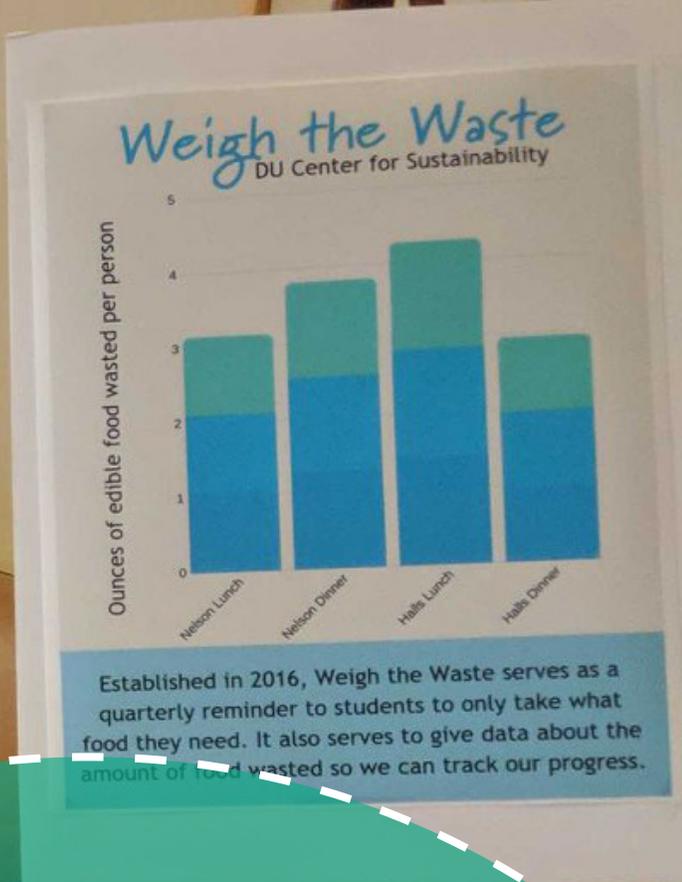
Our team completed nine waste audits this year: Anderson Academic Commons, Sturm Hall, Sturm College of Law, Daniels College of Business, Fisher Early Learning Center, Ruffatto Hall, Nelson Hall Dining, Centennial Halls Dining, and Craig Hall. Some of these were annual check-ups to see how well-established waste diversion programs are going, such as in AAC and the Dining Halls, while the others were to get a baseline of waste diversion practices on which to build going forward.

We are thrilled at the number of buildings that have requested to undergo this process with our office, as this marks a distinct desire across many buildings and departments at DU to see less waste end up in landfills. While we can provide education, waste bins, and signage, the key to seeing real progress is this desire from individuals and entire departments to succeed with waste diversion. The support and enthusiasm we are seeing around campus shows that we are well on our way to reaching our goal to be a zero waste campus by 2035.

Engagement and Outreach



Reduce Food Waste
Large Scale
Overproduction
Food
Hungry
Goals
and
Energy



Peer-to-Peer Education to Drive Learning and Collaboration



The other key component to the Sustainability Internship is to get students out in the DU and larger Denver Community talking to their peers and neighbors about the work they are doing and their passions for a just and sustainable future. While program management provides many critical skills in leadership and professional development, event planning and meaningful engagement brings another dimension to this work: the students become educators and leaders in their communities, build confidence to talk about their work with others, and create opportunities to make tangible change in and with others at DU and in Denver.




Swap and Shop
AAC 290 - 9:00am-3:30pm

Local Food Lunch and Learn
Panel with Local Food Experts
FOOD PROVIDED from Vital Root
AAC 301 - 12:00pm-1:30pm

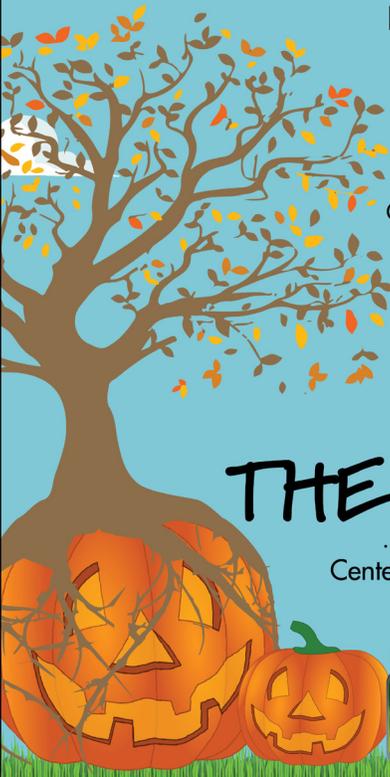
Pumpkin Carving
Carnegie Green - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Pickling Workshop
AAC 301 - 3:00pm-4:30pm

Pub Trivia
AAC 290 - 7:00pm-9:00pm
AND MUCH MORE!

THE EVENT
...brought to you by the
Center for Sustainability

OCTOBER 30



In partnership with Hillel, DU After Dark, HRE, SSF and the HCC



SERVE | CELEBRATE | DU



EARTH DAY OF DU-ING 2019
FRIDAY | APRIL 19, 2019 | 9AM-2PM



Make a difference this Earth Day! Volunteer with one of 15 campus and community projects to make DU and Denver a more just and sustainable place to live.

Kickoff Breakfast: 9AM Carnegie Green | Volunteer Projects: 10AM-2PM, all around Denver
After Party: 3PM-6PM Kaos Pizzeria

REGISTER HERE BY APRIL 16: <http://tinyurl.com/dayofduing2019>

HOSTED BY: UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, MetroDNA METRO DENVER NATURE ALLIANCE, SUSCOM, Sprout City Farm

Thanks to our Partners: DESTINATION COLLECTION, SAME Cafe So All May Eat, GRID ALTERNATIVES, DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WESTWOOD UNIDOS, FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK, JOVIAL CONCEPTS, DENVER THE MILE HIGH CITY, RE:VISION, WOOD OR BUTTE BROS. WOOD OR BUTTE BROS. WOOD OR BUTTE BROS.

Event planning and other engagement strategies allow students to create relationships with campus and community partners, and navigate both the challenges and great rewards that collaboration can bring to a project. They learn how to compromise with those partners, clearly communicate their vision and goals, and lay out a plan of action for others to follow. Working with professional partners gives students the chance to apply the lessons they learned doing group projects in classes and with their teams at the Center to higher stakes and more tangible outcomes. The relationships our students forge with partners during events and presentations have led to internships and careers during summers and post-college.

truly meaningful for participants. This gives an added layer of learning and reflection to their work and gives students a more tangible meaning for the word "success."

Additionally, as students prepare for events and presentations, they have the opportunity to reflect on the work they have done, the passion that drove them to this work, and a way to share that passion with others. In setting goals around their events, they think critically about the real impacts they are working towards, creative ways to collect and crunch data, and the elements that make an experience

The following chapters outline the events and presentations the student interns put together and participated in this year, along with some of the key learning outcomes from these experiences. Paired with the program management experiences interns get at the Center, these face-to-face engagement opportunities create experiences that lead to lasting lessons.



Center Events: Engaging DU Through Learning and Collaboration



We see events as a critical part of the education and engagement Mission of the Center for Sustainability. Events range in size and type from just a handful of students participating in a workshop about starting seeds for your garden to hundreds of people volunteering in the community for Earth Day. We strive to deliver events that are not only fun and informative for our attendees, but which will leave them with real impacts and tools to use long after the event has ended.



Events serve as one of our primary tools for engaging with and educating the DU Community about sustainability best practices. These immersive experiences show how quality of life is improved by adopting a more sustainable lifestyle. Interns planned and executed more than 30 events, including a Lunch and Learn with recycling and compost partners in the City, a film screening of “Eating Animals” with a panel discussion of experts, a discussion about mobility options at DU with the Denver Regional Council of Governments, experiential opportunities like Candle Light Yoga, the DU Makers Market, and our Garden Work Days. These events cater to the intersection of sustainability topics with the diverse interests across campus.

Center for Sustainability Events: By the Numbers

The Event, Fall Edition:

10 events
11 partners
271 participants

The Event, Winter Edition:

5 events
18 partners
312 participants

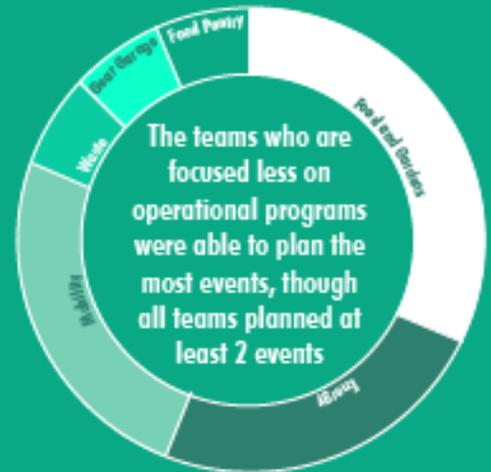
Day of DU-ing, Spring Quarter:

16 projects
13 partners
230 participants

Center for Sustainability student interns planned a total of

32 events during the year, which engaged more than

4,500 students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the DU community.



While the winter quarter event drew the largest number of participants, we consider the outcomes of the spring quarter Day of DU-ing to be most impactful due to engagement with the larger Denver Community.

The events we create are intentional and purposeful. Planning for these events focuses on outcomes and impact, seeking measurable behavior change. Once the students know what it is they are trying to change and why, they are better able to develop an event that is impactful and which creates meaningful change. This critical thinking process of starting with why and focusing on impacts and opportunities, translates directly to academics and careers.

This year, a challenge to the students was to consider ways to assess the impacts and outcomes from their work. This led several student teams to create surveys and learning assessments for attendees.. The Energy Team used this tactic as the basis for their annual Energy Challenge, DU It In The Dark. Students were encouraged to fill out an assessment of their energy efficiency knowledge before the challenge began, while committing to one or two specific behavior changes they would take on for the month of the challenge. At the end of the month, participants filled out another survey that assessed whether they'd learned something about their personal energy use and whether they had stuck to the behavior change they'd pledge to do.

THE EVENT

Interns planned and ran 32 total events during the year. To reduce over-programming we opted to condense many of

our events into a single day every quarter, known as The Event.

The Event in Fall Quarter included a pickling workshop in partnership with Hillel, a pumpkin carving activity in partnership with the RA staff in Nagel, Nelson and Hill-top, a workshop on pumpkin pancakes using the "guts" leftover from pumpkin carving, a recycling education game, a garden workday, a community dinner for the Food Pantry, mobile bike repairs, a bike sale, and a Swap and Shop thrift store in partnership with Health Promotion in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In Winter Quarter, The Event focused on fewer events with higher impact. The DU Makers Market returned to a food-focused event in its fourth year, with 10 community partners showcasing local and sustainable products. The Recycling Lunch and Learn workshop reached full capacity, and the event concluded with a film screening of "Eating Animals" with a panel of campus and community partners proved to be popular.

Spring Quarter events focused on the Earth Day of DU-ing. This involved 230 people from DU and beyond, and is described in detail in the following chapter.

Program Summary: DU It In the Dark



The Energy Challenge 2018 began a new way of thinking in which we offered an opportunity to each individual to participate in the Energy Challenge rather than create a competition between residence halls. This was intended to create an atmosphere of individual participation and encourage people to participate without the pressure of having the entire residence hall on board.

The 2019 Energy Challenge continued the individual approach, but interns this year implemented a pre- and post-survey that allowed us to better understand the impact our programs had on participants around behavior change and learning. As an incentive to complete both surveys, students received a branded coffee mug when the second survey was completed. Students were also entered into a raffle for the grand prize basket at the end of the month.

A total of 98 students completed the first survey, while 54 also completed the post-event survey, about a 55% completion rate. The students found an increase in participants' confidence around energy-saving behaviors and knowledge about behaviors that save energy.

We hosted five events during the Energy Challenge month: A social media campaign that urged students to send us selfies with

them engaged in sustainable behaviors, a build-your-own-terrarium event, candle-lit yoga, make your own tea, and Open Mic Night. All of these events were designed to bring students together to engage in low-energy intensity activities that also taught them about energy-saving behaviors. In total, we engaged 160 students during the month, a significant increase from last year.



Personal & Professional Development in Event Planning



Self-Awareness: Our Event Planners often report that they found their true passion when they realized that Event Planning was a skill-set and career opportunity that they could grow into and explore at the Center.



Project Management: Event Planning, more than nearly any other project, requires our students to be organized, detail oriented, and collaborative as they manage all parts of bringing events from plan to fruition.



Budget & Finance: Planning events requires students to put together a complete budget, submit grant proposals, and manage their given budget as they navigate purchases, contracts, receipts, and final reporting.



Community Engagement: Our events rely on dozens of community and campus partners to be successful. Events allow our students to know a wider community in DU and Denver.

Program Summary: Go-Tober

Way-to-Go-Tober is an annual event hosted by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) meant to encourage commuters to pledge at least one car-free commute every week for the month of October. Participants are able to log their commutes, find groups to commute with either by bike or carpool, and win prizes based on their commitments to getting to work without a car.

This year, the University of Denver opened Go-Tober participation to all people in the DU community, including students. This allowed for a more robust participation and for a wider audience for our education campaigns around the Event.

We held weekly Mobility Munchies events that rewarded car-free commutes with breakfast on the Carnegie Green. In total, nearly 500 people at DU registered for Go-Tober, with about 25 people visiting our Mobility Munchies breakfasts every week.





THEMED MONTHS

Interns also planned events around several themed months throughout the year. This included the annual Way-to-Go-Tober, with mobility programming and encouragement sponsored by DRCOG. DU It In The Dark, the annual energy challenge occurred in February. Nearly 500 people participated in Go-Tober, and around 300 people came to the various energy challenge events.

BUDGETING AND GRANT WRITING

Most events are funded through the USG Sustainability Committee, which reviews student proposals and disburses funds for sustainability related campus activities. This provides an additional training and professional development opportunity focused on budgeting and grant writing. This grant proposal requires students to identify goals, measurable outcomes, and clearly define a budget in writing and as a presentation to the committee. This adds authenticity to the planning process.

This provides students with career skills of writing and managing a budget, , and defending their proposals, and providing clear reporting to achieve success.

Event planning does not directly translate to every career.. However, these critical thinking lessons learned in the process of planning an event, identifying opportunities for impact, and working together to ensure success, gives the students a new perspective on problem solving and a skillset to overcome future life and career challenges .

Spotlight: Our Partnerships

for engaging and fun events



USG Sustainability Committee: Our events rely on the generous contributions from Sus-Com for their success, as do many of our other programs. Students must apply for grants from the Committee, which forces our students to be more thoughtful about creating meaningful and engaging events. SusCom has been an invaluable partner as we plan and execute events and expand sustainability programs across campus.

Career and Professional Development: One of the most successful and well-attended portions of The Event during Fall Quarter was the alumni and career panel centered around sustainability. Over 70 people attended the event which engaged alumni from across the city in a variety of fields related to sustainability, and which taught students how to network with the valuable resources.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Anderson Academic Commons: Not only does the Center for Sustainability host many of its most successful programs at the Anderson Academic Commons, but they have been great partners on such events as the “Eating Animals” film screening and panel discussion, which was one of the most well-attended portions of The Event during the Winter Quarter.

Center for Community Engagement to promote Scholarship and Learning: CCESL was a critical part of the planning team for the Earth Day of DU-ing, which was a success in part because of insight and assistance from several Graduate Fellows there. CCESL has also been a great collaborator on events around the Grand Challenges, inviting the Center to participate as a presenter and panelist.



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CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
TO ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP AND LEARNING

DU Marketing and Communications: DU MarComm has been a critical partner in helping to cover and advertise events at the Center for Sustainability, from making announcements on the central DU social media channels for Bike to Work Day to doing in-depth coverage of the Earth Day of DU-ing and many of the excellent projects we were able to complete that day.



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Xcel Energy: Our Renter Efficiency Program for Students was made possible by a generous donation from Xcel Energy to support staff and materials costs for the program. Modeled after a similar program at University of Colorado Boulder, Xcel was a critical part of the design and launch of the program, and we look forward to continued partnership as we grow and expand REPS and other energy initiatives.



Health Promotion: Health Promotion has been a great partner on several Center for Sustainability events. During the Fall Quarter, DU After Dark provided funding for the Open Mic Night as an alcohol-free program, while the Gender Violence Prevention team were a critical partner in planning the Swap and Shop Thrift Store that helped support women's shelters in Denver during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG): As the sponsor for events like Way to Go-Tober and Bike to Work Day, as well as regional programs like vanpool, DRCOG has been a great community partner on many of the Center's mobility events, which has allowed us to grow the number of commuters who use bike, transit, and other modes to get to campus in lieu of driving their cars alone.

Transportation Solutions: Transportations Solutions is the Transportation Management Association for this region of of Denver, with goals of reducing congestion and improving air quality in the city. They been an important partner and advisor as DU and the Center for Sustainability have planned events and programs centered on education and encouragement around biking, walking, transit, and other mobility options.



Advancement: DU Advancement has been a strong and reliable partner in getting sustainability programming on the wider radar of our campus and alumni networks. Their advice and support during the Earth Day of DU-ing was integral to the event's success, while their continued support in including the DU Food Pantry on the annual crowd funding One Day for DU event has provided essential resources to the program.

Denver Urban Gardens: The Bridge Community Garden, while no longer under the direct supervision of the Center for Sustainability was made possible through partnership with Denver Urban Gardens and their networks. Additionally, DUG participated in our Denver Food Systems lunch and learn during The Event in Fall Quarter, which gave attendees a unique look at the different aspects of food sourcing in the city.



Alpine Waste and Recycling: Alpine is an essential partner for all waste and compost programs at DU, as the data they provide about our diversion rates is critical as we find ways to increase our campus diversion rates. Alpine also participated as a panelist in our Waste Education Lunch and Learn during The Event in Winter Quarter. This lunch was incredibly successful, and we look forward to similar events going forward.

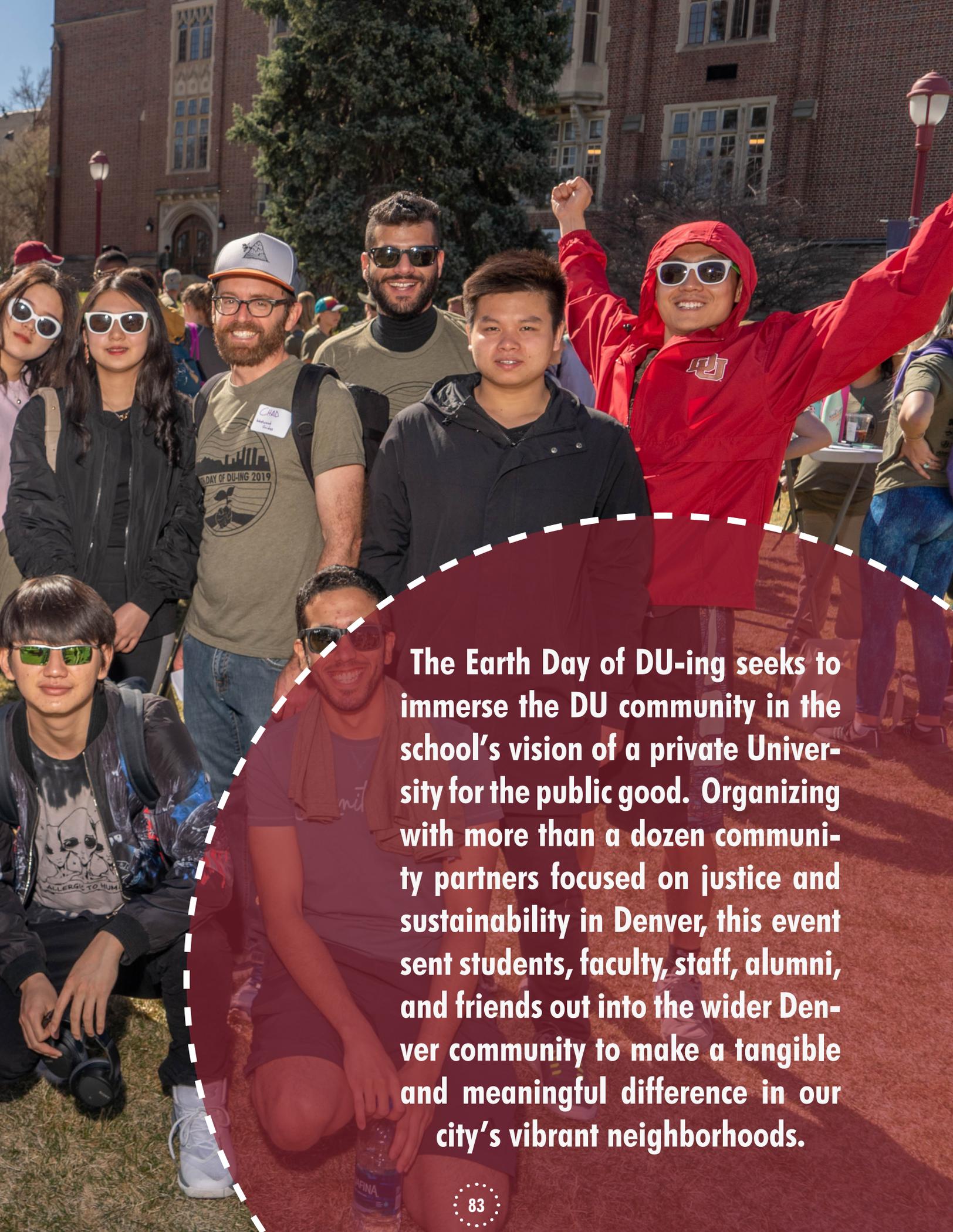
Hillel: The University of Denver chapter of Hillel has been a great partner on several events over the years. This year, they co-hosted a pickling workshop with the Center for Sustainability during The Event in Fall Quarter, which no only taught students the art of making pickles at home, but provided an opportunity for cultural exchange around the topic of food.



DU Botanical Society: The DU Botanical Society is a fairly new student group at DU, which has exploded in popularity and has been an essential partner for the Center for Sustainability this year. The group co-hosted several garden work days with the Center, and rallied a huge number of volunteers for many of the projects during the Earth Day of DU-ing.



Into the Community: The Earth Day of DU-ing

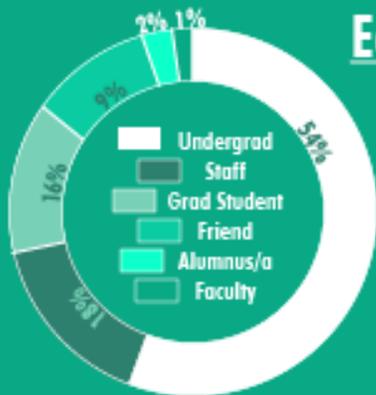


The Earth Day of DU-ing seeks to immerse the DU community in the school’s vision of a private University for the public good. Organizing with more than a dozen community partners focused on justice and sustainability in Denver, this event sent students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends out into the wider Denver community to make a tangible and meaningful difference in our city’s vibrant neighborhoods.

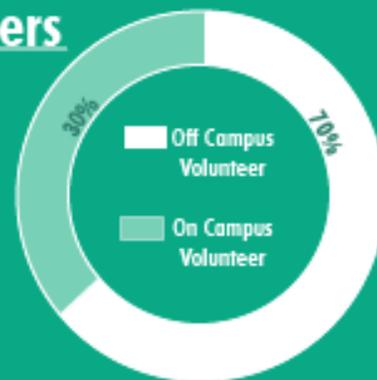


Inspired by excellent partnerships with organizations in the wider Denver community, this event focused on making Earth Day into a single day of widespread action. Through a planning partnership with Metro Denver Nature Alliance (mDNA) and the Center for Community Engagement to promote Scholarship and Learning (CCESL) we leveraged the networks of each partner to build community collaboration.

Earth Day of DU-ing: By the Numbers



3 Planning partners
 13 campus and community partners
 16 projects
 230 volunteers
 700 volunteer hours



Prepped and planted **8** community gardens

Sorted over **800 lbs** of waste

Engaged **340 students** (pre-k through 5th)

Picked up litter and cleaned up on **2 miles** of trails

Picked up over **7000** cigarette butts

Installed **3.3 kW** of Solar for one family



Will feed hundreds of people in **5** neighborhoods

Kept over **600 lbs** of waste out of the landfill

Creating **environmental leaders** early

Walked by hundreds in **2** neighborhoods

Keeping **7 lbs** of toxic waste out of Denver's waters

Equivalent of **20 cars** taken off the road for one year

The Office of Alumni Engagement inspired local alumni involvement as a host or as a volunteer. With 13 community partners hosting 16 service projects on the Earth Day of DU-ing, the day was a great success. Of these partners, two were run by DU alumni: GRID Alternatives and Re:Vision Denver. Some organizations were past collaborators with DU such as the GrowHaus and Sprout City Farms, and others were new, like Where Do Butts Go and Destination Collection.

230 people volunteered 700 total hours. Volunteers planted 8 community gardens, at DU and in Westwood, Barnum, and Virginia Vale, picked up cigarette butts downtown, installed solar panels for a family in Lakewood, sorted waste at DU and a local elementary school, picked up litter in Westwood and Harvard Gulch, and taught nearly 350 elementary school students about gardening and waste.

The volunteer teams were diverse, building community among staff, faculty, alumni, and students while engaging with community partners and impacting our city. The closing reception in partnership with Kaos Pizzeria allowed these volunteers to chat about their experiences and get to know one another after a shared experience.

Personal & Professional Development at the Earth Day of DU-ing



Community Engagement: We worked with a diverse set of community partners to create an impactful set of projects for the day. All students got to get to know these partners and the great work they do for Denver.



Cultural Relevancy: Denver is a diverse city with people from all across racial, cultural, and socio-economic identities. Our students worked with many people who live in our most marginalized communities.



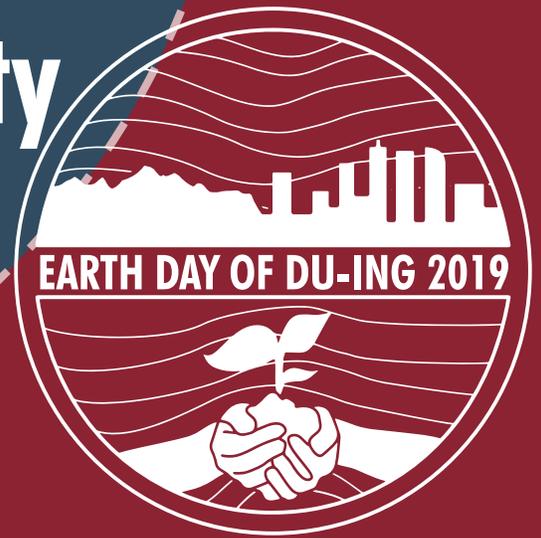
Project Management: Each of our team captains provided the link between the volunteers and our partners to make sure the logistics went smoothly day-of.



Social Awareness: A college campus can be a bit of a bubble that shields students from the wider issues in Denver. Day of DUing got students into communities to learn about them and make a tangible impact.

Spotlight: Community Partnerships

for an Impactful Earth Day



Metro Denver Nature Alliance: Metro DNA is a coalition of non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies committed to increasing access to nature for all who live along the front range of Colorado. Metro DNA was a central part of the planning team for the Earth Day of DU-ing, leveraging the connections they have across the city to find partners and projects for the day.

Re:Vision Denver: Founded by two DU alumni, Re:Vision Denver set out to create economic opportunity and help provide fresh, local, and sustainable food to residents in the Westwood neighborhood of Denver, a neighborhood that is largely LatinX, with a vibrant and colorful culture. Re:Vision hosted a group of volunteers to prepare one of their community gardens for planting season.



GRID Alternatives: Run by a DU alumna, GRID Alternatives seeks to make renewable energy more accessible to lower-income families across Denver. During the Earth Day of DU-ing, GRID hosted a small group of students who were able to install a small solar array for a family in Lakewood. The students were trained in safety ahead of time and were able to get a great, hands-on technical experience.



Westwood Unidos: Westwood Unidos is also based in the Westwood neighborhood of Denver, and seeks to provide resident leadership across a number of areas that are important to the residents. Westwood Unidos hosted a group of volunteers to help repaint a mural that had been graffitied, plus clean out an alley that serves as a major walking thoroughfare for residents.



SAME Cafe: So All May Eat (SAME) Cafe is a pay-what-you-can restaurant dedicated to making healthy, hearty, and delicious food more accessible to all people in Denver, regardless of ability to pay. They recently acquired a plot in a community garden in order to incorporate more local vegetables in their food. Volunteers helped prep the garden plot for planting season.

Sprout City Farms: Sprout City Farms is an urban agriculture nonprofit organization based in Denver, CO and was started by a group of farmers, researchers, teachers, and business leaders that came together in 2010 with a vision for increasing food access and community resiliency through urban agriculture. Volunteers worked to clean and prepare the farm for summer growing season and youth workshops.

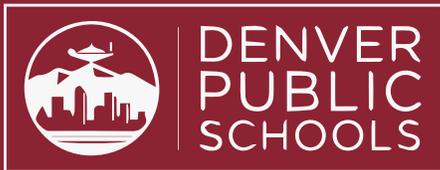


Jovial Concepts: Jovial Concepts works to empower underserved communities to thrive by creating access to high quality food, promoting healthy and sustainable living, and increasing self reliance. During the Earth Day of DU-ing, they hosted volunteers to help convert a yard in the Barnum neighborhood into a garden that will provide fresh, healthy, local food to nearby residents.



Destination Collection: Destination Collection is an apparel company founded by two women who love travel and adventure, and who are committed to keeping the places they love pristine and beautiful. To this end, they host monthly trail or river cleanups for the local community to engage in. During Earth Day of DU-ing they hosted a trail cleanup along the Harvard Gulch Trail near DU.

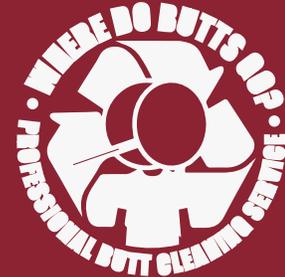
The GrowHaus: The GrowHaus is dedicated to providing economic opportunity and fresh, healthy, local foods in the Elyria-Swansea Globeville neighborhoods in Denver. Having partnered with the Center for Sustainability to help distribute their weekly food boxes, the partnership came easily. During Earth Day, volunteers helped assemble the food boxes that would be delivered around the city later that day.



Discover a World of Opportunity

Slavens Elementary School: Slavens Elementary School partnered with the Center for Sustainability early in 2019 to host a waste sorting activity for the students to learn about the waste they are creating. The school hosted a group of volunteers to help with a second waste sorting day during the Earth Day of DU-ing, which engaged nearly 200 students around recycling and composting ideas.

Where Do Butts Go: Where Do Butts Go focuses on changing the idea that cigarette butts are okay to throw on the ground, unlike other litter, and educating the public about the dangers that cigarette butts pose to our waterways and wildlife. On Earth Day, a team of volunteers went on a "cigarette butt safari" to hunt and pick up as many cigarette butts as they could around Union Station.



Fisher Early Learning Center: The Fisher Early Learning Center, part of the Morgridge College of Education at DU, works to provide a warm, loving environment that is specifically designed to deliver cutting-edge and research validated programming for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. They recently built several garden beds, which volunteers helped to prep and plant for summer growing season.

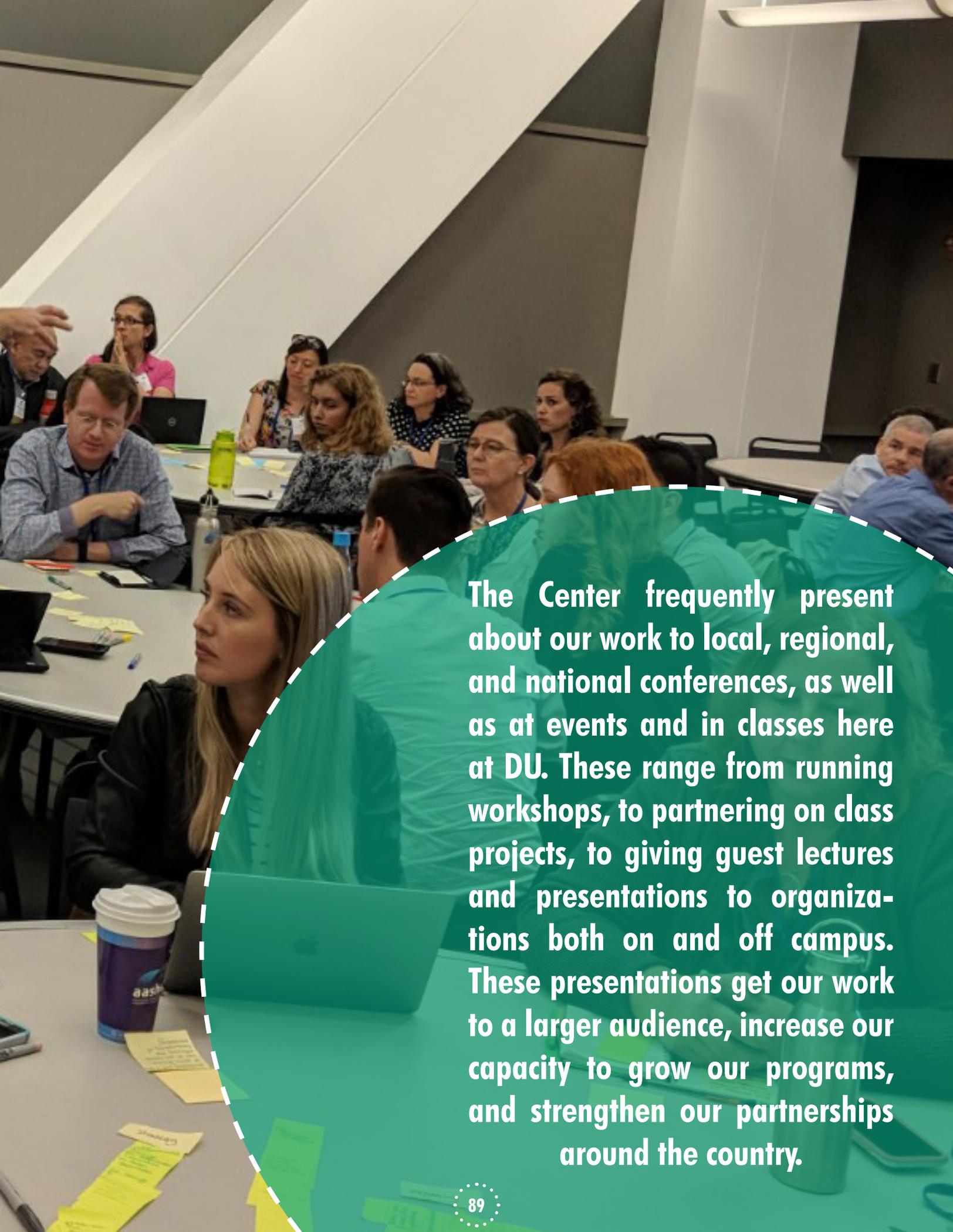
Bridge Community Garden: The Bridge Community Garden is DU's very own faculty- and student-run garden, with over 30 plots that get rented out to DU staff, students, and neighbors every growing season. The Garden hosted a huge group of volunteers to weed and prep the garden beds, and to complete art projects to make the garden even more beautiful.



Kaos Pizzeria: Kaos Pizzeria is a local restaurant dedicated to providing local, sustainable, and delicious food in the Platte Park neighborhood. Kaos partners with several local farmers to source their ingredients and were excellent and generous hosts for the Earth Day of DU-ing closing reception.



Representing DU Sustainability: Conferences, Events, and Presentations

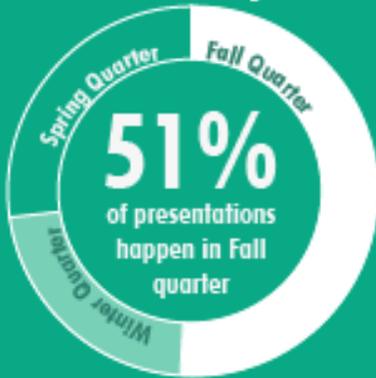


The Center frequently present about our work to local, regional, and national conferences, as well as at events and in classes here at DU. These range from running workshops, to partnering on class projects, to giving guest lectures and presentations to organizations both on and off campus. These presentations get our work to a larger audience, increase our capacity to grow our programs, and strengthen our partnerships around the country.



As the Center for Sustainability builds more and more partnerships across the University of Denver, we are asked to provide information and training to a wider audience every year. From simply giving an overview of the Center and its programs to a class or department, to providing training to student-facing organizations, to sharing our work at the local and national levels, we take advantage of every opportunity to engage with others who are interested in taking lessons from our work. All told, the presentations we gave engaged nearly 1,000 people both here at DU and at conferences, offices, and meetings locally, regionally, and nationally.

Campus and Community Presentations: By the Numbers

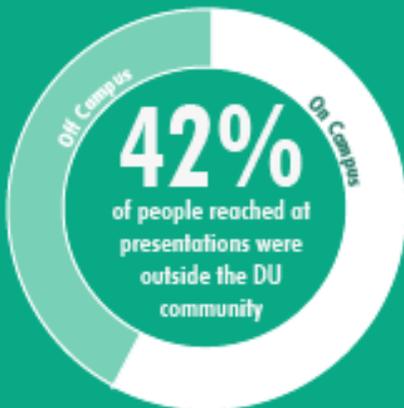


Staff at the Center presented at:

- 12 classes in 5 different programs
- 11 events hosted by other units at DU
- 5 regional conferences and summits
- 5 Talks at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education national conference.

We provided waste, energy, and sustainability training to
5 Organizations

at DU, including
Resident Assistants,
Orientation Leaders,
Tour Guides,
Sodexo, and
Campus Life and Inclusive
Excellence



All told these lectures, talks, and presentations reached nearly
1,000
people at DU and beyond

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

Nearly half of the presentations the Center for Sustainability made this year came from student staff, both at the Graduate and Undergraduate levels. A small group of student interns presented about the Food Pantry at the Food Recovery Network regional meeting, and then again at the Campus Kitchens regional meeting. Presentations about the Food Pantry were also given by interns to two different English Learning Center classes.

Student interns collaborated with three different Resident Assistant staffs - JMAC, Nagel-Nelson-Hilltop, and the Apartments - as well as the Women in Business student group at the Daniels College of Business.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF PRESENTATIONS

The Sustainability Director and Coordinator are often asked to provide training and insight to student groups, classes, and conferences. These are often opportunities to get feedback from students about existing programs and initiatives, and to listen for important topics and issues to

the DU community.

The Sustainability Coordinator gave sustainability trainings at the Resident Assistant Development Institute (RADI) and for Orientation Leaders (OLs), as well as presentations for the Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence staff development day and a talk for the Visit Denver tourism board. Additionally, the Coordinator worked with a class in Media, Film, and Journalism Studies to audit the communication and marketing tools used by the Center.

The Sustainability Director guest lectures in eight different classes, and provided a sustainability training to the Tour Guides working through the Undergraduate Admissions and to the Undergraduate Student Government. In addition, the Director gave a presentation at The Road Ahead Conference and partnered with a graduate-level class in Geography to create an interactive sustainability map of DU.





Student Spotlight: Lauryn Chung

Lauryn says their mother got them interested in sustainability from a young age, getting them involved in her work early on. They frequently assisted on site at the Waimea Stream Reclamation Project and helped with educational presentations in the community sustainable food systems in Hawai'i.

Lauryn came to DU looking for the opportunity to explore sustainability in an urban environment, something they never quite got to do in their home state of Hawaii. "Having grown up in a rural area like Kona, Hawaii I had no idea what kind of opportunities for sustainability existed in a city like Denver." Hoping that they could learn what sustainability means in a city, Lauryn applied for a position at the Center for Sustainability.

"One of my favorite projects at the Center is Zero Waste. I got the opportunity to present about the Newman Center Zero Waste Concert project at the 2018 AASHE Conference." Lauryn says that they appreciated the opportunity to meet other people involved in conservation and sustainability organizations. "The exchange of information and gathering of new ideas for sustainability project to implement on the University of Denver campus was awesome to me."

At the Conference, Lauryn was also able to learn much from her peers at other institutions. "The presentations I attended taught me about some other really great ideas, for instance, ways to improve our Move Out project, as well as Repair Garage projects, food waste reduction, and recycling tactics. It was quite a successful journey for me, especially concerning Zero Waste. The experience was enriching and helped me see how diverse the sustainability field is."

Personal & Professional Development in Presentations and Conferences



Self-Awareness: As students prepare to talk about their work at conferences or at other events, they get to reflect on the skills they built and share their expertise with others.



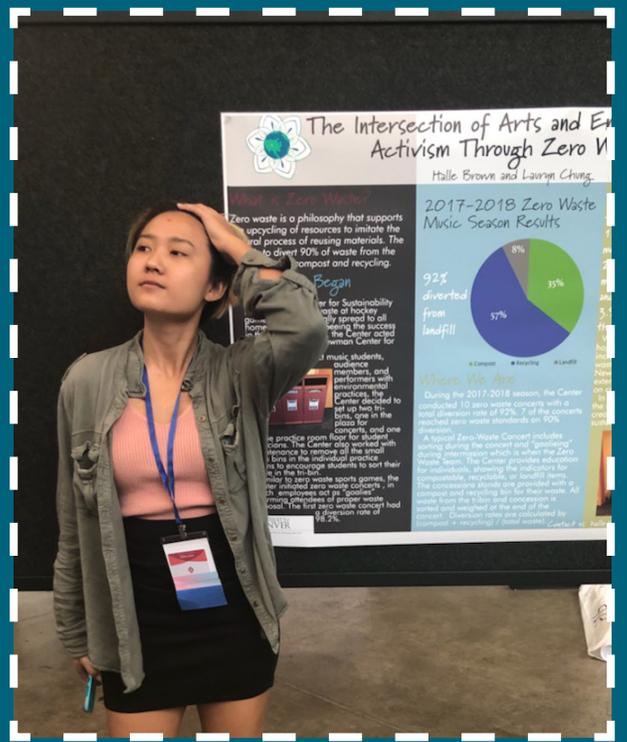
Community Engagement: Our interns get to expand their networks as they attend events and conferences at the local and national level, which gives them more avenues to explore as they begin searching for careers.



Cultural Engagement: Our students have given talks to several classes at the English Learning Center, along with diverse groups at conferences, which gives them the chance to share experiences across cultures.



Social Awareness: The chance to present at conferences also means the chance to learn at conferences, which gives our students a broader understanding of larger contexts and a broader community of peers.



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DU Center for Sustainability Renter Efficiency Program for Students



By: Aziz Syammach

Objective: Train student energy assessors and reduce student energy use through assessments

History

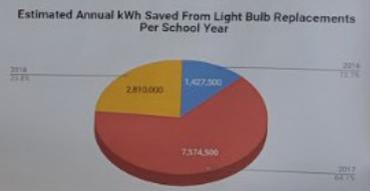
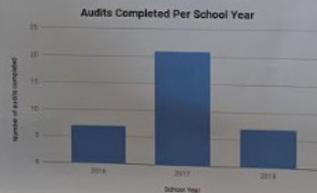
- Mollie Doerner and I started the program
- Program started Spring 2015
- Program expanded after \$core program at other schools
- Partnership with the Center for Energy Efficiency
- Program ran from 2015-2016
- Program is now for all students

Training

- Training done once a school year
- Auditors are Center for Sustainability Employees
- One day of on site training required
- Training videos and manual used to familiarize auditors with the program
- LED light bulbs, smart strips, and other materials provided to renters

Impact

- 124 renters educated
- 11,812,000 kWh saved annually from light bulb replacements
- 33 audits completed
- 23 low flow faucet and shower heads installed
- 330 ft of window and door leaks fixed
- 33,000 gallons saved from low flow shower fixtures



2018 AASHE CONFERENCE

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is the professional organization for staff and others working in sustainability at colleges and universities. Their annual conference brings together more than 2,000 people every year to discuss challenges and solutions to advancing sustainable practices on campus, trade ideas, network, and learn.

Two students presented posters during the poster session: one about the REPS program and another about our zero waste efforts in the Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Neither of these students had ever been to a professional conference, and were able to speak with dozens of people about their projects and ideas for improving upon them.

In addition to the two students who presented posters, another four students came to the conference to learn, network, and get ideas to bring back to their own work at DU. These students were able to make friends at other universities, add skills to their growing professional toolboxes, and tell others back at DU about the value of attending such professional events. Their encouragement led a huge increase in students who applied to present at the 2019 AASHE conference: seven students will be presenting posters or case studies in October 2019.



Helpful Links

Energy Management at DU: <https://www.du.edu/facilities/energy/>

Residential Sustainability Programs: <https://www.du.edu/housing/sustainability/educational/index.html>

Recycling Program at DU: <https://www.du.edu/sustainability/operations/waste-recycling.html>

Food Waste Reduction at DU: <https://dudining.sodexomyway.com/explore/sustainability>

DU Recycling Guide: <https://www.du.edu/facilities/recycling/whatwecycle/index.html>

Sustainable Transit Options at DU: <https://www.du.edu/parking/mobility/index.html>

Information about the Bike Shop: <https://www.facebook.com/piogearsunderground/>

Food Sustainability at DU: <https://dudining.sodexomyway.com/explore/sustainability>

Bridge Community Garden Information: <https://dug.org/garden/du-bridge/>

Sustainability-Focused Classes at DU: <https://www.du.edu/sustainability/education/courses.html>

Sustainability Living Learning Community: <https://www.du.edu/livinglearning/sustainability/index.html>



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