

LEWIS SUSTAINABILITY

Fall Newsletter



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Introduction

We made our way through a challenging semester; however, we stood strong in our mission. Our organization helps to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to engage in sustainability practices.

Through our educational programs we hope to provide our Lewis community as well as our partners ways in which we can be most impactful. We seek ways in which we can incorporate education around social equity, environmental protection and economic prosperity. This semester was like no other, but we were able to provide a lot of virtual opportunities for engagement as well as ways in which we can support our local communities.

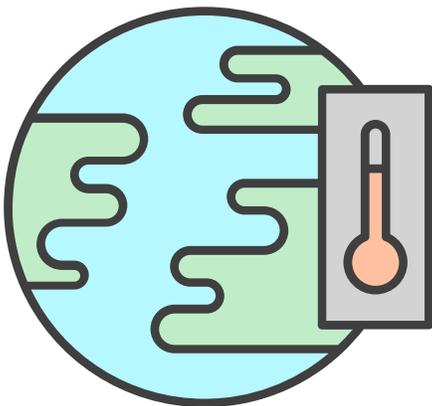
Events

Over the summer, we kicked off a **Sustainability Scavenger Hunt** that ran through October 31st. Students were asked to find examples of each of the three pillars of sustainability. They were to snap a picture and send their examples in. Those who participated were entered into a raffle for the chance to win a **\$50 Target gift card and some Lewis swag**. We received great examples and were impressed by all the participants. Additionally, as we entered the semester we provided a screening called **The Story of Plastic**. This documentary dived deeper into the lifecycle of plastics and the environmental impacts. **In October, Dr. Joseph Kozminkski of the Physics Department, presented on the causes and environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change.**

Temperatures are rising, fires are spreading, and there is a reduction in food production-- these are just a few impacts of climate change. Look for more information on another climate talk in the spring! To show that our voice matters in the fight against climate change, the Sustainability club hosted an Environmental Advocacy Day. Students wrote to representatives of corporations and asked how they are operations in a sustainable manner. Collectively we can make a difference and it starts on an individual level.



The 3 Pillars of Sustainable Development:
Promoting Social and Economic Well-Being while
Protecting the Environment



Virtual Sustainability Summit

Students were given the opportunity to attend the Virtual Student Summit hosted by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium on October 30th. The Summit focused on real food systems and how students can incorporate sustainability into their campus dining halls. Through presentations and interactive sessions, students were able to gain more insight into the production, transportation, and distribution of food and the ways in which they can become an active participant in creating the changes necessary to become a Real Foods System.

Sum of Total Waste(lbs)

Total Waste Diverted from Pumpkin Pitch(lbs)



Pumpkin Pitch

The 7th Annual Pumpkin Pitch was held at Lewis on November 7th-- what a huge success it was! There were over **300 vehicles** who participated in electronic recycling, document shredding, or the pumpkin. We are so appreciative that this event could still go on even during the pandemic; a big thank you to all those who followed the safety guidelines! It is important to recognize the importance of this event. These activities promote education involving the dynamics of waste management and proper disposal. Pumpkins were given a second life by being composted. With document shredding, it reduces energy and water consumption, keeps pollutants out of the atmosphere, and saves trees. Also, valuable metals can be extracted from recycled electronics and materials can be salvaged for future use.



Come Clean Go Green Competition

As we make our way towards winter break, we want to continue to encourage students to submit proposals for the **Come Clean Go Green competition by January 31st**. Students can develop a sustainability project that can be implemented on campus. Watch the presentation on how easy it is to submit a proposal on the link to the right. Students have the chance to create a greener campus and contribute to a more sustainable world. For more information, please contact **John Lerczak** (jlerczak@lewisu.edu) or **Dr. Jerry Kavouras** (KavourJe@lewisu.edu). Additionally, past project winners and other resources can be found on the Lewis Sustainability website.

Come Clean Go Green Competition 2020 Edition



Missed the Information Session Last Week?
A recording of the session can be found here:

<https://lewisu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3effaf82-1fb3-47bb-b6e3-ac7200fd504>

Implement a Sustainability Project on Campus

Presented by: John Lerczak, Director of Sustainability and Facilities Administration

5 Easy
Steps To
Submit
Proposals

Recycled Cap Project

The Recycled Cap Project came to an end this semester. It was a great three years that showed a community working together to create something beautiful out of bottle caps. Overall, the Lewis Community collected over **3,000 lbs of bottle caps that helped create two benches and two picnic tables**. The bench is located near the Arts and Science Building and the picnic tables can be found on the Burnham Centennial Nature Trail. We want to thank all those who helped make it a success and extend a special thanks to the Fairmont School District for delivering the caps and transporting the table back to Lewis.



Prairie Plot

The prairie plot started as an eco-project many years ago and has since seen great growth. With COVID in the spring, not many students were on campus; however, the plot needed maintenance. **Lee Witkowski and alumni, Josh Kolodziejczyk**, volunteered their time to clear the plot of invasive species.



Stay Connected

We cannot wait to see what next semester has in store for us! Stay up-to-date with current events and initiatives by following our social media pages. Find out how to get involved by contacting John Lerczak at jlerczak@lewisu.edu. Be prepared for our **annual Sustainability report** that will be coming out in the Spring!



lewissustainability



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www.lewisu.edu/sustainability/index.htm



Sum of Participants

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN FALL 2020 EVENTS

