



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Office of Sustainability

Sustainability on Campus

Insight Session
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Summer 2026





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Today's Agenda

- About the Office of Sustainability
- U of A Community Garden
- Compost Cats
- Campus Sustainability Fund
- Bike Resources
- Other Campus Resources





About the Office of Sustainability

About the Office of Sustainability

- Our initiatives and partnerships empower the campus community to advance environmental responsibility, economic viability, and collective well-being for our future
- We operate the largest sustainability programs on campus and have received national recognition for our efforts
- Our team includes 8 full-time staff and 20-25 part-time student employees



Ratings & Rankings

- **Top 50 Green Colleges** - The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges
- **Top 10 College & University** - EPA Green Power Partnership
- **Excellence in Sustainability Award** - National Association of College & University Business Officers
- **Silver Rating** - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- **Pilot Participant** - Carnegie Elective Classification for Sustainability





U of A Community Garden



Community Garden

- Cultivates connections by providing a welcoming, inclusive outdoor classroom space for experimental learning, collaboration, and engagement with nature. Through shared gardening activities, we reduce barriers to growing food, support environmental education and outreach, and foster a sense of personal autonomy and community
- Located at 1400 E. Mabel St.
- The Garden features 38 rentable organic garden plots, ADA accessible beds with walkways, and a greenhouse



Community Workdays

- Every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8-10 am
 - Help weed, harvest, paint, etc.
- Campus and community groups can organize separate volunteer days



Compost Cats



Compost Cats

- Through advocacy, community engagement, and environmental stewardship, we provide free composting services, training, and resources to empower the Tucson and university communities
- Compost Cats supports the largest commercial and residential composting programs in southern Arizona
- Compost Cats has diverted over 30 million pounds of organic waste from landfills since 2011

The FoodCycle at Home Program

- A food waste collection and composting program operated by the City of Tucson's Environmental Services in partnership with Compost Cats
- Participants attend a 30-minute training, get a free pail, and drop off at one of the 24/7 drop-off sites across the city
- Program is entirely free to increase accessibility for the community





Campus Sustainability Fund



Campus Sustainability Fund

- CSF advances student-centered sustainability initiatives across the University of Arizona that are rooted in community building, education, and experiential learning. By empowering the campus community to envision, create, and lead projects, the Fund is a catalyst for a more resilient, inclusive, and connected university
- Offering ~\$300,000 annually in funding
- Students, faculty, and staff can apply
- Students and clubs are highly encouraged to apply!

Mini Grants

- Funds small-scale initiatives between \$500 - \$10,000
- Applications open in the Fall and projects must be completed within the current fiscal year
- Indigenous Centered Mini Grants available for \$5,000 or \$10,000
- Example: Sustainable Citrus Plus (\$5,000)
 - Student-led initiative
 - Use aquaponic byproduct to water and fertilize fruit trees
 - Fruit donated to Campus Pantry and trees cool the greenhouse





Annual Grants

- Funds large-scale initiatives for one year between \$10,000-\$50,000
- Grant application process opens in the fall semester only
- Example: The Harvill Lighting Retrofit Project (\$39,300)
 - Completely student-led project
 - Audits determined most energy-inefficient lighting in buildings on campus
 - Replaced all lighting with LED alternatives to lower energy usage and carbon footprint



Bike Resources



Bike Rentals

- Outdoor Rec's commuter bike rental program offers bike rentals to students for a reduced fee thanks to the Campus Sustainability Fund! Students may rent a bike to use as their own for a semester or an entire academic year!
 - Cost: \$70 per semester or \$135 for the academic year
 - Includes a U-Lock, chain, free maintenance and tune-up during your rental.
 - 3 different models from Arizona local State Bicycle Co. to choose from!





Bike Repair Stations

- Need a quick bike repair? Parking and Transportation Services offers four new bike repair stations on campus! The stations can be found outside of the Honors Village, the Main Library, Coronado Dorm, and Likins Dorm. Each station is fully stocked with the supplies required for minor bike repairs.
- Need help but not sure how to do the fix yourself? Check out the Free Repair Station on the Mall (Outside Koffler) to get help from trained student mechanics during the academic. Open Mon-Friday 11 am-2 pm.

A scenic photograph of four people standing on a rocky hillside, looking out over a sprawling city at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The city below is densely packed with buildings and greenery, and a range of rugged mountains is visible in the background. The people are silhouetted against the bright sky, and the foreground is filled with out-of-focus green foliage.

Other Campus Resources



Find Your Environment

- The Arizona Institute for Resilience (AIR) turns science into actionable, community-oriented solutions
- With so many ways to get involved in sustainability and environmental topics on campus, AIR created Find Your Environment, a way for students to explore all these resources in one place. Join the Growing Green Newsletter, follow them on Instagram, or check out their online resources!
 - Explore undergraduate majors with an environmental focus across career fields
 - Find jobs and internships

Housing Efforts and Events

- Bin It to Win It
 - This fun and educational competition takes place each September to boost recycling awareness in the dorms. The dorms with the highest engagement win!
- Less is More
 - Dorms will compete head-to-head to see who can reduce their energy and water use the most. The dorms with the biggest utility savings and most pledges win.
- Dodge the Dumpster
 - During dorm move-out in May, you can donate what you no longer need to our campus partners, so those items can be reused or recycled instead of going to the landfill.





Questions?

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