



Students for a Sustainable Stanford

Fall 17-18 Progress Report

November 2017

Dear Advisors, Environmental Leaders, Partners and Friends,

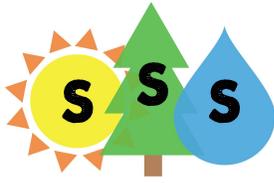
We're excited to start off a new year of climate action and sustainability initiatives on campus. SSS is already off to a running start, within our own project groups and through collaborations across campus and outside of Stanford. We are excited share our work so far and continue to work alongside all of you this year as we strive to make Stanford a more just and sustainable place.

Our primary working groups this year are Environmental Justice, Sustainability Education, and Zero Waste. Apart from these project areas, which we detail later in this document, our broader goals this year include connecting with and sustaining partnership with other student groups. We want to support others whose goals for environmental and social wellbeing align with our own, and we want to emphasize the intersectionality of environmental issues. We also hope to engage more with communities outside of Stanford and be aware of Stanford's environmental and social impact on surrounding areas.

Thank you so much for your continued support! We look forward to working with you for a new year of sustainability action!

Sincerely,

Chris, Erin, Sierra, and SSS



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PROJECT GROUPS

Environmental Justice:

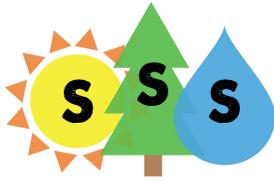
The Environmental Justice group is committed to nurturing knowledge and action surrounding environmental issues that disproportionately impact marginalized groups. Environmental justice is inherently political: our aim is to re-examine environmental issues within the context of socioeconomic class, race, and gender. If you are interested in taking action and getting connected with on-campus and off-campus organizations that are doing work surrounding EJ issues, this project group is for you! Our goals are to increase internal and external education surrounding environmental justice and fostering empathy that leads to action. Potential projects include working to institutionalize EJ education on campus, work days at EJ-oriented farms, collaborating with a winter-quarter EJ class, as well as participating in protests.

Sustainability Education:

The goal of the Education Project Group is to improve student awareness and engagement with issues related to sustainability and encourage them to go about addressing these issues in the ways they are relevant to their lives. We strive towards this goal in two areas: student residences and classes. We regularly cooperate with academic departments, RD&E, the Office of Sustainability and Dorm Resident Fellows. This summer we introduced incoming freshmen to sustainable living behaviors, and sustainability groups/events on campus through blog posts on the Approaching Stanford website. This fall we will continue this effort by working to design and present a "Sustainability & Me" workshop for students. The aim is to get students to embrace sustainable living practices by recognizing how their actions impact the communities and natural systems immediately around them in the Bay Area. Additionally, our second project is to collaborate with department faculty to incorporate ideas about issues of sustainability into their courses and bring discussions of pollution/climate change/resource use into the classroom. This will involve cooperating with CS181 Professors to continue to give the lecture on the intersection of "tech and sustainability" that was given last spring.

Zero Waste:

The Waste Reduction group is working on several projects to raise awareness of what we throw away on campus, and find ways to decrease that waste. Dorm waste trainings will teach students how to properly sort their recycling, compost and trash, as well as encourage them to think about why sorting matters. Ultimately, we hope to institutionalize waste training at Stanford. Our Zero-Waste week will offer a fun, casually competitive and thought-provoking challenge. The Waste Reduction group also aims to reduce food waste through collection and donation. Finally, we would like to work on sustainability in Row houses and promote alternatives to the ubiquitous but wasteful red Solo cup.



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Media Team:

SSS Media Team is committed to providing accurate and engaging content about SSS's accomplishments and events as well as intersectional environmental issues that affect communities beyond Stanford. Our weekly blog offers opinion pieces about intersectional environmental issues that range from environmental justice to food sustainability. We update our online calendar with all SSS events as well as other sustainability and social justice events on campus. We also post updates on the SSS website and social media platforms. Our team of photographers documents SSS events, including the the Schneider Lecture.

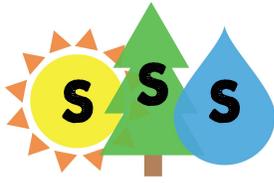
OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

FLI Drive:

A year and a half ago, some SSS members had an idea to repurpose good quality furniture items that are typically abandoned at the end of the academic year to low income freshman when they move into Stanford. We reached out to another student group, the First Generation and/or Low-Income Partnership (FLIP), and worked to make it happen. At the end of last school year, we collected over 4000 pounds of gently used items, including 34 mini-fridges and a dozen couches, and stored them over the summer in U-Haul storage pods. At the end of the first week of the quarter, we distributed the items to fifty first generation/low-income freshmen. The rest of this quarter and next fall focus primarily on institutionalizing the FLI Drive, with one of the largest hurdles-- pledged financial and logistical support for the program in the future from Residential and Dining Enterprises-- already cleared.

Carbon neutral universities:

We want to encourage Stanford's administration to adopt a public carbon neutrality or carbon emissions reduction goal for the university. On our part, we plan to work closely with faculty and administration to understand everything we can about what carbon neutrality at Stanford would entail. We also plan to learn about plans other universities have put into practice in order to work towards their existing carbon neutrality goals. Another component of this initiative is partnering with students from other universities to collaborate on university carbon neutrality. We hope this coalition will share knowledge and strategies as well as demonstrate nation or world-wide support for carbon-neutral universities.



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Green Events

This is a continuation of a project we began last year. Partnering with the Office of Sustainability (OoS) and the ASSU Appropriations Committee, we are working to encourage student groups to practice sustainability when holding events. OoS created a Green Events Checklist, customized for student group events, and ASSU will make adherence to this checklist one of their considerations when deciding how much funding to allot to student group events.

Food Pickups

Starting last year, SSS developed a Food Waste Sustainability Group which worked with R&DE, Stanford Project on Hunger (SPOON), and local food distribution organizations to establish a food pickup schedule to donate leftover food from dining halls and campus eateries. This would often involve training dining hall staff to save extra food in freezers and arranging for organizations such as Peninsula Food Runners to pick up leftover food from dining halls to distribute to local food banks. Additionally, SPOON volunteers would pick up leftover food from campus eateries and freeze it in the Haas Center freezers from which it would be picked up and distributed.

This year there has been some drop-off in the food pick-ups from dining halls, but we are working to re-establish a food pick-up schedule.

Speaker Events:

Our annual Schneider lecture is scheduled for Winter quarter. Schneider lecture coordinators are busy finalizing their selection for this year's speaker. Additionally, they are planning to host lunchtime talks with faculty and other speakers on environmental topics to give SSS members and other students an opportunity to engage in conversation with other members of the environmental community.



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Co-Directors:

Chris LeBoa and Erin Pang

Director of Strategy:

Sierra Garcia

Director of Operations:

John Zhao

External Community Officer:

Amulya Yerrapotu

Internal Community Officer:

Andrea Contreras

Media Officers:

Deirdre Francks and Becca Nelson

Schneider Lecture Coordinators:

Maeve Givens, Elena Press, and Kira Smiley

Environmental Justice Project Coordinators: Paloma Hernandez and Katie Lan

Sustainability Education Project Coordinator: Spencer Robinson

Zero Waste Project Coordinator:

Jazzy Kerber



Hello, from (part of) our team!