

Students for a Sustainable Stanford

Spring 17-18 Progress Report

May 2018

Dear Advisors, Environmental Leaders, Partners and Friends,

Great to see all of you again! We're excited to update you on the progress Students for a Sustainable Stanford has made past year and all the initiatives we are preparing for next year and beyond!

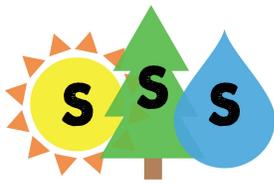
This Spring Quarter, our group prioritized hosting a series of public events to boost awareness of environmental issues. Our team saw continued involvement from all of our general members, especially freshmen in preparing and hosting many of the events for Earth Month. Two of the highlights of April were **Earth in Color** – a music & arts festival centering the narratives of people of color in the environmental movement; and **Earthfest** – a celebratory gathering of different environmental-focused community service groups for admitted students and the greater Stanford community. Other ways in which SSS was publically present was at the Admit Students Activities Fair, at the Celebrating Sustainability Festival. To cap off the quarter, Marc Tessier-Levine's recent commitment to be 80% carbon free by 2025 and zero waste by 2030 (from the Stanford Vision Paper) were very rewarding results after a year of engagement in the Long Range Planning Process.

We now have a new leadership team that will be accelerating the momentum we've built this year as well as starting exciting new projects for next year. This quarter, we've focused on transitioning to the new leadership team, which has already begun taking on important responsibilities and crafting a vision for SSS's future. Next year's project groups will be Environmental Justice, Sustainability Education, Climate Justice, and Transportation.

We look forward to hearing your advice and feedback on our work. Thank you so much for helping make SSS the best that it can be.

Sincerely,

Andrea Contreras, Miranda Vogt, Spencer Robinson



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Major Events This Quarter:

- ★ Earth in Color
- ★ Earth Fest
- ★ Partnership with NSO
- ★ Anti Red Solo Cup Campaign
- ★ Documentary Screenings
- ★ Clothing Swaps
- ★ Outreach (tabling events)
- ★ Leadership Transitions
- ★ Future Partnership with SFCU
- ★ Mutuality Talk + Climate Workshop
- ★ Big Earth Hackathon follow up

PROJECT GROUP PROGRESS

Zero Waste

What we've done this year:

- Freshman dorm waste trainings in the fall focusing on how to properly sort trash, compost, and recycle on the Stanford campus
- Red Solo cup reduction campaign!
 - We talked to row houses about the problems with red Solo cups (they're made of non-recyclable #6 plastic) and better alternatives they can switch to. We subsidized a starter set of a couple hundred compostable cups per fraternity for houses that were willing to make the switch. We've been pretty successful in several places already! Our Solo cup art installation (May 23rd - 25th) aimed to bring attention to the waste issue these single-use plastic items create.

What went well:

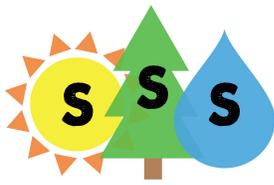
- Waste trainings went well overall! Many RFs responded and freshmen were attentive.
- A few fraternities have fully or almost fully transitioned away from red Solo cups! Others have at least been willing to talk to us.
- We're so happy to have pulled this cup project together! It's been a fair amount of work, but we're hoping it will get attention. It's has been great to put everyone in the group's ideas about presentation and publicity together into something no one of us could have created alone.

Sustainability Education

The education group's goal is to improve awareness of and engagement with issues related to sustainability for members of the Stanford community and beyond. This past quarter we have focused on three initiatives:

1) Educational Outreach

- Kentucky Seminar – one of our member's reached out to his high school and a biology teacher agreed to let us lead a lesson on climate change, providing exercises the reinforce



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understanding. We reached out to this school in particular since particular areas of Kentucky has a history and culture of climate skepticism so the challenge was to enter into a discussion with students who didn't share our beliefs.

- During EarthFest we reached out to admit students and greater stanford community talking to them about sustainability on campus and also talking about presented on our outreach initia to the school in Kentucky
- Sustainability Student Initiated Course -- finished drafting syllabus for course on sustainability that we may teach next year

2) Producing sustainability-orientation video for freshman dorm education.

- We have finished writing the script of an entertaining educational video that introduces freshmen to the idea of sustainable living on campus. Production scheduled to be finished during the summer. We then plan to use this video as part of a "Introduction to Sustainability at Stanford" programming initiative in freshmen dorms.

3) CS106 & SSS Collaboration

The teaching team for CS

- The teaching team for CS 106S (Programming Abstractions for Social Good) sought help in preparing a sustainability-themed module for the class. SSS provided consultancy on environmental issues where a computational approach at the level of CS 106B could be meaningful and exciting. The end project consisted on a population model simulations representing predator-prey interactions and their ecological consequences.

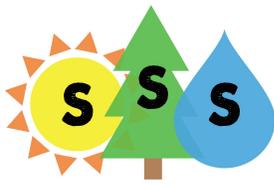
Environmental Justice

Last Quarter

Earth in Color: The event was on April 21st at the O'Donahue Family Stanford Educational Farm. The event focused on the connections between the environment and the histories of people of color. It was highly attended with plenty of visitors at each booth (i.e. screen printing shirts, art exhibit, flower making, salve making, etc.).

Mutuality Talk: In collaboration with IDA, we helped with the Mutuality Lecture which featured Linda Sarsour, lead organizer of Women's March, Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, Favianna Rodriguez, Executive Director of CultureStrike, and Raquel De Anda, lead organizer of the People's Climate March. The talk was on the arts and social justice with speakers that articulated how social justice includes environmental justice. Director of IDA, Jeff Chang was the host and had each lady talk about their movements and answer questions from the crowd. The event was also well highly attended.

Climate Action and Art workshop: The day following the Mutuality Lecture, we invited one of the panelists, Raquel de Anda, to come speak about her efforts in utilizing arts to push for climate advocacy.



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De Anda spoke at the Roble Arts Gym, and afterwards took time to talk with students over catered lunch.

Media

Media operations for SSS have continued this year, featuring social media, website, interactive calendar, the SSS blog, and more. We have continued to maintain the SSS Blog, Voices From the Tree, featuring weekly posts from students and guest bloggers covering intersectional environmental topics. We are looking forward to another year of blogging, media coverage, and outreach!

Outgoing officers: Deirdre Francks and Becca Nelson

Incoming officers: Becca Nelson and Alex Li

EVENT UPDATES

Earth in Color

Earth in Color was an arts and music festival celebrating people of color and their connection to the Earth. This was a collaborative effort between students from the Earth Systems department, SSS, the Institute for Diversity in the Arts, and was co-sponsored by many organizations on campus. Earth in Color featured:

- Performances from student DJs and poets
- A concert featuring Ari Lennox– a singer under J.Cole's label
- Locally sourced food dishes prepared by chefs of color, including Bryant Terry
- EARTHTONES, an art exhibit displaying the work of student artists of color
- Student run activity stations including flower crown making, tea blending, and more.

Over 500 students and community members attended the event, which we will claim a resounding, success for an inaugural event. We hope to continue this effort in some shape or form for many years to come. Learn more at earthincolor.co!

Food Pickups

We worked to pick up leftover food from basketball games and have lent support to SPOON, the student group responsible for food recovery on campus. Joint Ventures, PSSI, and R&DE have recently formed a partnership to pilot a new food donation truck and pickup schedule starting next year.

PROJECT VISIONING FOR NEXT YEAR

Zero Waste

What we need to keep working on:

- Keep committed houses committed to avoiding Solo cups as a new generation of residents moves in next year
- Convince the remaining row houses to switch to compostables or reusables
- Ultimately aim for a culture shift away from red cups across campus!



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Environmental Justice

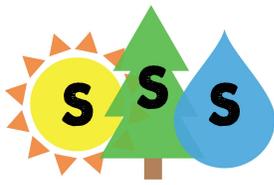
Vision for Next Quarter:

- Volunteer with local off-campus organizations: One of the organizations we are seeking to partner with is Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). They focus on grassroots organization led by youth of color in the communities on social and environmental issues.
- Organize at least one off-campus field trip during fall quarter. Last fall, the EJ group organized SSS members to attend a Richmond Toxic Tour hosted by Communities for a Better Environment. We might repeat this field trip next fall, or take a field trips to another location. Some possible locations include attending one of the People's Kitchen Collective's future events, or participate in local rallies.
- Meet with the Berkeley Food Institute: The Berkeley Food Institute is a cross-sectional organization that seeks to transform food systems to expand access to healthy, affordable food and promote sustainable and equitable food production. Hopefully we can meet with students from the institute or have them come speak on campus.

Climate Action Group

We are a working group starting next fall with the overarching initiative of decreasing Stanford's carbon footprint while teaching and empowering students to combat climate change on both a personal and political level.

- Policy action workshops within dorms and campus wide
 - Calling policymakers, writing op-eds, lobbying
- Work with local high school groups about how they can act on climate policy in their city
- Host events/bring in speakers to raise climate awareness and empower students
- Work with the Athletics Department (make the athletics department more sustainable, have carbon offsets for flights, etc)
- Continue to meet with and push administration to adhere to their 80% climate neutral commitment
 - Meet with the Office of Sustainability, ASSU, and Provost Committee on Sustainability to see how we can support and further their goals
- Work with the Office of Sustainability on their Winter Closure campaign and other efforts to encourage students to reduce personal energy use (dorm competitions)
- Find more ways to spread awareness about MyCardinalGreen - potentially incorporate it into Axess and/or work with the NSO planning team with the goal of having every student signed up upon arrival to campus



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Education Group (Updated)

Goals:

- Present our sustainability education video in several freshmen dorms and lead guided discussion/answer questions on sustainable living on campus
- Conduct more education workshops with youth
 - Do virtual classroom workshop with two more schools in Kentucky schools
 - Lead classroom workshop at local Palo Alto schools or work with their high school environmental clubs
- CS + Sustainability – lead new projects using programming skills to offer solutions for environmental problems or help facilitate behavior change
- Public educational exhibition highlighting certain environmental issues
- Potentially training representatives at each dorm to communicate sustainability messages

Transportation Group (Updated)

1. Policy

- On campus: Work with administration to make information about using transportation on campus more accessible. We want to advertise resources like the Marguerite bus, Caltrain, 5-SURE rides, encourage people not to bring cars
- At local/state level:
 - i. Reach out to California Congress members + local government officials to encourage greener/cleaner transportation
 - ii. Work with Coltura (anti-gas movement organization)

2. Policy

- Via visual arts exhibit: art at frost festival this year promoted anti-gas movement
- Goal of producing of some arts related sustainability project every quarter (at diff events)

3. Awareness

- a. Collaborations/connecting with other groups on campus
 - i. Stanford Solar Car Project
 - ii. Fossil Free Stanford
 - iii. Stanford Energy Club (grad students)



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Meeting with new ASSU Execs Shanta and Rosie

Our meeting with Shanta & Rosie was encouraging since they were very receptive to many of the ideas we had about helping student groups host more sustainable events and increasing sustainability awareness in the student population on campus. Rosie as a graduate student encouraged us to contact the Graduate Life Office about perhaps tabling or presenting about sustainability at Graduate Student Orientation. Shanta suggested we talk to Student Activities Leadership and have their peer advisors be trained to making events less wasteful. The new presidents are even be willing to state a message about sustainability in their introductory email to freshmen about ASSU, SSE and Stanford life.

Meeting with Anna Stone about NSO Sustainability

SSS is always trying to educate students on how to take advantage of the sustainability resources on campus, and we are working to increase the information during NSO. This year zero waste lunch was cut, but we are working to send out information to incoming students and parents with their summer information packets, update some packing lists, and improve waste sorting during move-in day. We are also working with Frosh Council, the freshman class student government, to facilitate the transfer of relevant information, and work to implement green event guidelines.

Progress with Administration

Throughout the year, SSS pursued four long term administrative goals that stem from multi-year SSS efforts: a pledge for carbon neutrality, a director of sustainability within the athletics department, a pledge for a zero waste campus, and incorporating sustainability education as a fundamental part of the Stanford experience. The results of President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell's Long Range Plan, released in mid-May, announced that Stanford will be a zero waste campus by 2030 and 80% carbon neutral by 2025, goals which track closely with SSS's asks of the larger Stanford administration.

Long Range Planning Comments

SSS members read many of the Long Range Planning white papers released by the President and Provost. We compiled our comments on the papers and submitted five responses, one for each of the themes - Education, Research, Engagement Beyond our University, Community and Sustainability.

Many of our comments were in support of proposals for interdisciplinary research, engagement with communities outside of Stanford, and expanding sustainability education.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Co-Directors:

Director of Strategy:

Director of Operations:

Outreach Ambassador:

Community Officer:

Media Officers:

Schneider Lecture Coordinators:

Environmental Justice Project Coordinators:

Sustainability Education Project Coordinators:

Transportation Project Coordinators:

Climate Project Coordinators:

Zero Waste Project Coordinator:

Andrea Contreras and Miranda Vogt

Spencer Robinson

Amulya Yerrapotu

Katie Lan

Jazzy Kerber

Alex Li and Becca Nelson

Maeve Givens and Deirdre Francks

Mireille Vargas and Tuheen Manika

Chris Tan, Cameron Thouati de Tazoult, & Alice Wang

Lauren McLaughlin and Alissa

Jayne Stevenson and Rozy Eastaugh

TBA