

Sustainability



Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to update the campus community on recent achievements and developments in campus sustainability. Sustainability is the collective commitment to human dignity for all people and ecological integrity in all places. As a core value at Keene State, sustainability is a campus-wide endeavor. Through collective action we strive to build a more just, resilient, and sustainable future for all.



*Juniper King and Mara Grady
class of 2022*

Energy Interns

Energy Interns Mara Grady and Juniper King are completing a carbon footprint assessment of Keene State. Their work will be presented to the Sustainability Council and strategically inform how we meet our climate goals.

Earth Day!

This spring brings the 52nd Earth Day in the United States. The establishment and institutionalization of this day was made possible through the actions of numerous passionate and dedicated citizen scientists, such as Rachel Carson.

Did you know that the first Earth Day led to the bi-partisan creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency? Which in turn, led to the passage of our first environmental laws.

[Learn more about the history of Earth Day and how you can take action today.](#)

Retrospect: A Look Back at Last Year

In the spring of 2021, Keene State moved from AASHE STARS Silver to **GOLD** status. Meaning, we now hold the second highest ranking for sustainability in higher education. Furthermore, based on our 2021 STARS report Keene State was featured as a Top Overall Performer in the Sustainable Campus Index; receiving recognition in the categories of Curriculum, Research, and Purchasing with a special mention of our fully renewable heating plant. These incredible achievements would not have been possible without the steadfast commitment to progressing sustainability demonstrated by many students, staff, and faculty.

The year of 2021 also brought significant structural changes to the Sustainability Office, which is now housed in the Facilities Services Department and led by Sustainability Coordinator, Linsey Edmunds. For more information on the current Sustainability Team, please [visit our website here](#).



SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR MESSAGE

The possibilities with campus sustainability are endless, which is part of why I love my job so much. Sustainability can be a link which connects us all, breaking through long standing institutional barriers. Similarly, sustainability provides an

opportunity for all KSC community members to feel empowered by their actions and their ability to create positive impact. As the Sustainability Coordinator, I am a committed partner in how YOU want to progress sustainability at Keene State.



Photo: Sarah Penney, '23 is the Green Bikes Lead Mechanic and is a dual major in Secondary Education and Chemistry-Physics.

Green Bikes

The Green Bikes program is entirely student operated and continues to be very popular among the KSC community. Even with 50 - 75 bikes available each semester, the demand on campus still can't be satisfied! To make bikes available to more of the KSC community, an hourly and daily check-out program was instituted. Visit the Mason Library to check-out a Green Bike or learn more [here](#).

Special Note: The GB Program is hiring! Check Handshake for more details.

Thrifty Owl

Previously known as the 'Reuse Room,' the Thrifty Owl is a free campus thrift store offering home essentials, office supplies, kitchenware, and professional clothing to the KSC community. The Thrifty Owl is entirely volunteer run and maintains a strong collaboration with The Hungry Owl. Hours of operation are dependent on student availability each semester, but are updated [here](#).



Design by: Olivia Lonardo '22, Graphic Design major and Communications Intern for Sustainability Office

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES SERVICES MESSAGE

I am excited to welcome Linsey and all of her talents into Facilities Services. We will be spending the year ahead continuing to work on several initiatives to unlock savings through greener operations and energy savings.

Efforts which contribute to reaching our sustainability goals at Keene State, while also doing our part to deal with evolving climate issues.

- Thank you, Marc Doyon

Keene State's Sustainability Council

The mission of The Sustainability Council is to help shape practices and programs that reinforce Keene State College's commitment to a sustainable and equitable future for all. The Sustainability Council works collaboratively with students, staff, and faculty to identify initiatives and develop strategies to reach our sustainability goals. This is a dynamic initiative with the capacity to adapt and address the topmost sustainability concerns and priorities at Keene State College. Each member works within a themed Sustainability Hub; here's a brief preview of what each hub has been working on this semester:

Sustainable Administration Hub: AASHE STARS Report, how we maintain Gold and strive for Platinum

Sustainable Infrastructure Hub: Sustainable transportation needs and opportunities on-campus.

Sustainable Living Hub: Campus Eco-House for project or residential purposes, or both!

Interested in joining or have someone in mind for the Sustainability Council? Submit a nomination [here](#).





Eco-Reps

The Eco-Reps student organization has thrived under the leadership of Mara Grady, Olivia Lonardo, Kayli Lord, and Jess Lawton. With 25 members and growing, the Eco-Reps are preparing for a busy spring including a beach clean-up in Rye, NH and several Earth Month activities. To learn more about Eco-Reps [click here](#).

Adopt a Garden on campus

On campus this summer? Consider adopting a campus garden! Gardens are increasingly important to students, but can be difficult to care for over summer break. Help us bridge this gap by volunteering to tend to a small garden plot on campus.

Don't forget employees get 8 Community Service hours of paid time yearly.

[Sign up here!](#)



Sustainability Major & Minor

At Keene State, students can choose to major or minor in Sustainability Studies, a truly unique opportunity. This interdisciplinary program allows students to explore innovative solutions to the local and worldwide degradation of nature and associated social injustices, and discover technological, social, and ethics-based approaches that can create a more sustainable future for all. Learn more about this nationally recognized program [here](#).

PRESIDENT TREADWELL MESSAGE

Sustainability is a priority at Keene State College, and, as President, I made a commitment to this community that it would be a standard and teaching tool with measurable goals—using buildings and systems as laboratories; inspiring our students to become environmental stewards; achieving a zero-waste goal and reducing our carbon footprint, with zero carbon emissions by 2030, and expanding our food composting and use of waste food oil to heat campus facilities.

I am so proud of what we have achieved as a campus despite the turbulence in our world over the past several years, and I am very excited for what we will accomplish going forward. We have earned a Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education—and we are reaching for Platinum! We are on the list of Princeton Review's Green Colleges. With our Sustainability Coordinator's vision and leadership, we are thinking broadly, as is reflected in the numerous departments and individuals leading sustainability education, research, and application across campus. Thank you, Linsey! We are also engaging our student leaders to co-create the future of aspirational effort and institutional investment. Lastly, we are increasingly hearing that prospective students value our commitment to holistic sustainability.

We view our goals through a holistic lens, promoting wellbeing and social inclusion through a healthy environment, creating opportunities for economic growth with a focus on environmental protection. This is our commitment, that every facet of improvement be assessed through a holistic lens.

Our KSC community is focused on working as a closer, collaborative, working team. We must demonstrate continuous improvement and innovation to advance our holistic sustainability commitments. The effects of climate change and our response to it can feel overwhelming and, at times, hopeless. But individuals do make a difference, and institutions can lead the way. Each effort, whether large or small, gets us closer to our sustainability goals, and I thank you all for your commitment to this effort.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Sasha Davis of Environmental Studies and Sustainability teaches a wide variety of courses relating to sustainability, in addition to leading multiple study away programs for students. As a member of the Sustainability Council, Dr. Davis has been instrumental in connecting students to the Council and providing opportunities for students to not only lead discussion, but also action focused on sustainability and social justice. Thank you, Dr. Davis!

Student Spotlight

Mara Grady will graduate this spring with dual degrees in Sustainability Studies and Spanish. Mara joined the Sustainability Office in January 2021 as a ROCKS and Eco-Reps staff member; she not only stayed on to help through the transition, but she expanded her involvement this year. Mara holds the position of Eco-Reps President and works as an Energy Intern for the Sustainability Office. Thank you, Mara, for your many contributions!



"I love how Keene State offers programs in which I can merge my passion and my education" - Mara Grady, class of 2022



Staff Spotlight

Joe Britton first joined Keene State in 2005, but was recently promoted to Facility Manager of Grounds. In this role, Joe provides the KSC community with a number of services and support. When he's not hard at work on campus, you can find Joe in his greenhouses, growing plants for local farms. Joe has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to not only campus, but accommodating student project requests and offering a helping hand to anyone who reaches out. Thanks Joe for all you do!

THANK YOU!