

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

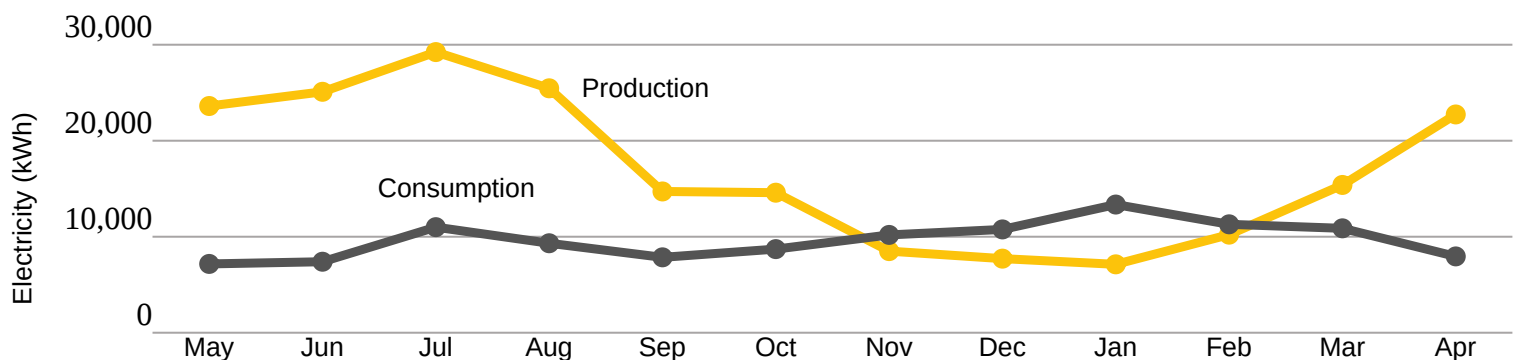
7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



## THE LOMBARDO WELCOME CENTER ACHIEVES ZERO ENERGY CERTIFICATION

Millersville University's Lombardo Welcome Center is the first building in Pennsylvania to achieve zero energy certification with the International Living Future Institute. The building joins a select group of approximately 100 zero energy buildings in the country. The Lombardo Welcome Center produced 75% more energy than it used during its first year, making it one of the top five highest performing buildings in the country according to the New Buildings Institute's database of zero energy buildings. [Follow along to see if Lombardo can perform even better this year.](#)

### Lombardo Welcome Center's Year 1 Zero Energy Performance





# MILLERSVILLE HOSTS POSITIVE ENERGY BREAKFAST TO CELEBRATE ZERO ENERGY CERTIFICATION

Millersville University recently held a Positive Energy Breakfast to celebrate the Lombardo Welcome Center's zero energy certification. The Positive Energy Breakfast included an expert panel of community leaders, including Dr. Sam Lombardo (Benecon, CEO), Mr. Tom Adams (Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, COO), and Dr. Karen Rice (Millersville University School of Social Work, Department Chair). The panel was moderated by President Wubah and focused on sustainability, community collaborations and social entrepreneurship. Student attendees were encouraged to apply to the Positive Energy Fund to obtain funds for projects that support the surrounding community centered on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.



President Wubah addresses attendees of the Positive Energy Breakfast. Dr. Karen Rice, Mr. Tom Adams and Dr. Sam Lombardo spoke about opportunities to advance community sustainability.



# 1 NO POVERTY



## MCW CARES 4 YOU

Millersville Concerned Women (MCW) recently collected and donated feminine hygiene products and winter clothes to women who face poverty in the City of Lancaster. MCW placed collection boxes across campus to collect the items and used the donations to create 30 care packages that they distributed. MCW brought warmth and generosity to the City residents and donated remaining items to the Lancaster Domestic Violence Shelter.



### ITEC 304 *Energy, Resources, & the Environment* **WITH FIELD EXPERIENCES IN ICELAND!**

#### **SUMMER SESSION 1, 2020**

- Fulfills MU *Perspectives Requirement*
- Course offered in blended format



- 9 Days, 8 nights in Iceland
- Contact Dr. Litowitz for more details
- 717-871-7215 or [len.litowitz@millersville.edu](mailto:len.litowitz@millersville.edu)

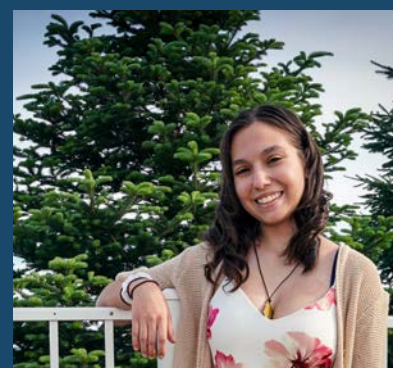
# THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This newsletter presents Millersville's sustainability activities using the [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) as a framework. The Global Goals are 17 internationally-accepted goals that serve as a blueprint for the global community to solve the grand challenges of our time. Millersville's faculty, staff and students are invited to learn more about the Global Goals and to incorporate them into your own coursework, activities and outreach to share how you are helping to create a sustainable future. For more information about the Global Goals please contact Chris Steuer ([Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu](mailto:Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu)).



## MEET THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY REPRESENTATIVE

Lauren Coca was recently elected as the Student Sustainability Representative under the Student Government Association. A freshmen majoring in Meteorology, Lauren is from Mechanicsburg, PA, and, in addition to sustainability, includes photo/video editing, drawing, origami and playing with dogs among her interests. "I'm thrilled to be Millersville's new Sustainability Representative," said Lauren. "People say that one person can make a difference; I can only imagine what a team of ambitious and passionate leaders can do to combat persisting global issues."



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUSTAINABILITY? JOIN THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

Organized under the Student Government Association (SGA), the Student Sustainability Committee promotes campus environmental sustainability and organizes sustainability-related campus events. The Committee typically meets weekly during the academic year. Interested students can contact Lauren Coca ([Is coca@millersville.edu](mailto:Is coca@millersville.edu)) or Chris Steuer ([Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu](mailto:Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu)).



# MILLERSVILLE WINS NATIONAL DEPT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD



Millersville representatives include (beginning third from left) Ari Camel, Mamie Covell, Chris Steuer, Dr. Mike Jackson, and Pat Weidinger.

## Millersville is one of four universities nationally to be recognized by the U.S. Dept of Education

Colleagues from Millersville University recently traveled to Washington D.C. to accept a Green Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education on behalf of the University.

The award recognizes work by Millersville University's faculty staff and students to:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs;
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
- Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

The award would not be possible without the efforts of numerous individuals across the Millersville University community. In particular the award recognized the work of the Director of Safety and Environmental Health, Facilities Management Department and Sustainability Director to reduce environmental impact and costs; the Center for Health Education and Promotion to increase student health and wellness through its various activities and programs; and efforts by faculty members to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum. Efforts to incorporating sustainability into the curriculum include the Watershed Education and Training Institute, the Center for Disaster Research and Education, green chemistry practices, campus apiary, endangered species research, and climate change response planning. The work of faculty members in these areas was represented by the Dean of the College of Science and Technology, Dean Mike Jackson. For a complete summary of the highlighted work, please see the [2019 Green Ribbon Schools Highlights Report](#).





## POSITIVE ENERGY FUND AWARDS \$10,000 TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Last spring the Positive Energy Committee provided a first round of awards to Millersville faculty, staff and students to support community projects through the Positive Energy Fund. The Positive Energy Fund was established using utility rebates and demand response program savings obtained by the Facilities Management Department as well as cost savings from the Lombardo Welcome Center's positive energy performance. Funds can be used for community projects that advance the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

### APPLY NOW

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to apply to the Positive Energy Fund to receive up to \$2,500 for community-focused sustainability projects. Awards for the 2020/21 Academic Year will be made in April of 2020. The application deadline is Mar 23 2020. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Positive Energy Fund Year 1 Awardees



INTEGRATING ART  
INTO GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE



CROSS-  
POLLINATION:  
NATIVE  
GARDENS &  
STEM IN URBAN  
SCHOOLS



EDUCATION AND  
POVERTY  
CONFERENCE  
STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT



PROJECT GREEN  
LANCASTER  
MICRO MEDIA  
DEVELOPMENT

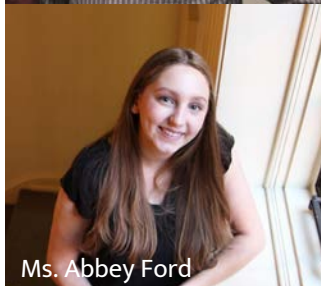




# PERC SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



Dr. Len Litowitz



Ms. Abbey Ford



The Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) recently recognized Dr. Len Litowitz and Ms. Abbey Ford as 2019 PA Sustainability Champions.

Dr. Litowitz integrates sustainability into the curriculum through his perspectives course ITEC 304, which discusses sustainability within a global education framework (including trips to Costa Rica and Iceland) while improving energy efficiency in the Osburn building, and Abbey Ford advances campus sustainability among her fellow students as a Sustainability Ambassador and previous Chair of the Student Government Association's Student Sustainability Committee.

## NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Millersville recently installed two new electric vehicle charging stations in the McComsey parking lot thanks, in part, to a grant provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Project Manager, Ron Frisbie, led the installation with support from Procurement Manager, Ruth Sheetz. Campus now has six charging stations including others in the McNairy and Stayer parking lots.



Dr. Nadine Garner charges her new Tesla Model X at the new McComsey Lot EV charging stations.





## OTTER CREEK CLEANUP

Dr. Justin Mando recently led a group of Millersville students in a stream cleanup effort at Otter Creek through a collaboration with the Lancaster County Conservancy. As demonstrated by the above picture, the team was able to remove a significant amount of debris that still remains from the record-setting 2018 summer storms.



## MEANINGFUL WATERSHED EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

Dr. Marcum-Dietrich was interviewed recently by Comcast Newsmakers on MU efforts to provide students with Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MEWEs) through partnerships with local school districts and other organizations. Watch here.





# LANCASTER CITY RELEASES CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Supported by Millersville University

The City of Lancaster recently released the City's first Climate Action Plan. Lancaster's City Council adopted the full plan during Climate Week this past September. During the Plan's development, Mayor Sorace and the City's Senior Planner, Douglas Smith, announced a goal to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2025 at a public meeting held at Millersville University's Ware Center last spring.

Sustainability Director, Chris Steuer, sits on the City's Climate Steering Committee and Dr. Kathy Schreiber and Dr. Ethan Frost have participated in planning meetings.

The City's plan is available online, <https://www.cityoflanasterpa.com/climate/>



Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration, Gil Brown, welcomes guests to the City of Lancaster's Climate Action Plan public meeting.

# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

The Sustainability Committee recognized faculty, staff, student and project sustainability champions at the 2019 Earth Day Celebration on April 23. Recognition plaques were developed by Dr. Alex Johnson and awarded by the Sustainability Committee Chair, Dr. Nadine Garner.



## Student Champion: Ms. Mamie Covell

Mamie chaired the sustainability committee within the Student Government Association, where she and her team created sustainable initiatives on campus and listened to concerns related to sustainability from students and the community. Mamie's creativity & passion for sustainability shine through in her work with others. She has run a DIY Reusable Bag night with the SHARP Team to help them learn about upcycling and making sustainable choices. Her fellow students have nominated Mamie because of her passion to make the Millersville campus community more sustainable, as well as her dedication to educating and informing the student body on sustainability.



## Faculty Champion: Dr. Justin Mando

Dr. Mando's focus at the university is Science Writing, and he uses this in interdisciplinary writing classrooms to help students understand and explore ideas of sustainability. He has developed a Kayaking on the Susquehanna assignment that helps students physically explore sustainability and has resulted in conference presentations and internships for undergraduate students. He has helped to organize local stream cleanups by Millersville University and annually conducts a Susquehanna Stories green reading event at Saxbys that gives students the chance to share their environmentally-focused writings in an open mic setting.



## Staff Champion: Ms. Michele Bote

Ms. Bote is an assistant director within Experiential Learning and Career Management (ELCM). She is an active member of the Sustainability Committee and is always willing to go the extra mile to help support sustainability efforts at Millersville. In fact, going the extra mile is what Michele does best. If you don't know her personally, you've surely seen her as she rides swiftly through campus on her daily commute. Michele embodies sustainable commuting on campus. She is an avid cyclist and the leading reason that Millersville University has won Commuter Services of PA's College Green Commute month for two years running (riding).



## Project Champion: Monarch Waystation

Last fall, Dr. John Wallace earned Millersville University recognition as a Monarch Waystation with Monarch Watch—a cooperative network of students, teachers, volunteers and researchers dedicated to the study of the Monarch butterfly. Monarch waystations provide milkweeds, nectar plants, and shelter for monarchs throughout their annual cycle of reproduction and migration. Dr. Wallace in collaboration with Pat Goldbach of grounds and Entomology Club has established several campus locations that support monarchs, including milkweeds on the hill behind Roddy Hall along Pucillo Drive, the butterfly bushes next to Roddy Hall and Breidenstine Hall, and milkweeds in Caputo courtyard. While the areas may not be bright green and colorful year round, they're worth a closer look and deserve reflection on the critical habitat they provide.





## RODDY WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Last spring the Entomology Club, led by student Kevin Faccenda, created 10 terraced plots on the embankment adjacent to the Roddy Parking lot. The project is designed to:

- Establish additional sources of perennial/biennial and annual flowering plants, to increase pollen/nectar sources for the migrating monarchs and other pollinating species such as the honeybees next to Brossman Hall
- Reduce or minimize soil erosion in the design of its construction; and
- Create a more aesthetically pleasing vista on an embankment that was being left to process through succession on its own.

## THE LIBRARY READING AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Led by Dr. Chris Hardy, the Library Reading and Sculpture Garden recently received a new sign that highlights the garden's sustainable features, native vascular plants arranged taxonomically along the winding, branching paths. Take a moment to stop and explore the garden's unique features when you're next walking by the library.





## What's something you do to make Millersville sustainable?

**Chris Jachimowicz**  
Director  
Orientation and  
Transition Programs

**Yvonne DeBlois**  
Admin. Assistant  
Office of the Vice  
President for Student  
Affairs and Enrollment  
Management

Our office looks to find simple, practical ways to eliminate waste and in doing so, we find that what is environmentally more sustainable also saves us money. We recently purchased two bundles of reusable balloons; there's no doubt that balloons are a fun and festive touch to events, but they serve only to look at for a day or two before becoming a large amount of rubber and plastic waste. Reusable balloons solve each of those issues in that they do not require helium in the midst of a global helium shortage, create any waste, or incur a cost each time we hold an event. When we need to thank folks for assisting our office, we pick items such as reusable bamboo tableware as thank-you gifts. They are portable, something everyone uses daily, and eliminate the need to continue purchasing plasticware we would otherwise be throwing away after a single use. We believe that small steps can have big impacts and so we take responsibility for the little changes we can make within our realm of influence.

## ARE YOU INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED RESEARCH?

The Office of Sustainability is currently looking for examples of sustainability-focused research to include in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges application. If you are a faculty member who conducts research in the sustainability sectors articulated by the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, please contact Sustainability Director, Chris Steuer (Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu).





## MILLERSVILLE CELEBRATES AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Millersville recently celebrated America Recycles Day along with other organizations and universities across the country.

Millersville students raised awareness of the Big 4 materials that can be recycled on campus, plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, corrugated cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and metal food and beverage cans. Students also shared information on alternatives to single-use plastics, such as reusable bags, beeswax wrap and reusable utensils.



Millersville's IT Department collected electronics recycling for America Recycles Day

## MILLERSVILLE RECYCLES THE BIG 4



**METAL FOOD AND  
BEVERAGE CANS**



**PLASTIC BOTTLES  
AND JUGS**



**CORRUGATED  
CARDBOARD**



**GLASS BOTTLES AND  
JARS**

Source: Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

## THE CAMPUS CUPBOARD PROVIDES FOOD SECURITY

The Campus Cupboard at the HUB is a food pantry for MU college students. It operates as a free student market where students can select items from the shelves just as they would in a grocery store. Students experiencing housing or food insecurity are more likely to be at risk for all five domains of well-being: physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being. During the Fall 2019, the Campus Cupboard helped to combat this challenge by serving almost 200 students with a total of 2,000 pounds of food. The Campus Cupboard also provides hot meals and events such as cooking classes, and works closely with Millersville University's chapter of the student Food Recovery Network to recover food that would otherwise go unused by the dining facilities.

"The Campus Cupboard's central location at the HUB caters to students with no transportation and also acts as a community center for students," said Alex Gomez, a Campus Cupboard volunteer and graduate student in the Social Work Department. "It also includes a cafe where students can hold meetings and enjoy free coffee and tea."

The Campus Cupboard accepts food donations throughout the year and is currently running a crock pot drive for new crock pots through the end of the semester. Donations can be made between the hours of 12-3pm Monday through Friday. Monetary donations are also accepted either via cash or check. Checks can be mailed to 121 N George St Millersville pa 17551.



**Millersville students can visit the Campus Cupboard weekly between 12-9pm.**



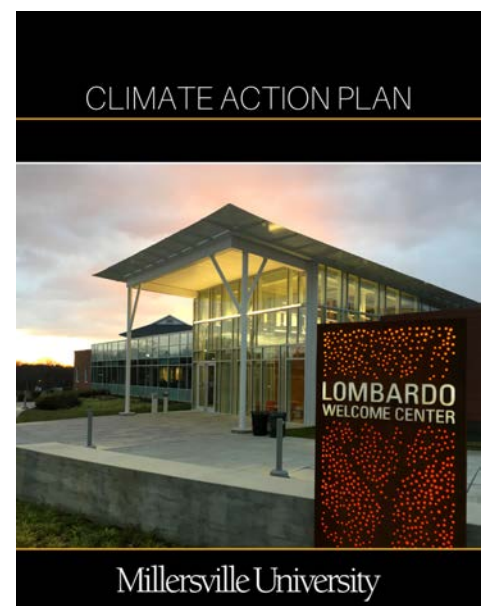


## 24 HOURS OF CLIMATE REALITY

Dr. Tim Mahoney recently led a Center for Academic Excellence session focused on the realities of climate change. The session was one of 1,750 held in 80 countries on every continent (including Antarctica) during 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action. Faculty, staff, students and community members discussed the drivers of climate change, its impacts, and opportunities for Millersville and the region to respond. [Learn more about Climate Reality.](#)

During the discussion, Sustainability Director, Chris Steuer, presented Millersville's [Climate Action Plan](#), which calls for Millersville to be carbon neutral by 2040. The Plan includes specific targets for improving campus energy efficiency, purchasing renewable electricity and adapting to climate change impacts, among other actions.

The Plan was developed by Millersville's Climate Action Plan Committee. For more information about joining the Committee, contact the Committee Chair, Dr. Kathy Schreiber ([Kathy.Schreiber@millersville.edu](mailto:Kathy.Schreiber@millersville.edu))



Millersville's Climate Action Plan



# Millersville University

## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Do you have an idea for how to improve campus sustainability, a story you would like to share or a tip for how to make Millersville sustainable? If so, please contact Millersville's Sustainability Director, Chris Steuer (Chris.Steuer@millersville.edu), to be included in future editions of the sustainability newsletter.



@SustainMyVille

[www.millersville.edu/sustainability](http://www.millersville.edu/sustainability)