

Fall 24 Newsletter



MILLERSVILLE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

| DECEMBER, 2024

This semester, Millersville University is once again focusing on sustainability across campus. The Office of Sustainability (OoS) has worked hard to actively engage students, faculty, and staff in fostering a greener Millersville. From recycling initiatives and energy-saving competitions to interactive social media campaigns, we're building a vibrant culture of sustainability. Through partnerships between the OoS, student groups, and external organizations, this semester marks an exciting new chapter of collaborative and impactful events that inspire our community to take meaningful action. This newsletter highlights key sustainability events, initiatives, and ways to get involved in the coming semester.



The Global Goals for Sustainable Development are 17 interconnected objectives to address the world's most pressing challenges through global collaboration. They serve as a shared roadmap for governments, organizations, businesses, and universities to promote peace, prosperity, and sustainability for people and the planet. At Millersville University, our mission is to offer diverse and enriching experiences that foster personal and intellectual growth, empowering anyone to make a positive impact locally and globally. This issue of the Sustainability Newsletter showcases activities that support these Global Goals.

Sustainability Committee is refreshed

The Sustainability Committee was recently restructured. Sustainability Manager Kaitlynn Hamaty and Psychology Professor Dr. Nadine Garner were appointed co-chairs of the Committee. The committee meets monthly during the academic year and includes representatives from various colleges, Student Affairs, as well as permanent staff appointments based on their position within the university. The development of subcommittees is currently underway to help engage more people across campus to tackle specific topics. To join a subcommittee, keep an eye out for more information through 'Ville Daily and emails.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Recycling Returns to the Residence Halls

This semester, recycling returned to the residence halls at Millersville University. Across campus, both in the residence halls and other buildings, acceptable materials for recycling are the "Big Four" set by Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA). This includes corrugated cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs, and glass. This initiative is another step Millersville is taking to divert waste from the landfill.

Villages Energy Saving Competition

| KW Energy per Student | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| September | October |
| East Village 255.83 | East Village 227.73 |
| South Village 281.17 | South Village 251.19 |
| West Village 239.68 | West Village 231.50 |

East, South, and West Villages competed to save the most energy in their residence hall in October. During the challenge, students took initiatives such as unplugging electronics when not in use, turning off unused lights, and taking shorter showers. Students were encouraged to be conscious of how much energy they consume daily and what can be reduced. The winner was East Village, reducing their energy consumption by approximately 28kwh per student.



Campus Sustainability Month Celebration

October was Campus Sustainability Month. To celebrate, the Office of Sustainability hosted a celebration event to highlight the continued work on campus. There was tabling from the Ocean Sciences Club, the Conestoga Outdoors Club, Commute PA, the Foraging Club, and the Watershed Education Training Institute. Students were encouraged to talk to each table and learn about their involvement on campus and how to make a positive impact.



Positive Energy Fund Awards 2024

Millersville's Lombardo Welcome Center is a zero-energy building, so it generates more energy than it consumes in a year. The money saved from utility rebates and energy savings allows Millersville University to create the Positive Energy Fund and support the Sustainable Development Goals, furthering its positive impact. Through the Positive Energy Fund, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to tackle complex sustainability challenges and develop creative solutions to address them.



Dr. Dominique Didier

Sustainability through Native Perennials

Biology professor, Dr. Didier, is working to highlight the importance of native plants in conserving ecosystems. In collaboration with Homefields, a local organic farm, Didier will grow 20 saskatoon berry bushes, which are known for their resilience to extreme drought and temperature fluctuations. She is also purchasing 500–800 native perennials to be planted in campus gardens. This effort not only conserves a threatened plant species but also fosters an appreciation for sustainable landscaping. Through this initiative, Dr. Didier aims to educate the public on the critical role of native species in maintaining ecological balance and promoting environmental sustainability.

15 LIFE ON LAND



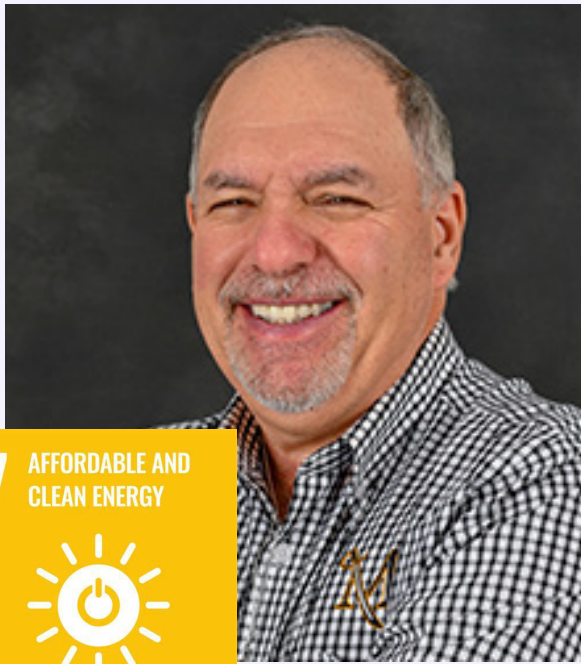
Elizabeth Rickrode

Millersville Nature Tracks: Passive Education within Millersville's Nature Preserve

Graduate Assistant Elizabeth Rickrode is designing, purchasing, and installing educational signs to support the goal of accessible clean water sources. These signs will be placed along the nature trail near the Watershed Education Training Institute, offering passive education to trail visitors. The signs will explain key concepts such as what defines a healthy ecosystem and the detrimental effects invasive species can have on a riparian buffer. Rickrode believes that fostering an understanding of the local ecosystem among community members can lead to broader environmental awareness and inspire actions to protect natural resources.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



Dr. Len Litowitz

5KW Photovoltaic Installation for Student and Community Education

Dr. Litowitz, Professor of Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology, practices hands on learning through the installation of a small solar array on campus. This project will serve as an educational tool, allowing students to learn the fundamental mechanics of solar power through practical experience in collecting data and installing solar arrays. Although the energy produced by this array will be a small contribution to the campus community, Dr. Litowitz envisions a larger impact. He believes the knowledge and skills students gain from this experience will inspire them to contribute to the goal of affordable and clean energy in their careers.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Dr. Christina Williams

My Orgullo Latinx (My Latinx Pride)

Dr. Williams, Director of the Gateway Scholars Program, developed “Mi Orgullo Latinx” (“My Latinx Pride”) to provide Latinx students in the School District of Lancaster (SDL) with opportunities to connect with their culture and heritage through education. As an SDL alumna, Dr. Williams recognized the need for a program that fosters cultural pride and strengthens students’ sense of identity, especially in a population of about 67% Latinx students. The program empowers students through activities focused on history, dance, art, and cultural expression. By engaging in these programs, students gain a deeper appreciation of their heritage and a stronger connection to their cultural roots.

Do you have an idea that could make a positive impact in our community?

Sustainability goes beyond the environment and includes goals like fighting poverty, reducing food insecurity, and promoting a circular economy. Bright students, faculty, and staff are invited to apply for funding through Millersville’s Positive Energy Award. To apply and review eligibility requirements, visit the [Positive Energy Fund page](#). Applications for the 2025 school year are due March 28th, 2025, by 5pm.

Upcoming Opportunities



Photo credit to Aya Miller, WSB SSE

Clothing Swap

We will host a clothing swap event where students, faculty, and staff can trade clothes with one another at no charge. The event provides an opportunity for anyone to exchange unwanted clothing for something "new-to-you." This event will help reduce waste by keeping unwanted clothes out of the landfill and immersing participants in sustainable practices. Keep an eye out for more information in the spring.

Get Involved!

The Student Government Association's (SGA) Sustainability Representative position is now open! This role offers a unique opportunity to advocate for sustainability on campus, collaborate with key university stakeholders, and create lasting change at Millersville. As the Sustainability Representative, you will attend weekly SGA general meetings and monthly Student Life and Sustainability Committee meetings. You will also work closely with the Sustainability Manager to stay up to date on sustainability at Millersville and help with ongoing projects. Your role is to advocate for sustainability on campus by making social media content, increasing student engagement, and collaboration with other organizations on and off campus. This role offers plenty of room for creativity and leadership. If you are passionate about making a difference and looking for a chance to take on a leadership position that directly impacts your campus, this is the role for you! For more information, please reach out to SGA by emailing gobrulia@millersville.edu

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Join the Sustainability Club!



Promote sustainability on campus and in our community by joining the Sustainability Club, where we embrace the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic. The club provides a welcoming space to learn, make friends, and create positive change.

Activities include hiking to explore and appreciate local ecosystems, crafts, games, and social events to exchange ideas and build connections. Members also engage in impactful initiatives like trash and stream clean-ups to protect and restore natural environments. Join the Sustainability Club to develop new skills, contribute to sustainability efforts, and connect with like-minded individuals striving for a more sustainable future.



Instagram: @mu.sustainability