

**Missouri  
State**

SUSTAINABILITY

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# SUSTAINABILITY

## ISSUE 10 - SEPTEMBER 2015 @MSU

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a great summer! We were hard at work and have several great things planned for this fall! The semester is off to a great start with several new programs including the sustainability minor a Sustainability Living Learning Community.

## Sustainability Discussion Courses

Last spring, a sustainability proposal passed to purchase sustainability discussion course workbooks. These workbooks were developed by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) to facilitate discussion about sustainability topics with the goal of increasing sustainability awareness, education and action in our daily lives. Groups of 8-12 people meet about 7 times for approximately 1 hour each time to discuss the content of the workbooks. Course topics include **Choices for Sustainable Living, Menu for the Future, Voluntary Simplicity, Sustainable Systems at Work and a World of Health**. These courses are completely FREE and open to all MSU students, faculty and staff. Learn more about the workbooks or sign up for a discussion group on the [sustainability website](#).



Northwest  
Earth Institute  
DISCOVER CHANGE, TOGETHER

# Sustainability Minor

Students can officially enroll in the new sustainability minor! This minor is interdisciplinary and the wide range of classes available ensure that it will complement any major on campus. Knowledge of sustainability is highly sought in agriculture, business, design and construction, health related fields, social sciences, environmental sciences and the arts. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for graduates educated in concentrations related to sustainability is expected to increase at least 20 percent between 2008 and 2018. A survey of over 1,300 business professionals found that 65 percent of these professionals see knowledge of environment and sustainability as valuable, particularly in new hires.

Check out the [sustainability website](#) and the [University Press Release](#) for more information.

# MSU Campus Garden

This summer the Campus Garden Managers worked with local businesses and organizations in order to create lasting partnerships that will benefit the project well into the future. This semester they are working on advertising the garden and its opportunities campus-wide as well as preparing the garden for the upcoming growing season. Students from all departments are encouraged to attend the weekly volunteer sessions Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7pm in order to get involved and discover the new opportunities available to them. Special projects can be designed, credit can be earned and service learning and community service hours can be gained at the garden. All are encouraged to find their place in this flexible project. Anyone interested should join them on [Campus Link](#), like the [Facebook page](#), or sign up to volunteer on the [sustainability website](#). We look forward to seeing more students get involved and making this a truly student-run project.





# Sustainability Toolkit

The Sustainability Toolkit is a collection of facts, actions and resources to help Missouri State University employees reduce their environmental footprint. The toolkit provides an overview of sustainability, how the concept fits with our public affairs mission, and the importance of our actions to create change. Some of the topics covered in the toolkit include Sustainable Transportation, Purchasing, Paper and Printing, Energy Conservation and Creating a Culture of Sustainability.

You can find the toolkit on the [sustainability website](#), but please think before printing.



## Bears for Sustainability

This new Living Learning Community houses about 45 students on the 4th floor of Hammons House! These students will become environmentally responsible citizens through education and community outreach opportunities that promote sustainability. Students can join the green movement by committing to live sustainably and creating positive environmental change locally and globally. This community kicked off the semester with a welcome social at Jenny Lincoln Park as a way to get to know each other and brainstorm events and activities for the semester. Food and drink were generously provided by Vasken's Deli and Mama Jean's Natural Market. In celebration of water conservation month, students will tour the Watershed Center and participate in a cleanup for Green Apple Day of Service!



# October Eco-Challenge



In celebration of Energy Awareness Month this October, we are going to be participating in the NW Earth Institute's EcoChallenge, which inspires and challenges people to change one habit for the planet. The intention is to demonstrate that small actions add up to real change. Anyone can join or create a team! You will then be able to compete with other teams comprised of students, faculty, staff and members of the Springfield community at large!

## Participating is simple:

1. Register for the EcoChallenge
2. Choose your EcoChallenge action.
3. Start or Join a Team.
4. Create your EcoChallenge profile page.
5. Share with friends and family— invite them to take the EcoChallenge, too!
6. On October 15th, start working toward your challenge goals and Check In on the website daily to log your progress. Connect with other EcoChallengers online and share your progress on your personal EcoChallenge blog.

Contact Jordan Schanda, Sustainability Coordinator, with any questions about getting signed up, inviting members or challenging teams!

## Sustainability Proposals

Did you know that SGA has about \$150,000 devoted to sustainability projects each year? Any student can submit a sustainability fund proposal! Proposals are now being accepted for this semester! Visit the sustainability website for more info or contact the Chief Sustainability Commissioner, Timmy Hogenkamp.



# Eco-Reps

This semester we have 16 passionate students serving as our campus Eco-Reps! Last week, we completed our first training on water conservation and scheduled several outreach activities to promote water conservation during September.

Eco-Reps volunteer at least two hours per month to educate their peers through chalking, tabling and sustainability presentations to groups across campus.

Learn more about the Eco-Reps program and see the student profiles on the [sustainability website](#).



# September is Water Conservation Month

Student Government Association and the Missouri State University Bookstore partnered on a reusable water bottle program to kick start the month's activities! Missouri State branded water bottles were offered at a 25% discount for the first four days of September and purchasers were also given a 25% off coupon for Bear Wear to be used at the end of the month. Water conservation is being promoted to students living in the residence halls through educational campaigns and competitions. Faculty and staff can get involved by being aware of their water use on campus and at home. When you are out and about on campus, look for Eco-Reps who are giving away water conservation kits and educating students, faculty and staff about the importance of water conservation.

