



Sustainability Through Diversity

Empowering Student Leaders to be a
Force of Positive Impact



Land Acknowledgement

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at UO, and across the land we now refer to as Oregon.*

*Courtesy to the UO Libraries

Who We Are

Zaida Hatfield | *Cultural Sustainability Coordinator, Student Sustainability Center, University of Oregon*

Jaron Malcom | *Undergraduate Student President, Net Impact, University of Oregon*

Julia Olson | *Waste Reduction Reusables Coordinator, Student Sustainability Center, University of Oregon*

Jim Wynne | *Events and Restoration Coordinator, Student Sustainability Center, University of Oregon*

Brendan Adamczyk | *Student Sustainability Network Chair, Student Sustainability Center, University of Oregon*

Whiteness and Environmentalism



As environmental and social justice activists, we strongly believe in the importance of diversity and inclusion. While the widespread idea of sustainability is of a white man promoting traditional environmentalism, like energy efficient light bulbs, our sustainability runs deeper. We want to empower marginalized groups, minimize waste, and educate our student body. We are advocates for those who don't have a voice or aren't in a position to use theirs.

What is the Student Sustainability Center (SSC)?

- Collaborative space for student-led initiatives that foster and support the simultaneous pursuit of human equity, environmental vitality, and economic well-being
- Funded through student fees
- Operate in two modes:
 - Our own programming
 - Responding and supporting student ideas



What is Net Impact?

- Sustainable business club located in Lundquist College of Business. Focuses on providing opportunities for experiential learning, career development, hands-on experience, and leadership.
- Open to ALL majors. NO FEES.
- Three pillars to our club:
 - Education
 - Experience
 - Social



Zaida-

Sophomore • Ethnic Studies Major • Spanish Minor

What is a Cultural Sustainability Coordinator?

Inspired by PSU, works to involve marginalized identities in sustainability work and vice versa

- Outreach
- Collaboration across campus
- Point person for Free Store and for identity based groups (Multicultural Center, Black Cultural Center, Umoja Scholars) who want to get involved in sustainability

Free Store and Professional Clothing Drive

First launched school year
2019-2020

Jaron

- Senior - Finance & OBA Major, Economics & CIT Minor

Net Impact Undergraduate Student President

- Point for communication between Net Impact and other groups and organizations
- Maintain Net Impact's programming schedule to hit performance benchmarks for the academic year
- Delegate tasks to membership and help them develop within the club

Achievements and Opportunities

- **Membership**
 - Statistics: 67% growth this year; 47% retention rate; Standard deviation: 3
 - Community
- **Net Impact Programming Structure**
 - Variety of offerings
 - Serve freshmen, sophomores, junior, and seniors
 - Operate fall, winter, and spring terms
- **Opportunities**
 - Membership growth
 - Various funding streams
 - Collaboration across campus

Julia

- Senior - Geography, Spatial Data Science and Technology, and Environmental Studies major

Waste Reduction and Reusables Coordinator

- Position created from the realization of a lack of opportunities for waste reduction and gaps in reusable programming on campus for students
- Focus on promoting reusable alternatives for students to engage with on a daily basis -- creating small but tangible change on campus

Bottles Up / SSC Reusables / EMU ReusaBOWLS

- Bottles Up beginnings
- SSC Reusables
 - Began Winter 2019
 - Provides reusable mugs, cups, and tumblers for students on campus
- EMU ReusaBOWLS
 - Came into being Fall 2019
 - Looking to provide students with reusable bowl and silverware options for dining venues in the student union



Grad to Grad Gown Share

- Started in Spring 2018
- Provides a rental service for graduation gowns, caps, and other regalia for students
- Began with the donation of gowns from recently graduated students in 2018
- Program growth
- Working with Commencement and Event Services



GRAD TO GRAD GOWN SHARE

Donate your gown to be used again next year

Drop gowns off any time after graduation at the
Student Sustainability Center,
EMU 005

emu.uoregon.edu/socialequity



Achievements and Struggles

- Students are using our SSC Reusables Program!
- Impact on the Student Union (EMU)
- Changing student perceptions of waste, reusables, and sustainability
- Struggles
 - Continued growth of programs themselves
 - Sustaining knowledge growth for students
 - Reaching groups of students not already aware of our center and programming

Broadening Student Engagement

- Gown Share and its connection to TRIO and the AEC
 - Reaching students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and engaging them in sustainability
 - Partnerships between departments/offices on campus to connect students
- Bottles Up / SSC Reusables / EMU ReusaBOWLS
 - Gateway for students to get into other sustainability issues
 - Easy to participate, low-stakes, and encourages sustainable habits

Jim

- Sophomore - Geography/
Environmental studies major

Restoration Events Coordinator / General
SSC work

- Position created for lack of hands on
local environmental work for
students
- Focus on increasing student turnout
at local habitat restoration events.



Restoration Work

- Hendricks Park/ Alton-Baker Park
- Collaboration with ongoing park events - Hendricks park 'free the forest'
- Coordination with other campus groups
- Plantings, ivy pulls/invasive removal, trail maintenance



Challenges/Successes

- Communication - busy schedules on both ends
- Scheduling - quarter system - perpetual midterm/finals
- Turnout - difficult on all ends
 - advertising
 - RSVPs vs actual attendance
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ no show rate

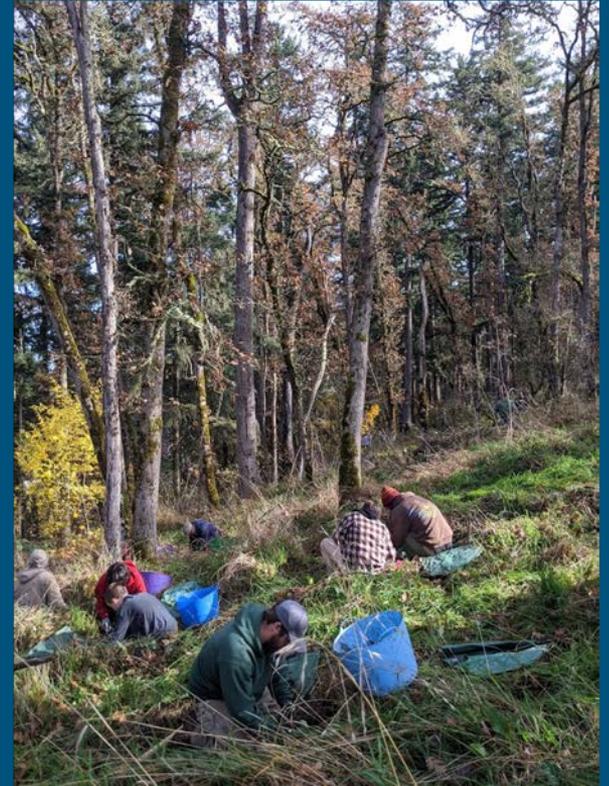
- Filled the niche for hands on restoration work for students
- Building connections with variety of organizations
- Everyone has a really good time



Student Engagement - Going Forward

- Volunteer work dominated by retirees
 - Student involvement brings fresh faces and diversity to homogenous crowd
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- New programs going forward
 - Small scale trail maintenance
 - Speakers on restoration work/local ecology



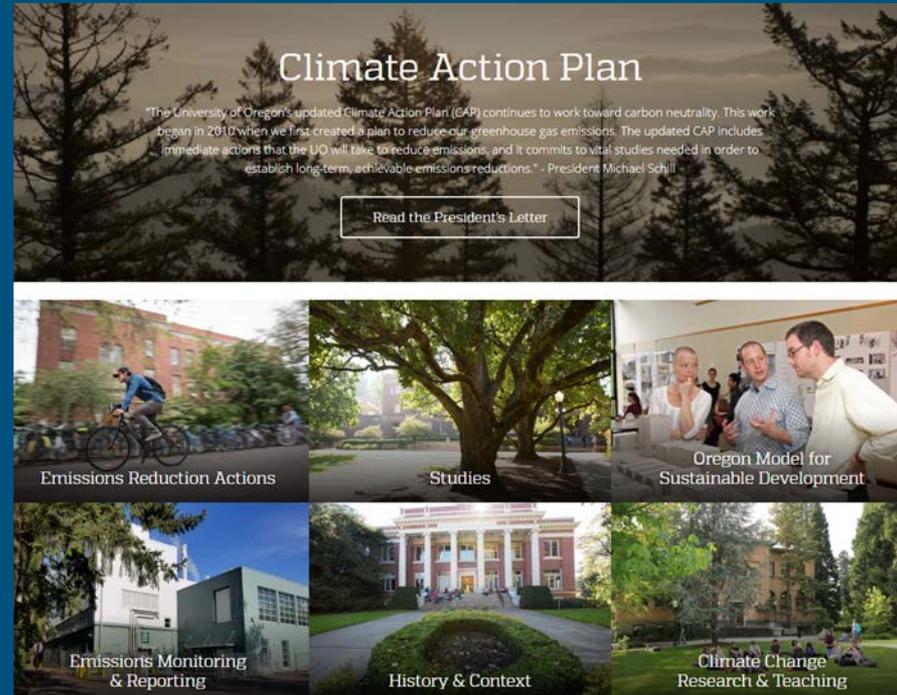
Brendan - Student Sustainability Network Chair

- Contact point for groups on campus that pursue human equity, environmental vitality and economic well-being in the community.
- Increasing student learning and experience in sustainability, student outreach, and relationship management.
- Representing student environmental groups in meetings with school administration to create and advocate for institutional change.

Highlights and Challenges

- UO Climate Action Plan 2.0
- Event planning
- Avoiding conflict

- Consistency
- Inclusivity



Thank you for your time!

Questions?

Get in touch with us!

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