

6TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Saint Mary's College

DECEMBER 2019



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A NOTE ABOUT WHAT'S NOT INSIDE:

While this report highlights several notable achievements over the past year, we acknowledge that there are many efforts and sustainability champions that are not featured here. Unfortunately, this report cannot capture it all. We want to express our deep gratitude for all the seen and unseen actions and people that work tirelessly to make our campus and world more just and sustainable.

OUR VISION

In fidelity to our educational mission and Catholic principles, Saint Mary's College is committed to leadership in fostering environmental literacy, modeling a culture of sustainability, and creating an equitable future for all of humankind in harmony with nature.

The animating vision of a more sustainable college cannot be achieved without considerable creativity, innovation, flexibility and energy. To achieve our sustainability objectives, we must:

- Engage our community at all levels. Successful implementation of sustainability objectives will require the initiative to become a stated priority for the Board of Trustees and senior administrative leadership;
- Conduct a transparent evaluation and planning process that defines tradeoffs and sacrifices in a conscientious fashion;
- Take full advantage of the College's substantial intellectual resources - our own students, staff and faculty will generate some of the best solutions;
- Link our work to the Saint Mary's mission, recognizing that conducting our work and ourselves sustainably is consistent with the College's aims and ideals;
- Assign clear measures to institutional and individual accountability.



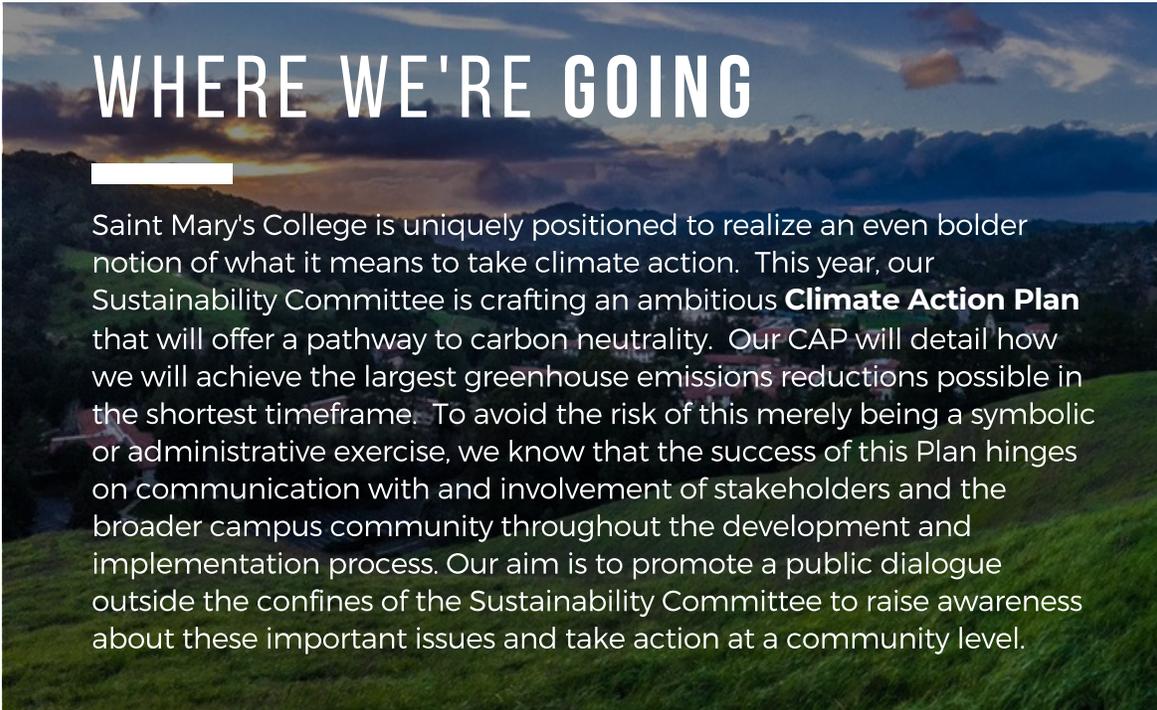
WHERE WE'RE AT TODAY

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment for the earth's climate and for those bearing the most devastating impacts of climate change. **Pope Francis'** Encyclical on Care for Our Common Home, or *Laudato Si*, firmly pronounced that climate change is one of the greatest threats of our time and the impacts of climate change will disproportionately burden the world's poor.

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC), the world's leading panel of experts, scientists and government officials, has repeatedly highlighted the urgency of prioritizing timely, ambitious and coordinated action to address unprecedented and enduring changes. In September 2019, The **United Nations** held a Global Climate Action Summit to bring climate change to the top of the international agenda.

Sixteen-year-old **Greta Thunberg** has received global attention for rallying young people to speak out about the climate crisis. These reports and calls from world leaders underscore the need to take action.

Saint Mary's College has made significant strides in reducing our carbon footprint and in finding innovative ways to adapt. As described in this report, student leaders (pg. 6), the new living learning community (pg. 7), Facilities Services team (pg. 8), alumni (pg. 9), Climate Reality Corps (pg. 10), faculty and staff, and many others across campus are thinking critically, collaborating and employing their strengths and best practices to act on the complex and urgent issues surrounding climate change.



WHERE WE'RE GOING

Saint Mary's College is uniquely positioned to realize an even bolder notion of what it means to take climate action. This year, our Sustainability Committee is crafting an ambitious **Climate Action Plan** that will offer a pathway to carbon neutrality. Our CAP will detail how we will achieve the largest greenhouse emissions reductions possible in the shortest timeframe. To avoid the risk of this merely being a symbolic or administrative exercise, we know that the success of this Plan hinges on communication with and involvement of stakeholders and the broader campus community throughout the development and implementation process. Our aim is to promote a public dialogue outside the confines of the Sustainability Committee to raise awareness about these important issues and take action at a community level.

SAINT MARY'S NAMED A TOP GREEN COLLEGE

Saint Mary's received a sustainability rating of 93 out of 99 in The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges: 2019. SMC earned high marks for the College's formal Sustainability Committee and its sustainability-focused degree programs.

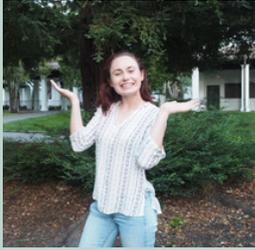


Saint Mary's was honored to be included in *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2019 Edition*. Saint Mary's ranked among the top 413 colleges the Princeton Review chose to profile out of 700 schools. The schools selected received an overall rating of 80 or higher, based on a scale of 60 to 99. Saint Mary's received a 93 sustainability score. The criteria for each score broadly covered the schools' academic offerings and initiatives, campus policies and practices, and green-career preparation for students. More than 25 data points were analyzed for the green rating score. Data from the student survey included student ratings of three factors: the influence of sustainability issues on their education and life on campus; administration and student support for environmental awareness and conservation efforts; and the visibility and impact of student environmental groups.



MEET OUR SUSTAINABILITY STUDENT LEADERS

THE PEOPLE BEHIND OUR PROGRAMS



RILEY PARKER



MELISSA BANUELOS



LUCAS DRAKE



GABRIELLA GARRIDO



HAILEY BREWSTER



IZZY DIAZ III



LAUREN SMITH



NATALIE ZANDER



TAYLOR WELSH



PAYTON REIL



ISABELLA BETHKE



GRACE CLINTON

At Saint Mary's, our students are the face and voice of our efforts as we continue to develop a community and culture around sustainability. Students, staff and faculty can take advantage of numerous programs and initiatives offered by the Office of Sustainability, mostly through the help of our dynamic, hard-working Sustainability Student Leaders, pictured above (not pictured: Brianna Verduzco & Gianna D'Arrigo). Throughout the year, these students certify Green Spaces, generate and implement sustainable food practices in Oliver Hall and beyond, reduce waste, manage our ever-popular and expanding Free Store, create inspiring social media content and educational materials, foster an inclusive Sustainability Living Learning Community and lead both our Green Gaels student club and Climate Reality Project.



SUSTAINABILITY LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC)

The Sustainability LLC at Saint Mary's College provides a living and learning environment that empowers students to creatively and consciously build a more just and sustainable campus and world.

In Spring 2019, with a heavy focus on recruitment and outreach, the Sustainability Office launched a new Living Learning Community (LLC) focused on sustainability. The LLC enrolled 28 mostly rising second-year students to join the Community for the 2019-2020 Academic Year - over double the number anticipated! Students who choose to live in this community seek to adopt sustainable practices with their peers and reduce their individual and community's environmental footprint. Housed in South Claeys Hall, students in the LLC have a unique opportunity to carry out the Lasallian and Liberal Arts traditions through campus leadership projects related to environmental justice, sustainable food systems, hiking, gardening, cooking classes, advocacy and action.

Sustainability



Living Learning
Community



Pictured clockwise from top left: Saint Mary's is making the move to an **Electric Vehicle fleet**; Our Grounds Team is incorporating more **drought-tolerant landscaping**, including this beautiful new project next to Mitty residence hall complete with an 80 ft bioswale; Our Office's biggest event of the year, **Sustainable Move Out**, could not happen without Facilities Services' help and support; Installing on-site solar energy is a top priority project for Saint Mary's in coming years; Facilities Services re-purposed **250 + beds and desks** in the Ageno residence halls this year, complementing some of the beautiful and sustainable remodeling completed over the summer; New LED lighting is being installed across campus, including our Rec Center.

OPERATION SUSTAINABLE

Our Facilities & Operations Team continues to be an instrumental partner in developing & implementing sustainability initiatives throughout campus.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



JENCY JAMES '06

After graduating from Saint Mary's, Jency James '15 became involved in the world of waste. For the past 5 years, Jency worked as a Recycling Coordinator for Republic Services, a solid waste hauler. There, she helped design and implement recycling and composting programs for residents and businesses throughout Central Contra Costa. This included conducting presentations and workshops, auditing bins, and designing outreach materials. Her work brought her back to Saint Mary's where she collaborated with Facilities Services to streamline recycling and composting throughout campus as well as worked with students on awareness campaigns through lunchtime monitoring and recycling presentations. Jency was inspired to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies after taking AP

Environmental Science in high school, which opened her eyes to the critical problems (and solutions) of the climate crisis. Her professors at Saint Mary's helped deepen her passion for the environment through interactive field trips and creative classroom projects. Jency recently joined Alameda County as a Sustainability Project Manager. She is continuing her work in waste by overseeing recycling programs and helping to update the County's Climate Action Plan.



JENCY JAMES (LEFT) TABLING FOR REPUBLIC SERVICES AT SAINT MARY'S EARTH DAY FESTIVAL, APRIL 2019



Thank you to Saint Mary's Undergraduate Research & Development Fund for their funding and travel support

OUR CLIMATE REALITY CORPS

SAINT MARY'S SENT FOUR STUDENTS TO AL GORE'S CLIMATE REALITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN MINNEAPOLIS, MI,

QUOTES FROM OUR STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE:

"Climate change is scary, and it's here and it's real. But no one has to conquer this alone. The Climate Reality Project gave me something that I didn't know I needed: a community of people with hope for a better, more green future. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to attend this training session. I can't wait to share what I've learned, and to continue to be inspired from people taking climate action all around the world. Let's get to work!" - Lauren Smith '22

"Our universal goal should be to shift towards the many solutions - individual and collective - that are steps towards a world where we all live in a healthy environment (in every aspect of our lives). Climate change is not just a movement backed by scientists and although many of us have the privilege to not have felt its effects yet, we cannot stay silent; this must be a social justice movement that is strengthened by inclusiveness and the voices of people of color and indigenous communities. Solutions demand that we come together and look beyond our differences to fight for our future." - Taylor Welsh '21

EARTH WEEK 2019

Every year during the third week of April, campuses, cities, schools and congregations around the country come together to celebrate our planet and our stewardship of it. Earth Week was one of the Sustainability Office's hallmark events during the 2018-2019 Academic Year. Hundreds of students, staff and faculty attended and participated in several programs, pictured and described below.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Students, staff and faculty participated in bike-to-work day; Gianna D' Arrigo '22 enjoyed the views from the Tree of Life during a hike in the SMC hills; The Legacy Garden gave away hundreds of tomato, basil and pepper plants to the campus community; Students from JCL 130: *Environmental Justice* course tabled during the Earth Day Festival showcasing work from their semester-long CE engagement projects and campaign plan; Mission & Ministry's Fair Trade Committee screened *The True Cost* followed by a panel discussion on the social and environmental impacts of the fashion industry; The inaugural Eco Art show hosted by the Green Gaels featured student artwork and a silent auction.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Jane Camarillo, *Chair*

Ann Drevno, *Sustainability Director*

James Sciuto, *Engagement Subcommittee Chair*

Manisha Anantharaman, *Academic Subcommittee Chair*

Roy Wensley, *Policy Subcommittee Chair*

Safa Toma, *Operations Subcommittee Chair*

Alice Baldrige

Andrew Mount

Elizabeth Davis

Felicia Martinez

Gemma Niermann

Holly Dusenbury

Isabella Navarro

Jennifer Pigza

Joseph Rosa

Lance Hourany

Lorne Ellison

Michael Marchetti

Michael Viola

Michal Strahilevitz

QUESTIONS
ABOUT OUR
PROGRAMS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION E-MAIL US AT
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