



## Saint Mary's Office of Sustainability

At Saint Mary's, our students along with our staff and faculty are building a more just, sustainable community through small-scale campus initiatives as well as by addressing global challenges, such as climate change, through research, teaching and advocacy. Saint Mary's uses its campus as a living laboratory for piloting sustainable food systems, waste diversion, energy and water conservation, as well as addressing issues of social justice and equity. Students take advantage of numerous involvement opportunities offered by Saint Mary's Office of Sustainability, including the Free Store, Zero Waste initiatives, Energy Efficiency projects, the Green Space program, the Legacy Garden, the Climate Reality Project, the Sustainability Living Learning Community and the Green Gaels club. Our students are the face and voice of our efforts as we continue to develop a community and culture around sustainability. For more information about Saint Mary's sustainability programs please email [smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu).

## Green Gaels Student Club



The Green Gaels Student Club is an inclusive group of students that help to promote environmental consciousness on Saint Mary's campus and beyond through education, advocacy and a change in the status quo. Over the past several years the Green Gaels club has hosted hikes, Legacy Garden workdays, movie nights, an Eco Art Show, advocacy and action campaigns, zero waste initiatives, clean air days, informational tabling, and the annual Ecochella concert.

## Green Space program



Our Green Space program is an eager team of students ready to identify offices around campus ready to take action to decrease waste, conserve resources and improve overall environmental performance (while saving money!). There are three levels of certification (light, medium and dark green) and offices across Saint Mary's have the opportunity to improve their rating that have taken extra steps to incorporating greener operations in their offices practices. Students involved in the Green Space program learn valuable professional development skills by working closely with staff and faculty to identify, recruit and audit spaces on campus that want to become Green Space certified.

## The Free Store



The Free Store at Saint Mary's College aims to 1) reduce the amount of usable items from entering the landfill and 2) provide a space where students can access supplies for their

academic and personal growth. During student move-out in May and throughout the year, the Free Store gathers reusable supplies for students to attain for free. Swing by for clothes, shoes, school supplies, housewares, text books, etc. The Free Store is located in De La Salle 105. If you would like to get involved, the Free Store could always use help planning pop-up shops, sorting through and taking inventory of donations, assisting in marketing efforts, etc.

## ***The Legacy Garden***



The Legacy Garden is a ½ acre garden nestled in the beautiful SMC hills. The on-campus garden, established in 2012, grows a diverse range of organic food, flowers and herbs. The site is managed by master gardener and horticulturalist, Kelli Barram, who is a wealth of knowledge in everything from soil health to stress reduction techniques. Come visit the garden for a meditative space to study or find quietude, or come ready to volunteer and assist in the day-to-day upkeep of this thriving horticultural hub on campus.

## ***The Sustainable 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. 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 this 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. The Community is open to all years and majors, and each member of the community enrolls in a 0.25 course. For more information about the Sustainability Living Learning Community, please contact the Office of Sustainability at [smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu).

## ***Sustainability & Facilities Services***

Through both class credit opportunities as well as paid and volunteer opportunities, students have the opportunity to work collaboratively with supervisors in Facilities Services and the Sustainability Director to identify behavioral, infrastructural and institutional changes needed to improve a variety of facilities related measures across campus. Previous projects have included assessing energy efficiency in Saint Mary's College classroom buildings and residence halls, surveying students, staff and faculty to gain a better sense of the barriers to more sustainable energy and waste practices, performing a building lighting survey in the halls listed above, etc.

### ***Zero Waste***



A number of different entities across campus coordinate the disposal of our waste, recycling and composting at Saint Mary's including Republic Services (our waste hauler), Able Custodial Services, Environmental Health & Services, Grounds and the Sustainability Office. Students helping with zero waste efforts reduce waste by playing an active role in zero waste programming efforts. Students help in zero waste efforts by coming up with new ways to communicate our waste reduction message to different campus community groups, establishing successful composting and recycling programs in residence halls, classrooms, offices and in dining areas, developing and assisting with the RecycleMania, looking for reuse options, and recycle or compost more and waste less, helping with waste data collection efforts, developing infographics or videos that can be used to teach and training the campus about how to properly sort waste and teach zero waste habits.

## ***The Sustainability Blog***

Housed on the Saint Mary's sustainability website, the Sustainability Blog was launched in 2019 as a student-led project to increase cross-campus conversations on issues related to sustainability. The Sustainability blog is updated on a monthly basis with new posts from staff, faculty and students. The blog aims to be an educational resource on sustainability efforts throughout Saint Mary's. If you would like to contribute to this blog please contact our office.

## ***Sustainable Food Systems Internships***



Sodexo, in collaboration with Saint Mary's Sustainability, has launched a sustainable food systems internship that will enable students to develop programs and initiatives to make our food procurement and waste systems in Oliver Hall and Café Louis more sustainable. There are two paid internships available for students.

## ***The Climate Reality Project***



Saint Mary's is a Climate Reality Project Campus Corp member, allowing our students to tap into resources from former Vice President Al Gore's international Climate Reality Project and stay connected with other campus leaders, community organizations,

businesses and government agencies working to address climate change. Saint Mary's has sent several students to the annual Climate Reality Project trainings throughout the country and world.

For information on any of the above programs please contact the Office of Sustainability at [smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu)