

HOUSING & DINING SERVICES SUSTAINABILITY FUND

The Housing & Dining Services (HDS) Sustainability Fund was created in Fall 2010 to support environmental, economic, and social sustainability efforts related to campus housing and dining. The fund provides a mechanism to bring grassroots sustainability initiatives and related education and outreach projects to life. The annual fund supports resource conservation efforts through large infrastructure projects, as well as small-scale education projects to promote sustainability in campus housing and dining facilities. Grassroots employee proposals are encouraged, and student proposals can be submitted with an employee sponsor. While the Sustainability Fund prioritizes new initiatives, the fund can also support the cost difference between standard and sustainable items (i.e. gas cart vs. electric cart). The Fund was put on pause in Fall 2020 due to budget restrictions.

To date, the HDS Sustainability Fund has funded 64 projects, allocating nearly \$440,000 since its creation in late 2010.

Examples of Previously Funded Projects



Corbett CAN Recycle More (Fall 2011) – This was the first project to pair exterior recycling bins with trash cans outside Corbett Hall. This \$5,000 project helped to expand recycling bins with all trash bins throughout campus, including all residence halls and on-campus apartments.



CSU Mountain Campus Compost Trailer (Fall 2013) – The CSU Mountain Campus identified a challenge of transporting compost from their remote campus to the Foothills campus for processing. As a result, the Fund provided \$10,000 to customize a suitable trailer shelf to haul post-consumer compost, allowing the CSU Mountain Campus to compost pre-consumer material and reduce their landfill waste.



CSU Ski Shuttle (Spring 2017) – Through the continuation of an Eco Leader feasibility project, CSU Parking and Transportation requested \$2,066 to launch the Ski Bus Pilot Project, a program to rent coach buses to transport students to various ski slopes each Saturday during the winter season. The pilot was so successful that SkiSU is now funded through the Alternative Transportation Student Fee and offers 20+ trips per winter.



The Tower Garden & FREEdge (Fall 2017) – Housed at the Aggie Village Apartments, the Tower Garden is a vertical, indoor aeroponic system in which plant roots are suspended in air and nourished periodically with water and nutrients. Cool-weather crops such as lettuce, leafy greens, and herbs are produced year-round. Residents benefit from related educational programming like healthy cooking classes, tours, and planting/harvesting events, and all produce is made available at no cost in the nearby FREEdge (free fridge). This program provides education and equitable access to healthy foods to those who may be experiencing food insecurity.



Upcycled Bags (Spring 2018) – This project provided \$5,000 to upcycle used vinyl banners and 500 used bicycle innertubes to make zippered pouches and tote bags, available for sale at various campus locations. This project helped divert materials from the county landfill and created unique, repurposed bags.

You can help support the HDS Sustainability Fund by providing funds for new sustainability projects!

If you would like to support the Eco Leaders program, please contact Brittany Habben at Brittany.Habben@colostate.edu.