

Sustainability Office Newsletter



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CSBees are Buzzin'

Last spring, over commencement weekend, we bade farewell to the Johnnie/Bennie class of 2023 and welcomed the "CSBee" class of summer 2023. That's right, we hived two colonies of honeybees in a little grass clearing on the south end of the CSB campus. The Office of Sustainability has been tending the hives through the summer months and plans to harvest this fall. Honey latte something-or-other at the coffee shops, anyone?

Honeybees are great ambassadors for sustainability. They play an important role in sustaining ecosystems by pollinating a wide variety of flowering plants including many food crops you find in the supermarket. Beekeeping can be done just about anywhere helping to contribute to the local food movement. Even the complex community structure of the honeybee colony makes a good example of sustainable community action. Each member contributes to the health and success of the hive just as the hive takes care of each individual. This communal cooperation builds comb out of the hexagon, a symbol of community and togetherness that is so instrumental here at CSB and SJU.



"I have loved bees since I was six years old, and I have been a beekeeper for almost seven years now. I am so excited that there are bees on campus to teach people to not be afraid of bees and insects. I hope that the bees provide a learning opportunity for everyone about their sense of community."

~ Lauren Sitzman, '26

AMERICORPS FINEST

Jenna Butler

Jenna graduated from SCSU in 2022 with a BS in Biology and is looking forward to expanding sustainability efforts and creating lasting resources on campus. She would love to talk with anyone interested in learning more - stop by the Sus Office!



Jaden Evenson

Jaden graduated from UMN-TC in 2023 with a BS in Apparel Design and is looking forward to starting new initiatives and hosting fun events through the office. She would love any suggestions or ideas from students or staff - stop by the Sus Office!

Jenna and Jaden began serving CSB+SJU as Sustainability Project Coordinators for the year with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps's new program Climate Impact Corps is a Justice40 initiative focused on supporting communities as they address climate & environmental issues through community-based solutions.

Email us: Sustainability@csbsju.edu

 @csbsjusustainability

COMMUNITY KITCHEN
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP





Initiative of the Month: Composting

The Sustainability Office has relaunched the campus composting program! The entire campus community is encouraged to learn the simple process of our composting system and take action within their area. Backyard composting is an easy way to reduce landfill waste and the resulting methane emissions that contribute to climate change. Composting also produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment. On campus, we'll be using the composted soil in our winter greenhouses to grow produce for consumption. The produce scraps along with other collected organics will be composted in our tumblers demonstrating a full circle food production system.



Upcoming Swap Shop

Swap Shops have opened on both campuses. The Swap Shops are designated spaces for students and employees to drop-off surplus items – school, office, or similar supplies – that can be taken and used by others on campus. The goal is to reuse or repurpose materials to reduce purchasing and waste by individuals and departments. Reusing and sharing items is a simple sustainability action that will reduce climate and environmental impacts, save money, and demonstrate stewardship. The swap shops are also drop-off sites for specific recycling items such as flexible plastic film and used batteries that do not belong in the standard campus recycling stream. You may even find some Sustainability Office freebies from time to time. Stop, Drop, Swap.

Swap Shop locations:

CSB – Mary Commons 120 & SJU – Quad 116

School Printer Statistics

CSB and SJU utilize “Papercut” print management software to administer printing services across our campuses. Papercut data shows that we’ve decreased the total number of printed pages by over 75% since 2016. This reduction can likely be attributed to using more digital and online reading sources; uploading assignments to Canvas instead of turning in hard copies; and better awareness of the impacts related to paper usage that influences users’ choice to print. This is a reminder to reduce printing whenever possible. If you must print, be sure to preview your job first, print double-sided, and consider shrinking margins. If you purchase paper, consider buying reams with higher recycled content to reduce the need for virgin materials.

Although we’ve seen a steady decline in printing over the past decade, we still printed nearly half a million pages on network printers last year. Using the Paper Calculator 4.0 offered by the Environmental Paper Network, we can see the resource and environmental impacts of our paper use last year.

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| | <p>9.7 U.S. short tons of wood. 58.2 trees (assuming mixed forest of 6-8” diameter, 40’ tall)</p> |
| | <p>62 million BTUs used in paper lifecycle. Equivalent to operating 73.8 refrigerators annually.</p> |
| | <p>43,700 pounds of CO₂equiv emissions. Equivalent to driving 4.0 cars annually.</p> |
| | <p>52,000 gallons of water used in papers lifecycle. Equivalent to operating 37.5 washing machines annually.</p> |
| | <p>2,860 pounds of landfill waste. Equivalent to the daily waste of 654 people.</p> |

