



SUSTAINABILITY

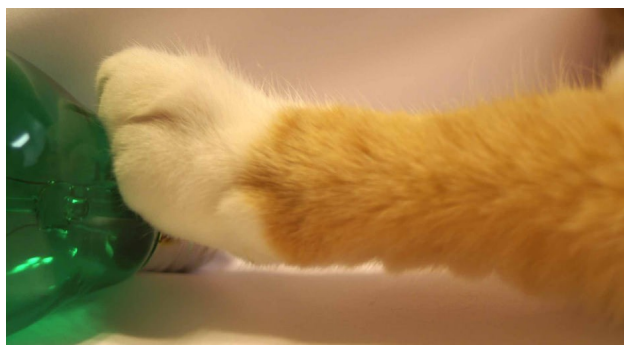
Morgan Library Sustainability Committee Newsletter

April 2016

Last Tuesday we had a successful Lunch and Learn. We were visited by the City of Fort Collins and the Larimer Conservation Corps. For those who were unable to attend I encourage you to visit their respective websites. The City talked about their [WorkWise Challenge](#). The Larimer Conservation Corps told us about their Home Efficiency Assessments—<http://larimerworkforce.org/young-adults/lccc/home-efficiency-assessment/>.

The home assessments are coming to an end for the time being, so if you are not able to get one scheduled this spring, keep them in mind for winter or next spring.

If you attended the LnL and received a kit from the city, please remember to log your actions at: <http://lose-a-watt.com/workwise-challenge/participate/>. You can help Fort Collins win this challenge even if you didn't have a kit. If you change out lightbulbs, showerheads, or appliances, or add faucet aerators you can still log your actions!



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Did You Know?

The Morgan Library Sustainability Committee is looking for a classified staff representative!

The small committee is looking to add one individual. Responsibilities include brainstorming ideas for Lunch and Learns, the LibGuide, the newsletter, and other possible events/services; assist with writing LibGuide and newsletter content; and working towards improving the sustainability of Morgan Library.

To keep the committee diverse we are looking for a classified staff member. If you are not classified staff but want to participate, we are always looking for ideas and guest writers for the newsletter!

Please let Tom Moothart know if you are interested!

Sustainability Awareness

By Neyda Gilman

Almost everything we do in our day to day lives affects the world around us in some way. Many of our actions have a sustainability impact, even if we are not aware of it. We often think about recycling, or our transportation methods, or our energy consumption but may not pay attention to our grocery list, or toiletries/cosmetics, etc. I'm sure there are some people who are able to think about all of these things but I would assume that even when they think about these things in relation to sustainability, they are probably focusing on environmental sustainability. Sustainability however goes beyond the environment and is often considered to have three "legs." These legs are: environment, economic, and social. In reality these three things often overlap. For example, being economically sustainable often leads to reduced consumption which in turn leads to reduced waste, both of which are better for the environment. The reduced waste can also have a positive social outcome. Another example is that of urban farms/gardens. These gardens often result in improved economic, social, and environment of both the land and the people.

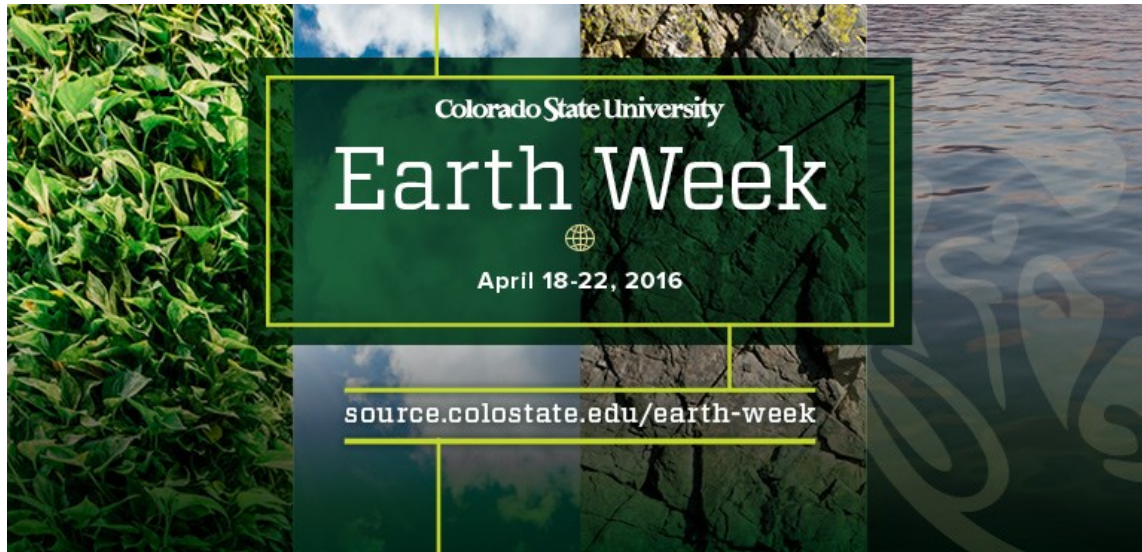
These three legs often do overlap, but not always. Paying attention to all of our actions that have impact on the environment is impossible enough. Adding in thoughts about the social and economic impacts is not feasible. In fact paying attention to all of these things will lead to an onset of insanity and complete inability to do anything. That being said, knowledge is power and just knowing that these relationships exist and paying attention to a slowly increasing number of our life habits is possible. It is similar to the information about flying shared a few months ago. It isn't possible for most of us to stop flying, and we will drive ourselves insane if we thought about it every time we did fly, but having that knowledge may slowly lead to small changes. To aid with that task in regards to other aspects of our lives, I wanted to share a couple sites.

The Environmental Working Group has a tremendous amount of information and numerous consumer guides. The best known is probably their Skin Deep database which provides information on personal care products. Mostly, Skin Deep evaluates ingredients and their health impacts. Going shopping for shampoo? Take a few minutes and see how yours rates in this guide. You may discover a different type that you like that rates a bit higher. Or you may discover that yours already has a high rating. Here is the link to all of the EWG's consumer guides: <http://www.ewg.org/consumer-guides>.

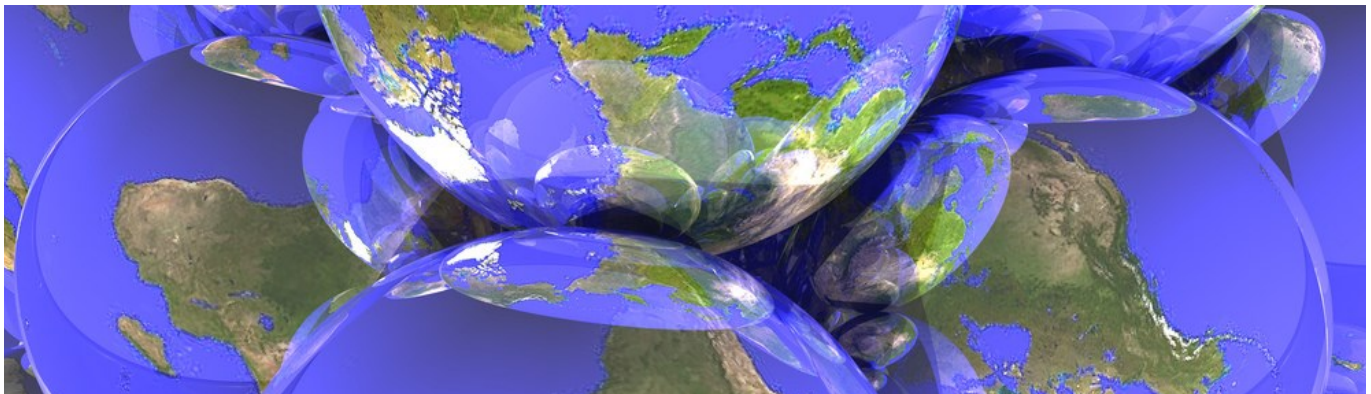
Another resource is the GoodGuide. The GoodGuide is similar to Skin Deep, but actually goes a step farther and has ratings for environment, health, and social impacts. Here it is: <http://www.goodguide.com/>.

Keep in mind that these are not perfect (for example GoodGuide rates "fragrance" much differently than EWG), and it is impossible to only buy products that have "high" ratings. These are just tools to help us gain even more knowledge. Enjoy.

This Friday is Earth Day. CSU is celebrating for the whole week starting with coffee for carpoolers at 7:30am on Monday the 18th. Check out the full schedule at: <http://source.colostate.edu/earth-week/>. I want to recommend the Earth, Sun, and Fire Tour on Tuesday (tomorrow). I attended last year and learned a lot. It is free, just RSVP to ramtrax@colostate.edu.



The library will also be celebrating. We will have (hopefully) an exhibit of student work. Take a few minutes to come see what the students came up with.



Contact Us

Contact us for more information about what we are doing, to suggest ideas, or suggest a guest writer.

- [Neyda Gilman](#)
- [Don Albrecht](#)
- [Stacey Baumgarn](#)
- [David Ramsay](#)
- [Tom Moothart](#)

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