



**PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Agenda
September 8, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Teams

Members: Stacey Baumgarn, Tom Biedscheid, Lynsey Bosch, Tim Brennan, Farrah Bustamante, Eliisa Carter, Cate Collins, Bella Conrad, Carol Dollard, Jake Drenth, Brian Dunbar, Colleen Duncan, Aaron Fodge, Mindy Hill, Jocelyn Hittle, Julie Kallenberger, Ashley Keeton, Dimagi Kottage, Monica Latham, Greg Lewis, Mary Liang, Debbie Meisinger, Tonie Miyamoto, Krisin Olofsson, Mark Ritschard, Liri Sananes, Amber Sanchez, Matt Schild, Matthew Selje, Sybil Sharvelle, April Shelhon, Mike Singleton, Micaela Truslove, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Joe von Fischer, Andrew Warnock, Aleta Weller, Grace Wright

Welcome and Introductions – All

- Welcome to new members joining the group!
- Brief overview of our mission, goals, and current members can be found here: <https://green.colostate.edu/presidents-sustainability-commission>
- CSU is proud to be ranked #2 in the U.S. and #3 in the world in the 2025 Sustainable Campus Index! See the Source story [here](#).
 - CSU has been in the top echelon of doctoral institutions for all 11 years of AASHE's rankings. We were the first institution to earn Platinum status in 2015 and have repeated that feat three more times.
 - CSU's overall score of 88.13 in STARS version 2.2 trails only the Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec and Arizona State University. CSU is ahead of schools like Cornell and Stanford, and has been in the top four slots for more than a decade.

Residential Dining Updates – Patrick St. Clair (Sr. Associate Director) and Scott Clagett (Executive Chef)

- Advancement in Food Sustainability

- We have taken our sustainability efforts with food to a new level this year, focusing on local sourcing and reducing environmental impact.
- Ram Welcome Event partnered with local farms to deliver a fresh and sustainable picnic:
 - Approximately 95% local ingredients, including vegetables, quinoa, chicken, corn, and tomato salad.
 - 95%+ diversion rate with Zero Waste Team sorting material that was composted or recycled (less than 5% went to the landfill)
 - Healthy and sustainable welcome for new students

Durrell Center Initiatives:

- Gradually implementing clean label and sustainability practices.
- Plum Street Eatery is moving away from processed items to provide clean, nutrient-dense options including:
 - Scratch-made sauces
 - Chop salads featuring organic veggies
 - Smoothies with almost all organic ingredients
 - Locally roasted coffees
 - Halal-certified chicken
 - Local quinoa
 - Breads from Pig and Plow made with locally sourced flour (also used in Bakery)

Harvest Festival in mid-October will:

- Increased focus on seasonal Colorado produce.
- Aligning the festival with student and community sustainability values.
- Bringing ranchers and farmers to speak about their products, demoing their offerings, and engaging students in understanding what they eat at CSU.

Long-Term Sustainability Goals:

- Developing a 3-year sustainability plan.
- Conducting a feasibility study for AI-powered waste tracking.
- Performing an energy audit:
 - Transitioning Allison's kitchen to electric power—moving away from natural gas.
 - Making Durrell a steam-free facility and exploring electrification.
- Conducting a student survey in October to gather feedback and insight.
- Collaborating with Ram-Meats while also emphasizing a more plant-forward diet, with smaller amounts of animal protein.

- Efforts underway to reduce nitrogen emissions and decrease the overall environmental footprint.

University Stakeholder Meetings – Grace and Tonie

- Tonie and Grace have continued to meet with campus leadership across the University including President’s Chief of Staff Matt Tillman, Provost Marion Underwood, VPUO Brendan Hanlon, VPR Cass Moseley, AVP of Indigenous Affairs Patrese Atine, and AVPs of Facilities Mike Singleton and Sandy Sheehan.
- Priorities that have been discussed thus far are in alignment with draft PSC priorities.
 - For example, Provost Underwood would like to see all academic departments offer sustainability courses and have all students learn about sustainability through their coursework. This aligns directly with metrics in STARS 3.0.
 - A number of other campus initiatives support this goal. For example, Faculty Council’s new learning objectives include *Champion Sustainability: Develop and implement sustainable practices that broadly promote the health and resilience of our communities.*
 - PSC Curriculum Innovation Grants can be used to target departments that don’t currently have a sustainability course.
- We have one more meeting and then PSC strategic priorities will be finalized and shared at the October meeting.

STARS Updates – Tonie

- The report is approximately halfway completed, with a goal to submit by early November.
- Report contains nearly 1,000 data points/fields that need to be addressed.
 - These questions cover curriculum, research, engagement, administration, and operations.
 - The full process typically takes 9 to 12 months to complete.
- Call for Assistance:
 - Mary requested a contact for Larimer County Farmers Market; Grace provided one.

- Examples needed for specific sustainability ordinances, bills, laws, etc. that CSU has advocated for (or against) at the local, state/regional, and national level. Please send examples to Lynsey Bosch and Tonie.

Zero Waste Team Update – Liri (5 min)

- Team has been in action for Move-In, Ram Welcome, Warner College of Natural Resources Fair, and Game Day events so far this fall.
- The team is now compensated as hourly student employees (14 on staff this fall) and also supported by volunteers.
- Mission is to reduce waste and educate students, employees, and visitors about composting and waste diversion.
- Patrick requested a walk-through of dining centers to conduct an audit of the compost setup. The goal is to verify that the compost stations are established correctly and functioning efficiently. ZWT is happy to do this.

Member Updates – All

- Carol Dollard and Stacey Baumgarn: the final greenhouse gas inventory numbers are nearly complete and should be available to share at October meeting.
- Stacey
 - CSU will be recognized as a new Gold Level Member at the 2025 Colorado Green Business Network Recognition Event on Friday, September 26, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Denver Zoo’s Zoo Gardens Pavilion and Plaza.
 - All are welcome to attend to celebrate sustainability achievements, connect with partners, and represent CSU at this statewide recognition event.
 - More details and tickets can be found here: [Eventbrite link](#).
- Mary
 - The CSU Sustainability Fund is now live! Details and application info here: [CSU Sustainability Fund](#).
 - The application deadline is October 31, 2025.
 - Proposals up to \$10,000 can be submitted; \$25,000 is available this year.
 - Matt Schild has volunteered to take the lead on developing a Source story about the fund. Thanks Matt!

Next Meeting: October 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. via TEAMS