



UIW ANNUAL
SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT
2022



This report highlights UIW's sustainability impact from August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

From the Sustainability Advisory Board

Amid lingering challenges and a leadership transition on the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) as Kevin Salfen, longtime champion of sustainability at UIW, assumed an Associate Dean role, the University of the Incarnate Word continues its steady progress toward ambitious sustainability goals. In this year's report, the first produced in collaboration between the SAB and the Office of the Provost, readers will see that UIW has a bright future ahead, based on the past year's sustainability impacts. From waste-diversion and cost-savings data to program creation and student engagement initiatives, the 2022 Annual Sustainability Report reflects the latest progress toward UIW's vision for a more sustainable campus.

Specifically, readers will find examples of sustainability impacts in research, teaching, service learning, campus dining, operations, and more. On behalf of the UIW Sustainability Advisory Board, we want to thank you for your interest in UIW's sustainability initiatives. Both on campus and off, our UIW community is helping create environmentally mindful, economically just, and socially equitable solutions to sustainability challenges.

Dr. Benjamin Miele

Chair, Sustainability Advisory Board
Associate Professor, Department of English
Coordinator, Sustainability Studies

ACADEMICS

Highlight: Creation and Implementation of new Interdisciplinary Concentration in Sustainability Studies

Food
Samaritans

Students in the inaugural Ecocriticism course educate their peers about sustainable diet options during Earth Month



Sustainability Studies Concentration is Live!

The SAB created a new academic Concentration this year to provide students with an exciting and challenging program of courses to prepare them to attain jobs in a range of career fields related to sustainable development. Students learn how environmental degradation intersects with exploitation of the poor, strains on healthcare, mistreatment of women, biodiversity loss, and racialized disparities in access to clean air, water, and healthy food.

This Concentration is interdisciplinary by design, requiring students to combine scientific, financial, and humanistic inquiry in their program of study. This makes the Concentration more responsive to emergent trends in Sustainability Studies and aligns it with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, internationally accepted standards for sustainable practices. As the effects of a warming planet are already being felt by the most vulnerable among us, it is important to contemplate how climate justice encompasses racial, social, and economic justice. As such, the Concentration is Mission-oriented, not only because of an emphasis on care for Creation, but also by helping students imagine new responses to the climate challenges we face.

Service Learning as part of Sustainability Studies

Dr. Judith Ruvuna's Construction and Details Class and Advanced CADD and Architectural Drawing volunteers volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity building project on Saturday, September 18th, 2021. Students started the day with just the foundation and worked on raising the walls, while also helping with painting trim. The Habitat Build was coordinated with the help of Mr. Fred Wall a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.



Garden-based Learning

In the spirit of Plato's Academy, which turned the garden of Akademos into a classroom and today serves to remind us that the academy in its purest form is garden-based, UIW invited numerous speakers and experts from the San Antonio community to its Gorman Garden. Here, students kick off Earth Month 2022 by learning about vermiculture and vermicomposting from Megan Lowder, who demonstrated the benefits of using worms for compost and instructed students in creating their own vermicomposting sites.

Other guest speakers in the Garden include Jake Jaceldo from the Compost Queens and Dr. John Hooker, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at UIW.



Coffee Matters

Diana Allison's Space Planning class prepared boards for hypothetical sustainable coffee shops. To prepare the boards, students engaged in individual research and heard guest lectures by Sr. Martha Ann Kirk and Hermana Dolores y el gente de Chiapas that addressed sustainability in the coffee industry and fair-trade practices. Three prize-winning boards are shown here.

That's a latte good work!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Highlight: students earn first in GameDay Basketball event in national competition that promotes leadership and service in sustainability.

Recycled:
145 lbs.
Trash:
just 24 lbs.



The “Green Game,” or GameDay Basketball event, was a collaboration between the SAB, Athletics, the Etting Center for Civic Leadership and Sustainability, and the Deans of the School of Math, Science and Engineering (SMSE) and the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS).

Students compete with other schools as part of the national Campus Race 2 Zero Waste competition, managed by National Wildlife Federation, and UIW students earned first place in the GameDay Basketball category among all participating institutions. The students’ efforts ensured that, while the 386 attendees generated 147 pounds of total waste, they then diverted over 145 pounds away from the waste stream into composting and recycling, for a diversion rate of 83%. This was enough to place first with the highest per-capita diversion rate for the CR2ZW GameDay Basketball event. GO CARDS!



"This event has opened my eyes to my role on campus educating peers"
- Jesus Berlanga



"I am looking forward to seeing Green Games beyond the gymnasium and believe each sport should have a Green Game!"
- Adina-Marie Torres



"I truly feel like I am making a difference here."
- Fabricio Roldan

OPERATIONS, PLANNING AND DESIGN

Highlight: UIW earns Silver Certification from the City of San Antonio's ReWorksSA program



AWARD SEASON

President Evans, on behalf of the University, received the Silver Certification from the City of San Antonio for UIW's completion of the ReWorksSA certification program, which serves as a first step in UIW's commitment to the Laudato Sí Action Platform, which implements Pope Francis's call toward sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology, and which Dr. Evans committed to in the fall of 2021.

Pictured: President Thomas Evans, Tamarra Callahan, and Rachel Rabbani, representatives from the City of San Antonio



Students Promote Sustainability

“If I want to see a greener world where people care about the environment, I believe I have to be part of that change. And a good way to do it is by stepping out of my comfort zone and inviting my friends to do the same. I hope that people learned that taking care of a plant is a little challenging, but it is worth it.” - Andrea Jackson-Gomez, reflecting on her participation in the Earth Fair at UIW on April 20th, 2022.

EARTH FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

- 20 participants from UIW and the broader San Antonio community
- 100 succulents given to students to raise awareness of sustainability on campus
- UIW awarded Silver certification for sustainable business practices
- 62 glasses frames recycled
- 3 vendors selling plant-based meals
- 0 vendors selling meals with animal flesh

ZERO WASTE CARDINALS

Over two semesters, UIW students diverted nearly 3,000 pounds of organic waste from the waste stream by turning it into compost in the campus gardens. Here we see the fruits of their labors, a record haul of sweet potatoes, over 100 pounds!



MULCAHY AWARDEES

Mauro Medina and Dr. Lourdes Fortepiani received the annual William Mulcahy Awards for Ecological Stewardship, which recognize excellence in sustainability efforts and consistent care for Creation in keeping with UIW's Mission.

