CAMPUS PROJECT IDEAS

# OUR MISSION

The Student Sustainability Cooperative (SSC) is a student-led and funded organization designed to empower student efforts to create an active culture of sustainability at the University of Idaho. The SSC is committed to creating impactful experiences and fostering connections between students and opportunities to engage in campus sustainability.

# general goals

1. Plan and complete innovative projects that further our mission of an empowered and sustainable campus
2. Provide students with activities, opportunities and education relating to sustainability
3. Engage campus community as a whole in sustainable practices
4. Implement university-wide changes that help achieve carbon neutrality

# Waste Management

## Recycling

* Educational events or programs
  + Contamination is a serious hinderance to an effective recycling program. Educating the campus community about proper recycling techniques is an on-going effort, and diverse offerings will help us cover our bases.
* Data collection
  + Whether it is diversion rates, contamination, or tonnage, data on our recycling program can help us track our successes and improve weak points. Projects that focus on methods for data collection, presentation of data, or building dashboards will help us make sure our program is successful and help us keep campus in the loop.
* Surveys or focus-groups
  + Projects that focus on researching behaviors and attitudes of our campus community in relation to recycling can help us understand where we are at and how to best move forward.

## Composting

* Research best practices
  + We do not currently have a functioning composting program. Projects that focus on what practices and technology is available and widely used by similar institutions can guide us in our efforts to establish a food-waste diversion program.
* Food waste reduction
  + Working with campus dining and other entities on campus to reduce the amount of food waste produced by campus will help keep volumes low enough to feasibly build a compost program.
* Educational events or programs
  + Educating campus about food waste, emissions, and composting options can help build a culture that can support a future composting program. Planning events or building programs is an engaging way to educate our campus community.

## Reuse

* Events or programming that promote:
  + Upcycling
  + Donation of usable goods/food
  + Using food scraps
* Installing water bottle refill stations in campus buildings
* Reusable containers with campus dining

# Water Conservation

* Low-flow fixture installation in high traffic buildings
  + Feasibility assessments
  + Dorm showers
  + Sinks
  + Toilets
* Rainwater and Stormwater Management
  + Ethical methods of using rainwater to supplement irrigation
  + Rainwater supported planters near buildings
  + Research regarding effects of collection on campus and local aquifer health
  + Pollution outreach
  + Catch basin labeling
* Xeriscaping on campus
  + Identify locations and install small xeriscaped features on campus
  + Educational events and programming
  + Replacement of water-intensive grasses/turf

# Energy

* Greek/Residential energy efficiency audits and installations
* Small applications of solar (streetlights, outdoor sensors)
* Light usage audits
* Occupancy sensors
* Fluorescent bulb replacement with LEDs across campus
* Smart Power Strips

# Biodiversity

* Native Plantings
  + More native plantings on campus instead of large fields of water intensive grass
  + Install gardens to support local pollinators
  + Landscaping that requires less maintenance and reduce machine emissions
  + Improvements to existing green roofs
    - IRIC green roof
* Drafting UI Xeriscape, safer pesticide/herbicide/pollinator friendly Policy
  + Work with campus partners to develop a plan that is economical, feasible, and sustainable regarding use of chemical agents on campus
* I-tree inventory project: campus, arboretum, and forest land
  + Create a catalogue of the trees on campus
  + Identify native vs non-native plantings
  + Calculating carbon sequestering potential