



SUSTAINABILITY UVA
From the Grounds Up



UVA SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE 2019

UVA Sustainability had a productive and inspiring spring, beginning and expanding initiatives across teaching and research, engagement with the community, and collaborative climate action. The 2018-2019 UVA Sustainability Annual Report, highlighting key initiatives and accomplishments over the academic year, will be released in August 2019. To learn more please visit www.sustainability.virginia.edu or email sustainability@virginia.edu.

DISCOVER

Research and Course Development Grants: In May 2019 the Teaching and Research Subcommittee awarded 10 Course Development Fellowships and 8 Research Development Grants. The awards span 6 schools and include topics such as the psychology of sustainable behaviors, the social and environmental impacts of Amazon's new headquarters, green chemistry, conservation finance, and black environmental thought.

Student Summer Internship Grants: For the first time, the Teaching and Research Subcommittee awarded 18 Sustainability Internship grants through the University Career Services Parents Fund Internship Grants program. These \$3000 grants will help support 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year UVA undergraduate students who have been hired for unpaid, sustainability-focused summer internships across the world.

Environmental Resilience Institute Water Futures Initiative: In May 2019 the Environmental Resilience Institute kicked off the Water Futures Initiative by bringing together UVA community members from across disciplines to develop working groups focused on three major environmental challenges: Water Security - Justice and Politics, Urban Water, and Coastal Land Margins. Each working group will be co-directed by leading academics at UVA and another collaborating university.

National Geographic on Campus: National Geographic partnered with several UVA departments for a series of events over two days in March 2019 to share inspiration and expertise in the power of storytelling, science, and photography to inspire action to address issues related to our planet. National Geographic explorers and UVA faculty who conduct resilience research hosted large keynote addresses and led hands-on student workshops. After the event, National Geographic awarded prestigious fellowships to three UVA students.



ENGAGE

Earth Week 2019: In April 2019 UVA's tenth annual Earth Week included 26 events with estimated involvement of 2,250 students, faculty, staff, and community members with the theme, "Connecting on Climate." In alignment with President Ryan's Building Bridges campaign, this year's Earth Week Expo featured 24 UVA organizations and 24 community groups with whom they work sharing examples of collaboration in service of our shared planet.

Equity & Environment Fund: The Civic Engagement Subcommittee awarded \$30,037 to 8 student-driven projects that holistically address challenges at the intersection of equity and the environment. Funded projects include Food Equity Fellowships, LEED Green Associate Trainings, and Interpretive Signage & Protective Landscaping for the Maury Plantation Burial Ground.

STEWARD

ACC Conference Champions – Green Power: The University of Virginia is No. 1 in the Atlantic Coast Conference for its use of green energy, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Since April 2006, the EPA's Green Power Partnership has tracked collegiate athletic conferences with the highest combined green power use. The Individual Conference Champion Award, which UVA recently received, recognizes the school in each qualifying conference that uses the largest amount of green power.

UVA beat its conference rivals by using nearly 71 million kilowatt-hours of green power, representing nearly 21% of its total annual electricity use. – *UVA Today, April 26, 2019, by Matt Kelly*

Climate Action Together: In February 2019 the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the University of Virginia, building upon a history of commitments on sustainability and climate, embarked on a collaborative community outreach effort as each entity began to update its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and began developing new climate action plans (CAPs). To enable broad community engagement and participation in informing these commitments, the three organizations are coordinating their outreach efforts across their sustainability offices. Residents, businesses, and area stakeholders are being encouraged to get involved and participate in this collaboration.

The new website www.ClimateActionTogether.org shares specific participation opportunities, previous regional climate action efforts, and more information about each organization's efforts.
– *City of Charlottesville press release, February 14, 2019*