

Sustainable IT Working Group

CHAIRS: Chris Smeds | Julia Conte | Aidan Hijazi-Klop



Overview

The Sustainable IT working group, under the Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee, aims to minimize technology's negative impacts, while maximizing its positive benefits. This involves a variety of different efforts including e-waste reduction, computer power setting optimization, using advanced data analysis, and developing technological tools to aid other sustainable efforts. We also work to educate about sustainable IT and its impact to members of the UVA and greater Charlottesville community.

Goals or Projects

- Goal 1: Increase Computing Efficiency
 - Goal 2: Create a Sustainable Workplace
 - Goal 3: Standardize Positive E-Waste Practices
 - Goal 4: Promote Net Positive Technological Utilization
 - Goal 5: Increase Education and Engagement
 - To learn more about our goals and track their progress, please visit <http://www.sustainableit.virginia.edu/UVASustainableITGoals>
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Yearly Progress Update

This year the Sustainable IT Working Group underwent many new projects and participated in several events in order to promote sustainable technologies at UVA.

In an attempt to decrease the negative impacts of technology, we focused on reducing workplace energy consumption and decreasing our electronic waste output. Our members looked at the value of implementing different computer power saving options, including the use of smart power strips. We created a subgroup that is working on creating a computing resource guide that will allow faculty and staff to make smart computing decisions. We have already worked with the Curry Education School to help them relocate a server to a more efficient and secure setting. We also worked with the ReUSE Store to create centralized standards for e-waste disposal across grounds, emphasizing the value of repurposing electronics when possible. We are hosting a public tech take-back with ITS this October 11th and 12th to help promote e-recycling through the Charlottesville community. Additionally, the working group facilitated the donation of eight laptops that would otherwise have been thrown away to the Ugandan Heart and Neuroscience Institutes. Thank you to Dr. Keita Ikeda for approaching us with your problem. We are always looking for ways to help with sustainable technology problems around grounds!

We have also acted as a facilitator to increase the use of technology in other sustainable initiatives. We helped connect the Stormwater Working Group to a team that can help them design an app that will educate about stormwater best management practices around Grounds. Our working group has also connected clubs and students around Grounds with project ideas that apply their technology skills. For example, we are overseeing Machine Learning Club as they attempt to create a smart trash can using machine learning. They received the equipment for this project from an OFS grant. Members of our working group are also working on their own projects to increase the use of technology in sustainable initiatives, including efforts to use data to determine an optimal lifespan point for IT equipment at facilities management.

Finally, the working group has worked to increase our educational outreach. We launched our new website <http://www.sustainableit.virginia.edu/>, which outlines our goals, projects, and publicizes a set of tools and resources that organizations, departments, and individuals can use to learn about and implement sustainable IT practices. We have tabled at many UVA events, including two hackathons and FM Girl's Day, where we won a prize for Favorite Vendor for our e-waste bracelets that were made from

broken network cables. At Hack.UVA's 2018 and 2019 spring hackathons we have been able to sponsor \$500 prizes for the Best Project in Sustainability due to a generous OFS grant. We are working with Darden Data Science Club and UVA's graduate-level Data Science and Analytics Club to host a sustainability data science case competition this spring. The goal of this competition is to show graduate students how they can use technology to demonstrate the value of sustainability in a business setting. Finally, we have presented at several conferences to promote sustainable IT practices to UVA's faculty and staff. To learn more about our on-going projects, please visit our website.

Resources and Contact Information

- Our website: <http://www.sustainableit.virginia.edu/>
- Our email: sustainableit@virginia.edu