

The Student Sustainability Committee: Cultivating Community at CWU

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Introduction

Community is the cornerstone of collaboration and mutual understanding. At CWU, however, many clubs and individuals may want to create change, but they need stronger support, clearer pathways and understanding of sustainability, to effect that change. The Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) was established to provide support and to coordinate student-led sustainability initiatives across campus. The SSC would serve as a hub that connects people and clubs through sustainability-driven events, projects, and initiatives. By introducing students to sustainability and its capacity to further the community, the campus could take larger steps in becoming more sustainable as a whole.



Figure 2. Flyer used for outreach during Earth Week

The Experience

The SSC was founded to help students gain valuable experience. By offering knowledge and guidance, the SSC aims to make a lasting impact on students' lives.

- Members have the opportunity to:
 - Develop skills in assisting others
 - Build professional networks
 - Take on leadership roles as co-chairs, where they can learn to manage a team
 - Provides members with meaningful volunteer experiences and the chance to earn volunteer hours if needed.

The committee will be available to assist students from 8 am to 5 pm throughout the week. Meeting times are determined by a monthly vote, giving members a say in the schedule. In addition, with support from the Office of Sustainability, students have opportunities to learn directly from Sustainability Ambassadors.

The Student Sustainability Committee (SSC)

The Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) is a student-led group that makes sustainability part of everyday campus life at CWU. Instead of focusing on policy, the SSC brings students together through events, projects, and shared learning, helping connect students across all majors.

- The SSC supports students by:
 - Helping clubs make events more sustainable
 - Welcoming students from any background to share ideas
 - Creating spaces for students to teach and learn from each other
 - Building a campus community focused on long-term improvement and collaboration

Conclusion

This project serves as a catalyst for a more sustainable future at CWU, transforming sustainability from a set of guidelines into a lived, collective commitment. By making sustainability visible and meaningful within the campus community, the SSC motivates individuals to take action and inspires a shared sense of responsibility. In this way, the project not only supports CWU's environmental goals but also strengthens the Wildcat identity through a culture grounded in ecological stewardship.



The Formation

The SSC can operate as a club (Registered Student Organization) or as an independent group. Becoming an RSO provides more support and funding but entails additional responsibilities; independence offers flexibility but fewer resources. In both cases, the SSC's mission remains student-led campus sustainability. Leadership is structured for equality and stability:

- Three Co-Chairs share responsibilities with the anchor Chair
- An experienced anchor Chair ensures continuity
- Leadership roles are flexible and open each quarter to all students



Figure 1. Students at the farm for Spring Day of Service from the CWU photo album

This Project Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals:



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