



Earth Week Coming Soon!

Don't miss it! Earth Week is around the corner and will be held virtually on April 19-23. The theme for 2021 is "The Future Is Now" and will be centered on the urgency and need for climate action to secure a just and fair future for all, as well as the innovative ideas and concepts to get us there. It is a great way to connect with others on campus and learn something new!

Have an idea for an event? The Office of Sustainability has begun the planning process for this exciting week, but it isn't too late to get involved! Any and all ideas are welcome that focus on environmental justice, climate justice, social justice, and everything under the umbrella of sustainability. Perhaps you or someone you know would be a good fit to run a workshop, do a talk, or lead your own activity or session? Email us at sustainability@bellevuecollege.edu if you have an idea you'd like to run as part of earth week.

Sustainability Conference Recap

The Office of Sustainability with 4 students participated in the virtual Washington and Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference on February 11th and 12th. This year the conference looked a little different, but the schedule was still packed full of workshops, speaker panels, and networking sessions.

The annual conference brings together students, faculty, and staff from our region's higher education institutions to share ideas, collaborate, connect with each other and learn about sustainability. The 2021 theme was People, Planet, People: Envisioning Higher Education Sustainability and Resiliency in 2030 and included sessions that focused on climate grief, climate justice and civic engagement, divesting from fossil fuels and much more!

Be sure to check BC FYI's, our Facebook page, and our website to learn about opportunities like this in the future!

2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE Can't Miss Speaker Line-Up



Ubax Gardheere
City of Seattle



Ananda Lee Tan
Shaping Change
Collaborative



Kshmata Hunter
University of British
Columbia, Canada



Amber Nicholson
Bellevue College

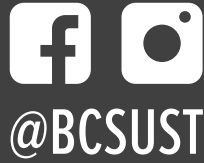


Sonya Doucette
Bellevue College



**Isabel Carrera
Zamanillo**
UW College of the
Environment

Full schedule available now at wohesc.org »



Grounds Corner

While many of us are home right now, Grounds Crew is still on campus and continuing their many sustainable efforts.

Over the years, their approach to maintaining BC's grounds has involved reusing and recycling as many materials on campus as possible. For example during winter wind storms, all downed debris from trees are collected and put through a wood chipper to create mulch that is then spread on flower beds. The last winter storm produced several yards of mulch! Similarly, when they dead head and prune back shrubs and grasses, the clippings are also used as mulch. Not only do these techniques keep materials on campus and eliminate the need to travel and buy similar products elsewhere, but it also suppresses weeds, eliminating the need for herbicides; retains soil moisture, requiring less watering; and puts nutrients back in the soil, creating better growing conditions.

Grounds is also busy preparing for warmer weather and began growing plants in their green house. Many of the beautiful plants you see at BC are from seeds harvested on campus by crew members during the previous year's growing season. The seeds are then planted and grown in the greenhouse until the conditions are just right to transplant them outside. By Grounds Crew harvesting seeds from campus, it eliminates the need to purchase new plants every year and therefore closes the loop! Way to go Grounds!

The Future of Single Use Plastics at BC

With the support of fellow students, ASG Social Responsibility Rep Gia Lang is spearheading an initiative at BC called the Break Free From Plastic Pledge (BFFPP). The BFFPP calls for the creation of a purchasing policy and zero-waste committee to oversee the elimination of as many single use plastics as possible from BC, as well as the disposal of waste in an environmentally responsible manner. Single use plastics damage our environment in many ways. From the emissions produced when single use plastics are created from fossil fuel sources, to the fact that a "staggering 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the world's oceans every year" as "only 9% of all plastic waste ever produced has been recycled" (UN). For more information contact: asgsocial@bellevuecollege.edu



So far, there are over 600 signatures from the Bellevue College community supporting this pledge. If you are interested in getting involved, keep an eye out as the ASG will be initiating a zero-waste task force in the coming weeks that will bring together faculty, staff and students to work on making BC a zero-waste campus.

Bellevue College Awarded National Science Foundation Grant

In collaboration, Bellevue College and North Seattle College have been awarded a \$300,000 National Science Foundation Improving Undergraduate STEM Education Grant. The project is called C-JUSTICE and aims to improve STEM education by supporting community college faculty in creating course modules that teach complex problem solving through disciplinary practice, civic engagement, equity, and systems thinking. The goals of the C-JUSTICE Project are to: (1) create a faculty professional development model that supports practical and scalable STEM teaching through course modules focused on climate justice, civic engagement, and equity and (2) provide innovative STEM education that improves STEM teaching and learning for all students, broadens participation of women and racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM, and prepares all students to be citizens and scientists ready for 21st century challenges. This project builds on Bellevue College's and North Seattle College's ongoing Climate Justice in the Curriculum projects and efforts, focused on faculty professional development and building a climate justice lesson archive.

New Class Alert: POLS 250—Env. Politics

Are you passionate about environmental issues? Are you concerned about how we're responding to global warming and climate disruption? Are you interested in environmental issues but uncertain about how to weigh in or get involved in a polarized political environment? This class will cover the basics of environmental politics from the local to the global scale, and examine the relationship between political and environmental systems. We'll learn what people are doing right now to solve environmental crises and explore the most urgent policy solutions to mitigate the climate crisis and eliminate environmental racism. (FYI: This course satisfies a Social Science distribution requirement)

Shout Out!

The Student Success Center officially received LEED® Silver Certification. Way to go Bellevue College!

Have a Project Idea to Implement on Campus?

The Student Environment Sustainability Fund (SESF) provides students, faculty, and staff a means to enhance Bellevue College's sustainability efforts and create positive social and environmental change on campus.

Get started here: bellevuecollege.edu/sustainability/get-involved/sesf

Sustainability Tips

Energy Savings On!

Help your PC use less energy! Take a look at your computer's settings and turn on sleep mode functions, disable screensavers, and enable auto-hibernate. Your PC is filled to the brim with power saving settings, so take advantage and easily save money and energy!



Low Flow Fo Sho

Concerned about your water consumption? Consider adding low flow faucet attachments, shower heads, and toilets to your home. Through various techniques, these additions reduce the amount of water being used without compromising functionality. They can be found online or at any hardware store and are simple and quick to install.

Be In the Know!

Keep an eye out for the Office of Sustainability's future events, initiatives, and resources through BC's daily FYI Digest, our website and social media.

For any questions feel free to email us!
sustainability@bellevuecollege.edu



@BCSUST



bellevuecollege.edu/sustainability