

SUMMER 2024

# chirp

The Office of Sustainability  
Newsletter



Sign up for  
quarterly releases



## Salmon Safe

Salmon populations throughout the Pacific Northwest are in decline, with some species in danger of future extinction due to a number of threats, including environmental contaminants. BC is currently working towards **Salmon-Safe certification**, which provides a pathway for the College to practice effective stormwater management, reduce toxic runoff into our local watersheds, and help protect our salmon population.

## Fall Sustainability Series

Kickoff fall quarter sustainably with a lively event series hosted by the Office of Sustainability! From September through November, you can find ways to engage on and off campus, including a Harvest Fair, CSA produce boxes, a wind farm mountain bike tour, and more. Support habitat restoration work in the southeastern corner of campus centered on reducing toxic stormwater runoff, helping to protect our local salmon populations, as we work towards Salmon-Safe certification. [Learn more here.](#)

## National Wildlife Federation Project

In February, Bellevue College was awarded a grant from the National Wildlife Federation and Mutual of Omaha for a native plant restoration and biofiltration project on the east side of campus. The Office of Sustainability and Grounds Team will host events on October 9th and October 23rd for the campus community to get involved in removing non-native invasive plant species, planting native vegetation, mulching, and installing compost biofiltration devices to filter stormwater.



## Isla Urbana

In June, Office of Sustainability staff led a student trip to Mexico City to build rainwater harvesting systems with nonprofit Isla Urbana. Mexico City is experiencing a huge water crisis, with many in the city having to rely on delivery by truck as other water infrastructure runs dry. BC students and staff helped support community water resilience by building 2 water systems, and learned about local history and causes of the current water shortage. They plan to bring this knowledge back to BC, and incorporate rainwater harvesting into the future Community Garden on campus!



## Now Hiring: Two Student Sustainability Positions

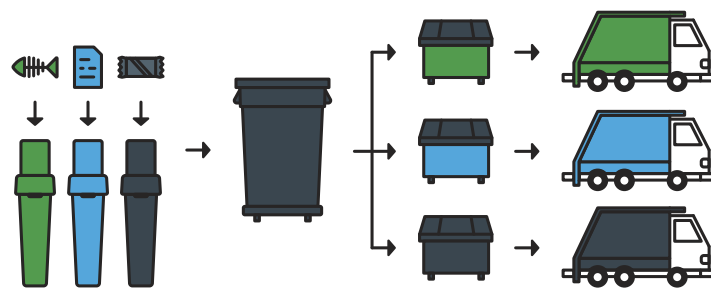
Do you want to have a positive impact, work on real-world social and environmental issues, and gain tangible skills for your resume? Come join the Office of Sustainability! We are hiring a student Outreach Coordinator and a student Transportation Coordinator.

The **Sustainability Outreach Coordinator** acts as the primary liaison between students and the opportunities and resources offered by the Office of Sustainability while creating engaging programs and initiatives to foster a sustainability-oriented mindset on campus. This position will work on a wide range of exciting projects to engage campus and lower BC's environmental impacts.

The **Transportation Coordinator** helps introduce sustainable transportation options and methods to students, staff, and faculty. Whether it is helping another student find a bus route to and from campus, or creating new programs like our bike rental program, the Transportation Coordinator plays an important role in reducing Bellevue College's greenhouse gas emissions associated with driving to campus.

**Visit here to learn more and to apply.**

Deadline to apply is September 30th or until positions are filled.



## Waste Sorting

Across campus, we are working together to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill. You can help! Learn more about how to sort waste and how our BC's custodial staff support the waste sorting process: This is how the waste sorting process operates on campus.

### Community Sorting

The Bellevue College community properly sorts materials into the tri-stream system: landfill, recycling, compost.

Learn more about the **Mini-Max process**.

### Collection

Custodial staff collects all tri-stream waste into rolling bins.

### Sorting

Rolling bins are taken to recycling, compost, and landfill dumpsters and sorted accordingly with the corresponding waste.

### Repurposing & Disposal

Compost and recyclable waste start a new life as repurposed plastic, glass, metal, and compost products! Waste materials go to landfill and are properly disposed of.







## Introducing Cassidy

Please join us in welcoming Cassidy Drew, Climate Corps Fellow with the Office of Sustainability! She will be assisting the Office for the next 10 months focusing on energy-related projects for the College including the implementation of additional solar projects and preparing Bellevue College for the Clean Buildings Performance Standards compliance.



## 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.

Fill out the paper work and present to the SESF committee for the opportunity to get your project funded!

**Get started here.**

## Use Reusable Bottles

Staying hydrated is crucial in the summer heat. Instead of buying single-use plastic bottles, invest in a durable, reusable water bottle. Many are designed to keep your drinks cold for hours, making them perfect for hot summer days.

## Save Energy

With air conditioners running, energy consumption spikes in the summer. To stay cool without overloading the grid, use fans, close curtains during the hottest part of the day, and set your thermostat a few degrees higher. Consider energy-efficient appliances and smart home systems to manage your usage better.



## Sustainability Champion: Food Services

Each quarter, we feature a BC department that is showing great leadership in sustainability. Food services is working hard to encourage green practices and reduce waste on campus. Whether through supporting reusable foodware in the cafeteria with stainless steel salad bowls and 1/8th sheet pans that allow for waste-free dining, or encouraging reusables with the bring your own mug discount, Food Services is making great strides to keep our campus clean and green!

If you have an idea for a sustainability initiative or would like to nominate a department to be featured, reach out to: [sustainability@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:sustainability@bellevuecollege.edu)