

SPRING 2026

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The Sustainability Office
Newsletter



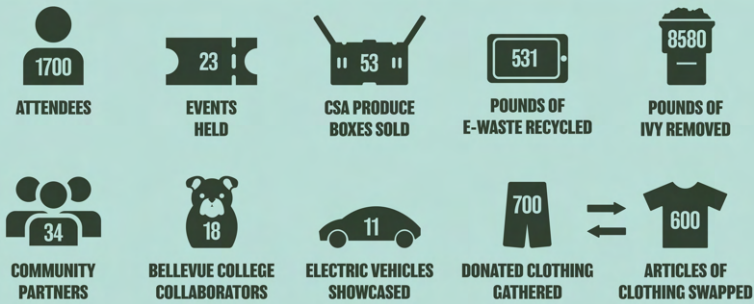
Earth Month 2026 Recap

Earth Month 2026 is a wrap- though that's just a snippet of celebrating our earth every single day. It's been a blast — we had 23 Earth Month events, including our tree giveaway, seed planting station, and film fest. At our Zero Waste Fair, we collected and distributed 600+ clothing items, and at our Earth Market, were joined by 20 organizations, 5 vendors, and 9 BC clubs & departments.

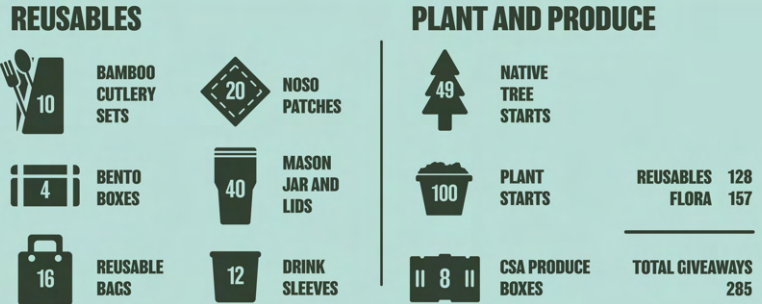
Earth's Greatest Enemy — Q&A with Director Abby Martin

The groundbreaking anti-imperialist environmental documentary *Earth's Greatest Enemy*, by American journalist and activist Abby Martin, was followed by an energizing Q&A with the director. We learned that what keeps her going is meeting people around the world who are risking their own lives to protect their land and environment — like the people of Okinawa, who dedicate their whole lives to protecting their precious environment. As an American and given the US military's significant role in environmental harm, she feels it's the least she can do. Her children are also a source of hope and motivation. One action we can all take: get with community, because community is more important than ever. What's next for her is continuing the film's tour and spreading the truth about the military's environmental impact.

**EARTH MONTH 2026
BY THE NUMBERS**



**EARTH MONTH 2026
GIVEAWAY BREAKDOWN**



Earth Market

This year’s Earth Market was a meaningful and energizing event — a welcoming, vibrant space where local organizations are connected as one big community. There were great conversations and valuable connections made. Events like this help strengthen the broader network of people doing thoughtful, community-centered environmental work.

Take the Transportation Survey for a Chance to Win!

Tell us about your commute to BC by taking a quick, two-minute survey.

Data gathered from this survey helps calculate the college’s annual greenhouse gas emissions and guides the Sustainability Office in making campus transportation decisions.

Winners will be chosen through a random drawing and will be emailed at the end of the school year. Prizes include pre-loaded ORCA cards!



Bike Everywhere Month Recap

Bike Everywhere Month is over!

Thank you, Bellevue College Community, for participating in our Bike Everywhere Month event series. We hosted a month- long competition to see who could bike the most miles and will be in contact with the winners shortly! It was also a pleasure to see people stop by our tabeling session.

If you have any transportation questions email transportation@bellevuecollege.edu or visit our transportation coordinator now back in C105!





Summer CSA Dates

Look out for our summer CSA dates! Pick up a box on campus and support Pacific Northwest farms while eating fresh, nutritious produce. This program is subsidized by the SESF so you save money and the planet. These local organic CSA boxes are \$20 each.

Summer Dates

- July 20 • August 17

SESF Committee End of Year Report

The Student Environmental Sustainability Fund (SESF) Committee had their last meeting of the school year on May 26th and met a total of 6 times during 2025-2026.

The SESF's mission is to promote, support, and enhance campus sustainability and is available to students, faculty, and staff.

Meetings this year were led by committee chair, Daniel Ngo, the ASG Director of Civic Engagement and Sustainability.

Projects Funded in the 2025-2026 Academic Year:

- Bike Rental Program
- CSA Produce Box Program
- Habitat Restoration Project Supplies & Materials
- Bee Hives for Student Beekeeping Club
- Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference
- Earth Month
- Electric Golf Cart for CAB
- Oceanography and Marine Biology Aquarium Improvements
- Electric Mower for Grounds Department
- Natural and Cultural History Tour of Diablo Lake
- Prose and Pastries Event
- Bike Everywhere Month
- Fall Sustainability Series





Cedar Grove Recap

You may know Cedar Grove as the region's primary compost hauler, but that is only part of their operation! The Sustainability Office and Grounds Team had the opportunity to check out Cedar Grove's Sound Sustainable Farm. The farm is over 60 acres and grows more than 70 different crops throughout the year.

In 2020, WSU identified 6PPD-quinone as a lethal toxin to salmon, particularly coho salmon. After further testing, researchers discovered that water filtered by a mixture of compost and coarse sand reduced the death rate in fish significantly. Cedar Grove quickly started working with WSU and King County to devise a plan to make the compost mixture usable. By placing the compost mixture in a construction sock, or a mesh plastic sleeve, water is able to be filtered through swales, effectively lowering 6PPDQ quantities.

Sound Sustainable Farm is in Redmond just off NE 124th St. On average, 23,000 cars drive by the farm daily resulting in nearly 1.5 pounds of tire dust left on the roadway every year. The drainage basin next to the field flows downstream directly into the Sammamish River. Currently, for the Compost BURrito to work, there needs to be a drainage swale in place similar to what we have at Bellevue College's Lot 5. The challenge is that not every road can be adapted with a swale, leaving a lot of runoff water unfiltered.

Working with King County and Department of Ecology, Cedar Grove has designed a removable storm drain insert holding 3 small socks filled with the compost/sand mixture into a metal insert that fits right into standard in-ground storm grates. Each comes with a removable grate and has a passthrough in case of a super rain event. Once the design gets approval from the Department of Ecology, the filters will be ready to add to streets and parking lots across the county. While this system cannot filter 100% of the 6PPDQ, based on test results, the chemical levels drop by 60%, which is below the levels that are killing 50% of fish.

The Sustainability Office and Grounds Team are looking forward to continuing the partnership with Cedar Grove to hopefully add the new devices in the future and further improve our efforts to make the Puget Sound a more habitable place for salmon.

Choose Your Way Bellevue Public Transport Tips For The World Cup

- King County Metro and Sound Transit provide direct transit options from Bellevue to the World Cup matches in Seattle. Plan your route early to avoid heavy traffic and delays.
- Link Light Rail- The Sound Transit 2 Line connects Bellevue to Redmond and surrounding areas. Transfer to the 1 Line at International District, Chinatown Station to reach Lumen Field. Trains run frequently on match days.
- Bus Routes King County Metro operates Route 550 from the Bellevue Transit Center directly to downtown Seattle. Route 550 stops near Lumen Field. Expect increased ridership and longer travel times during tournament events.
- Travel Tips: Purchase an ORCA card before match day to skip ticket lines. Load funds online, at a station kiosk, or get a preloaded card from Student Financial Services (students) or Payroll (employees).
- Download real-time transit tracking apps, like the Transit App, OneBusAway, and Google Maps, to monitor schedules.
- Leave your vehicle at a Bellevue park-and-ride lot to save on Seattle parking fees.
- Arrive at the stadium transit hubs two hours before kickoff. Long lines can take extra time!

Sources:

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro/rider-tools/sea26-soccer/>

<https://www.soundtransit.org/blog/platform/connecting-with-link-to-world-cup>



Waste Free BC

Got personal or state-owned items you don't know what to do with? Keep it within the BC community with Waste Free BC. This program was created to promote sustainability within our campus by offering items you no longer need or want, for others to claim for free. We are aiming to keep as many things out of the landfill as possible, and if someone can find a use for the items you no longer need, this platform is a way of doing so.

This program operates through a group on Microsoft Teams- if you would like to join or learn more visit:

<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/sustainability/sustainbc/waste/waste-free-bc/>



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 paperwork and present to the SESF committee for the opportunity to get your project funded!

Get Started Here

Please email the Civic Engagement & Sustainability Director at asgsocial@bellevuecollege.edu if you would like to be a committee member or join a meeting as an observer!

Energy Tips

As we move into the warmer months, Bellevue College needs your help keeping the buildings cool! Summers in the PNW are getting increasingly warmer, and many of our building systems were not designed for prolonged heat waves.

You can help by:

- Closing blinds with the blades facing upward, helping to keep the hot air out and allowing more time for the HVAC to catch up.
- Close windows when not in the room. Fresh air is nice, but windows left open adds stress to the HVAC system – especially if left open for long periods of time!
- If you notice unusual indoor temperatures – please submit a work order.
- Turn off computer monitors if you are leaving your office for the summer.

