STUDENT LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

The story of how students lead sustainability projects and sustainability impacts student mental health and enrollment
BERGEN HAAG

UW-Stout
Student Association Sustainability Director
FOOD JUSTICE EFFORTS AT UW–MADISON
WHAT IS FOOD INSECURITY?

Definition: The state or condition of not having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food to meet one's basic dietary needs.


Examples:

- Eating smaller portions or skipping meals due to lack of available food or money to buy food
- Fear or anxiety related to food running out or lack of money to buy food
- Lack of affordable fresh produce nearby or at regular intervals
STUDENT WORK TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

The People’s Farm: farms organic produce, given to students each week for free

Open Seat Food Pantry: a campus food pantry for self-identified food insecure students

Food Recovery Network: redistributes excess food from campus partners into free community meals

Slow Food UW: volunteer-run kitchen providing healthy, local, and affordable meals
WHY SHOULD COLLEGES FOCUS ON FOOD INSECURITY?

“...more than one-third of college students are food insecure nationwide.”

Especially “...racial and ethnic minorities, former foster youth, and first-generation college students”

“...more than half of 2- and 4-year college students reported that they had some level of food insecurity, ranging from anxiety over food sufficiency to reduced food intake.”


CHRISTINA TREACY

UW-Madison
Associated Students of Madison
Sustainability Chair
Food Recovery Network Co-President
UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SURVEY DATA

Main Survey Questions:

- Did the sustainability initiatives, operations, and opportunities available at your current University impact your enrollment decision?
- Do you feel that your mental health is positively or negatively impacted by your University's action or lack of action to address the climate crisis?
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MADISON SUSTAINABILITY

- Grassroot Campaigns
- Student Government Legislation
- Administrative Collaboration
- Outreach & Programming
FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK
MADISON CHAPTER

Minimizing food waste & helping alleviate food insecurity on campus by recovering left-over food and serving it back to the community at 2 free meals per week
NINA HARTWIG
UW-Milwaukee
Energy & Water Stewardship Intern
WHY UW-MILWAUKEE?

- Sustainability Interwoven into Education
  - Conservation- B.S.
  - Freshwater Sciences M.S.
- Hands on sustainability opportunities outside the classroom
ACADEMIC HANDS ON WORK

Undergraduate Program

● Developed a Pond Management Plan for a Local Organization
  ○ Incorporated sustainable practices for long term environmental health

Graduate School

● Worked on a Offshore Wind Feasibility Project for the City of Milwaukee
  ○ Focused on increasing green energy and work towards Milwaukee’s City and Equity goals
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
WORK

Gardens and Composting

- Produce for Food Pantry
- Secured a Hydroponic System
- Created a Community Composting Program
- Helped Divert Food Waste from Residence Hall
- Created a Student Agriculture Program

Water Stewardship

- Helping verify UWM through The Water Council’s Water Stewardship Verified (WAVE) program
OTHER OOS INITIATIVES
GRACE LOPEZ JOHNSON

UW-La Crosse

Student Association Sustainability Director
SARAH KLEINSCHMIDT

UW-Oshkosh

Green Fund Committee Co-Chair
How Student-Led Initiatives Promote Food Security at UW Oshkosh
Food Insecurity: Defined

- Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods
- Limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways

- US Department of Agriculture
OSHKOSH CAMPUS: A FOOD DESERT

- Pick 'n Save (1.4 mi/31-minute walk)
- Piggly Wiggly (1.8 mi/39-minute walk)
- Walmart (2.6 mi/58-minute walk)
- Festival Foods (2.8 mi/62-minute walk)
- Pick 'n Save (2.9 mi/65-minute walk)
- ALDI (3.1 mi/69-minute walk)
UWO STUDENT GREEN FUND

Empowers the student body to engage in sustainability through the implementation of student-led, sustainability-minded projects and initiatives on campus
UWO STUDENTS PARTNER WITH THE GREEN FUND TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY ON CAMPUS
EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

Pick-your-own produce
FREE to harvest
Open to EVERYONE

Tomato, Eggplant, Cucumber, Berries,
Swiss Chard, Asparagus, Rhubarb & MORE
THE CABINET
(Food Pantry)

Open to ALL Oshkosh campus students
- FREE Food and hygiene products
- One visit per student, per week
- Visit in-person or submit online food request
THE CABINET: ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 11, 2020

First three weeks:
150 students served
800lbs. food distributed

2022 (6 months):
700 student visits
“I really want to get rid of that stigma—there’s a stigma around asking for help—it’s ok to ask for help”

- Joy Evans
  UWO Alumni
  McNair Scholar
  Previous Cabinet Director
SIERRA ROESKE

UW-Eau Claire

Intern to the Dean of Students

Veterans Affairs Student Worker
Students walk through Putnam Park on lower campus
Geology Major Katherine Langfield studies Little Niagara
Hydroponics are being used to satisfy internships and provide food for the Campus Harvest Food Pantry
Sunset on lower campus
LOU FLORES

UW-Stevens Point
Student Resource Coordinator, Office of Sustainability
Environmental and Sustainable Affairs Director, Student Government Association
THANK YOU

Comments, questions, feedback?