

Active Student Engagement in Sustainability

Active Engagement (working definition):

To promote the integration of sustainability principles into general practice and encourage personal initiative by providing learning opportunities and resources such as sustainability education and awareness programs relevant to the campus environment and encouraging the active engagement of **all** campus community members through education, participation and collaboration.

(ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES AND OPERATIONS)

Common Themes Include:

Eco- literacy, expanding the curriculum, internships, student groups, eco - representatives, campus living laboratory programs, competition, awards/recognition, community/ herb gardens (agriculture), student grants, sustainability financing, recycling challenges/ initiatives, overall community engagement and sustainability awareness through art projects, films and fundraisers.

Examples: to provide a current, ongoing and successful program implemented by the respective schools below

Example of Living Laboratory Learning: [Truman State University](http://sustainability.truman.edu/)

(<http://sustainability.truman.edu/>)

Truman State University has a 400-acre farm located about a mile away from campus with two greenhouses, an orchard, vineyards, and several garden plots. “Students have a variety of opportunities to volunteer at the farm, from summer internship programs to coursework that utilizes the resource for lectures and lab work.”

Example of Student Led Fund Raising (grant writing) Initiative: [Humboldt State Campus](http://www2.humboldt.edu/green/)

(<http://www2.humboldt.edu/green/>)

Students wrote grant proposals at Humboldt State Campus and were awarded \$68,000 in grants by The Humboldt Energy Independence Fund Committee. The grants were used to retrofit the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system (HVAC) in two of the Science Complex buildings, and installations of two solar thermal panels on buildings. The projects made possible by the grants dramatically improved the sustainability of the campus while having massive savings from the HVAC retrofits alone projected to be at least \$390,000 over a 20-year period.

Example of students using technical skills to contribute to sustainability efforts:

[California State University Chico](http://sustainability.truman.edu/) (<http://sustainability.truman.edu/>)



Engineering students used their skills to create a biodiesel processor at California State University Chico. In 2007, 22 engineering students created an automated biodiesel processor that turns animal fats and vegetable oils into fuel. Once improved upon, The plan for the finished processor is to use it to fuel machinery on the campus.

Example of Student Grant Fund for Sustainability: [Harvard](#)

[\(http://green.harvard.edu/\)](http://green.harvard.edu/)

The Student Sustainability Grant Program provides micro-loans for student-led projects. This program has facilitated the creation of the Harvard Community Garden, Harvard Undergraduate Beekeepers group, pilot laboratory programs to reduce waste through the use of reusable containers, and innovative stormwater modules on the roof of Gund Hall. This fund has empowered and encouraged students to act on their creative ideas to make the school a better place while bringing them together across disciplines.

Example of Student Led Community engagement: [Georgia Tech](#)

[\(https://sustain.gatech.edu/\)](https://sustain.gatech.edu/)

The GT Trailblazers coordinate trips combining environmental service projects with outdoor recreation to allow participants to build new friendships while serving and learning about the environment.

