



## UNCG ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FY20

*The following items briefly outline the accomplishments related to sustainability, as facilitated actively, undertaken collaboratively, and reported by the Chancellor's Sustainability Council.*

September 1, 2021

### INSTITUTIONAL

- **UNC Greensboro** has been recognized as one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges by the Princeton Review. The education services company features UNCG in its "Guide to Green Colleges: 2019 Edition." UNCG is one of eight universities in the UNC System to be included. [Read more here.](#)
- UNCG Greensboro earned **Tree Campus USA**® recognition for the 11th year in a row. To obtain this distinction, UNCG met the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry required by Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program, including establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects. [Read more here.](#)
- The **Bryan School of Business and Economics** received a \$100,000 gift from VF Foundation to create a new virtual collaboratory for sustainable business practices. The gift will support the school's new and ongoing efforts to educate students about this topic across disciplines through activities such as guest lectures, class projects, industry and community workshops, faculty research, and a sustainability symposium. [Read more here.](#)

### OPERATIONAL

- The **UNCG Green Fund** has awarded more than **\$182,000 to 44 projects** during its first four years of existence to support sustainability initiatives on campus. Recently supported projects include:
  - **Food Recovery Network** - \$500. Supplies to support recovering and donating leftovers from Fountain View Dining.
  - **UNCGreen** - \$948. Supplies to support marketing and membership recruitment activities.



- **Sustainability Shorts Film Awards** - Sarah Dorsey - \$1,000.00. Prizes for UNCG's annual Sustainability Shorts Film competition in Spring 2020.
  
- **Piney Lake Garden** - Michael Ackerman - \$2,123.58. To support the construction and maintenance of a community garden at Piney Lake Outdoor Adventures.
  
- **Local Foodstorm** - Dr. Marianne LeGreco - \$17,700 (over 2 years). To support the logistics of organizing two Local Foodstorm conferences (FY20 & FY21) in partnership with NC A&T and Guilford College.
  
- **Industries of the Blind** - Adam Carlin - \$11,930 (over 3 years). To support a collaborative and community-engaged project with Industries of the Blind that will result in a public art piece on Gate City Blvd.
  
- **Ocean Advocacy Workshop**- Ann Somers - \$996.52. To support the registration and travel costs for students attending the Ocean Advocacy Workshop at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.
  
- **Modeling Energy Consumption Phase 2** - Will Queen, et al. - \$11,232.60. To produce an online dashboard for modeling energy consumption in on-campus buildings at UNCG.
  
- **Living Laboratory on Child Development** - Dr. Jasmine DeJesus & Dr. Shaylene Nancekivell - \$3,884.48 (over 4 years). Student labor and expenses related to research in partnership with the North Carolina Zoo's Carolina Red Wolf exhibit.
  
- The **Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling**, thanks to a grant from the UNCG Green Fund, installed **Big Belly solar recycling receptacles** on campus (4 on College Ave. and 2 on Stirling Ave.). The receptacles are a smart platform of network-connected bins that will increase productivity in our labor force, reduce our carbon footprint, increase our waste diversion rate, and help keep our public areas clean and green. [The initiative received local news coverage.](#)
  
- **Parking Operations & Campus Access Planning**, thanks to a grant from the Green Fund, installed four Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations in the McIver Parking Deck. [Read more here.](#)
  
- The **UNCG Office of Sustainability** completed a redesign of its [website](#).
  
- **UNCG Sustainability Specialist, Sean MacInnes**, was interviewed for the Greensboro-based *Pondering Skies* podcast. [Listen here.](#)



- The **Office of Sustainability** and a dozen of UNCG employees participated with hundreds of employees from 40 other institutions and companies across North Carolina in the “**50 Actions for 50 Years Earth Day Challenge**” sponsored by Earth Share North Carolina. In less than one month, UNCG employees kept one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere, diverted 300 pounds of waste from the landfill, and saved over 3,500 gallons of water. All participants in the challenge combined to divert 48 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, 4 tons of waste from the landfill, and saved over 120,000 gallons of water. That’s equivalent to powering 63 homes for a month, eliminating 550 bags of garbage, and filling over 2,400 bathtubs. [Read more here.](#)

## ACADEMICS

- The **Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability** received approval for a new online **Master of Science degree in Sustainability & Environment** that launched in Fall 2020 and offers four areas of concentration: Natural Science; Society and Equity; Economics and Development; and Aesthetics and Ethics. The program received 33 applications, of which 24 were complete, submitted, and accepted. Of those 24, a total of 20 students committed to UNCG: 17 enrolled for fall 2020, and 3 deferred to fall 2021, but 2 withdrew after classes started, with the result that we have a cohort of 15 new students. [Read more here.](#)
- The **Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability** also received approval for a new **B.A. in Environment & Sustainability (BAES)** that launched in Fall 2020. The new degree has two concentrations: Natural Sciences and Equity, Development, & Ethics. [Read more here.](#)
- The **Sustainability Faculty Fellows** program has named its Fellows for the 2019-2020 academic year. The program aims to enhance UNCG’s sustainability by encouraging the integration of sustainability in innovative research, teaching, and service around sustainability across the campus. [Read more here.](#)
  - **Sarah Dorsey** (Head, Harold Schiffman Music Library, Associate Professor in the University Libraries, adjunct professor in the School of Music) will serve as a returning SFF. She will continue to lead the highly successful UNCG Sustainability Film Series now in its 13th year.



- **Dr. Olav Rueppell** (Professor, Biology) leads the Rueppell Research Group at UNCG to study the genetic traits, social behavior, aging, and health of honey bees. He is also co-founder and co-director of the newly established UNCG Plant & Pollinator Center.
- **Dr. Meredith Powers** (Assistant Professor, Social Work) will serve as a returning SFF to continue the Climate Justice Program she proposed for the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW).
- **Dr. Sarah Praskievicz** (Assistant Professor, Geography) studies the environmental aspects of river systems, including impacts of climate change on water resources. As a new SFF, she will examine the ecological health of North Buffalo Creek.
- **Dr. Aaron Allen**, Associate Professor of Musicology and Director of the Environment and Sustainability Program, **received the 2018 Ellen Koskoff Edited Volume Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology** for the book “Current Directions in Ecomusicology: Music, Culture, and Nature.” He shared the award with co-editor and co-author Dr. Kevin Dawe from the University of Kent. [Read more here.](#)