

2nd Annual UCCS Sustainability Summit a Success!

More than 100 faculty, students, and staff attended the 2nd Annual Sustainability Summit in Kettle Creek on October 26. Presentations were diverse from across campus and included sharing progress in the areas of curriculum, experiential learning, and research; operations and management of resources; and student advocacy and engagement.

The event provided the opportunity for staff, faculty, students, and administrators to come together and learn about areas outside their normal spheres and to consider ways to collaborate. One highlight was connecting Robin Margolin, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, who spoke about their initiatives on food insecurity among students, with Andrea Herrera, Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, who wants to partner to strengthen the food security program to serve more students.

Martin Garner, Dean Kramer Family Library, and Joel Tonyan, Assistant Professor, Systems and User Experience Librarian, presented a new Sustainability Strategic Plan for the Library, as well as numerous initiatives they are doing to decrease the library's footprint. For those in other areas of campus who wish to learn more and potentially incorporate sustainability in your strategic plans, the Library Team Green is a great resource.

Other highlights included Suzanne Cook, Senior Instructor, Languages and Culture Department, who presented how both she, and Andrea Brehm, Lecturer, incorporate sustainability through assigned books and classroom discussion in French and German. The videos of students in these classes discussing these issues and what it meant to them was inspiring. Linda Kogan, Sustainability Director, shared the recent sustainability successes of the campus as shown by national rankings including:

- 6th overall top performer among Master's Level institutes in the Sustainable Campus Index given by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, AASHE
- 1 of the top 26 schools in the Princeton Review Green Honor Roll
- 24th out of 279 in the Sierra Cool Schools
- 9th for Energy Performance in the AASHE Sustainable Campus Index (over 70% of electricity offset by renewables)

Linda applauded all the collaboration across campus and the strong leadership of UCCS to reach this level of success. She also reminded participants of the work still needed at UCCS given urgent global issues such as climate change, inequities, hunger, and more and recommended a focus on starting the next UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan and continuing to strengthen education for all students on sustainability and climate change.

The event would not have been as memorable without the contribution of the Sustainability Wellness and Learning teams of students and DHS providing a local, in-season, and delicious breakfast and lunch led by Nanna Meyer, Associate Professor Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Corey King, Executive Chef and Associate Director Dining and Hospitality Services.

The Office of Sustainability will hold this event each year to highlight the great work that is happening across campus. We encourage diversity in departments, topics, and presenters. Please contact us if you would be willing to present next year. If you missed this year's event, a full [PowerPoint of presentations can be found here](#).