



# Sustainability at UVA

Andrea Trimble, Director, Office for Sustainability

April 2016

# ENGAGE STEWARD DISCOVER



## University unites in search for 'greener' U.Va StudCo Sustainability Committee supports zero waste events, U.Va to reduce nitrogen footprint by 2025

by Madelyn Weingast | Mar 05 2014 | 18 hours ago



Kelsey Grant

Recycling bins for each type of material — white paper, mixed paper and plastic, metal and glass — are provided in all University buildings.



The Cavalier Daily

Morven Kitchen Garden is a one-acre student farm located about 20 minutes from Grounds which serves as a laboratory for student research and exploration.

Like 5 Tweet 5 Pin It

"I compare the role of the Sustainability Team to that of the U.Va. Honor Committee," Greene said. "Everyone at U.Va. plays a role in Honor. The Honor Committee doesn't single-handedly ensure that no one at U.Va. lies or cheats, but rather, the Honor Committee helps to communicate the importance of

Following national trends, several groups around Grounds are making a concerted effort to create a more "green U.Va."

From student activism to resolutions by the Board of Visitors, people at all levels are trying to create an environmentally sustainable University.

The most visible University program is the source-separated multi-stream recycling program. Recycling bins for each type of material — white paper, mixed paper and plastic, metal and glass — are provided in all University buildings. Recycling bins can also be found around Grounds, and "E-cycling" bins for electronics are located at various high traffic points.

### Student government initiatives

One of the most active student groups in shaping environmentally conscious initiatives is the Student Council Sustainability Committee, co-chaired by fourth-year College student Jonathan Torre and a fourth-year Engineering student Holly Mayton.

"The sustainability institution at U.Va is primarily proactive, not reactive, in responding to student concerns," Torre said. "Organizations like U.Va. Sustainability and U.Va. Dining go above and beyond student expectations by increasing the sustainable nature of institutional operations within the University of which students might not necessarily be aware."

The committee has 16 members who dedicate their time to various task forces. Ultimately, the committee acts as a resource for students interested in sustainability at the University and is involved in initiatives like hand-dryer installation in the Brown Science & Engineering Library, zero-waste events such as Pancakes for Parkinson's and co-sponsorships with groups like the University Programs Council.

"This year, our budget was nearly double what it has been in the past," Torre said. "I anticipate that with strong leadership



**VP for Management and Budget**

- Facilities Management
  - **Office for Sustainability**
  - Environmental Resources
- Office of the Architect
- Transportation Demand Management Program
- Green Dining Program

**VP for Research**

- Associate VP for Sustainability Research
- Food Collaborative

**Exec. VP and Provost**

- Global Sustainability Major
- Global Sustainability Minor

Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee

**Committee on Sustainability**

Teaching and Research Subcommittee

Civic Engagement Subcommittee

**Student Council Sustainability Committee and Sustainability**

**OFS Student Employees and Advocates**

**Student CIOs**

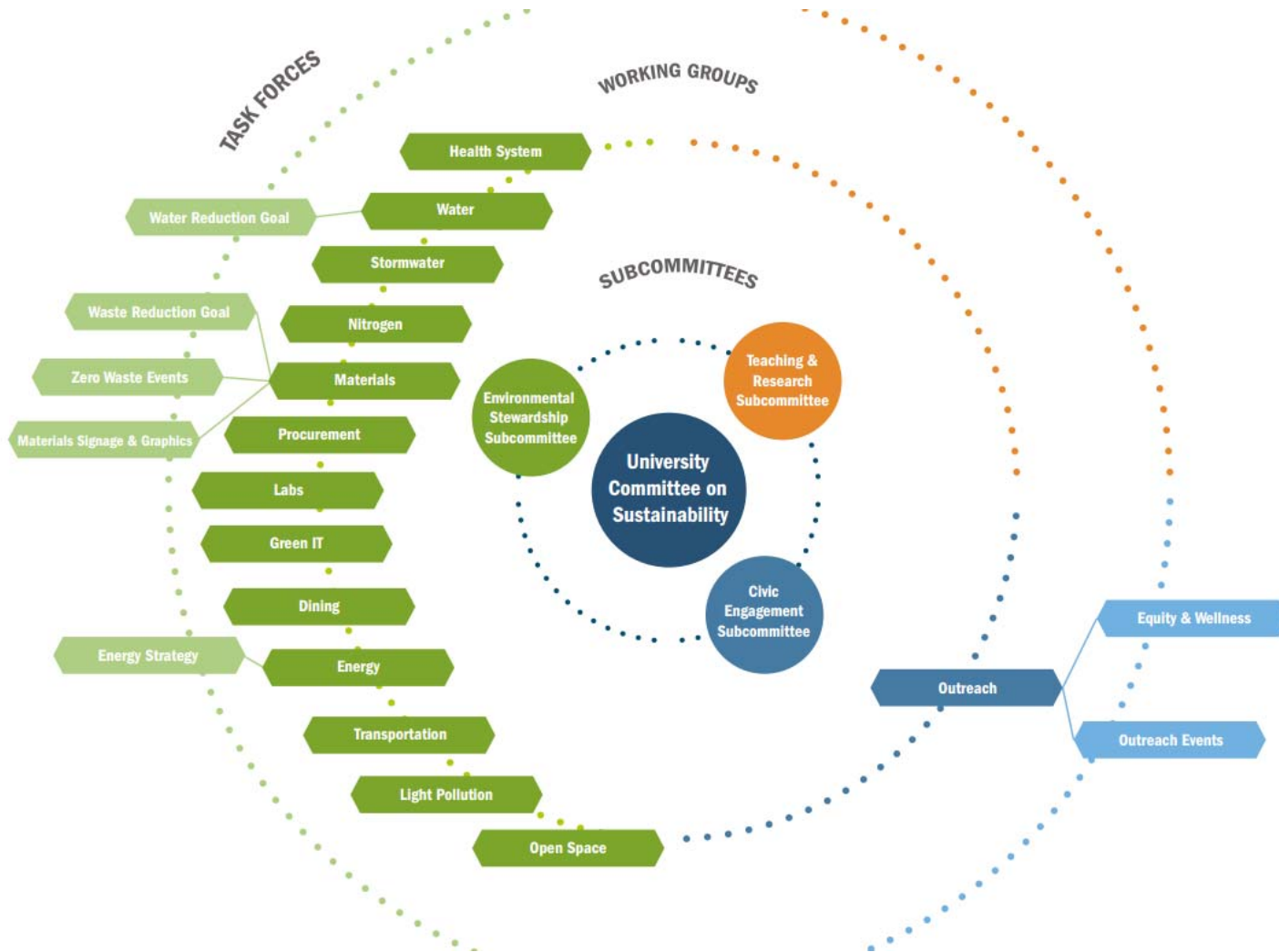
*Food*  
 Campus Kitchen  
 Slow Food  
 Hereford Garden (TJ Learning Garden)  
 Community Garden  
 Morven Kitchen Garden  
 Madison House Garden  
 Green Dining  
 DECAF  
 Greens 2 Grounds


*Activism*  
 Green Grounds  
 Net Impact  
 Sustainability Advocates  
 IFC Sustainability  
 ENACTUS  
 GIFT Committee  
 Climate Action Society  
 APO  
 Habitat for Humanity at Uva


*Get Global*  
 Global Brigades Water  
 Global Brigades Medical and Dental  
 Global Brigades Architecture  
 Global Brigades Environmental  
 Global Development Organization

*Transportation, Misc.*  
 Ride Forward  
 Bike Uva  
 Outdoors Club  
 Crafting for Conservation

*Academics*  
 Engineering Students Without Borders  
 SARC EcoReps  
 Student Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED)









  
**SUSTAINABILITY · UVA**  
*From the Grounds Up*  
**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY**  
**PLAN**  
**2016 - 2020**



## ENGAGE







-   
 Increase sustainability awareness within the UVA community.
-   
 Increase sustainability engagement beyond Grounds.
-   
 Incorporate social, environmental, and economic sustainability considerations into strategic initiatives.
-   
 Cultivate healthy and equitable places for learning, living, & working.

## STEWARD

-   
 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 2009 levels by 2025.
-   
 Reduce building energy use intensity 20% below 2010 levels by 2020.
-   
 Reduce reactive nitrogen losses to the environment 25% below 2010 levels by 2020.
-   
 Reduce potable water use 25% below 2010 levels by 2035.
-   
 Reduce the total tonnage of waste generated at UVA 50% below 2014 amounts by 2035.
-   
 Landfill less than 2000 tons of waste annually by the year 2035.

-   
 Increase environmentally preferable purchasing as a percentage of purchases.
-   
 Increase efficiency of UVA land and buildings to limit the need for new construction.
-   
 Form connections with our larger community through UVA and UVA Foundation lands.
-   
 Enhance and expand the number of sustainable and meaningful sites and buildings.
-   
 Annually increase the percentage of sustainable food and beverages available on Grounds.
-   
 Reduce food waste and single-use food serving items sent to landfill by 2030, in alignment with the overall UVA waste goals.
-   
 Reduce the energy and water impact of dining operations.

## DISCOVER

-   
 Increase student, staff, and faculty awareness of sustainable food systems.
-   
 Collaborate within UVA and with the region...to advance sustainable food systems in the broader community.
-   
 Consider environmental, governance, social, and ethical issues in managing institutional investment assets.
-   
 Enhance sustainability research and UVA's reputation as a locus of sustainability.
-   
 Enhance sustainability-focused teaching and curricular development.
-   
 Utilize the Grounds as a learning tool through collaboration between operational and academic units.



# Office for Sustainability - U.Va. Recycling

## PLASTIC METAL GLASS

PLASTIC BOTTLES  
CLEAR & COLORED GLASS  
STEEL & ALUMINIUM CANS  
PLASTIC LIDS  
PLASTIC BAGS & WRAPS  
PLASTIC CUPS

# RECYCLE

[SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU](http://SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU)

## PAPER CARDBOARD

WHITE PAPER & NOTEBOOKS  
FLATTENED BOXES  
NEWSPAPERS  
CUP SLEEVES  
MIXED PAPER  
POST IT NOTES

# RECYCLE

[SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU](http://SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU)

# LANDFILL

NON-RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS

# TRASH

[SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU](http://SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU)



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## ZERO WASTE EVENT GUIDE

Congratulations on your decision to minimize waste at your event! This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to turn any event into a zero waste event. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Jess Wenger at 982-5540; jsw6d@virginia.edu or Amy Muldoon at 982-0812; ajm6u@virginia.edu.

### WHAT IS ZERO WASTE?

A zero waste event is one in which organizers emphasize reusable, recyclable, or compostable materials in order to minimize landfill-bound waste from the event. While "zero waste" is the common term for these events, most zero waste events are considered a success if they can divert 90% of event waste from the landfill. In reality, any waste that can be diverted from the waste stream and in favor of being reused or recycled is a victory. Every little bit counts!

### WHY ZERO WASTE?

In 2012 Americans generated 251 million tons of trash, but only composted or recycled 87 million tons of it, sending 164 million tons of trash to landfills<sup>1</sup>. The EPA estimates that 21% of this trash was food waste, while recyclable plastics and paper made up an additional 39%. Essentially, the majority of material sent to U.S. landfills could be reused, recycled, or composted instead of sitting in a landfill, which takes up valuable land space, generates greenhouse gases, and often causes groundwater contamination when landfill liners crack. Additionally, materials inside landfills take hundreds of years to break down, which means that future generations will be impacted by the waste we generate today.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012\\_msw\\_fs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2012_msw_fs.pdf)



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## CHECKLIST DAY OF THE ZERO WASTE EVENT

- ✓ **ARRIVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE EVENT AND COME PREPARED WITH...**
  - Signs and materials to hang signs, such as tape, zip ties, and string;
  - Gloves for volunteers who will be staffing the waste stations;
  - Cell phone numbers of volunteers, UVA recycling, NOPE, and anyone else who you might need to call from the event site.
- ✓ **SET UP WASTE STATIONS**
  - At each station include a recycling bin, compost bin, and trash can unless you have determined there will be no trash. Eliminate any stray trash cans where people could accidentally throw out compostable or recyclable items.
  - When determining waste station locations, talk to caterers to locate appropriate waste stations in the kitchen or preparation area.
  - Post signs at all stations, labeling each of the bins. Secure actual items to the signs for each bin to help people sort waste more easily.
  - Have someone stationed at each waste station to ensure items end up in the right bin.
- ✓ **MAKE YOUR ROUNDS**
  - For catered events, talk to the event catering manager and facility event staff to ensure everyone who is handling waste knows where it goes.
  - For potluck events, explain to guests the nature of the event and describe how waste should be handled.
- ✓ **TIE UP LOOSE ENDS AFTER EVENT ENDS**
  - Check that all leftover food has been disposed of in the compost bins.
  - Place the NOPE compost bins, any additional compost bags, and NOPE signage in the area where they were dropped off.
  - Place recycling bins in the location you have arranged with the site manager.

<http://sustainability.virginia.edu/docs/ZeroWasteEventGuide-8-11-15.pdf>

A WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATING OUR PLANET

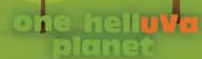
# EARTH WEEK

**APRIL 17 - 24**

17 <i>Sun.</i>	18 <i>Mon.</i>	19 <i>Tue.</i>	20 <i>Wed.</i>	21 <i>Thur.</i>	22 <i>Fri.</i>	23 <i>Sat.</i>	24 <i>Sun.</i>
<b>BIG SPRING THING</b>	<b>BATTEN HOUR</b>	<b>SUSTAINA BANQUET</b>	<b>EARTH WEEK EXPO</b>	<b>SUSTAINA PITCH NIGHT</b>	<b>EARTH DAY YOGA</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER WITH RIVANNA TRAILS</b>	<b>CVILLE ECO-FAIR</b>
3:00PM - 5:00PM	1:00PM - 2:00PM	5:00PM - 7:00PM	10:00AM - 2:00PM	6:30PM - 7:30PM	4:00PM - 5:00PM	10:00AM	11:00AM - 5:00PM
UVA COMMUNITY GARDEN	GARRETT GREAT HALL	NEWCOMB BALLROOM	NEWCOMB BALLROOM	GIBSON 211	AMPHI-THEATER	MEET AT UVA CHAPEL	DOWNTOWN MALL

**More Events Happening Each Day!**

FOR FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS VISIT:  
**SUSTAINABILITY.VIRGINIA.EDU**





<p><b>⚡ ENERGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Computer Sleep Settings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Holiday Checklist</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Window Blinds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Device Sleep Settings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Redundant Appliances</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Redundant Printers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Light Switch Prompts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Overheating/cooling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Temperature Settings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No Incandescent Light</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Building Scheduling</li> </ul>	<p><b>💰 PURCHASING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 30% Recycled Content</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> R.O.S.E Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supply Deliveries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Equipment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Content Supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 100% Recycled Content Paper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paper Use</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplies Use</li> </ul>	<p><b>♻️ ZERO WASTE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Bins</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Information</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Desk-Side Recycling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Computer Disposal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Double-Sided Copying</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Margins</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rechargeable Batteries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> E-Waste Collection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mail Reduction</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paperless Process</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Trash Containers</li> </ul>
<p><b>❤️ HEALTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stair Reminder Signage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> HoosWell</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Walking Meetings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Health Activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>🚶 TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> TDM Information</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Parking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fare Free Transit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Travel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Zipcar</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Meetings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Travel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commuter Survey</li> </ul>	<p><b>🍴 FOOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reusable Kitchenware</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bulk Food Supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Zero Waste Events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No Styrofoam</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water Service</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bulk Catering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leak Checks</li> </ul>
<p><b>🏛️ COMMUNITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Partners</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Tip of the Month</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community Service</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Literacy Training</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Speakers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Vision</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREENWORKPLACE@ VIRGINIA.EDU</b></p> <p><b>CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE CHECKLIST</b></p>	<p><b>📖 INNOVATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Workplace Recognition</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Workplace Improvement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Green Workplace Recruiter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Innovation</li> </ul>



## 7 Steps to a Green Workplace

- Get familiar with the program.
- Form a Green Team.
- Obtain leadership approval.
- [Register for the Green Workplace Program.](#)
- Perform an initial assessment.
- Document your accomplishments
- Get certified and celebrate! Submit your completed application to [greenworkplace@virginia.edu](mailto:greenworkplace@virginia.edu)

## BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY

### What is Building Sustainability?

### Programs Offered



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Electricity



Heating

**Delta Force**



Cooling



Water

U.Va.'s Building Sustainability program fosters a culture of environmental stewardship on Grounds, in partnership with building occupants, students, administrators, faculty, and staff. Help us make this building a more sustainable place to work and learn.

### GET INVOLVED Join a team of dedicated individuals working together for a better future.



**Green Workplace** Program engages U.Va. employees and workplaces in actions that conserve energy, save money, and advance sustainability.



**Green Labs** Program helps researchers minimize the environmental impacts of lab operations.



Clark Hall will be the first building on Grounds to be considered for **LEED** Existing Buildings. Operations and Maintenance certification.

Together We Are Building Sustainability

[sustainability.virginia.edu](http://sustainability.virginia.edu)

Sustainability at the University of Virginia calls for collaboration and ingenuity to promote the well-being of the community, solve local and global challenges through scholarship and practice, educate ethical leaders and steward this special place.

### U.Va. Sustainability Statement



## Green Workplace

The credit categories in the Green Workplace Program are quite comprehensive and include energy, transportation, purchasing, zero-waste, community, health, food, and innovation.

There are 60 actions (100 total points) that participating workplaces can implement to be more sustainable.

75+



**GOLD**

50+



**SILVER**

25+



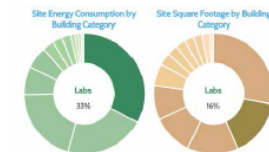
**BRONZE**

To Join, contact: [greenworkplace@virginia.edu](mailto:greenworkplace@virginia.edu)  
[sustainability.virginia.edu/programs/greenworkplace.html](http://sustainability.virginia.edu/programs/greenworkplace.html)



## Green Labs

Labs are a critical component to the innovative research conducted by the University, but they can be resource-intensive. Labs account for only 16% of the square footage at U.Va., but contribute to over one third of the energy use.



Make your lab a Green Lab!  
[sustainability.virginia.edu/programs/greenlabs.html](http://sustainability.virginia.edu/programs/greenlabs.html)

## Sustainability Partners

The mission of Sustainability Partners is to actively engage U.Va. employees in cultivating a community that embraces sustainable stewardship and practices. Sustainability Partners advocate and promote initiatives that reduce energy and water use, minimize waste, promote community and enhance well-being.

Through monthly meetings and collaborative efforts, Sustainability Partners research innovative practices and develop strategies for creating a more sustainable workplace and community.



March 16, 2016

**Guest speaker:** Lonnie Murray

**Location:** Newcomb Gallery

## Accomplishments

Through Sustainability Partners, employees have helped shape:

- Reminder signs, such as "Try Just One" and "Flip the Switch!"
- Development and promotion of U.Va. Sustainability Pledge
- Creation of an online training program, Sustainability at U.Va.: You Can Make a Positive Difference, offered through U.Va. Human Resources. Note: the link will direct you to the integrated system login page. Once logged in, you will see the option to enroll in the course (class #146816).


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<http://sustainability.virginia.edu/news/newsletters.html>

[www.virginia.edu/sustainability](http://www.virginia.edu/sustainability)

<https://www.facebook.com/sustainableuva/>

<https://twitter.com/sustainableuva>


[sustainability@virginia.edu](mailto:sustainability@virginia.edu)



## SustainaNewsletter

September 9 - October 12

*Sustainability at the University of Virginia calls for collaboration and ingenuity to promote the well-being of the community, solve local and global challenges through scholarship and practice, educate ethical leaders and steward this special place.*




### Weekly Recap

The Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee (ESS) met last week to discuss upcoming projects for this semester, including a solar powered electronic charging station picnic table, evaluating the possibility of water bottle refill stations in Scott Stadium, and funding to help bring composting to events. To learn more about ESS, click [here](#).

Starting this week, the SustainaNewsletter will be published bi-weekly. The next issue will be e-mailed the week of October 12.

### News



#### Student Voices in Sustainability

Students are an integral part of our community and a driving force behind many sustainability actions across Grounds. Each week the From the Grounds Up blog will feature posts written by students working to make U.Va. more sustainable. [Read more...](#)

#### Warburg: Pope Changes Debate Over Global Warming

"The extraordinary encyclical issued by Pope Francis holds great promise for an issue that affects all life on our fragile planet. This remarkable document essentially reframes an issue that has long been mired in a false and polarizing jobs-vs.-the-environment dichotomy," - states Gerry Warburg [Read more...](#)

### Opportunities & Updates

