



# END OF YEAR REPORT 2022-23

## Events



**500+**  
students estimated to have attended Earth Week events



**250+**  
students attended the first Flash Sale with Campus Surplus



**180+**  
registered for Sustainability Month events

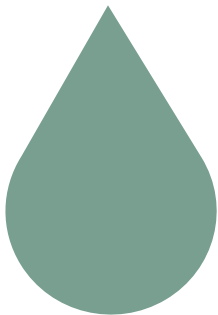


**20**  
collaborative events were held during Sustainability Month and Earth Week



**7**  
Swap 'n' Shop events held in collaboration with Sustainable Fashion Club

## Impact



**7.7%**  
overall water reduction in residence halls and...



**180,800+ gallons**  
of water saved over the course of the 21-day FLOW challenge



**130+**  
used graduation gowns recirculated into campus community

**\$13,000+**  
raised in total donations

\$7,500  
from Stasher

\$2,100  
from Ethique

\$2,000+  
raised with Josten's "Responsible Regalia" program

\$1,000  
from Bees Wrap

\$400  
in raffle prize donation

## Digital Outreach



**250+**  
Instagram followers gained



**650+**  
Newsletter clicks



**1,100+**  
New subscribers

## Energy

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### Shut the Sash Campaign

Laboratories are the most energy-intensive buildings at Cal Poly, and fume hoods are one of the primary drivers of that energy use. When open, a single fume hood can consume as much energy as 3.5 homes. The Shut the Sash campaign used magnets placed on fume hoods throughout campus to encourage sash closure when hoods are not in use.

Additionally, Green Campus worked with COSAM faculty to request that professors include information about the campaign in their syllabus or lab safety manual. To further reach the student population, the team created an informational video and tabled outside Baker Science for the first week of classes in Winter and Spring quarter

### Green Labs Program

Inspired by the success of the Shut the Sash campaign, the Energy team is currently in the planning stages of a Green Labs Certification program. The goal is to develop a framework for measuring and rewarding sustainability practices in labs across campus. This program hopes to expand past energy consumption and touch on HVAC, waste management, and water usage in lab spaces.

## Water Conservation

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### SLO the FLOW Campaign

Droughts are a regular occurrence in California, so water conservation is always critical. Students at Cal Poly come from across the state, the US and the globe and may not be aware of California's and/or San Luis Obispo's drought status. To encourage awareness and action among students, the team developed general signage to be hung in central areas of campus as well as housing-specific posters for bathrooms and laundry rooms.

### For Love of Water (FLOW) Campaign

Green Campus held the FLOW water conservation challenge between first year living communities to encourage long-lasting water conservation and sustainable living habits. For three weeks, residents were encouraged to save water by making changes in their lifestyle habits such as taking shorter showers or washing full loads of laundry. Green Campus team members read the water meters for each community's buildings to track their water use and kept the students informed on which communities were winning through a challenge dashboard on the sustainability website. Green Campus kept students engaged during the challenge by posting FLOW Challenge signage in and around their community buildings, working with University Housing staff to email challenge messaging, and speaking with students at educational booths set up in their communities. Green Campus partnered with the Inter Housing Council and ASI (Associated Students) to engage students with snacks and provide the winning community with an ice cream truck.

## Reuse

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### Compostable Packaging

Green Campus' Reuse Team, in conjunction with Campus Dining, worked to identify compostable packaging to replace the current aluminum and plastic containers used at Vista Grande. To be accepted by the regional anaerobic digester, samples of the product had to be shipped to a testing facility to confirm their ability to break down in anerobic conditions. Once testing is complete, the packaging will be piloted at Vista Grande and eventually expanded to other dining locations.

### Surplus and Lost and Found Item Recirculation

With strong collaboration from Campus Surplus, the Reuse team was able to organize a free item pickup in February. With an estimated 200-300 attendees, 50-60 office chairs, five desks, two bookshelves, and 90% of all other available small items from Surplus were claimed, diverted from landfill, and given a new home. Without this free item pickup, it is estimated that about 96% of the chairs would have been sent to partial recycling. Due to the success of this event, Surplus partnered with Green Campus again in May to promote their abandoned bike auction, in which 45 out of the 50 bikes were sold. Additionally, this team organized the pickup of 100+ abandoned water bottles from the Recreation Center and coordinated with Campus Dining to have them washed. These water bottles were then recirculated back into the campus community during a Swap 'n' Shop event.

### Graduation Gown Reuse Program

Every year, thousands of graduation gowns are thrown away after a few hours of wear. To address this, the Reuse Team piloted the Graduation Gown Reuse program for fall commencement. Through tabling after the ceremony and cards included with each gown purchase, the team received less than 10 gown donations via the mail. However, during Winter Quarter, the Educational Opportunity Program reached out about gowns they had in storage from a past rendition of this program. Due to their donation of gowns, Green Campus was able to provide rental gowns to over 130 students for Spring 2023 commencement.

### iWasteNot Online Reuse Program

To encourage a circular economy on campus, Green Campus facilitated a partnership with iWasteNot to create an online reuse marketplace. The site will work as a platform for Campus Surplus as well as creating a platform where students can list items such as clothing, furniture, textbooks, office supplies, and more to be recirculated to others in the campus community. Green Campus was crucial in the formation of this partnership, meeting with other campuses and software developers to determine the service that would best fit Cal Poly's needs. This platform will launch in Fall 2023.

## Sustainable Living Edu

Sustainable Living Edu was created to serve as a brief, yet complete overview of sustainability-related topics at Cal Poly. The training, which covers water, energy, transportation, and waste management, was created by Kalea Conrad and Annika Furr in Fall 2022. As of Spring 2023, Green Campus was able to work with New Student Transition Programs to make this training a part of new student orientation. Sustainable Living Edu will be built into the Transition Toolkit Part 2, which all incoming students need to complete between August 15 and September 15.

## Visibility

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### Sustainability Month

Held every October, Campus Sustainability Month is an international celebration, with the goal of raising the visibility of campus sustainability. Green Campus organized the Sustainability Festival and Clothing Swap, Sustainability Trivia, and the State of Sustainability and collaborated with campus clubs to promote 7 other sustainability events. Event attendance was tracked via “stamp cards” that were stamped by a Green Campus member at each event. Students then turned them in at the end of the month in exchange for entries into a raffle.

### Eco Reps x Sustainability Roundtables

This year, Eco Reps, the general sustainability club, combined with Sustainability Roundtables to increase cross-collaboration and larger turnouts. Meetings were held weekly, with an average of 10-20 regular attendees. Guest speakers included representatives from: the SLO Land Conservancy, the Cal Poly Climate Action Plan committee, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and from Green Campus. Club meetings have also included trivia, film screenings, and social activities outside of regular meeting hours.

### Swap n Shops

Green Campus collaborated with the Cal Poly Sustainable Fashion Club (SFC) on campus to host monthly Swap 'n Shop on Dexter Lawn. SFC organized local student vendors to sell clothes, jewelry, pottery, and other handmade art and goods to the campus community. Additionally, they had a booth for their club to educate about the importance of shopping small and local. Green Campus organized the swap portion of the event, where students could bring clothes they no longer wanted or needed in exchange for free items brought by other students. Any clothes not taken at the end of the event were donated to a local thrift store in SLO.

## Earth Week

Earth Week, celebrated in April, had 4 events by Green Campus and coordinated 6 others planned by campus partners, totaling 10 events throughout the week. Participation was high, with over 180+ responses to the Earth Week RSVP form and an estimated attendance of over 500 students, staff, and faculty. Sustainable goodies such as reusable utensils, soap bars, beeswax wraps, and Stasher bags were given out to Sustainability Festival attendees, which kicked off the week's events. Additionally, prizes from local businesses were raffled off to those who attended events throughout the week.

## Social Media

To successfully educate students, and foster the sustainability community at Cal Poly, community building tactics are necessary. The Sustainability Visibility team was created to focus on outreach, education, marketing, and community building on Cal Poly's campus. Green Campus put out a variety of Instagram campaigns, including highlights of those doing sustainability work on campus, sustainable brand highlights, and seasonal informational campaigns. Additionally, Green Campus used the social media platform to promote Green Campus activities and local sustainability related events. Over 250 new followers were gained throughout the year.

## Featured Articles

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[Green Campus' gown renewal program works to make graduation more sustainable](#)

[Grad Gown Reuse Program aims to reduce waste and make gowns affordable](#)

[Sustainable Fashion Club and Green Campus to host Swap n' Shop this Friday](#)

[Shut the Sash campaign raises awareness of on campus energy waste](#)

[The art of upcycling: Student-run businesses strive to incorporate sustainable practices](#)

[Walkability in college towns fosters green practices and accessibility](#)

[Vista Grande Express promotes sustainability through reusable containers](#)

[Cal Poly faculty participate in annual 'Climate Solutions Now' conference](#)

[City of SLO wins national award for Climate Action Plan](#)

[WATCH: Cal Poly's Reservoir Gains Multiple Years of Water from Winter Storms](#)

[Cal Poly celebrates National Bike Month with Bike-to-Work Day this Friday](#)

[Cal Poly embraces electric vans to drive green goals on campus](#)

[Bringing Thrift to Campus: How Cal Poly Students Guide Sustainability Efforts on Campus](#)