

# Sustainability Ambassador Activities Report 2019-2020



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Office of Sustainability

FALL 2019

## UNIVERSITY WIDE MOVE-INS

Environmental Leaders Academic Residential Community students volunteered to staff Move-in recycling sites on the big day, Friday, 9/27. Nearly 4000 residents moved into their residence halls on that day, bringing with them cardboard boxes, block Styrofoam and paper packaging. The volunteers were on-site to welcome students and their families to the UO and help them separate their materials for recycling. They worked side by side with the Zero Waste Program, UO Garbage Services and the campus cardboard hauler, International Paper. Volunteers worked tirelessly to deliver information about residents' permanent recycling sites and to make sure that these recycling sites were kept organized and properly sorted for pick-up, all with a smile on their faces and great attitudes.



- Nearly 4000 residents moving in
- 46 Environmental Leaders ARC Student Volunteers
- 138 hours of labor
- 8 high traffic sites

## SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS IN THE DINING HALLS

Beginning on the Friday of Week of Welcome and Move-in Day, the newly hired Fall crew of 14 Sustainability Ambassadors staffed locations in the dining centers of Hamilton, LLC and Global Scholars Hall. Ambassadors delivered several important kick-off messages to students visiting these dining centers. The Sustainability Ambassadors answered questions on sorting items after meals, promoted Housing Food Services reusable dishware and cutlery program and advertise a fun, educational raffle sponsored by the Office of Sustainability. These residential dining centers have begun to make reusable dishware and cutlery the default service ware and turning away from single-use, disposable to-go items and the waste those types of items generate. To support this initiative, Ambassadors communicated to residents the importance of keep the reusable dishware and cutlery in circulation by frequently returning items to dining centers.



- 14 Sustainability Ambassadors
- 1 big step towards reusables
- 370 Raffle entries
- 15 winners of \$20 Duck Bucks

Ambassadors handed out flyers that explained a raffle happening in Week 1. The educational purpose of the raffle was to encourage residents to find the recycling bin in their residence hall room and the recycling guidelines on that bin. The guidelines on the recycling bin included a Sustainability helpline phone number, launched in Fall. Residents entered the raffle by simply texting information to the helpline. During the week that the raffle was open, the Office of Sustainability staff received nearly 370 entries. Fifteen students were awarded \$20 Duck Bucks after a random draw of all entries.

## CLASSROOM ENERGY PROJECT

The Office of Sustainability partnered with the Energy Studies in Buildings Lab in the College of Design to focus on reducing energy consumption in buildings. The project centered on classroom optimization throughout the Winter term through Week 10. The Ambassadors visited various classrooms throughout campus after classes had concluded each day and worked in groups of two or three. During the classroom visits, Ambassadors noted on-site conditions, lighting, open window status and HVAC usage. Ambassadors logged into Building Automated System (BAS) and compiled data such as classroom designation and size, heating and cooling setpoints, HVAC schedule and airflow into a survey tool developed with the help of the UO GIS Lab.

The project's objectives included identifying potential issues with HVAC controls, optimize HVAC scheduling and link the BAS data to the UO Spaces database. Ambassadors would then take the collected data and compare it to the scheduled use of the classrooms. The goal of the project was to find opportunities to save energy through the adjustment of the BAS settings.

During the project, Ambassadors made 638 visits to 226 different spaces in 35 buildings.



## SCIENCE LAB FREEZER INVENTORY SURVEY

The UO's Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI) enlisted the help from Sustainability Ambassadors on a project to inventory ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers used by science labs and researchers. The work of the Ambassador entailed visiting, number-tagging and compiling important freezer contact personnel information. By having current inventory, the VPRI office will be able to analyze the potential decommissioning or upgrading inefficient freezers. This multi-week project concluded in Week 10. Ambassadors visited and inventoried over 60 freezers among the many sciences buildings and complexes.



## SHUT THE SASH FUME HOOD ENERGY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Fume hoods that are left open when not in use, overnight or over a weekend can waste the energy used to heat or cool the labs. A partnership between the UO Environmental Health & Safety, the College of Design's Energy Studies in Buildings Lab (ESBL) and the Office of Sustainability attempted to address this issue with the Ambassadors.



The ESBL gathered airflow and sash height data available from fume hoods equipped with Variable Airflow Valves and created baseline reports for each ambassador.

Ambassadors visited each lab to deliver the baseline reports. For the following three weeks concluding in Week 10, Ambassadors updated the reports comparing the current week's data with the each lab's baseline average. Along with the reports, Ambassadors delivered Duck Bucks cards to each lab that showed improvement from its baseline or if labs that showed improvement in closing of the sash height when not in use. All labs received fume hood stickers to continue to remind lab users to reduce energy through sash closure and given information about the UO's Chemical Exchange Program. During the project, Ambassadors visited 36 labs which housed 51 fume hoods.

## EDUCATIONAL TABLING AND DUCKS BASKETBALL GAMES

Ambassadors staffed educational activity tables at both a home game for the Women's and Men's Basketball teams in Weeks 5 and 9. At the Men's game during halftime, a public service announcement was made and an image on the Matthew Knight Arena jumbotron was shown about UO participating in RecycleMania 2020.



## OUTDOOR PROGRAM RECYCLED VALENTINE EVENT

Partnering with the Outdoor Program for its annual recycled Valentine's Day event, Hubs and Kisses during Week 6, Ambassadors helped fellow students with projects made from recycled materials including old bicycle parts. In addition to spare bicycle parts supplies by the Outdoor Program, the UO Zero Waste Program contributed other recycled materials.



## SCREENPRINTING WORKSHOP

Ambassadors helped put on a screenprinting workshop for on campus residents, which featured recycled t-shirts during Week 7. The workshop created an opportunity for students to learn about textile and reuse as a means for given used items a second life. The workshop was scheduled as a promotional and educational event to for RecycleMania 2020. This annual event is consistently popular among students and this year's event had 81 attendees in less than two hours.



## CRAFT REUSE EVENT AT EMU

The theme of reuse was continued in Week 9, with the Office of Sustainability hosting a pop-up crafting event in the EMU. Ambassadors engaged with students who were shown how to re-purpose recycled t-shirts into other items to wear and were able to make buttons from recycled paper products. 61 people participated in this fun, pop-up creative event.



## AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ABOUT WINTER TERM PROJECTS

Several projects during the Winter Term were both challenging and inspiring for the Ambassadors. The BAS Classroom project was the Ambassadors first opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at building systems that impact energy use on campus. None of the Ambassadors had operated the InSight software necessary to read the BAS data nor had they worked on analyzing classroom schedules. While the learning curve was steep at first, all of the Ambassadors became adept at working in the software and gained new skills. A Junior-year, Environmental Science major expressed that the Classroom project gave them an opportunity to practice data collection and investigation skills that are important for their major. Ambassadors needed to work together to teach other the software process and the steps of each classroom visit. The Fume Hood Education project was another project that students had to utilize interpersonal skills with various lab managers in the Science building labs. Many Ambassadors expressed that all of the energy-focused projects gave them an opportunity to explore many buildings that they had never prior visited.

## SPRING 2020

Due to campus closure because of COVID precautions, campus-based outreach and projects were cancelled. During the term, interviews were conducted with the Ambassadors. Ambassadors also attended a presentation by the Sustainability Director to explain the impact on the Fall and Winter projects.