STATUS REPORT
JUNE 2016
Sustainability Collaborative
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

GW STUDENTS VISIT DUKE ENERGY RENEWABLES SOLAR FARM IN NORTH CAROLINA
The GW Sustainability Collaborative coordinates GW research, academics, operations and public engagement in sustainability. Its goal is to bring together under one umbrella the many activities and institutions that collectively contribute to GW’s leadership in sustainability. By making the whole greater than the sum of its parts, the GW Sustainability Collaborative increases the visibility of GW efforts and facilitates collaboration among its many participants.

Kathleen Merrigan is Executive Director of Sustainability at GW, where she leads the GW Sustainability Collaborative and serves as Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Food Institute. Her primary goal is to coordinate GW’s many sustainability efforts into a coherent whole and, by doing so, ferment interdisciplinary research and education.

From 2009–2013, Merrigan was U.S. Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a $150 billion, 110,000 employee institution. Before joining the USDA, Merrigan held a variety of positions, including faculty member at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, and senior staff on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, where she wrote the law establishing national standards for organic food. Recognizing the history and scope of her work, Time Magazine named Merrigan among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2010.

GW President Steven Knapp is deeply committed to sustainability and has made it a centerpiece of his administration.

Sustainability is embedded in the GW Strategic Plan, the implementation of which the Provost leads. During the 15/16 year, Provost Steven Lerman (2015) and Provost Forrest Maltzman (2016) championed sustainability, guided Dr. Merrigan, and reviewed the work of the Collaborative to ensure its alignment with university priorities.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Because all departments and schools “own” sustainability, Professor Merrigan works directly for the Provost. In addition to Professor Merrigan, the Leadership Team for the GW Collaborative includes: Lisa Benton-Short, Sustainability Faculty Fellow, Geography Department Chair and Professor; Meghan Chapple, Director of the Office of Sustainability; Leroy Paddock, Associate Dean for Environmental Studies and Professorial Lecturer in Law; Frank Sesno, Director of the School of Media and Public Affairs and creator of Planet Forward; and Michael Svoboda, Director of the Undergraduate Sustainability Minor and Professor of Writing.
THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
The Office of Sustainability partners with students, business units, and academic departments to integrate sustainability across campus and in the community. GW is among the top ranked universities in sustainability with 50% of its electricity from renewable sources, a community garden, and 12 green buildings.

The Office supports student leadership, which propels sustainability activity at GW. Eco-Reps in the GW residence halls lead students in living more sustainably on campus. GW’s Eco-Equity Challenge provides financial and mentoring support for four environmental justice service projects led by student groups working with community partners. And through the DC Climathon at GW, students launch entrepreneurial solutions to address climate change in the District. GW’s inaugural team won 3rd place in the audience vote at the global pitch session during the 2015 COP-21 in Paris.

PLANET FORWARD
Planet Forward engages young people and innovators in search of solutions to the biggest challenges facing our planet. Through storytelling, media and convening, Planet Forward seeks to empower new voices and elevate compelling ideas. It serves an important outreach function for the GW Sustainability Collaborative.

In 2016, the topic of the annual summit was sustainable cities. Thirty-three colleges and universities sent their students and faculty to the summit, which had keynote addresses from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and the mayors of Huntsville, Alabama and West Palm Beach, Florida. Students submitted entries to the Storyfest 2016 competition. Students who submitted the three winning videos -- on the topics of food waste, biosolids, and floating farms will travel to the United Nations in New York during fall 2016 with Director Sesno.

“We are transforming the university into a 21st-century version of what our namesake envisioned, by infusing our teaching with the excitement of discovery, deepening our culture of service, and becoming a model of urban sustainability.”

- Steven Knapp, President
AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Many of the 200+ GW faculty pursuing sustainability research are affiliated with one or more of 11 GW institutes and centers engaged in sustainability-related inquiry. Each of these institutes and centers provides the architecture for faculty to collaborate in a particular area, from battling antibiotic resistance, to corporate responsibility, energy management, issues of social equity, and sustainable diets, among others. The GW Sustainability Collaborative strives to elevate the work of these individual institutes and centers. Together with Planet Forward, the Office of Sustainability, and 38 sustainability-related degree programs, these institutes and centers form the bedrock of GW sustainability leadership.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

In 2015, GW earned a coveted Gold STARS rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. GW excelled in all four categories of the AASHE sustainability assessment: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration.

In 2015, GW was among the first 13 colleges and universities to be honored by the U.S. Department of Education with the Green Ribbon School award in recognition of GW’s sustainability leadership, particularly in the classroom.
THE GWSUSTAINABILITY COLLABORATIVE hired four full time staff, introduced the new director of the Sustainability Minor, added three new interdisciplinary sustainability courses, designed and launched the Duke Energy Renewables Innovation Fund and launched the GreenGov sustainability case studies series, among many other accomplishments.

This report is intended to benchmark the successes of the 15/16 year, and to frame the coming year to best accomplish the goals of the Collaborative. Within the Sustainability Collaborative, there are five strategic goals. Within each of these five goals we look to maximize our impact in the areas of Research, Academics, Operations, and Public Engagement.

GOAL 1
GOVERNMENT
Become the go-to place for the Federal Government for sustainability expertise.

GOAL 4
ACADEMICS
Enhance sustainability in academics, particularly through the undergraduate minor in sustainability.
GOAL 2
RESEARCH
Build upon GW faculty expertise in energy and climate, food, and urban sustainability.

GOAL 3
LEADERS
Produce the next generation of food policy leaders.

GOAL 5
LOCATION
Use our central location in Washington DC to our advantage.
GW is centrally located in Washington, DC, just blocks from the White House, Congress and the Executive Departments. Beyond the proximity, many GW Faculty have spent time as public servants in both the Executive and Legislative branches, and maintain their professional relationships with policy makers. These relationships provide opportunities for partnership in public engagement, collaboration in research and practice, and learning experiences for students interested in public service.

The GW Sustainability Collaborative, led by former Deputy Secretary of the USDA, Kathleen Merrigan, looks to become the go-to place for the Federal Government in the field of sustainability expertise. Already the Collaborative has made great strides toward this goal.
GOAL 1

SUSTAINABILITY COLLABORATIVE

On www.gwcasestudies.com you can find a series of case studies under development by The Collaborative, in consultation with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The cases are provided as open access training materials to help accelerate understanding of sustainability needs and opportunities. The case studies showcase GW’s expertise in the sustainability field, and help implement the university’s Strategic Plan.

GREENGOV

The Federal Government oversees over 360,000 buildings, 650,000 fleet vehicles, and $460 billion in annual purchasing power. Each year, the White House calls for GreenGov Challenge submissions to showcase accomplishments in resource consumption and pollution emissions. The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) partnered with GW to hold the GreenGov Symposium in June 2015, which featured speakers from throughout the Federal Government and private industry including EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Marilyn Crouther, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Services U.S. Public Sector.

Over the course of the year, the Collaborative partnered with CEQ to hold two additional GreenGov dialogues, the first on power purchase agreements in September, and the other on supply chains and sustainability, held in February. The GreenGov partnership between GW and CEQ was renewed for the 16/17 year and the next GreenGov Symposium will be held on September 8, 2016.

The GW Sustainability Collaborative also reviewed past GreenGov challenge submissions and analyzed the data to better understand the broad range of activities happening within the Federal Government. From this review, exemplary Federal achievements have been identified for case study development. These case studies include an in-depth look at a Federal project, as well as supplemental cases from private industry and non-profit organizations. The cases include biobased materials, power purchase agreements, waste management, and sustainable supply chains and can be found at www.gwcasestudies.com. More case studies will be developed in the coming year.

Kathleen Merrigan was the keynote speaker at the White House GreenGov Award ceremony on November 30, 2015. In addition to GreenGov, Merrigan also served on the judging committee for the Department of Defense Environmental Awards.

GREENGOV COORDINATOR

JENNA RIEMENSCHNEIDER

BA History, University of Pennsylvania
MS Sustainable Development, HEC Paris
DIETARY GUIDELINES
The Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) come up for renewal every five years. In the 2015 review process, the advisory committee DGA recommended including sustainability in the guidelines, to reflect the interrelated nature of diet, the environment, and public health. In November of 2014, the Collaborative hosted the first DGAs symposium, called “The Sustainable Plate.” In October 2015, Kathleen Merrigan, along with GW colleagues Kim Robien and William Dietz and Tufts colleagues Parke Wilde, Timothy Griffin and Jeanne Goldberg, published “Designing a Sustainable Diet” in the journal Science. Merrigan et al. also published follow up articles in The Conversation and in Health Affairs. The story was picked up by NPR, the LA Times, and Fortune, as well as many agricultural news outlets like the Hagstrom Report and Politico’s Morning Ag.

Sustainability did not make it into the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, but the work continues. Throughout the year, the Collaborative has had many discussions with industry and policy leaders about how best to integrate sustainability into the DGAs for the next review process in 2020. On December 2, 2016, the Collaborative will host a second DGA symposium to discuss the role of metrics in a sustainable diet.

URBAN AGRICULTURE
In anticipation of the 2018 USDA Farm Bill, the Collaborative has begun a series of conversations and events about how the Federal Government can best support urban and peri-urban agriculture. The Collaborative has engaged members of Congress and federal workers as well as practitioners and academics to develop a symposium to be held on September 30, 2016 at GW. The Collaborative also partnered with GW’s Planet Forward to host the Urban Agriculture Salon on April 4, 2016, and the Planet Forward Summit on Sustainable Cities on April 21-22, and will partner with AGree to host a confidential dialogue with urban agriculture stakeholders.
AGree
As co-chair of AGree, Kathleen Merrigan participates in forums, dialogues, conferences, and events to drive positive change in the food and agriculture system. AGree also publishes working papers such as “A Call to Presidential Action: Elevating Food and Agriculture as a National Priority” and “Local Food: Revitalizing Community-based Food Systems.”
GW has over 200 faculty currently working on sustainability research. In a survey of research interests, three main clusters of interests were identified: Climate and Energy, Urban Sustainability, Food/Agriculture/Health. There is a wide range of research interests within each cluster area. For example, within the climate and energy cluster, GW has researchers working on international climate change policy as well as the next generation of batteries needed to efficiently store solar and wind energy.

Enhancing research, particularly interdisciplinary research, is part of the GW strategic plan. The Collaborative seeks to build upon the existing expertise within these research clusters and encourage faculty to reach beyond disciplinary boundaries to push forward the frontiers of sustainability expertise.
Following the power purchase agreement with Duke Energy Renewables, the Sustainability Collaborative developed a partnership with Duke Energy to create the Duke Energy Renewables (DER) Innovation Fund. The DER Innovation Fund is an intramural fund that supports interdisciplinary teams of GW faculty to undertake energy related research. In the inaugural year of the Innovation Fund, three teams won awards, including faculty members from the School of Business, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Law School, the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the College of Professional Studies. Students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are also involved in this research. The projects focus on community solar installations, microgrids, and living labs.

To ensure the success of these projects, the teams meet quarterly with the Sustainability Collaborative to review their progress. These projects will continue through the 16/17 year. A new request for proposals will be issued at the start of the 2016 fall semester to support additional GW research teams.
RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY
In December 2015, the Sustainability Collaborative hired Dr. Robert Orttung to be the Research Director. In this new position, Orttung will support faculty in all stages of the research process, from collaborative meetings through grant applications, and on to publications. Interdisciplinary research is by its nature a complex process, but through such work we can ask grander questions and find more robust solutions to pressing complex challenges. Orttung has already submitted grant proposals on behalf of the Sustainability Collaborative for projects seeking five million dollars in funding. He frequently meets with faculty looking to engage in sustainability-related research, and facilitates collaboration and partnership.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW STUDIES
LEE Paddock
BA, University of Michigan
JD, University of Iowa

WORKSHOPS
Over the course of the 15/16 year, the Collaborative hosted four workshops, funded by the GW Cross-Disciplinary Collaborative Initiative.

These workshops brought together an average of between 10-20 faculty to share their work and find places of overlap for future collaboration.

An award from the GW Cross-Disciplinary Research Fund, received in 2016, will provide funding to hold two conferences and publish two books in the coming years. These efforts will focus on developing our capacities in the areas of the food-energy-water nexus and capital cities projects.

DECEMBER
A workshop on the topic of food/agriculture/health was co-hosted by the newly chartered GW Food Institute.

JANUARY
The Collaborative held a workshop with the National Science Foundation on the Innovations in Food-Energy-Water Nexus (INFEWS).
INTERCOLLEGIATE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION SIMULATIONS

GW is now partnering with the student-run Intercollegiate Climate Change Negotiations (ICCN) to help organize and oversee annual simulations of negotiations conducted in Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A special feature of these GW-coordinated simulations is the support and participation of the Washington embassy for the country hosting that year’s actual negotiations. These events provide students with practical experience in international policymaking, and they promote relationships with professional practitioners, relationships students can draw upon after they graduate.

This innovative program grew out of the sixth annual ICCN simulation hosted by GW in October 2015. Connections among the diverse, interdisciplinary students and faculty of GW’s Sustainability Collaborative led to an internal partnership with the GW Debate and Literary Society, which had already established a working relationship with the Washington Embassy of France, the country that would host the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Paris in December. Contacted by a student, staff, and faculty team, the Embassy quickly agreed to support the simulation. That support ultimately included a reception at the Embassy, at which Ambassador Gérard Araud spoke, and the participation of Embassy staff in the plenary sessions that punctuated the day-long simulation on Saturday, October 10th. GW’s connections with governmental and non-governmental organizations also resulted in keynote addresses by Dr. Nathan Hultman, the Deputy Director for Energy & Climate Change at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and Elliot Diringer, the Executive Vice President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES).

Impressed by the results of the embassy connection, the nearly 80 students from 10 different colleges and universities who participated in the October 2015 event agreed to make Washington, DC, the site for the larger, national simulation each year. With the help of faculty and staff from GW’s Elliott School of International Affairs, the Sustainability Collaborative, GW Debate and Literary Society, the student organizing committee for ICCN will solicit support from the DC embassy of Morocco which will host the conference of the parties in November 2016.
OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Submitted grant proposals to the National Science Foundation for the Food-Water-Energy Nexus Competition, as well as to USDA for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.

Developed three new interdisciplinary team taught courses for sustainability: SUST2002 The Sustainable City, SUST3003 The Sustainable Plate, SUST3002 Climate Change Policy. These courses bring together faculty from a variety of fields to teach on one subject, giving students a breadth of perspectives, and fostering collaboration within the faculty team.

Dr. Merrigan serves on the Steering Committee for The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Agriculture and Food, a UN program to study the economic externalities, both positive and negative, of food production.

Prepared significant research on renewable energy credits (RECS) to build the case for maintaining our environmental commitment and climate leadership while adding revenue over five years by selling the Solar RECS and buying Wind RECS in exchange.

Fostered a strategic alliance with the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), one of the leading think tanks in the world. This alliance will lead to increased research opportunities for faculty, and experience and scholarship for students. In the fall of 2016, C2ES will partner with Dr. Merrigan to teach the course SUST3002: Climate Change and Policy, an upper level undergraduate course focused on the international politics and policy of climate change agreements.

Led GW faculty-student delegation to the Paris Climate Negotiations in December, 2015.

Dr. Merrigan serves on the Executive Board of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) for the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). CEDD aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of academic environmental programs at US universities and colleges.

Four GW sustainability team members were featured on Yale Climate Connections, a multimedia service which provides commentary and analysis on the issue of climate change. Michael Svoboda is a frequent contributor, and Ariel Kagan, Ellie Davis, and Amit Ronan were all interviewed and featured on Yale Climate Connections throughout the year. Yale Climate Connections is sent out to more than 210 public, university, community, and alternative radio stations nationwide.
Dr. Orttung, along with his colleagues in GW's Geography Department and the Elliott School of International Affairs, received 3 million dollars from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to further their research in urban sustainability in the Arctic. The main focus of the project will be to study Arctic cities in Russia and develop a sustainability index that measures both environmental and social factors. Various GW faculty and students will travel to Arctic cities, giving them the opportunity to study how people in cold weather environments are adapting to changing climatic conditions. With experts in geography, international affairs, and environmental studies included in the grant, this project exemplifies the inherent transdisciplinary nature of sustainability.

Dr. Orttung has an ongoing partnership with the Center for Security Studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. The main focus of this partnership is to explore the nexus between security and sustainability. Dr. Orttung and his colleagues at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology will collaborate on projects addressing this nexus, including the production of a bi-monthly electronic journal that analyzes current events in Russia. The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology provides financial support to the Sustainability Collaborative for this work.

The GW Solar Institute in partnership with Planet Forward and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory won a grant from the US Department of Energy SunShot Initiative to develop education multimedia materials about solar energy. These materials will address gaps in the current knowledge for first responders, real estate agents, and other professionals who need to understand solar energy. The educational series will feature five types of videos including traditional webinars and “explainer videos” that use graphics and a voice over to communicate a concept. GW Solar Institute experts will conduct surveys to determine topic areas and develop concepts and write scripts with support from NREL. GW students will take a hands-on role in developing video content, interviewing experts and and leading post production work.
The UN Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that food production will need to increase by 70% to feed the anticipated global population of 9.7 billion in 2050. Already, nearly 800 million people worldwide are food insecure, including over 46 million in the United States. Food is wasted at a rate of up to 40% by weight and agriculture accounts for up to 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. To solve these problems and build a sustainable agriculture for the future, we need innovative and engaged young people to get involved in the food system. GW’s mission to prepare citizen-leaders to take on the challenges of tomorrow could not be more important to achieving sustainable food supplies. To achieve that vision, the Sustainability Collaborative has made producing the next generation of food policy leaders one of its strategic goals.
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
The Sustainability Collaborative serves to support students in research and academics related to sustainability. In that role, the Collaborative staff has advised a number of students and student groups throughout the year.

Continued partnership with Land O’ Lakes to select a GW student to become a Global Food Challenge Fellow. Professor Lisa Benton-Short serves as advisor to the fellow for the 2015/16 year.

Accompanied a group of 23 students to Puerto Rico to volunteer on a permaculture farm as part of the Alternative Breaks program.

Supported student groups like the GroW Community and Spoon University through leadership opportunities on campus (i.e. Planet Forward Salon, Urban Food Taskforce Committee).

Advised the new student group The Sustainable Ocean Alliance on their annual summit and campus activities. Served as advisor for a student internship and independent study on food waste and distribution.

Hosted two summer interns: one from Middlebury FoodWorks, a summer leadership program for students interested in food systems, and the student garden manager for the GW GroW Garden who completed directed research about organic certification.

SEED FUNDS FOR FACULTY
Dr. Claire Monteleoni from the School of Engineering and Applied Science uses remotely sensed data to conduct large-scale spatial studies of unreliable electricity supplies in India. Her research aims to assess the viability of using satellite imagery to develop measures of electrical reliability in India and to use these measures to estimate the socio-economic impact of unreliable power in India. Dr. Monteleoni’s lab has received seed funding from the Sustainability Collaborative to support a student to obtain and analyze a new data set.

Dr. Amanda Visek’s lab in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences focuses on improving lifestyle habits of children and adolescents. She specifically explores adolescents’ motivations for choosing certain food and beverage products to inform the development of a conceptual model. The models that result from this study will be used in future research and program planning to improve lifestyle habits of young people. The GW Sustainability Collaborative has provided Dr. Visek’s lab with seed funding to purchase concept mapping software as well as hire an undergraduate research assistant.

Dr. Allison Meni is working with her colleagues from the Milken Institute School of Public Health to understand the myriad influences on dietary intake through better understanding of the food system and environment. Though they are an interdisciplinary team of researchers, they have a common goal of creating food environments that improve health and reduce the risk of obesity-related chronic disease. The GW Sustainability Collaborative has provided Dr. Meni’s lab with seed funding to support a shared undergraduate student research assistant. Funding for this student research assistant will move several manuscripts and grant applications forward.

Dr. Alison Brooks is a paleoanthropologist in GW’s Anthropology Department where she focuses her research on Africa’s Middle Stone Age. Her current research focuses on the spread of maize, bananas and other New World Crops into Africa and the effects on the history of that region. Her lab is in possession of a group of ancient skeletons from the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, which they will examine for evidence of consumption of crops of non-African origin. The GW Sustainability Collaborative has provided Dr. Brooks’ lab with seed funding to support a graduate student who will help examine the skeletons.
THE FOOD INSTITUTE
The Food Institute was chartered in the Fall of 2015, and is led by Kathleen Merrigan and coordinated by David Rain of the Geography Department. The Food Institute is a home for students and faculty interested in all things food, from anthropology to biology and beyond. The Food Institute holds monthly meetings for faculty to collaborate on research ideas and discuss projects both on and off campus. The Food Institute co-hosted many events throughout the year including two workshops on food related research, many on-campus lectures, and the two evening SUST2003 lectures.

The Food Institute website (foodinstitute.gwu.edu) was launched in June 2016 and will serve as a go to place to find information on events, opportunities, and partnerships at GW related to food.

The Food Institute launched student fellows for the 16/17 year who will support the work of the Food Institute and be mentored in leadership and advocacy.

The GW Food Institute is staffed by the Sustainability Collaborative and received a founding gift from the 11th Hour Project.

THE SUSTAINABLE PLATE
In the spring of 2016, the Collaborative launched the new course SUST2003: The Sustainable Plate. The course is a team taught, interdisciplinary survey of food and agriculture, and is based around the concept of MyPlate, the latest iteration of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The course was taught by Kathleen Merrigan, David Rain (Geography), Kim Robien (Public Health), Joe Glauber (IFPRI/Former USDA Chief Economist), and Chef José Andrés. The course included two evening lectures, open to the public, with Chef Andres in the Jack Morton Auditorium in the School of Media and Public Affairs. The first evening lecture on the topic of “The Restaurant Plate” included area chef Theary So of Hank’s Oyster Bar and Restauranteur Michael Babin of the Neighborhood Restaurant Group, along with food writer David Hagedorn of the Washington Post. The second lecture, titled “Food and Culture,” delved into the issues of authenticity, cultural history, and diaspora. This lecture featured Ambassador Ralph Thomas of Jamaica and Ambassador David O’Sullivan of the European Union.
GOAL 4

ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACADEMICS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN SUSTAINABILITY

In many universities, sustainability is gaining currency in the classroom. GW’s academic program in sustainability does not reside in any one school—instead it sits under the Office of the Provost. As such, sustainability belongs to all schools. The Collaborative oversees the Undergraduate Minor in Sustainability and offers a suite of core sustainability courses. Over 800 students have taken the interdisciplinary team-taught course “Introduction to Sustainability” since it was first offered in 2012. In addition to the sustainability courses, the Collaborative also tracks over 470 sustainability related courses offered throughout the university at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

SUST ATTRIBUTE

Over the course of the fall semester, the Collaborative completed an audit of the sustainability related courses offered at GW. Previously these courses were called “green leaf courses” and they were indicated as such by a green leaf icon in the bulletin. In the transition to the electronic bulletin, the capacity to include the icon was lost. The electronic course list can be searched by “attributes” and so the SUST attribute was created.

This course list has now expanded to more than 470 courses. After the initial list was assembled, the courses for each subject were sent to the department chair for review. When the course list was approved, the SUST attribute was added across the bulletin. Students can now search for courses with sustainability related content using the attribute for any class, in any school, at any level, across the university.

This is significant for two main reasons—1) some students at the undergraduate level are unable to complete the minor in sustainability, due to other commitments such as ROTC or Honors, and the course attribute allows them to find courses in their interest area, even if they are not formally part of the sustainability academic program, and 2) the attribute makes it easy for anyone to search for the full list of offered sustainability related courses for purposes of cataloging and reporting for GW’s sustainability commitments.

In the 16/17 year, the Collaborative plans to continue outreach about the SUST attribute and encourage faculty to include sustainability related content in their courses.

OUTREACH TO ADVISORS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Because sustainability is an interdisciplinary program that sits in the Office of the Provost, it requires a novel approach to disseminate knowledge throughout the university about the courses and programs. The Collaborative organized a series of outreach meetings and communications throughout the year. These included a luncheon for advising staff which was attended by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Elliott School, and the School of Business. It also sent packets of information, including the new brochure, stickers, and course offerings to all the directors of the advising programs at the five undergraduate schools.

The Collaborative met with the office of Admissions to discuss ways to bring sustainability into the prospective and admitted student experience. This meeting solidified a partnership that will continue in the 16/17 year and was particularly productive, resulting in many ways to integrate sustainability into the admissions process.

The Collaborative held meetings with the registrar and the office of academic planning to better coordinate our efforts to catalogue and communicate the SUST course list.
GOAL 4

STATUS REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY STUDENT ADVISOR
ARIEL KAGAN
BA Economics, Mount Holyoke College
Masters of Food and Resource Economics, University of British Columbia

DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY MINOR
MICHAEL SVOBODA
BS Communication Arts, Cornell University
MS Speech Communication, Penn State University
PhD Hermeneutics, Penn State University

EXCHANGE OF THE MINOR
In the summer of 2015, the Collaborative hired a new Sustainability Student Advisor, Ariel Kagan, who assists students with their Sustainability Minor plan and advises on sustainability education throughout the university. This hire was paired with the transition from the founding director of the sustainability minor (Lisa Benton-Short) to the new director, Michael Svoboda. Together, Kagan and Svoboda have worked to expand and enhance the sustainability minor.

The Collaborative developed a new sustainability minor brochure, and participated in events throughout the year at Thurston Hall, Mount Vernon, the Women’s Leadership Conference, the Sustainability Fair, the Earth Day Fair, and four Colonial Inauguration events.

Dr. Svoboda sends a weekly email on Sunday nights with a full list of events related to sustainability both on and off-campus, as well as internship and job opportunities.

The Sustainability Minor continues to grow. This expansion has also resulted in the Culminating Experience course, taught by the Director of the minor, to reach new enrollment numbers of over 25 students in both the fall and spring semesters.

The Culminating Experience (CE) is an experiential learning project that each minor completes in either their junior or senior year. The CE can take the form of directed research, internship, or community service related to sustainability. This year, the CE worked closely with Career Services to give students both the theoretical and applied skills to become leaders in sustainability.

In the 2016/17 year, the Culminating Experience will continue to develop as the minor builds new partnerships and refines the core competencies of a sustainability degree. The Collaborative also plans to invest more in the branding and marketing of the minor.
OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Worked with GW Alum and Sierra Club Board Director Chuck Frank to create an endowed fellowship, with the Sierra Club and selected the inaugural fellow. The fellow will engage DC area servicemen and veterans in outdoor activities centered on conservation and sustainability.

Updated academic information for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) to be submitted for annual sustainability rankings by the Princeton Review and the Sierra Club.

Launched a Sustainability Student Breakfast Series which gives students the opportunity for intimate dialogue with leaders in the sustainability field. In the 15/16 year we held three breakfasts with Michael Pollan, Bob Perciaspe, and Kathleen Merrigan. Plans for the Fall breakfast series are underway.

Developed a new “mini-grants” program for sustainability students to pursue sustainability related projects. Awarded three mini-grants in the Spring semester to support projects on local and diverse purchasing standards, eco-tourism in Panama, and food waste in DC public schools. These mini-grants will be offered each semester going forward.
GOAL 5
USE OUR LOCATION TO OUR ADVANTAGE

The Sustainability Collaborative aims to make the most of GW’s central location in Washington DC. To this end, it looks for opportunities to engage the wider community of DC, including local, domestic, international, private sector, public sector, and non-profit stakeholders.

EVENTS
The Collaborative hosted a series of lectures based on current events which established new partnerships both on campus and in the community.

“The Francis Effect”
Featured speakers from Faith in Public Life, the Public Religion Research Institute, and the Elliott School to discuss the Pope’s visit to Washington DC and his recent environmental encyclical. The event was co-sponsored by the GW Libraries.

“The Color of Water: A teach-in on Flint, MI”
Held in partnership with the GW Africana Studies Program and the American Studies Program. Featured speakers from the Natural Resources Defense Council, the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program, the GW School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Anacostia Riverkeeper, and Media Matters. The event was a two hour teach-in which examined the environmental justice issues of the Flint water crisis.

“Harness the Sun, Energize Action: A Conversation with Philip Warburg”
Held in partnership with the GW Solar Institute. The event featured the author of the new book “Harness the Sun,” Philip Warburg, to discuss the movement toward clean energy in America, and the challenges and opportunities of solar energy.
CAPITAL CITIES
In partnership with University College London, GW continues to examine the unique role of capital cities in sustainability initiatives. Capital cities serve as the hub for a range of stakeholders, and more specifically, universities in capital cities tend to be the forum where these stakeholders come together. DC and London are both leaders in sustainability planning, and UCL and GW share strong reputations in sustainability research. In the 16/17 year, the Collaborative has secured funding to host a convening of UCL and GW faculty, the outcome of which will be an edited book on the various ways that capital cities can lead the way toward sustainable cities. The 17/18 year will focus on expanding the number of collaborators beyond UCL and GW, engaging other universities in capital cities and expanding the scope of the research.

MASTERS CERTIFICATE
The success of the undergraduate minor, along with a market analysis of competitor schools, reveals the opportunity for a master level degree in sustainability. The Collaborative has developed a plan to offer a graduate certificate in Sustainability Governance. By “governance” we mean the mechanisms by which behavior is driven to achieve desired sustainability outcomes. For example, the more traditional form of environmental governance is command and control (i.e. Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act). New forms of governance for sustainability would also be studied, including different approaches driven by private sector and non-profit sector stakeholders such as voluntary standards or eco-labels. The Masters Certificate in Sustainability Governance is designed to complement any masters program at GW, as it will also be interdisciplinary and draw upon courses from around the university. The program will take advantage of GW’s location in Washington DC to include featured lecturers from industry, non-profit, and government agencies. The Collaborative also anticipates that working professionals will enroll for the certificate to enhance their professional development in the field of sustainability.

The long term plans are to grow the Masters Certificate in Sustainability Governance into a full masters degree program.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Following the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, the Collaborative partnered with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to host a dialogue on “The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Pathways Post-Paris.” The event featured Patricia Beneke, the Director and Regional Representative of the UNEP Regional Office for North America, Manish Bapna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the World Resources Institute, and Terry Yosie, President and CEO of the World Environment Center.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
GW has a strong alumni base, many of whom are interested in sustainability. The Collaborative will continue to engage the alumni community through its sustainability initiatives on campus to enhance programs, and contribute to the life-long learning of GW students. Throughout the year, nearly one dozen alums filmed videos in the GW flash studio that will be featured on the Collaborative’s website. These short videos show the breadth of opportunities students can gain from a sustainability career.

The Collaborative also engaged alums in the DC area by hosting an alumni reception before the second evening Sustainable Plate lecture. The event, co-hosted by Alumni House, brought in over 100 area alums to hear from President Knapp, Kathleen Merrigan, and José Andrés, about the various sustainability related programs happening on campus. This is an event the Collaborative hopes to turn into an annual “back to the classroom” alumni experience for sustainability.
**SUPPORTERS**

We are grateful to receive financial support from individuals, foundations, corporations, governments, and GW University leaders. We appreciate their belief in our mission and ability to advance sustainability knowledge and practice. In addition to the list below, additional donors support the individual institutes, centers, and offices that are part of the GW Sustainability Collaborative. Thank you to all who make sustainability a giving priority.

Hewlett Packard

Jerry Bloom

GW Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration Initiative

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

11th Hour Project, the Schmidt Family Foundation

Duke Energy Renewables

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

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**SAVE THE DATE: 2016-17 GW SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS**

- **GreenGov Dialogue on Federal Fleet Electrification**
  - July 11, 2016
- **2016 GreenGov Symposium**
  - September 8, 2016
- **Urban Agriculture Symposium**
  - September 30, 2016
- **2nd GW-Tufts Symposium on Sustainable Diets**
  - December 2, 2016
- **2017 Food Tank-GW Food Institute Summit**
  - February 2, 2017
- **USDA-GW Local/Regional Food Metrics Conference**
  - April 3-4, 2017
- **2017 Planet Forward Summit**
  - April 6-7, 2017

**Donors**

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation

U.S. Department of Energy

United Nations Environment Programme

George Coelho

Charles Frank

AGree

José Andrés

GW University Facilitating Fund
GW SUSTAINABILITY BY THE NUMBERS

11 INSTITUTES
ENGAGED IN SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

200 FACULTY
CONDUCTING SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

11 LEED CERTIFIED
BUILDINGS

SUSTAINABILITY IS
1 OF 9
CORE UNIVERSITY VALUES

470 COURSES
WITH SUSTAINABILITY CONTENT

38 SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED
DEGREES

52 MEGAWATTS
CAPITAL PARTNER SOLAR PROJECT
3 PV FARMS GREENING THE GRID
The GW Advisory Council on Sustainability is the primary advisory body to the GW Sustainability Collaborative. Council members serve, individually and collectively, as advisors and ambassadors for GW sustainability efforts and as counselors to GW faculty and students. The Advisory Council was founded in June 2016 by these eight leaders. Our intention is to expand membership in the Council over the coming academic year.