

# SUSTAINABILITY

*Spring Newsletter*



## Sustainability throughout the semester

It was yet again another semester where we saw persistent efforts to continue our learning of how to be more sustainable as individuals and a campus. With limited in-person activities, we continued to spread awareness and host events virtually. The end of April brought us safely together as COVID guidelines lightened and we were able to celebrate Earth Day with a few in-person events!

## What Does Climate Change Look Like to You?

The first half of the semester, we invited students to show us what climate change looked like to them. Students could draw or digitally create their vision for it to be shared among our social media pages.

### HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

SUSTAINABLE COOKING

CEJA ACTION DAYS

SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

COME CLEAN GO GREEN RESULTS

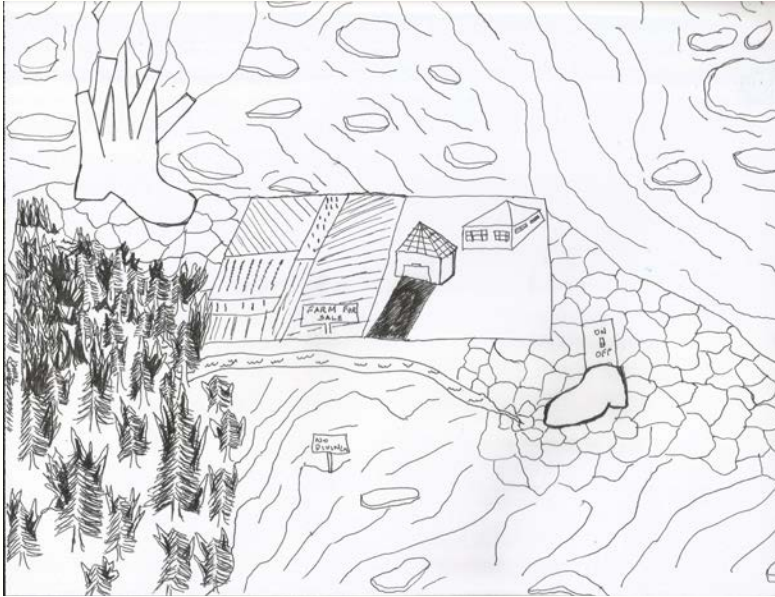
EARTH WEEK

SUSTAINABILITY TALKS

TRASH BASH

SOLAR ARRAY

Those that sent in a creation were entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$50 Target gift card. The winner was Joshua Segura!

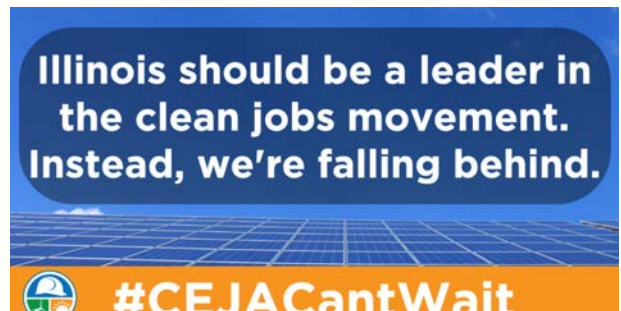


## Sustainable Cooking

Lewis Sustainability teamed up with other institutions in SMHEC South Metropolitan higher education consortium for a sustainable cooking challenge. Students were asked to submit a sustainable recipe that they created. Pictures before, during, and after were included to make a digital cookbook! This allows students to explore sustainable cooking and put their creativity to the test. We might wonder how food is connected to sustainability and this provided an opportunity to do some research and experimenting. There are many ways to incorporate sustainability into cooking such as buying local produce, using in-season ingredients, and composting scraps.

## CEJA Action Days

January 29th was the one-year anniversary of Governor Pritzker's State of the State address, where he called urgent actions for clean energy. CEJA action days were meant to make Gov. Pritzker accountable for his broken promises. The Clean Energy Jobs Act would help create jobs that protect our planet! Lewis University joined with the Sierra Club on petitioning signatures in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act.

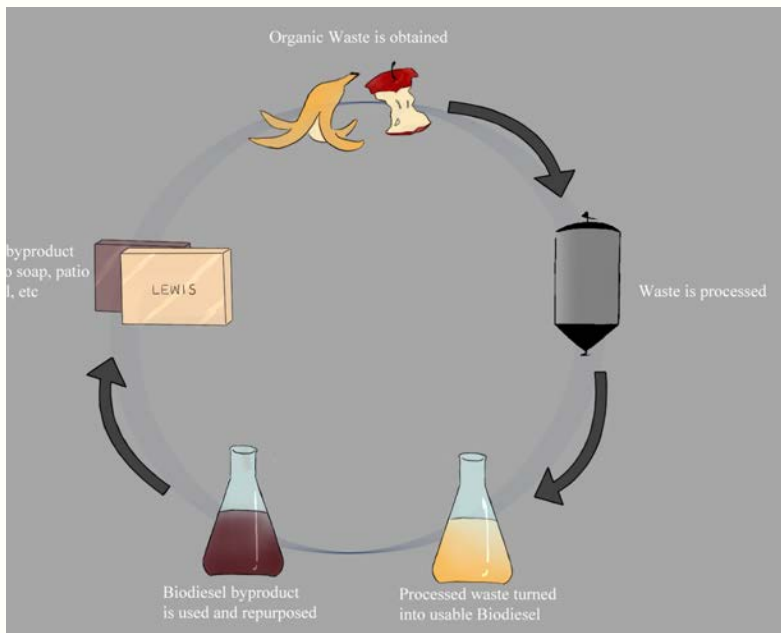


## Sustainability Week

Sustainability Week was a huge success! We want to thank everyone who participated. The week kicked off with a discussion on what the term "sustainability" means to you. Sustainability essentially is the preservation of resources for future generations; however, there are many parts to it. What

MAY 2021

came to mind for individuals include: social equity, justice, lifestyle changes, policy reform, and so much more! Throughout the week, we heard from Frank Voltattorni on his gardening experiences and presented tips for your garden! John Lerczak virtually introduced us to the sustainable attributes on campus including the bioswales that help with stormwater management. He also presented on recycling and how to properly dispose of our waste. To end the week, Amber Peckler and Kari Tetlow presented on Sustainability Around the World with a focus on the United Nations sustainable development goals.



## Come Clean Go Green

Students had until January 31st, 2021 to submit their project proposal. From there, the proposals went through a vetoing process with the administration. There were six wonderful

submissions that exemplified sustainability on campus. The hard part was voting on which one would be implemented on campus. The project was voted on by the students, for the students. The funds for the project implementation are sourced from the sustainability fee that is included with tuition costs. It was crucial that students let their voices be heard for this competition. The winner of Come Clean Go Green 2021 was *“Food to Fuel: Biodiesel Processing for Campus and Community Use”*, Written by Kristen Knych '21, Sol Ilanes '23, Sebastian Mietus '21, and Caitlin Shanahan '21! Plans for implementation and a celebration of the winners will take place during the summer. Stay tuned for more information.



## Earth Week

We were so excited to be able to incorporate in-person events into our Earth Week celebrations. The Sustainability Club hosted two weeks full of educational, fun activities and presentations! Events ranged from tree planting to a compost demonstration to learning from guest speakers.



We want to thank Joan O'Keefe, James Theuri, John Keifner, and Jonathan Pereira for spending time with us to present on composting, the local food system, and the circular economy. The week presented many

ideas for Lewis community members to learn from and incorporate into their daily lives. These will help make the Earth a better place. Overall, it was a great two weeks celebrating the Earth!



## Sustainability Talks

The sustainability club started a new monthly tradition this semester. Each month, we hosted a sustainability talk discussing different topics on sustainability. Some topics include sustainability at Lewis, sustainable gift giving, the importance of promoting sustainability, and what sustainability means to you. We hope the talks inspired more conversation around these important issues and helped create change in your own lives.

## Trash Bash

Trash Bash started as an initiative by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium to see which university apart of SMHEC could pick up the most trash. Individuals at each school were asked to download the Litterati app to take pictures of the trash they picked up. The school with the most trash collected won \$250 for a sustainability initiative on their campus.

## Solar Array



On April 14th 2021 Lewis University energized a 1.2 megawatt solar array system consisting of 2,612 panels on the south end of campus. It is projected to supplement an estimated 7% of the university's total energy consumption. Lewis would like to thank their Board of Trustees Member, Dr. Sarode Pundaleeka for his generous contribution and Pivot Energy for installing the panels. Being on the forefront of innovation this will allow Lewis to continue to be a leader in sustainability and provide many opportunities to students through research collaboration, curriculum development and field work experiences.

## Stay Connected

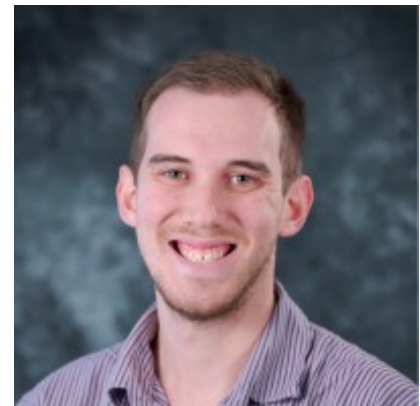
The spring semester saw many opportunities to learn more about sustainability and what it looks like. Sustainability takes many forms and Lewis University is just one example with its many sustainable features and strides for change. stay connected with us by following our social media pages and visit the website: [www.lewisu.edu/sustainability/index.htm](http://www.lewisu.edu/sustainability/index.htm).



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