

THE UP CYCLE

Messiah University's Office of Sustainability
Official Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall Photo Contest

Submissions Due December 8
at 11:59 p.m.

Campus Race to Zero Waste

February 2-March 23 2024

Sustainable Gift Bags

By: Hanna Ryon, Communications Coordinator

The Office of Sustainability is offering gift bags to make your holiday gift purchasing a little easier! If you have been looking for a sustainable gift option for your friends or family - make sure to stop by the Office!

These boxes include the Office of Sustainability **cookbook**: *Stories from Small Numbers*, a jar of **honey**, a tube of homemade **chapstick**, a **body bar**, and a **loofah** from the Grantham Community Garden.

Price is **\$25**, but the box is a \$30 value! (*while supplies last!*)

These cute little boxes are a great way to add some eco-friendly joy to your loved one's life! Christmas is traditionally a capitalistic trap, but these boxes are a sweet way to give meaningful gifts that last!



Caring for Your Compost

By: Aleesa Wu, Waste Coordinator

Do you have a compost bucket? If not, come to the Office of Sustainability to sign one out for free! To make emptying the buckets more convenient for students across campus, there are three locations with compost extension bins where you can dump your buckets when they're full of food waste. The locations: Mellinger dumpsters, Kelly/Fry dumpsters, and Grantham/Miller/Hess dumpsters. These bins are green and are labeled with "compost". Make sure to dump and rinse your bucket bi-weekly! Email sustainability@messiah.edu if you have any questions.



Earthkeepers at Messiah

By: Danielle Leppert, Earthkeepers President

Messiah University Earthkeepers is a club that strives to promote sustainable practices. We aim to protect and improve the environment to honor God and the creation he has gifted us. We work to encourage sustainability on campus through the Lisburn Road clean-up, nature walks, film analyses, and more.

So far this year we have had two new events. On October 30, 2023 we got together and made homemade lip balm using only four ingredients, that included beeswax from our campus bees. A big thank you to Aleesa Wu, Lori Chance, Brandon Hoover, and everyone who attended. The lip balm will be used as a part of a gift bag sale for the Office of Sustainability (which will include a recipe book, honey, and loofah). Many of the items will also be available for individual purchase at the Tuesday markets located outside of the Falcon.

We also had an alumni nature walk for Homecoming weekend and another for the club. This was a time where we were able to come together, get out in nature and discuss the stress and timely matters that comes with finals as the end of the semester is winding down. Thank you to those of you that were able to attend our events so far this year.



A Sustainable Cup of Coffee

By: Téa Parris, Engagement Coordinator

Sustainable coffee is crucial for several reasons, encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects. Climate change poses a significant threat to coffee production. Sustainable farming methods often incorporate strategies to help coffee plants adapt to changing climatic conditions, ensuring the long-term viability of the industry. Sustainable coffee practices often involve fair trade principles, ensuring that coffee farmers receive fair compensation for their labor. This helps improve the economic well-being of coffee-producing communities. Practices, such as organic farming methods, can contribute to the overall quality of coffee beans. High-quality beans are often associated with better flavors and aromas, attracting discerning consumers. With increased awareness of environmental and social issues, consumers are more likely to choose products with certifications like Rainforest Alliance or Fair Trade. Supporting sustainable coffee helps create a market for responsible and ethical products. The importance of sustainable coffee lies in its potential to safeguard the environment, improve the livelihoods of coffee farmers, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the coffee industry in the face of environmental and social challenges.



BSU x Agape Donations

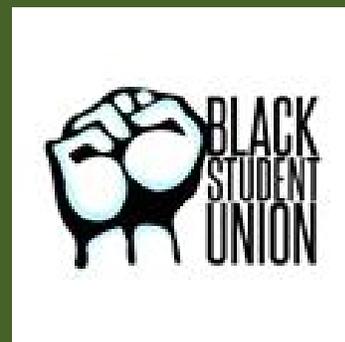
December 6 | 6-8 p.m. | Hostetter Chapel

Bethesda Mission Clothing Items List

- Sweatshirts and pants (M, L, XL)
- Jeans (waist Size 32, 34, 38, 40)
- Underwear (S, M, L, XL)
- T-shirts

New Hope Toiletry Items List

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Shampoo
- Body Soap
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant



Bethesda Mission Food Items List

- Canned green beans
- Canned gravy
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Boxed stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Fruit cocktail
- Pasta
- Rice

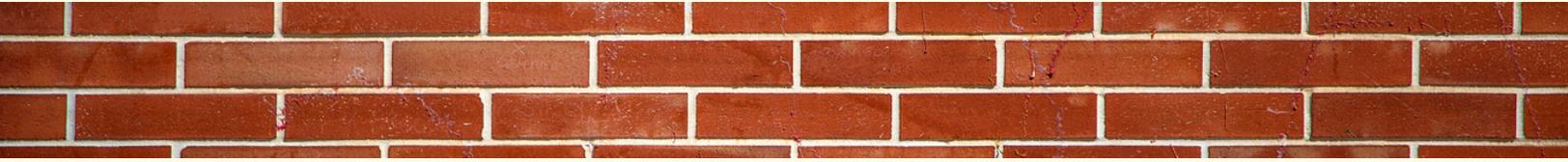
The Road to a Better Future

By: Brandon Hoover, Director of Sustainability

The end of the calendar year always brings reflection. The Christmas season with the music, advent liturgies, and family gatherings lends itself to contemplation in our otherwise action filled lives. This Christmas season I am adding an additional item to my reflection list as I depart from my role as the Director of Sustainability at Messiah to take a new role at the Appalachian Mountain Club working on climate action and advocacy throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic region.

What, as the calendar and my work at Messiah flips over, am I reflecting on this year? First off, I am thinking about all the wonderful people I've learned from. Working in education there is always someone who can teach us, and something to learn more about! I've had the chance to work alongside and learn from some of the best students and faculty I've ever worked with! Additionally, I've had the privilege of learning and working alongside some of the most committed people in the Division of Operations who daily taught me about work ethic, creative problem solving, and collaboration. *Continued on the next page*





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Second, I am reflecting on the good work Messiah has done to cultivate ecological citizens. In addition to Sustainability Studies students, others from Social Work, Psychology, Engineering, Physics, Biology, Sociology, Economics, Communications, and so many other disciplines have come through the Sustainability Office or a class I've taught and learned that our ecology is just as much a part of our community as people are; and therefore, must be part of our understanding of God's redemptive framework! Our work, our leisure, and our worship must continue to point to God's redemption of both people and the places we call home. Messiah has done a lot of good work to limit our impact on the broader community. The university composts food waste, has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions, and developed a major to equip students to work in the field of conservation. Good work has happened here.

Lastly, I am reflecting on the work that still needs to be done. Messiah University has made strides and at one point was a leader in environmental education and action in Christian higher education. The University has managed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2008 levels all the while adding square footage. However, there is so much more our society, and specifically our University, can do to be bold leaders in combating the existential threat of severe climate change. The perception is that the world is divided on climate change and that scientists disagree. There is scientific consensus (a difficult thing to achieve in any scientific discipline) that climate change is rapidly intensify at a rate that can only be explained by human activity. There is also scientific consensus that we can stop the worst aspects of climate change by taking action to lower our carbon footprint, but we need to do it in the next 25 years.

I have hope that we can get there! The polls show we agree about solutions more than we disagree. 70 percent of the U.S. populations agrees that we should fund more renewable energy, set strict limits on CO₂ emissions, and require a tax on fossil fuels. Even more stark, 77% of the U.S. population believes schools should require climate change (or sustainability in general) in their curriculum. Institutions such as Messiah can do any combinations of these action items and I believe the mission of Messiah can set it up for success. Reconciliation in church and society MUST include our ecology, and I believe Messiah can be a great place to prepare students to work on that reconciliation through sustainability practice and education. I am thankful for the small part I got to play in that work and look forward to seeing how the University will continue on this trajectory.