Welcome to A&M!

Howdy Ags! With over sixty-three thousand students on our campus, we are one of the largest schools in our nation. We were established in 1876, and our school is written into the Constitution of the State of Texas. With so many students on campus, Texas A&M leaves a considerable environmental footprint. The Office of Sustainability was founded in March 2008 to help address this issue, and it was through the collaboration of this office and the Environmental Issues Committee student group that the Aggie Green Fund (AGF) was born.

What is AGF?

Aggie Green Fund is a funds-granting program under the Office of Sustainability that invites sustainability ideas from all members of the University community (students, faculty, and staff) to bring creative environmental improvements to our campus. AGF is a student-led initiative implemented in 2011 and financed by student fees. It offers funding to proposals that seek to directly address sustainability on Texas A&M University’s campus with strong environmental, publicity, education, and outreach considerations. Project ideas are reviewed by a select group of Texas A&M students along with staff and faculty members that serve on the AGF Advisory Committee. Preference is given to projects that demonstrate the greatest reduction in the university’s environmental impact in a cost-effective manner and/or projects with strong student involvement.

What Have We Done?

Aggie Green Fund has granted $1.87 million for sustainable, on-campus projects. We have funded over 70 projects including landmark projects like Howdy Farm, outdoor recycling bins, and bike racks. You may be familiar with our green leaf logo seen on water bottle refill stations around campus. Smaller scale projects include the Aggieland Monarch Butterfly Project, which establishes a habitat for monarch butterflies to help restore their population levels, the Geosciences Building Window Film, which conserves energy use, and many more. To learn about all of our diverse projects, visit greenfund.tamu.edu.

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Come Meet Us!

10/16 - Major Grant Informational 5:30 p.m., MSC L526B
10/24 - Campus Sustainability Day 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Rudder Plaza

Follow Us on Social Media!

@TAMUGreenFund

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Professional Development

Completing and overseeing a sustainable project through Aggie Green fund gives you hands-on experience that is not always achieved in the classroom. Future employers recognize the time dedicated to a project. Katherine Deremo, senior Mechanical Engineering major and past grantee, noted that potential employers value the dedication and project management skills she gained from working on the Aggie Monarch Butterfly Garden. During your time overseeing an AGF project, you will work closely with campus stakeholders, members of the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee, and the Office of Sustainability, providing more opportunity for professional development.

Did you know?

An energy-smart clothes washer can save more water in one year than one person drinks in an entire lifetime.

Interested in Applying for a Grant?

AGF offers Micro- and Major grants depending on the total budget of the project, proposed timeline for implementation, and whether Council for the Built environment (cbe.tamu.edu) approval is required. Detailed information, grant criteria, and all application information can be found at greenfund.tamu.edu/getagrant.html.

Micro-Grants

Micro-Grants are awarded to projects that have a maximum budget of $3500, will be completed within six months, and do not require CBE approval. Applications for Micro-Grants are currently being accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted or February 28, 2019, whichever is earlier. Funding decisions on Micro-Grant applications are made within 30-45 days.

Major Grants

Project ideas seeking more than $3500 in funding, requiring more than 6 months for implementation, and/or requiring CBE approval are eligible to be submitted as Major Grants. The Major Grant application is a two-phase process that opens once annually. Phase I, the Abstract, details the general theme of the project idea along with the project budget and timeline. Applicants of approved abstracts are then invited to submit a full application during Phase II. More information about the process, requirements, and key deadlines can be found at greenfund.tamu.edu/majorgrant.html.

Grantee Spotlight

A highly impactful sustainability project that has been funded by AGF is Exterior Recycling Bins. The project started with the goal of increasing the number of three-stream exterior recycling bins on campus, and with its successful implementation Texas A&M has 65 new units across campus. These bins separate plastic and aluminum, landfill, and paper into three clearly-labeled bins, each with a 35-gallon capacity. Nathan Jones, the project lead, says the most significant impact of this project on the campus environment is increased visibility of the recycling program. However, there is still room for improvement - even with the new units, less than 15% of exterior collection bins on campus include recycling collection.

Nathan Jones has received multiple AGF grants to continue increasing the number of recycling units on campus and appreciates AGF’s support in allowing him to go above and beyond in his duties as Assistant Director of Water, Environmental, & Distribution Services for Texas A&M Utilities & Energy Services. He encourages new applicants to develop a project they’re passionate about and plan out the entire process, considering time and resource limits. We are grateful to have applicants like Nathan Jones who passionately work with AGF and help realize green ideas that promote sustainability on our campus.

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Chair: Allison Guggenheimer is a Master’s student in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department at Texas A&M University. She’s starting her second year studying the body condition of migratory duck species wintering in Texas, hoping to gain an understanding of the best land management practices to support healthy waterfowl. She applied to join the committee after seeing a need for more sustainable practices on campus and wanting to help the TAMU green community achieve their goals. As chair she hopes to aid in organization, productivity, and communication between her fellow committee members to lead to a successful year of projects. During her term she hopes to gain more experience facilitating diverse groups and to gain perspective on how to foster a sustainability project from start to finish.

Information Chair: Bryton Praslicka ‘19 studies Electrical Engineering and focuses in power, especially renewable energy and its economics internationally. After being inspired to go green and pursue entrepreneurial activities after his time abroad, Bryton had the opportunity to work on an Aggie Green Fund supported project. He saw the potential AGF had for enterprising students with sustainable ideas and wanted to serve as a contact for them. Bryton believes he can leverage his position as Information Chair to inspire and empower students to change their campus in a memorable way. He hopes that his role as an electrical engineer will symbiotically grow himself and sustainability minded students; to mix ideas and culture across engineering and sustainability.

Marketing Co-Chair: Deidre Worth is a member of Texas A&M’s class of 2019, majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in economics. In addition to her studies, she is a member of the National Association of Environmental Professionals, Texas A&M Women in Economics, and Texas A&M’s Pre-Law Society. Deidre has always been fascinated by public policy involving sustainability and is passionate about conserving the environment. She joined the committee because she wanted to be a part of an organization that leaves a positive change on campus.

Marketing Co-Chair: Andy Chui is a senior public health studies major with a Chinese minor. Outside of the committee, he is a member of the Texas A&M Badminton Club and the President of Beta Tau Omega Fraternity. After observing how other schools tackle sustainability on their campuses, Andy realized he could help Aggies be more aware of their impact on the environment through Aggie Green Fund. He would like to reach as many Aggies as possible and help every student leave their legacy on campus.

Project Analysis Chair: Divya Saxena is a PhD student in Geology at Texas A&M. She is responsible for evaluating grantee reports, budgets, and tracking project progress. Divya’s motivation to serve on the advisory committee stems from her interest to continually learn about novel campus developments and jointly employ her technical and leadership skills to enrich the A&M experience for students, faculty, and staff. Her position offers the unique opportunity of directly working with AGF grantees to offer timely guidance, feedback, and assessments. She intends to utilize her scientific background in environmental geoscience to maximize the impact of AGF initiatives and empower the campus community with long-lasting sustainable alternatives. By the end of her term as Project Analysis Chair, Divya envisions invigorated interest and participation in Aggie Green Fund from a highly-diverse pool of applicants belonging to all career levels.

Interested in serving on the 2019-20 committee?

Applications open in January! Keep an eye on @TAMUGreenFund and visit greenfund.tamu.edu/getinvolved.html to learn more.