



Aggie Green Fund Annual Report 2026



Aggies Meditate M³ S25
(2025 Micro Grant)

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From the Director

This past year marked a significant milestone for the Aggie Green Fund (AGF) as we celebrated 15 years of empowering sustainability. Since its founding, the AGF has awarded over \$3 million to advance environmental stewardship, enhance campus operations, provide hands-on learning opportunities, and inspire a more sustainable future.

These accomplishments are a reflection of the dedication and leadership of the students, faculty, and staff who make the AGF possible. I am deeply grateful to the project managers who championed sustainability initiatives and the committee members who shared their expertise during the review process. Their commitment ensures that AGF investments generate meaningful and lasting benefits for our campus and beyond.

The AGF serves as a powerful example of what can be achieved when the Texas A&M community works together toward a common goal.

Each project represents collaboration, creativity, and shared commitment to leaving our campus better for future Aggies.

We are also looking ahead. We relaunched our social media on Instagram under a new handle—@tamu_greenfund—where we look forward to sharing project achievements and engaging with current and former Aggies who care deeply about our environment.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainability and for making the AGF's first 15 years a remarkable success!

Kelly Wellman



From the Advisor

For 15 years, the Aggie Green Fund has empowered students, faculty, and staff to imagine a more sustainable Texas A&M and to make it reality. Their efforts remain woven into the fabric of our campus long after their grant timelines have ended and long after they have graduated or moved on from Texas A&M.

This year's grant cycle built on that legacy. The Advisory Committee has the difficult task of reviewing many outstanding grant proposals that reflect the creativity, passion, and commitment to sustainability throughout the Aggie community. Fifteen years from now the grant projects that were funded this year will be part of the story of how small ideas, when put into practice, create lasting change.

Fifteen years would not be possible without the dedication of the many project contributors and Advisory Committee members.

I am deeply grateful to our current and former Advisory Committee members for their important role in advancing the mission of the Aggie Green Fund and in strengthening the culture of sustainability on our campus.

I am excited to see what the next 15 years will bring. There will be challenges but the creativity and determination of the Aggie community will continue to inspire innovative solutions, empower future leaders, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Aggies.



Wendy Webber

A white handwritten signature on a dark green background.

Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee



Nathan Wilson

Student
Representative
Chair



Vienna Cheng

Student
Representative
Information Chair



Janie Hudson

Student
Representative
Marketing Chair



Sejal Shanbhab

Student
Representative
Project Analysis
Chair



Ledric Sherman

Faculty
Representative



Gary Williams

Staff
Representative



Stuart Hightower

Staff
Representative

AGF 15 Year Retrospective

2011

Program launch

2014

\$1 million funded

2017

Micro Grant program
launched &
50th grant funded

2021

100th grant funded &
\$2 million funded

2022

Social Sustainability
grant category added

2026

\$3 million funded &
15 year anniversary



2025 Grant Impacts

This year was a year of mass-scale waste diversion projects. Because of the Aggie Green Fund, **TONS** of waste were diverted from the landfill just this year.

Total Landfill Diversion

- Textiles Collected: **25,461 lbs**
- Paper Towels Prevented: **5,351 lbs**
- Organic Material Composted: **81 lbs**
- Total Campus Footprint Reduced: **30,893 lbs**



With all Micro Grant and most Major Grant grant periods complete, 84% of goals were completed to 100% or more, 9% were partially achieved (60%-99%), and 7% were incomplete (under 59%) or ultimately n/a. The incomplete/n/a goals are found in secondary marketing goal categories.

Spotlight Impacts

- From Scraps to Sprouts
 - Donated **435 pounds of produce** to the campus community in one year.
 - Grew **60 different crop varieties** in their 10 towers in one year.
- Horticulture Forestry Sciences Buidling Water Bottle Filling Station
 - Almost tripled their semester refill goal of 600 with **1,755 fills**.
- Aston Hall Native Planting
 - Recorded **3 different native pollinator species** in the new garden.
- TAMU Formula Electric
 - Achieved **100% or higher** for every one of their impact goals.



\$187,915

Major Grant Total

\$27,571

Micro Grant Total

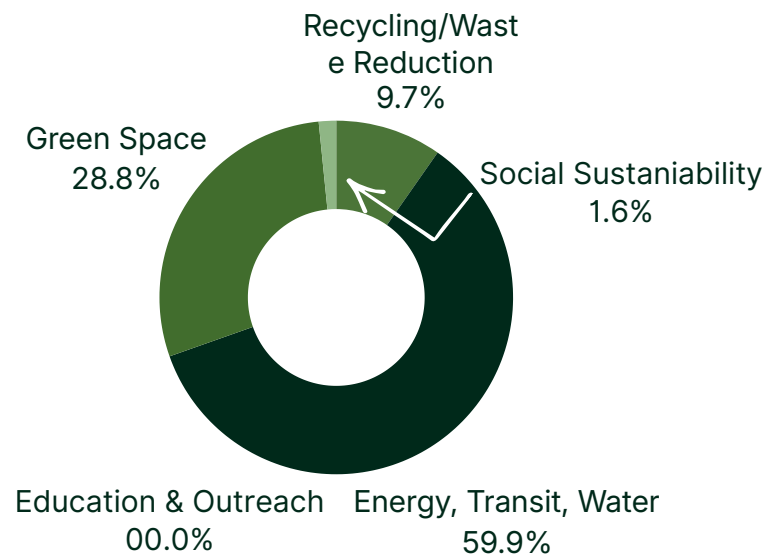
The Aggie Green Fund awarded \$215,486 during the 2026 grant cycle, directly funding projects that are transforming our campus.

This year's projects showcase a wide range of initiatives from making our buildings more bird-friendly to using recycled denim insulation for shipping containers turned into medical clinics.

We are also continuing to support the Formula Electric racing team—a fun and engaging way to promote renewable energy and the Lease Bike Fleet which provides students low-cost modes of sustainable transportation.

These projects showcase the innovation and commitment of our university community, making our campus a more sustainable and environmentally conscious place for everyone.

2026 Grant Highlights

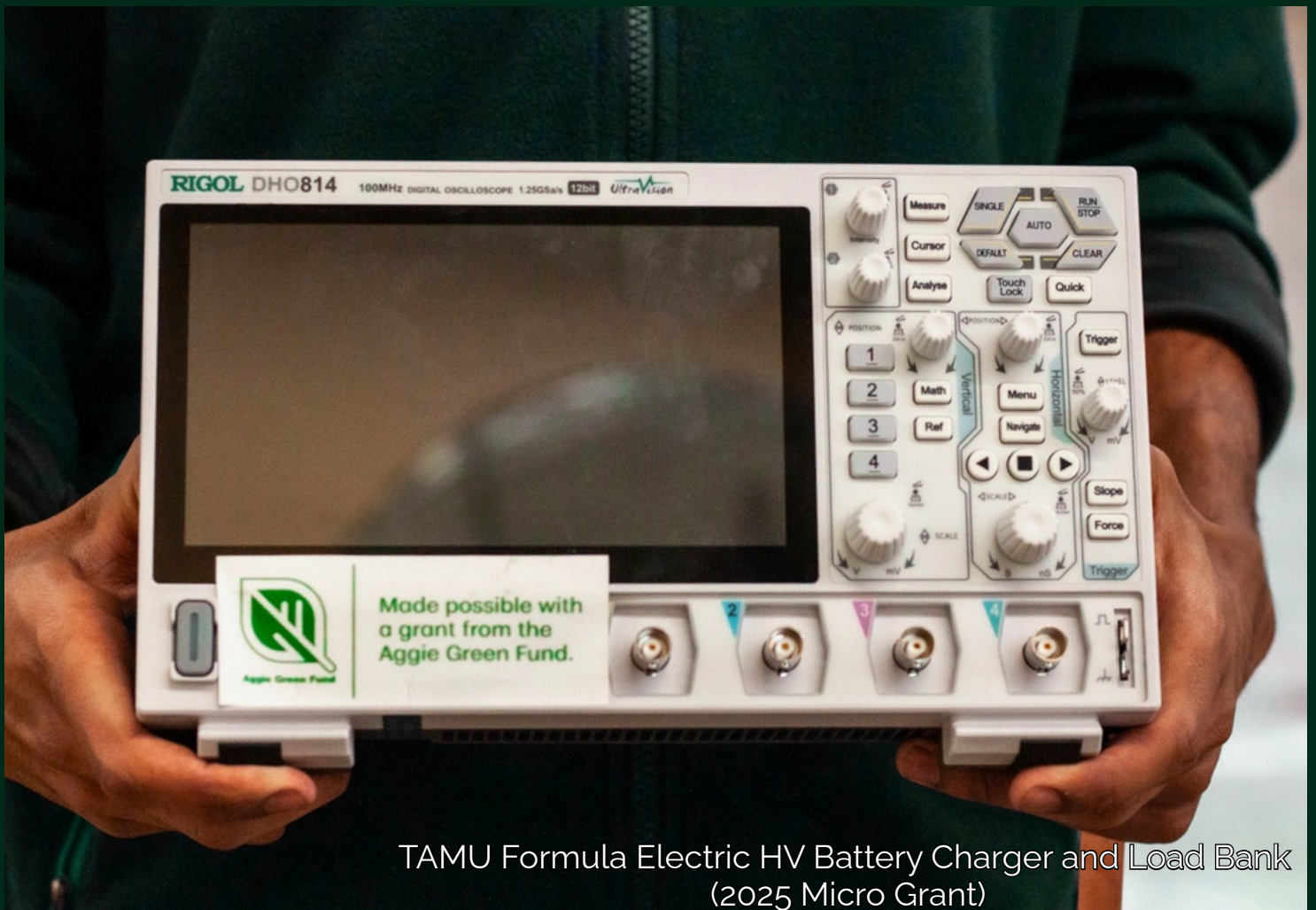


**Fund Distribution
by Grant Category**

2026 Major Grants

Major Grants meet at least one of the following:

- Proposed project costs more than \$5,000
- Project timeline exceeds six months
- Project requires Executive Facilities Committee approval

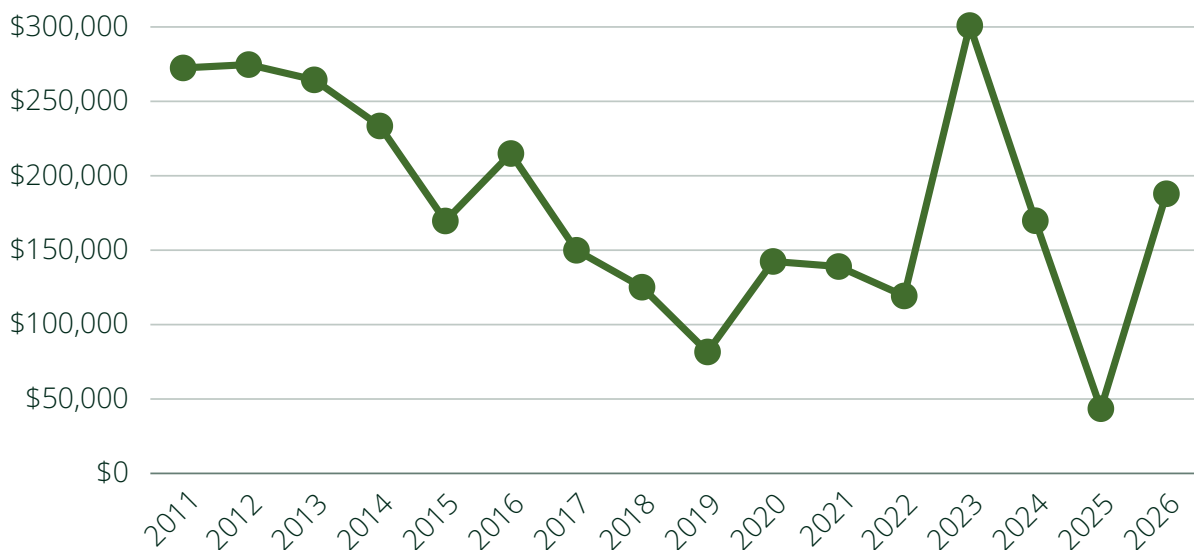


TAMU Formula Electric HV Battery Charger and Load Bank
(2025 Micro Grant)

Major Grant Analysis

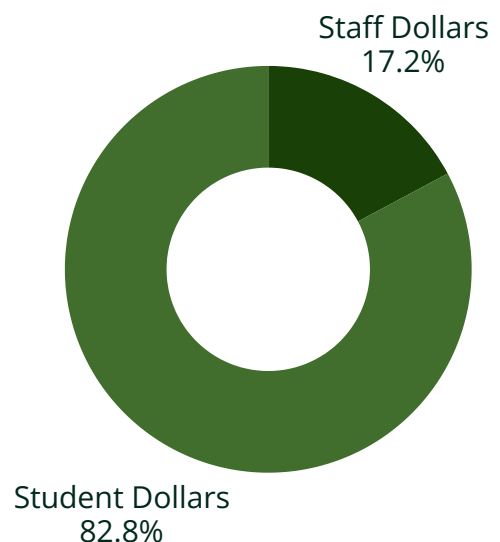
In 2026, the Green Fund awarded \$187,915 in Major Grants, representing a return to the average range of funding levels seen before 2023. This year's total reflects investment in large-scale, student-driven sustainability projects with the three largest grants supporting student-led projects demonstrating the continued leadership of students in advancing sustainability on our campus. The two staff-led projects expand sustainable options resources available for the Aggie community.

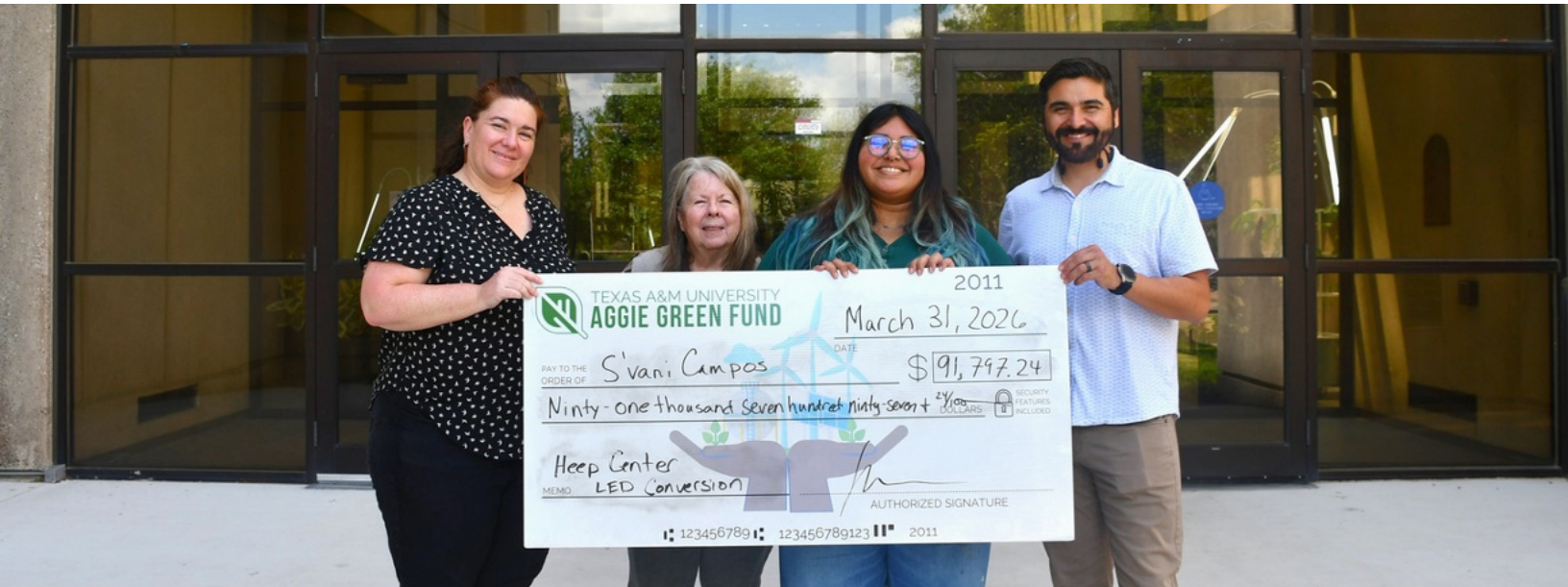
Dollar Amount Awarded Annually (Major Grants)



Fund Distribution by Applicant Type

Major grant funding in 2026 continues emphasize student-led projects, with students receiving 82.8% of awarded dollars. Student projects totaled \$155,520 and staff projects received \$32,395. This continues a trend from last year following two years when staff projects receiving the bigger share.





HEEP Center LED Conversion

Energy, Transit, Water

\$91,797.24

S'vani Campos, Felipe Aburto & Kathy Schmitt

Built in the 1970s, the Heep Center predates modern energy standards, resulting in outdated and inefficient lighting. This project aims to replace existing fixtures with energy-efficient LED lighting to reduce electricity use, increase illumination in shared spaces, lower maintenance costs, and align with Texas A&M's campus sustainability goals. By upgrading to LEDs, the grant will not only decrease the building's environmental footprint but also create a brighter, more welcoming space for students, faculty, and visitors. This project represents a practical step toward a more sustainable campus by turning the Heep Center into both a symbol and example of Aggie commitment to environmental stewardship.



Bird Friendly Buildings Initiative

Green Space

\$37,289.50

Miranda Pugh, Isaac Elliott &
Jaden Thibodeau

By placing bird deterrent markers along the windows of the JCIN-MEOB Skybridge in accordance with the Bird Friendly Buildings Initiative, this grant will create positive change throughout multiple aspects of the student experience on campus. This Skybridge is a known bird killer; a reported 57 bird deaths occurred between January 2023 - October 2025. In addition to the environmental impacts of bird deaths, these carcasses negatively impact the student experience on campus by making an otherwise pleasant stretch of campus unappealing as well as posing a potential health hazard. With this project, the grantees are optimistic they can both protect the environment and their fellow students, beautify campus, keep our school healthy, and educate the community on the epidemic of bird deaths due to unfriendly infrastructure.



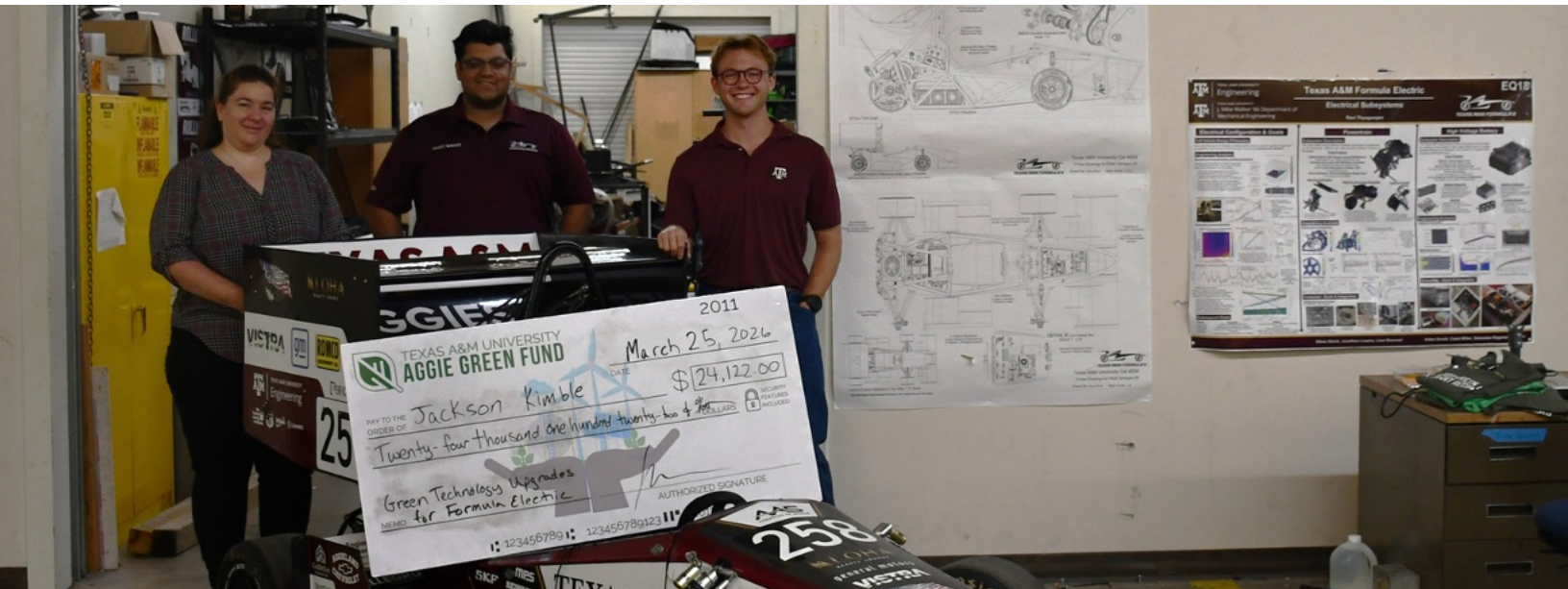
Texas A&M Solar Car Racing | Testing

Energy, Transit, Water

\$2,311.71

Katherine Kristofek, Carlos Cerna & Trent Blahuta

Texas A&M Solar Car Racing advances sustainability through innovation at Texas A&M University by designing, building, and racing a fully solar-powered electric vehicle. Implementation begins with the engineering teams developing efficient solar, battery, and mechanical systems to maximize energy performance and safety. Manufacturing and operations groups integrate systems and coordinate logistics for testing and competition. Meanwhile, outreach and business teams expand community impact through educational events, sponsorship engagement, and campus-wide sustainability initiatives. Following their success as the top rookie team and a top-ten finisher at the 2024 American Solar Challenge, the team aims to strengthen our presence on campus - using innovation, collaboration, and renewable energy education to inspire students and demonstrate how Aggies can lead the transition toward a more sustainable future. This grant will help the team purchase testing ensure the care is operating within safe conditions which will help make sure there are no negative impacts on the surrounding environment or people.



Green Technology Upgrades for Texas A&M Formula Electric

Energy, Transit, Water

\$24,122.00

Jackson Kimble, Fernanda Garcia &
Jeremy Macias

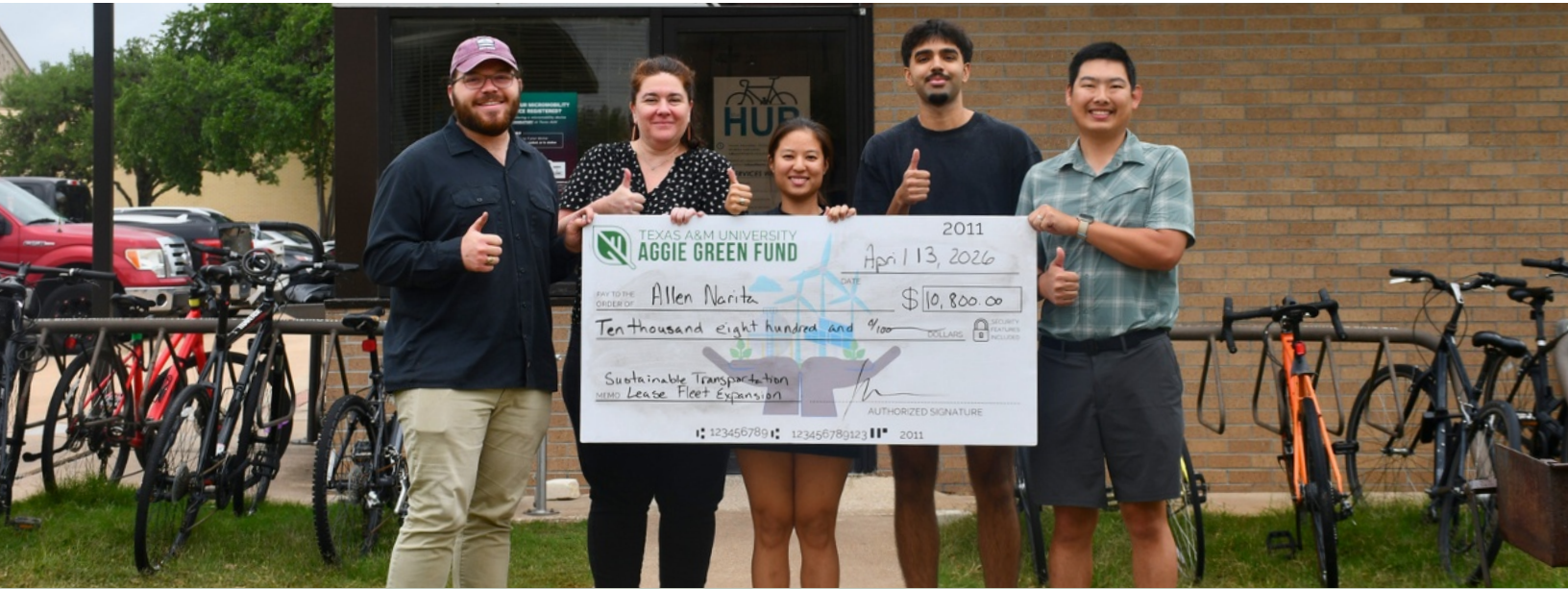
Texas A&M Formula SAE Electric designs, builds, and races a fully electric formula-style racecar, developed from scratch each year. Through student-led innovation and collaboration, they advance sustainable racing while providing hands-on technical and leadership experience. Their team of 140+ students spans engineering, business, and internal operations, all contributing to our mission of sustainability. Throughout the design, fabrication, and assembly phases of our project, there are many areas of energy and material inefficiencies. To maximize sustainability impact, this grant focuses on upgrading tools and equipment across many areas of fabrication and development, each of which quantifiably improves sustainability, efficiency, or safety. These improvements will lower their energy use, minimize waste, and extend component lifespans, furthering our mission to be a model of environmentally conscious racecar engineering.



MSC Balcony Eco-Lounge Space

Green Space **\$21,594.65**
 Dylan Murray & Stephanie Walker

The Memorial Student Center balcony has great untapped potential to reflect Texas A&M's commitment to sustainability and community. New furniture from Loll Designs, made from recycled materials, will reinforce environmental values while enhancing comfort and usability. With increased visibility and thoughtful design, the balcony will become a vibrant hub for connection, reflection, and appreciation of campus green materials—supporting both student wellness and the university's sustainability mission. Currently a pass-through between student services and the MSC ballrooms, the MSC balcony draws hundreds of visitors on game days for its views of Kyle Field Plaza and Aggie Park. This project will transform the space into a destination—inviting students to study, relax, and meet outdoors.



Sustainable Transportation Lease Fleet Expansion

Energy, Transit, Water
Allen Narita

\$10,800.00

The lease bike fleet allows students to have a low-cost mode of transportation on and around campus for the semester. As the lease fleet ages, rather than discarding older bikes, they are transferred to the borrow a bike program which is a shorter-term bike rental program that is free to the campus community. If bikes are removed from the lease fleet, more bikes need to be added back to keep our goal of 100 bikes leased out every semester. The addition to the lease fleet allows for an expansion to the lease program, and a slight expansion to the borrow a bike program.

2026 Micro Grants

Micro Grants meet all of the following:

- Proposed project costs \$5,000 or less
- Projected timeline is within six months
- Does not require Executive Facilities Committee approval

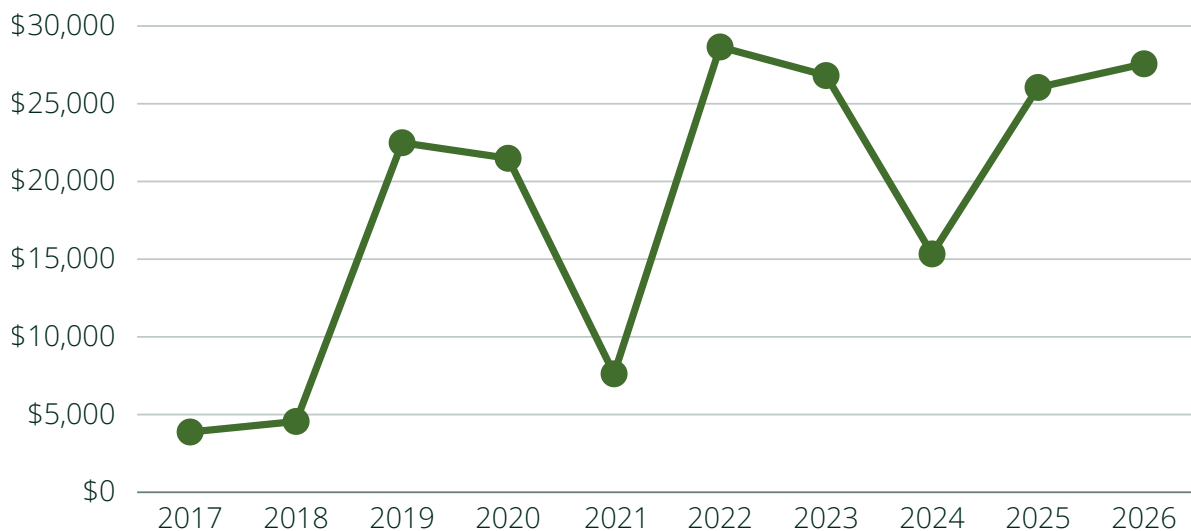


The Garden's Helping Hands
(2026 Micro Grant)

Micro Grant Analysis

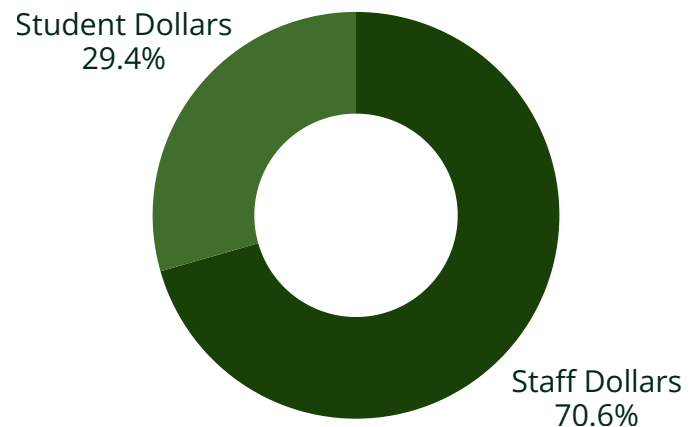
In the first grant cycle after the committee raised the funding cap to \$5,000, 2026 Micro Grants totaled \$27,571. This years projects address a range of sustainability concerns from waste reduction and diversion to accessibility to environmental stewardship. All these projects demonstrate the meaningful impact that small-scale investments can have to advance sustainability across campus.

Dollar Amount Awarded Annually (Micro Grants)



Fund Distribution by Applicant Type

In contrast to Major Grants, Micro Grant funding in 2026 was staff-dominant, with staff receiving 70.6% of total dollars. Staff projects totaled \$19,455 while student projects received \$8,116.





The Garden's Helping Hands

Green Space

\$3,200.27

Kathryn Grier & Joseph Johnson

The Gardens at Texas A&M uses their Aggie Green Fund Micro Grant to enhance their volunteer program with essential gardening tools and equipment. This project combines inclusive outreach with hands-on horticultural expertise to foster stewardship and sustainability. Funds support the purchase of durable, accessible tools tailored to volunteer needs. Adding new tools to their fleet allows them to replace aging equipment and increase capacity for the number of volunteers they can support during a workday or project. Service learning is at the core of our volunteer program. Our hope is that the equipment empowers volunteers to care for the land, learn new skills, and grow a stronger community—one garden bed at a time.

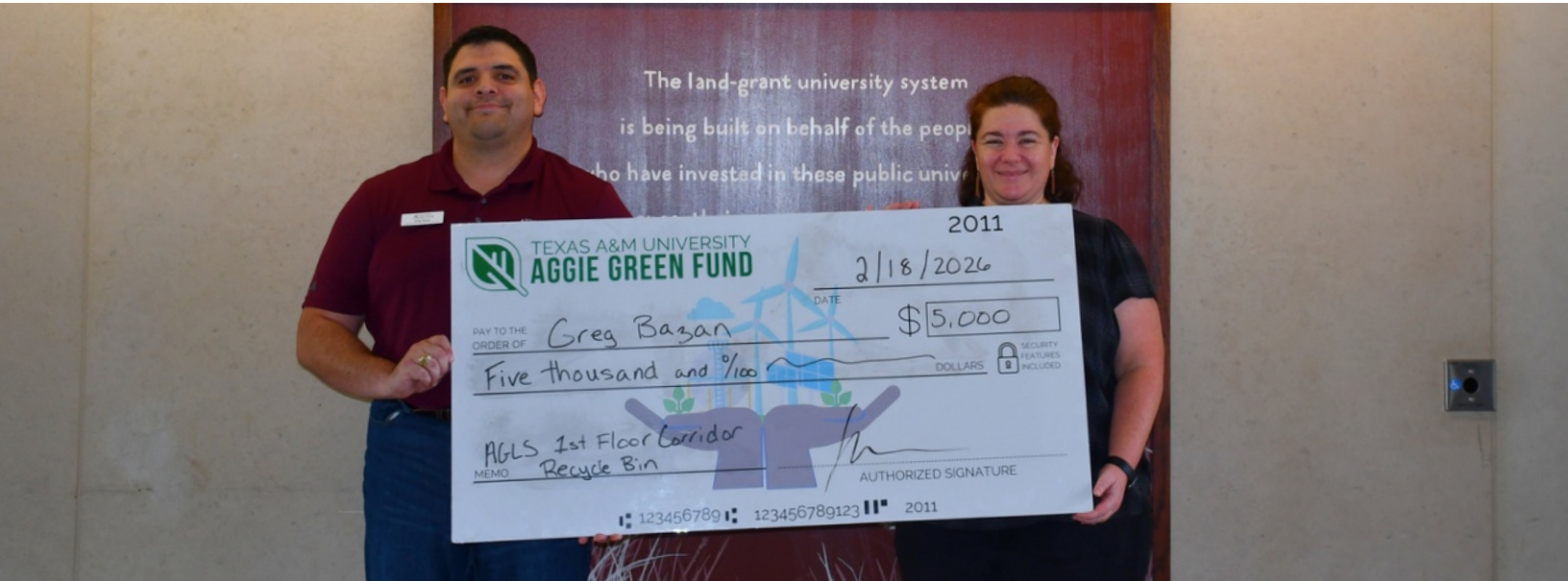


May's Fest Reusable Bags Initiative

Recycling and Waste Reduction
Nathan Wilson

\$1,085.21

Twice a year, the Business Student Council puts on a festival outside of Mays Business School with free food and activities, and clothing and accessories for sale. Currently, plastic bags are given to students when they purchase clothing items, adding to the trillions of plastics bags wasted every year. The goal of this project is to replace those plastic bags with high-quality, insulated grocery totes that serve more purpose than transporting a few t-shirts to students' houses. The bags incorporate sustainably oriented design and come with flyers with information on the benefits of using reusable grocery totes to encourage continuous use of these products.



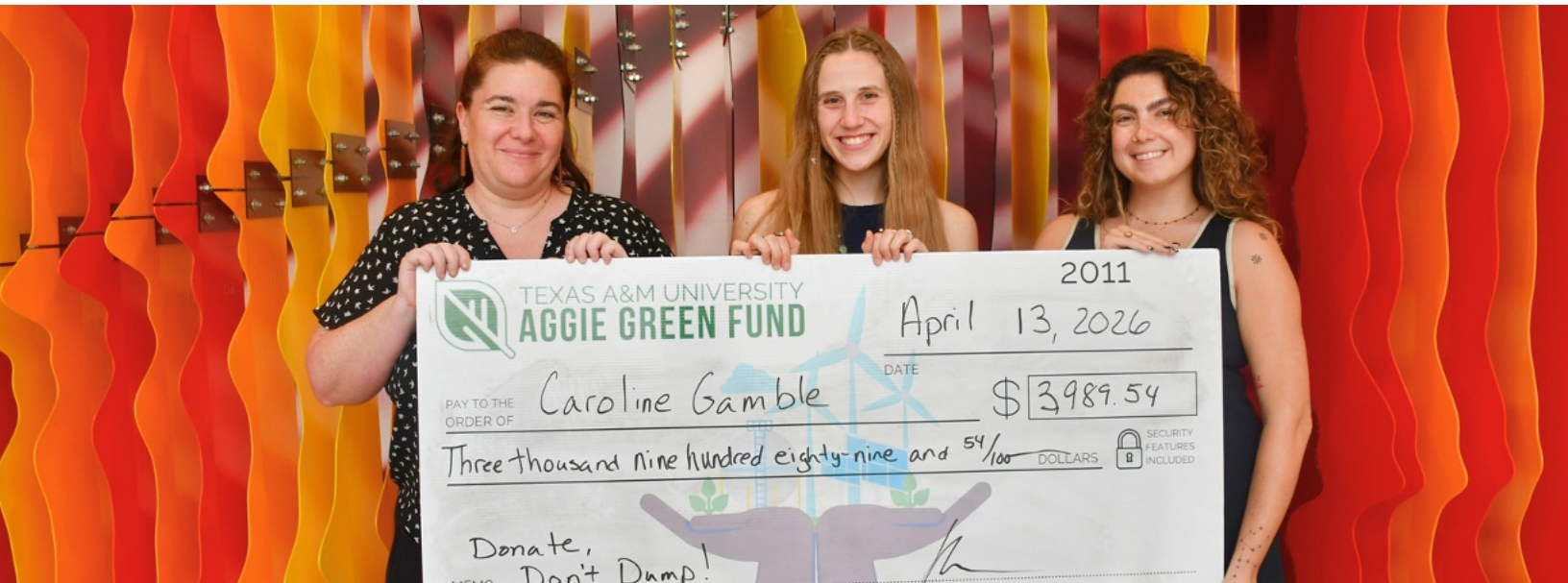
AGLS 1st Floor Corridor | Recycle Bins

Recycling and Waste Reduction

\$5,000.00

Greg Bazan

AgriLife and Life Sciences Building faces heavy student traffic on its first floor, yet the building does not have enough recycling bins. This project aims to enhance sustainability and campus appeal by installing larger, uniform, and visually appealing recycling bins. This upgrade will reduce overflow, discourage littering, and create a cleaner, more welcoming space for students and visitors. By prioritizing functionality and aesthetics, we ensure AGLS reflects the university's commitment to sustainability and hospitality.



Donate, Don't Dump!

Recycling and Waste Reduction
 Caroline Gamble & Kenya Reeves

\$3,989.54

During move-out season, landfill dumpsters overflow, and residence advisors bear the burden of cleaning up students' abandoned property. To create a more sustainable campus, we have to close the loop by turning trash into treasure. This project aims to mitigate landfill waste and create an efficient process for residence advisors. The grant will set up bins in every dorm for students to donate their unwanted items, and direct them to the textile recycling bins to donate clothes. While students have the option to donate individually, there are still many students who find it too time-consuming. Providing them easy access will increase the number of people who choose to donate rather than dump. This project will not only reduce waste but also introduce students to sustainable choices.



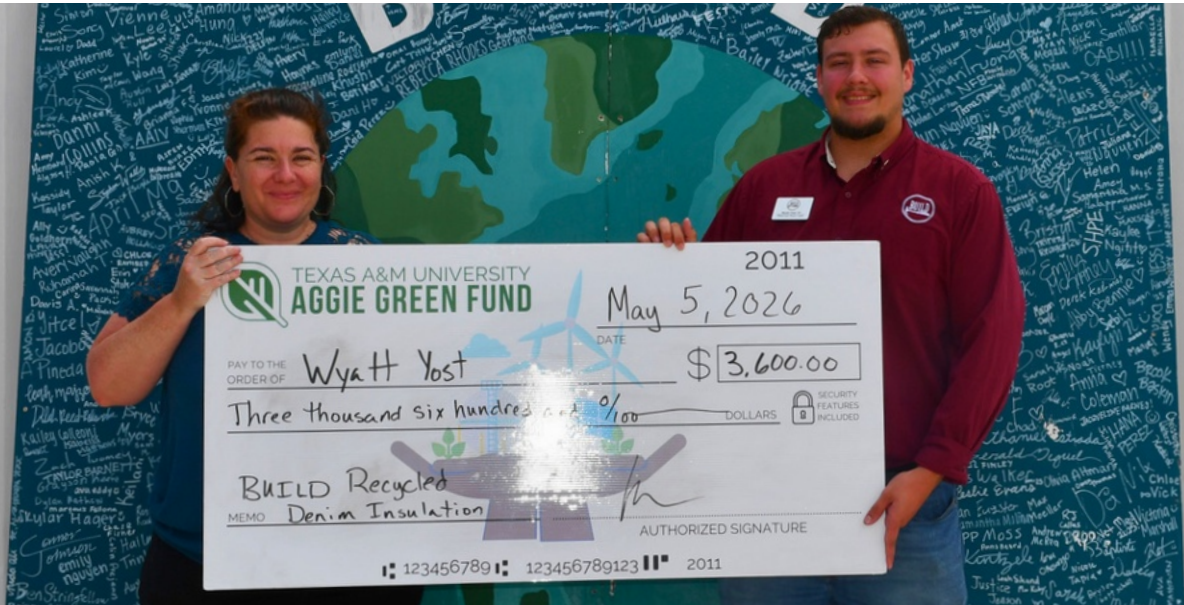
Social Sustainable Entrance Buttons

Social Sustainability

\$3,431.00

Lilly Blackmon & Gia Soriano

This project focuses on the social sustainability of our residential hall spaces. Moses and Lechner hall technically meet the requirements for accessibility, however they do not meet the core value of excellence when it comes to social sustainability. This project will focus on adding accessibility buttons to the entrances of the two halls, allowing students and guests to feel included and understood. As student employees in the tours program the grantees will be able to market this through our tours and gauge the visitors perceptions on the residence halls accessibility and sustainability as the project is implemented.



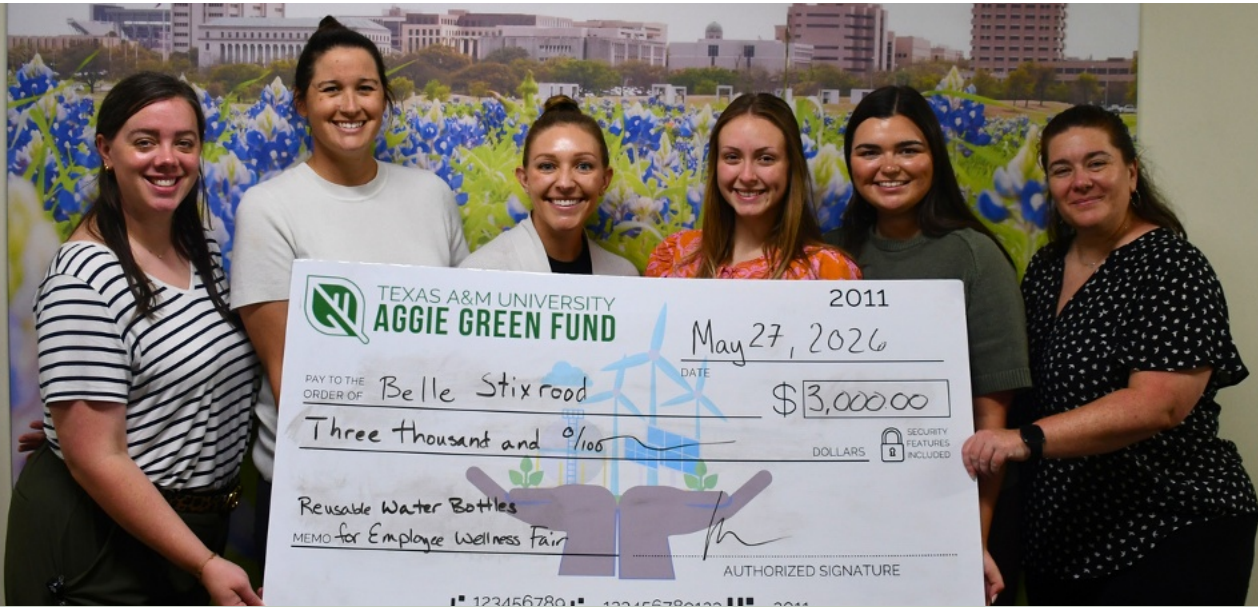
BUILD Recycled Denim Insulation

Recycling and Waste Reduction

\$3,600.00

Wyatt Yost, Reagan Johnson & Lola Shmeis

BUILD aims to unite the student body through a large-scale, physically demanding service project - converting shipping containers into medical clinics. As a student-led 501(c)(3), BUILD offers high-impact, hands-on experience for members and volunteers. Each semester, thousands of student volunteers contribute to the construction of these clinics. Students can bond and gain real-world experience relevant to industry and in their personal lives. The construction task that offers the greatest risk to volunteers is installing insulation. Traditionally, fiberglass insulation has been used. Fiberglass is a respiratory and skin irritant, and necessitates the usage of disposable masks. This grant will be used to purchase recycled denim insulation for at least three clinics, enhancing sustainability, reducing waste, and creating a safer environment for our volunteers.



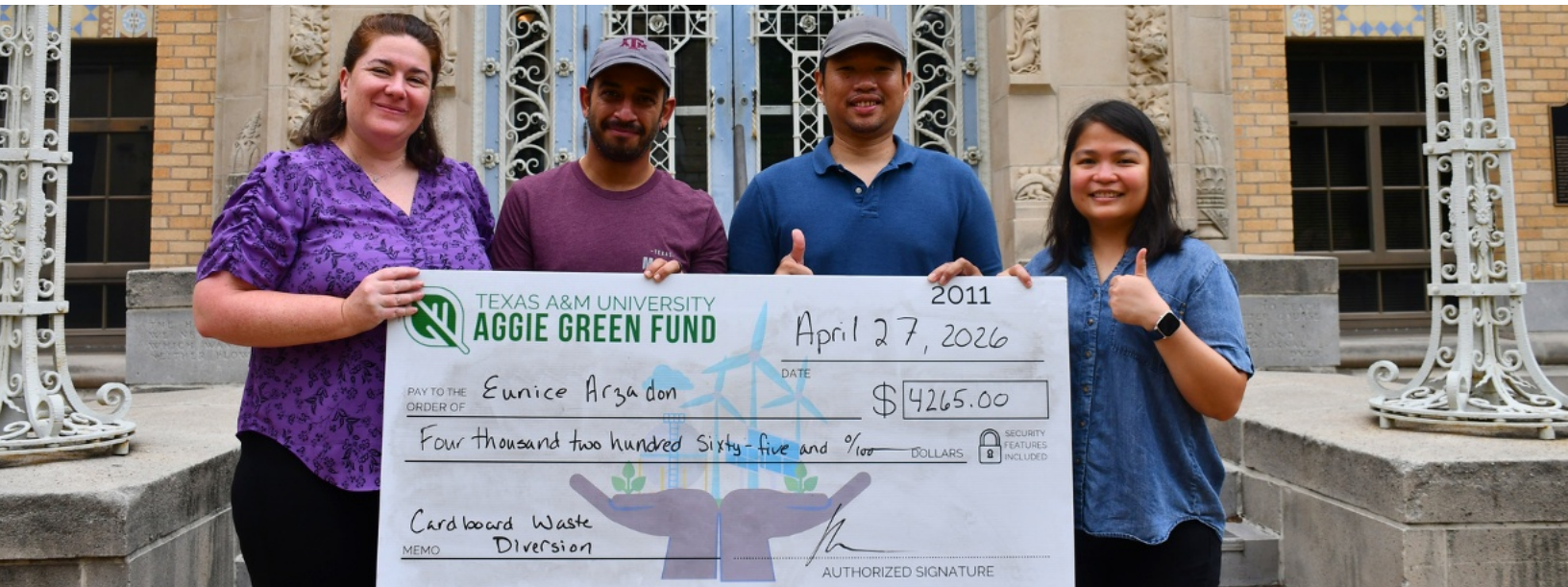
Reusable Water Bottles for Employee Wellness Fair

Recycling and Waste Reduction

\$3,000

Belle Stixrood

Living Well's annual wellness fair is all about removing barriers for people to make better choices for their holistic wellbeing. One of the facets of holistic wellbeing is being environmentally conscious. By providing branded water bottles, the grantees are not only handing out an amazing reusable item, but one that encourages personal hydration and environmental sustainability. In years past, Living Well would receive hundreds of donated, single-use water bottles. Although they are grateful for the donation, they knew we would rather provide something people could reuse over and over again. By providing and encouraging reusable water bottle use, they can set up refill stations, create less trash, and offer something that lasts beyond their one-day event.



Cardboard Waste Diversion and Biochar-Based Student Sustainability Training

Recycling and Waste Reduction **\$4,265.00**
 Eunice Arzadon, El Jirie Baticados & Amirhossein Mahdaviarab

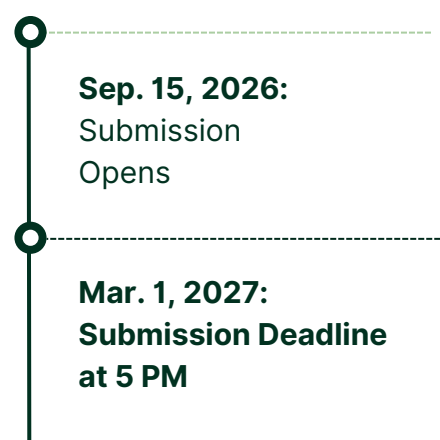
Every month, the Price Hobgood and AEPM buildings generate a large volume of cardboard waste from deliveries serving five laboratories, machine shop operations, and student workspaces. When cardboard accumulates, it occupies shared areas, becomes a hazard during rain or wind, and requires repeated manual handling. The BioEnergy Analysis and Testing (BETA) Lab can convert clean cardboard into biochar, but a shredder system is needed to preprocess the material. This project will purchase a cardboard mill/shredder system to establish a closed-loop, on-site waste-to-resource system. The shredder will divert cardboard from dumpsters, reduce waste volume, support student training in sustainable material processing, and provide biochar for ongoing soil-amendment education activities. This creates a long-term, visible, and measurable sustainability benefit on campus.

2027 Timelines

Major Grant Timeline



Micro Grant Timeline



***Micro grants are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.**

Info:

<https://greenfund.tamu.edu/gegrant.html>

Major Grant Application:

<https://greenfund.tamu.edu/majorgrant.html>

Micro Grant Application:

<https://greenfund.tamu.edu/microgrant.html>

Get Involved

Be a liaison

Represent your department and be a resource to potential applicants.

Request an informational

The Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee can present to your classroom, office, or student organization.

Serve on the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee

Members of the committee administer the Aggie Green Fund. Students serve a one-year term, beginning April 1. Applications open on January 19, 2027, and close on February 14, 2027, at 11:59 PM.



Instagram

@tamu_greenfund



Email Address

greenfund-info@tamu.edu



Website

greenfund.tamu.edu

Application link:

https://greenfund.tamu.edu/files/AGF%20Application%20Form_2024.pdf



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