



AGGIE GREEN FUND ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

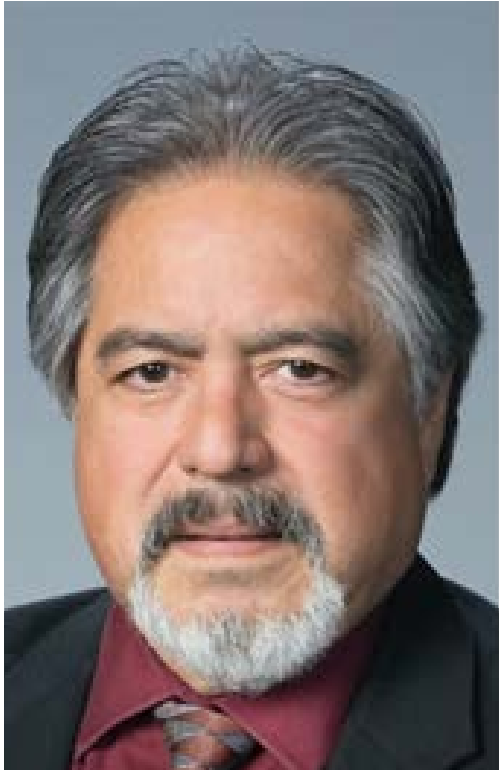




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LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT



I began leading the Department of Engagement for Sustainability at the beginning of this calendar year. When I review the achievements of the Aggie Green Fund, as laid out in this annual report, I consider myself fortunate to be a part of a robust organization, built on a solid foundation, managed by dedicated students, faculty, and staff, connected to a critical mission of improving Texas A&M University.

The pandemic and ongoing changes have demonstrated that nothing is certain. But we have proven that it is possible to mitigate that uncertainty by being focused, adaptable, and ready to find and fund solutions to environmental challenges. This year, the Aggie Green Fund was able to fund over \$119,000 in Major Grant projects and over \$28,000 for Micro-Grant projects. That is a record setting amount for Micro-Grants. Since

the launch in 2011, over \$2.2 million has been awarded to over 100 environmentally sustainable improvement projects.

Some might see a record end to an academic year as a cause to celebrate, we see it as a chance to express our gratitude and recommit ourselves to the mission and vision of the Aggie Green Fund. As we move into the 2022-2023 school year, our commitment is as strong as ever. We are expanding the scope of the Aggie Green Fund to include funding for holistic sustainability projects rather than just those that impact the environment.

I want to wish the sincerest thank you to Laith Harb, Austin Biehle, Amanda Pastrano, Jaedyn Medrano, Niranjana Sitapure, Carol Goldsmith, Ledric Sherman, and Nathan Jones for keeping this vision alive and for the dedication and volunteerism you have displayed this past year. The entire Department of Engagement for Sustainability, the Texas A&M Office of Sustainability, and the advisors of the Aggie Green Fund look forward to the change that can be created by our students, faculty, and staff this upcoming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Vanegas'.

Jorge Vanegas, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President & Institute Director
Department of Engagement for Sustainability

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Aggie Green Fund plays a critical role in the sustainability sphere of our campus. I fondly reflect to 2010, when expectant students devoted countless hours to organizing their campaign and successfully passing the referendum to establish this organization. Those students wanted to create an institution that actively invests in our success by improving environmental performance and they have!

The Advisory Committee's vision, passion, and commitment to campus grows stronger each year. Our student-driven organization continues to evolve in dynamic ways to enhance our efficiency, performance, and reach. The entire campus community benefits from the dedicated students, faculty, and staff who serve on the leadership team. It is with extreme gratitude that I thank our outgoing board for their service over the past year. I look expectantly toward the future as our FY23 team assumes the mantle!


Kelly Wellman, MBA

LETTER FROM THE ADVISOR

From start to finish, it was an honor to work with all the passionate applicants and grantees this year. Every single person who applies to the Aggie Green Fund, does so because they want to make a difference. Working through their ideas with them never gets old. It is a privilege to be able to do this again for the second year.

I want to extend the biggest thank yous to Laith Harb, Austin Biehle, Amanda Pastrano, Jaedyn Medrano, and Niranjana Sitapure for their hard work this year. Their creativity, dedication, and passion made this such a memorable year.

I am very excited for the changes coming this next year to the scope. Expanding the scope of the Aggie Green Fund to encompass true sustainability will hopefully have a great impact on this campus.




Jesse Carswell, MS

MISSION

Since its launch in 2011, the Aggie Green Fund has awarded approximately \$2.2 million to over 100 projects.



The mission of the Aggie Green Fund is to provide funding for projects that will positively impact campus' environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

We will accomplish this through Major Grants awarded on an annual basis and Micro-Grants awarded on a rolling basis to empower students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring creative sustainability improvements to our campus.

THANK YOU

2021-2022 AGGIE GREEN FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Laith Harb
Student Representative
Chair



Austin Biehle
Student Representative
Information Chair



Jaedyn Medrano
Student Representative
Marketing Chair



Amanda Pastrano
Student Representative
Marketing Chair



Niranjan Sitapure
Student Representative
Project Analysis Chair



Carol Goldsmith
Staff Representative
Committee Member



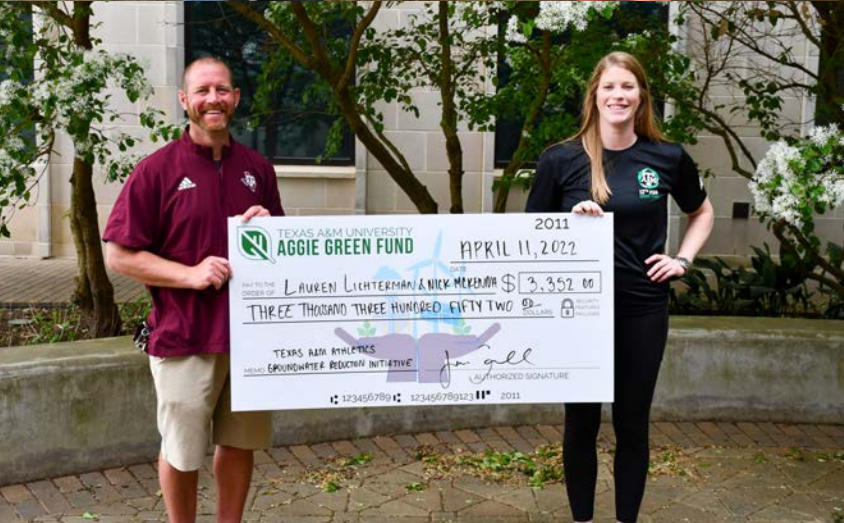
Nathan Jones
Staff Representative
Committee Member



Ledric Sherman
Faculty Representative
Committee Member

2022 AGGIE GREEN FUND GRANTEES





2022 MAJOR GRANTS

BIKE LEASE FLEET EXPANSION

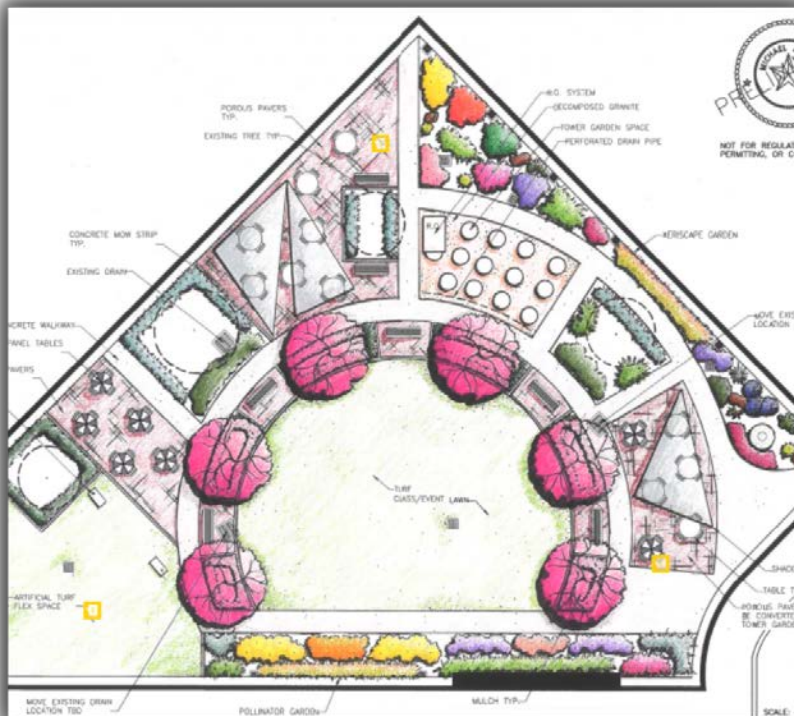
JEFF PUCKETT | \$15,000

Purchase 30 new Priority Gotham belt drive bicycles for the Sustainable Transportation's Bike Lease Program. These bikes will go through a 30-point safety check and be added to the current fleet. The Bike Lease program reduces the number of single-occupancy vehicles traveling around campus and reduces the demand for buses. The program also makes bicycle shop quality bicycles available to students who would otherwise not be able to afford them.



CREATING AN ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CULTURE AT TAMU'S SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

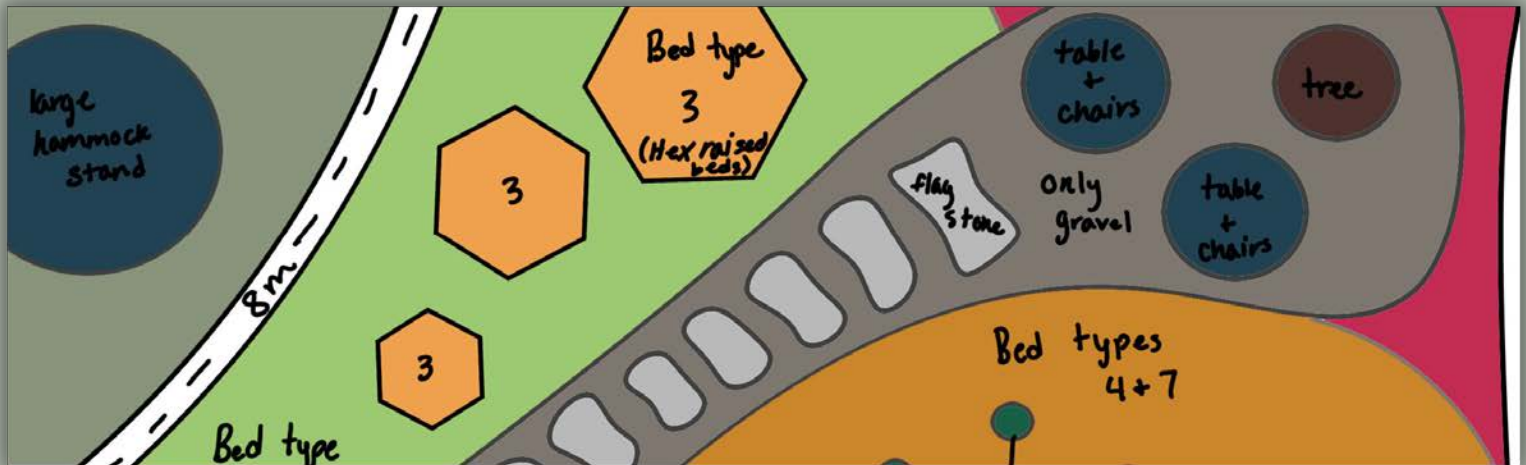
ERIN SCHNEIDER | \$55,682



Convert existing, non-functional space at the School of Public Health into green space incorporating sustainable soft and hardscape that creates a space where people are welcome, energized, and encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle. This project will include butterfly and healing gardens, shaded seating areas, xeriscape landscaping, improved irrigation, walking trails using sustainable materials that will improve drainage, and a gathering plan for class instruction and outreach programming. This project is pending University Architect approval.

GRAVEL GARDEN TO SUPPORT NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS

PAIGE WIRTH | \$30,149



Install a Gravel Garden between Hullabaloo and Schumacher Hall to limit water needs, provide a resource for native and migratory pollinators, and serve as a teaching garden for students on campus. There will be hammock stands, tables, chairs, and benches installed for students, faculty, and staff. The garden will educate the campus on the plant and pollinator species present while providing outdoor space for the campus to spend more time outside. This project is pending University Architect approval.

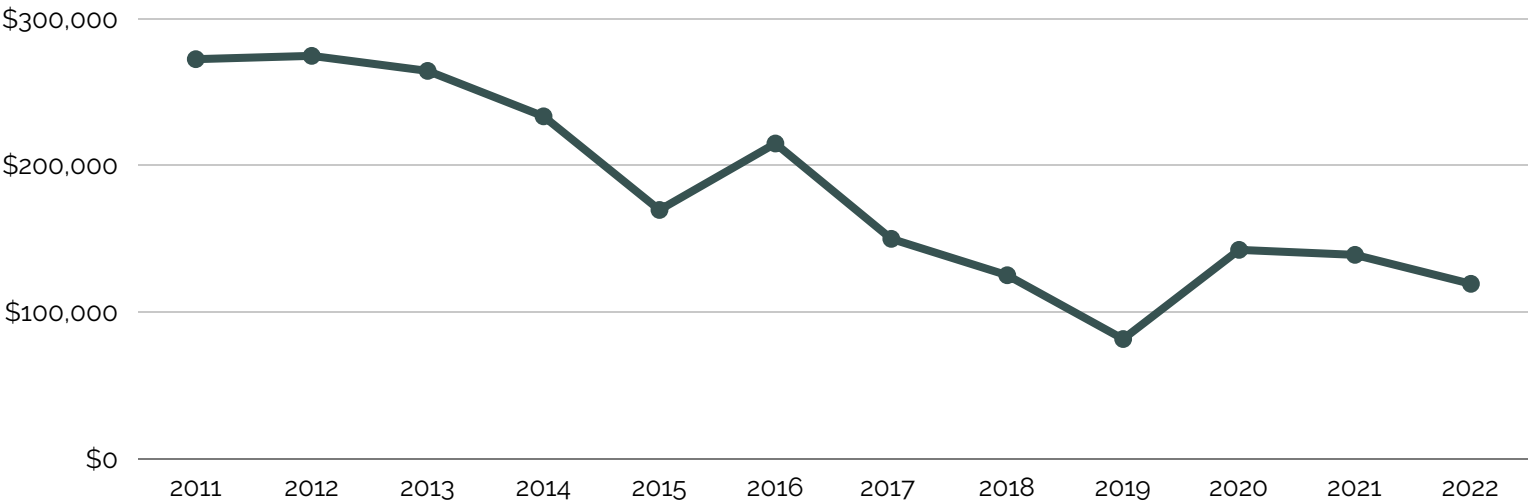
RECYCLING BINS FOR RESIDENCE HALLS THE AGGIE ECO-REPRESENTATIVES | \$23,363

Install 22 stainless steel, three-stream receptacle recycling bins for each floor of the Appelt, David-Gary, Hobby, Legett, and Neeley Residence Halls. This grant aims to add recycling bins to more accessible locations for students who live in the hall because a barrier to engaging in more sustainable behaviors such as recycling is convenience. The primary goal of this project is to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill to recycling and increase resident awareness of the availability of recycling.



MAJOR GRANTS

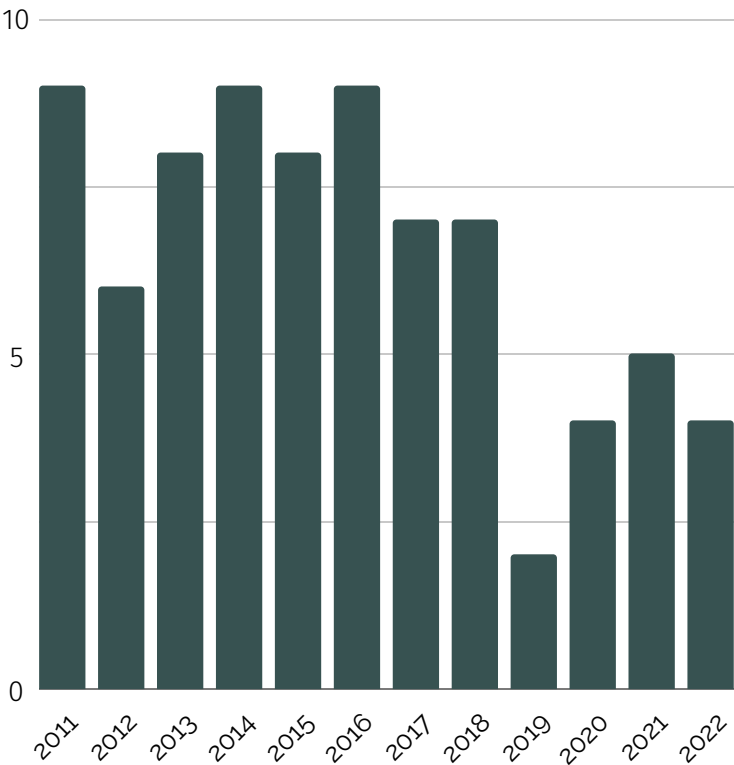
DOLLARS AWARDED BY YEAR



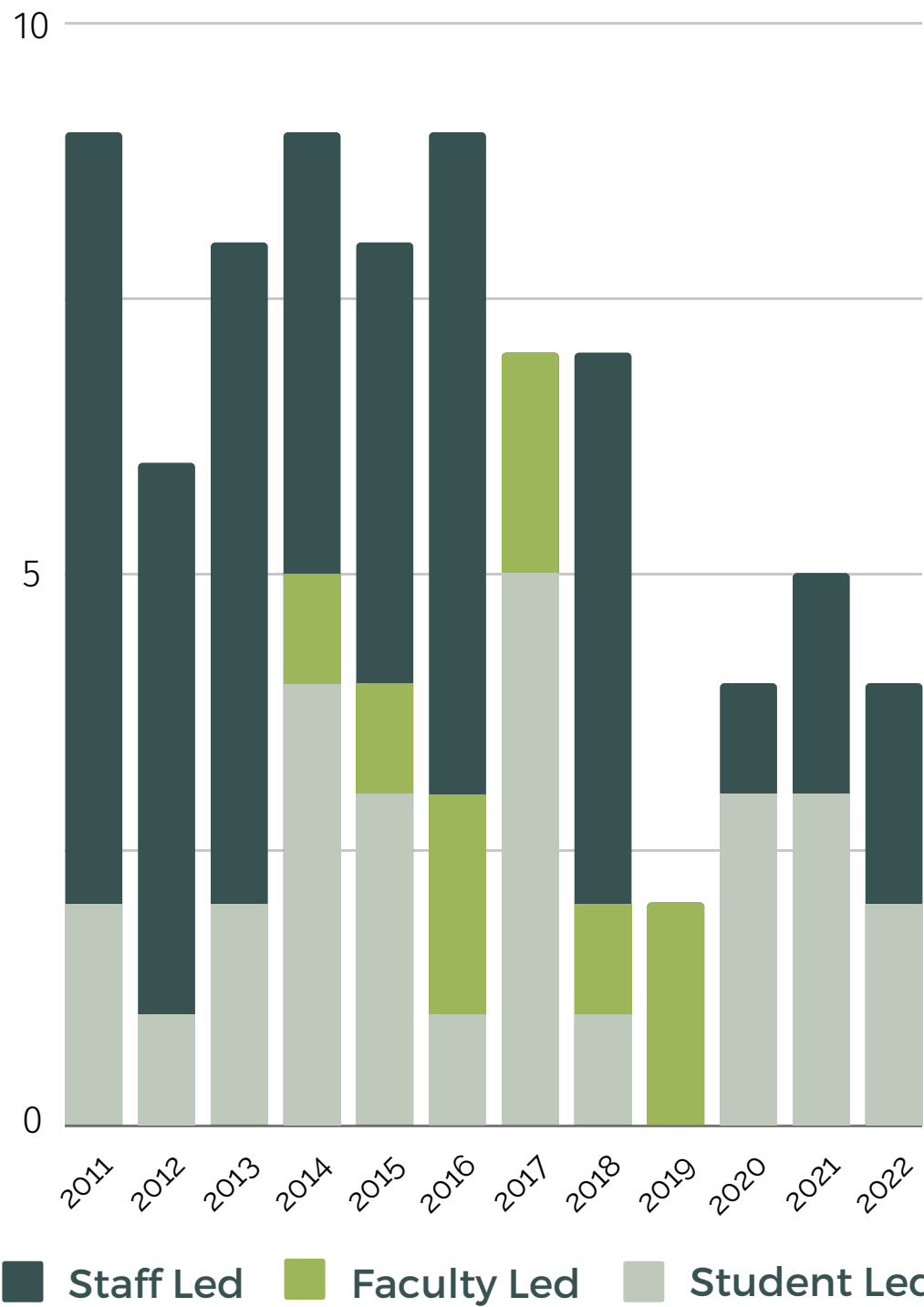
Overall, there has been a decline in Aggie Green Fund Major Grant projects. As shown above, we started with consistently awarding \$250,000 annually with higher numbers of projects (shown right). AGF's philosophy is to fund quality over quantity which means some years may not award the maximum amount of dollars available. This is evident in 2019, with only two projects being funded totaling less than \$100,000.

One reason for decline in the number of major grants is the introduction of Micro Grants in 2017. Projects that meet the criteria are able to apply and receive funds faster than going through the Major Grant process.

OF PROJECTS AWARDED BY YEAR



MAJOR GRANT ANALYSIS



Student Major Grant
Dollars: \$597,356.09

Faculty Major Grant
Dollars: \$191,701

Staff Major Grant
Dollars: \$1,398,011.51

Total Major Grant
Dollars: \$2,187,069

Student Major Grant
Projects: 27

Faculty Major Grant
Projects: 7

Staff Major Grant
Projects: 44

Total Major Grant
Projects: 78

During the early years of the Aggie Green Fund, a majority of projects were staff led. There has been an upwards trend of student Major Grant applicants being funded. Work on making the process seem more accessible and not as daunting for students has been and will continue to be a focus. Faculty are less likely to apply for projects. This is likely due to research being ineligible for AGF dollars.

2022 MICRO GRANTS

BOTTLE FILLING WATER STATION FOR SIXTH FLOOR HARRINGTON TOWER TANYA BAKER | \$3,279



Provide students, faculty, and staff who work and visit the M. T. Harrington Education Sixth Floor cold, clean, filtered water. The Center on Disability and Development is staffed by faculty and professionals who represent a wide range of human service disciplines. The goals of the project are to make clean water more accessible, provide a better option for water, and encourage the use of reusable containers.

GROCERY GIVE & GRAB (G3) EXPANSION

KRISTIANNNA BOWLES | \$1,050

Expand Residence Life's Grocery Give & Grab (G3) program. G3 began as a semesterly program hosted by Residence Life to help address food insecurity. Collection bins are placed in central areas across campus that allow students to donate food they do not want or have too much of. Despite the success of G3, it has been brought up by both residents and staff members that they would like to see permanent locations, as food insecurity does not only happen at the end of each semester. This grant will allow the department to purchase bookcases that can serve as permanent G3 collection spots and further provide access to food for students in need. However, it should be noted that this project is only a temporary solution and option for students.



ORAN W. NICKS BOTTLE FILL STATIONS

MATTEA KING | \$3,500



Install two bottle fill stations in the Oran W. Nicks Low Speed Wind Tunnel facility. All staff have reusable water bottles and use them in their everyday lives, but with current water fountains, it has become difficult to implement this practice during the day. The goal of this project is to allow the Wind Tunnel staff to practice sustainable and safe practices by reducing carbon emissions, from trips to the store, production of plastic water bottles, and plastic consumption.

RECYCLING UPGRADES IN PAVILION SECOND FLOOR

THOMAS JISTEL | \$3,394

Provide individual recycling bins for every office, two campus standard three-stream recycling containers, and one large paper recycling bin in the copy room on the second floor of the Pavilion Building. This area houses the Division of Academic and Strategic Collaborations. The goals of this project are to encourage recycling within the office, reduce landfill waste, and provide an introduction to sustainability for the office.



TAMU ERS CONFERENCE WASTE MANAGEMENT & SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

TASYA NASOTIEN | \$688



Purchase reusable tote bags for the Texas A&M University Energy Research Society Conference on Energy. The goal of this project was to reduce the number of plastic bags at the event and encourage attendees to reuse them personally after the event.

TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS GROUNDS – WATER REDUCTION INITIATIVE

LAUREN LICHTERMAN | \$3,352

Install two water sensors and accompanying tracking applications to monitor the moisture on Athletics fields. This will allow the project team to efficiently establish irrigation and maintenance practices. The primary purpose of this project is to assist in the fulfillment of the Campus Sustainability Master Plan, specifically the water efficiency and reduction goals listed under the Built Environment and Site Design section.



TUHF (THE URBAN HOWDY FARM) GREENHOUSE RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS (WITH ENGINEERS SERVING THE COMMUNITY)

JAKE NIX | 466



Install a new source for a future irrigation system for one of TUHF's greenhouses. This new irrigation system will encompass the purchase and installment of new gutters around the greenhouse. These gutters will help collect rainwater into collection tanks that can be used for the greenhouse plants and surrounding garden beds. This project will reduce, if not completely remove, the need to pump water to the current location while saving the farm money that could be allocated to the expansion of sustainable farming practices throughout the BCS area.

TUHF-ICS (THE URBAN HOWDY FARM - INNER CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY)

LISETTE TEMPLIN AND SARA MCCOY | \$3,000

Build upon The Urban Howdy Farm's mission of "grow to serve" by expanding the physical health initiative to include mental health by adding practices of meditation for emotional and spiritual health. The goals of this project include spreading a health and happiness message through a meditation technique called the "Safety Breath" to students and staff of the Department of Residence Life and then initiating a campus-wide movement of meditation and holistic health.



WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION

MICHELLE BUNCH | \$3,500



Install a water filling station on the first floor of Harrington Tower in the lobby/hallway area. The goal is to promote sustainable practices, reduce plastic bottles in landfills, and save money from the purchase of bottled water. This will provide faculty, staff, and the multitude of students that access Harrington Tower daily the ability to consume the recommended amount of water every day in a convenient way.

WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION FOR HRBB FIRST FLOOR

JEPPESEN FELICIANO | \$2,927

Provide hundreds of students, faculty, and staff who work in the Harvey R. Bright Building with a new water bottle filling station to supply clean, filtered, cold water and encourage users to reuse water bottles and reduce plastic waste.



WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING

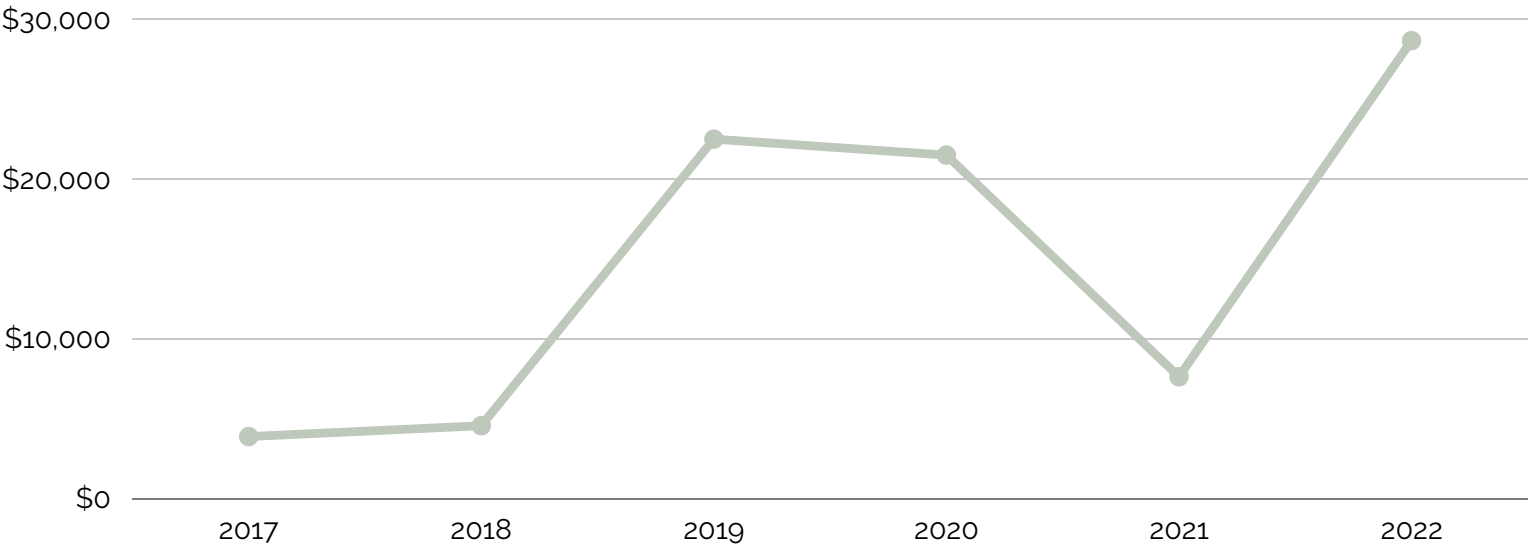
KURT FELPEL AND SARAH ZUBAIRY | \$3,500



Replace the current water fountain in the Social Sciences building with a water bottle filling station. This building is not near any cafes or dining services and having access to clean, cold water is a very convenient addition to the building. The bottle filling station would serve a large population of students, faculty, and staff in the building. The department is also home to the Economics Research Laboratory which holds experiments, using undergraduate student volunteers, an average of six times a week.

MICRO GRANTS

DOLLARS AWARDED BY YEAR

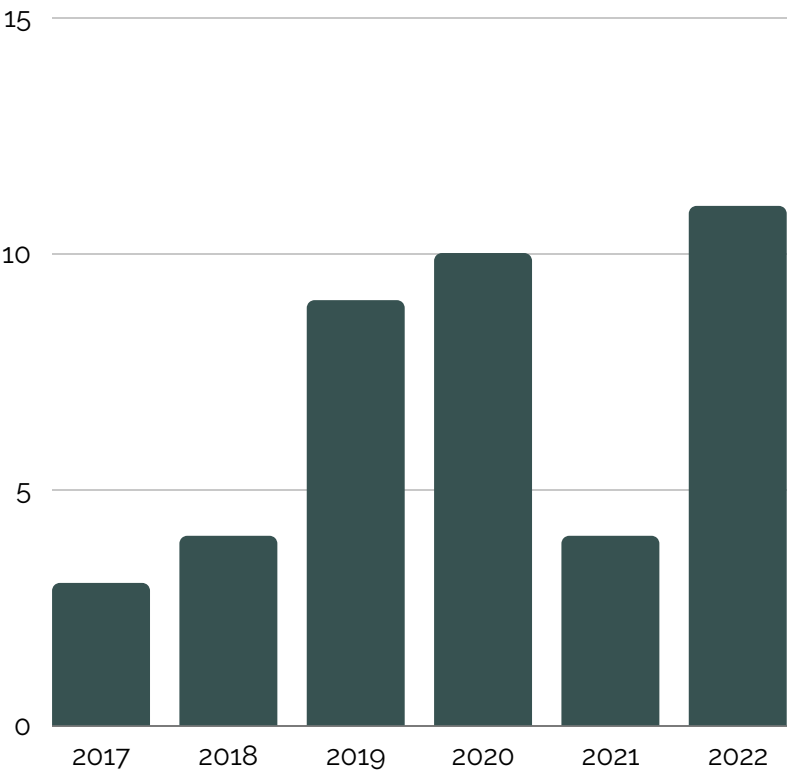


2022 was a record setting year for Micro-Grants.

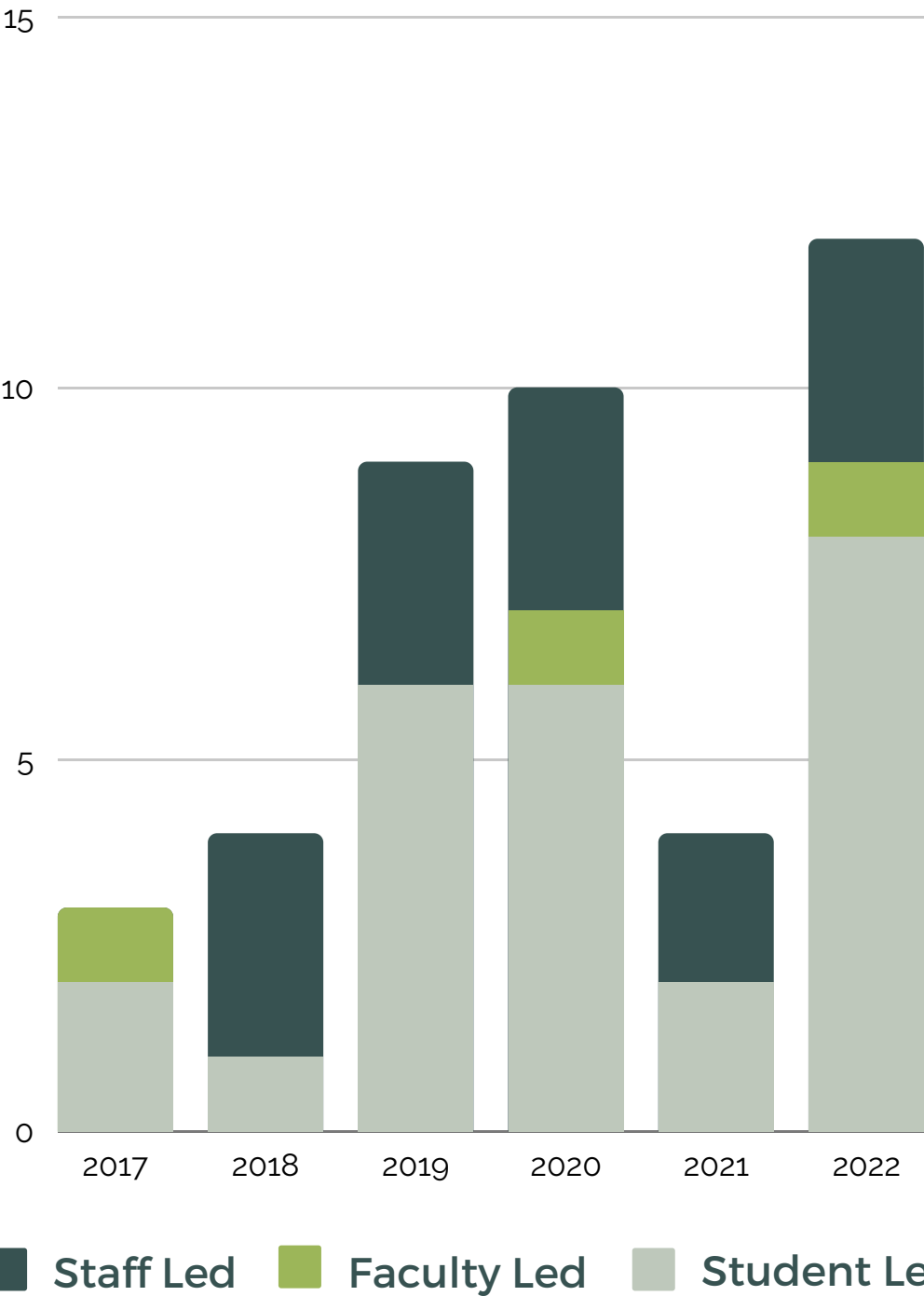
The graph above shows the distribution of grant money for Micro-Grants since 2017. Over \$28,000 were granted to projects in 2022, the highest amount to date.

The graph to the right shows the number of projects funded since 2017. Twelve projects were approved by the committee, but eleven were funded which is the highest number of grants awarded in a given year.

OF PROJECTS AWARDED BY YEAR



MICRO GRANTS



Since the 2017 pilot year for Micro-Grants, we have observed that students are more likely to apply for these quicker to receive and complete smaller scale projects. This makes sense as students cannot usually commit two-three years to a project unless they start very early in their career.

The number of staff grants remains consistent.

An area both Major and Micro-Grants do not succeed in attracting applicants from is Faculty. In six years of Micro Grants, only three have been completed by a Faculty member. This is likely due to research being ineligible for AGF dollars.

GET INVOLVED

APPLY FOR A MAJOR GRANT

- October 3, 2022 - Abstracts Open
- November 4, 2022 Abstracts Close
- December 2, 2022 - Abstract Approvals Announced | Application Opens
- February 1, 2023 - Application Closes
- March 1, 2023 - Major Grant Recipients Announced

Apply at greenfund.tamu.edu/majorgrant.html

APPLY FOR A MICRO GRANT

- September 15, 2022 - Applications Open
- March 1, 2023 - Applications Close

Apply at greenfund.tamu.edu/microgrant.html

SERVE ON THE AGGIE GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Applications to serve on the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee will open February 2023 on greenfund.tamu.edu/getinvolved.html

BE A LIAISON

Represent your department and be a resource to potential applicants interested in applying. Email greenfund@tamu.edu for information.



WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Big changes are coming for the 2022-2023 school year.

After being approached about a potential project to help accessibility on campus for a student, the Aggie Green Fund recommended pursuing the application if the applicant could determine ways to highlight the environmental impacts.

Though there were some environmental impacts, the project was largely social sustainability focused. A sustainability project through and through, but because they could not demonstrate more environmental impacts, they did not submit. Thankfully, they were able to find alternate funding for their project and it sparked an idea for a scope shift in the Aggie Green Fund.

The Office of Sustainability evaluated other collegiate green funds and how they incorporate social sustainability. Hundreds of colleges and university programs were evaluated and information was compiled to share with the committee.

In April of 2022, the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee voted to expand the scope of the Aggie Green Fund. Instead of funding solely environmental projects, the Aggie Green Fund will fund holistic sustainability projects going forward. Texas A&M University will be one of just a few whose program works to improve all areas of sustainability across campus.



Texas A&M University defines sustainability as the efficient, deliberate, and responsible preservation of environmental, social, and economic resources to protect our earth for future generations of Texas Aggies, the Texas A&M University community and beyond.