

UNIVERSITY
AGGIE GREEN FUND
ANNUAL
REPORT
—
2023



AGGIE GREEN FUND

The Aggie Green Fund is a grant-making organization for sustainability projects at Texas A&M College Station campus, Texas A&M Higher Education Center at McAllen, and Texas A&M University School of Law.

It offers Major Grants on an annual basis and Micro-Grants on a rolling basis to empower students, faculty, and staff to take action and bring creative sustainability improvements to our campus.

Since its launch in 2011, the Aggie Green Fund has awarded approximately \$2.6 million to over 100 Major and Micro Grant projects.

The Aggie Green Fund is administered by an advisory committee. To represent the breadth of the campus community, the committee is comprised of up to five students and three faculty/staff representatives, with Office of Sustainability staff serving in an advisory capacity. Members of the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee are reviewed and selected by a variety of campus leaders.



THANK YOU

2022 - 2023 AGGIE GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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CHAIR



**EMILY
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INFORMATION
CHAIR



**SYDNEY
FERRIS**
MARKETING
CHAIR



**MADDIE
FARRELL**
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**AVANTIKA
HARAN**
PROJECT
ANALYSIS



**LEDRIC
SHERMAN**
FACULTY
REPRESENTATIVE



**CAROL
GOLDSMITH**
STAFF
REPRESENTATIVE



**NATHAN
JONES**
STAFF
REPRESENTATIVE

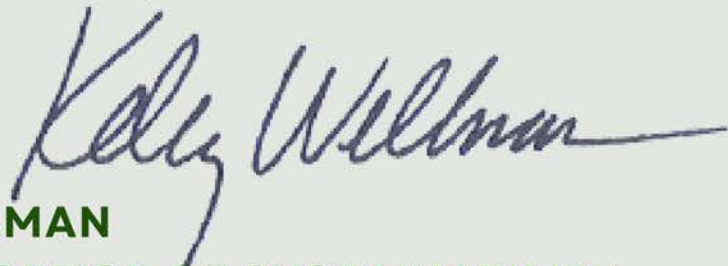


FROM THE DIRECTOR

Watching the Aggie Green Fund grow and evolve over the past 11 years has been a highlight of my time with Texas A&M. The commitment that students, faculty, and staff exhibit to improve the resilience and efficiency of campus always reminds me why sustainability is such an important field.

Aggies are the heart and soul of the AGF. This year we had another outstanding group of students who assumed leadership of the program while implementing significant programmatic changes. Our student chairs are the pure energy that drive the program. In addition to awarding grants, this small but mighty team could be found tabling and recruiting across campus, designing marketing strategies, managing social media, holding sessions with potential applicants, and reviewing performance of past projects. Their excitement and energy make the Aggie Green Fund possible.

If Aggies are the energy of the AGF, Jesse Carswell has been the high-performance engine that powers their efforts. Jesse serves as the AGF Committee Advisor. As part of that role, she administers the online grant management system that receives, approves, and follows grants from inception to closure. She has been the glue and guiding star that continues refining AGF into a well-oiled machine. We have been fortunate to have Jesse as a team member for the past three years. She is setting off on a grand new adventure and we will miss her creativity, drive for improvement, and passion for this work. Thank you, Jesse, for this final, final annual report and for setting such a high bar for everyone around you!



KELLY WELLMAN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



FROM THE ADVISOR



Leading the Aggie Green Fund has been such an amazing opportunity in and of itself, but leading it through the scope change and fully embracing sustainability in this program has been so rewarding.

It was a year of unknowns as we tried to determine how to measure seemingly intangible metrics, changing every single document and portal in our system, and hope that what we were trying to do was clear to campus. With several grants being socially sustainability focused and others including social elements, I'd consider it a successful start!

I want to extend the biggest thank yous to Anahid Akbaryan, Emily Scofield, Maddie Farrell, Sydney Ferris, and Avantika Haran for their hard work this year. Not only did they face navigating the new scope shift, but they also did it with their advisor going on maternity leave for the spring semester. Their dedication, willingness to lead, creativity, and passion made this year so memorable. I always want to say a huge thank you to Kelly for stepping into the advisor role during my absence!

I'm so proud of the work that this program does and the change it makes. Every person who submits a grant does so because they want to see change and that is the attitude everyone should have regarding sustainability. The Aggie Green Fund still has work to do, but the direction it is heading is so exciting. I can't wait to see how this program changes sustainability on this campus.



JESSE CARSWELL
SUSTAINABILITY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR,
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

MAJOR GRANTS

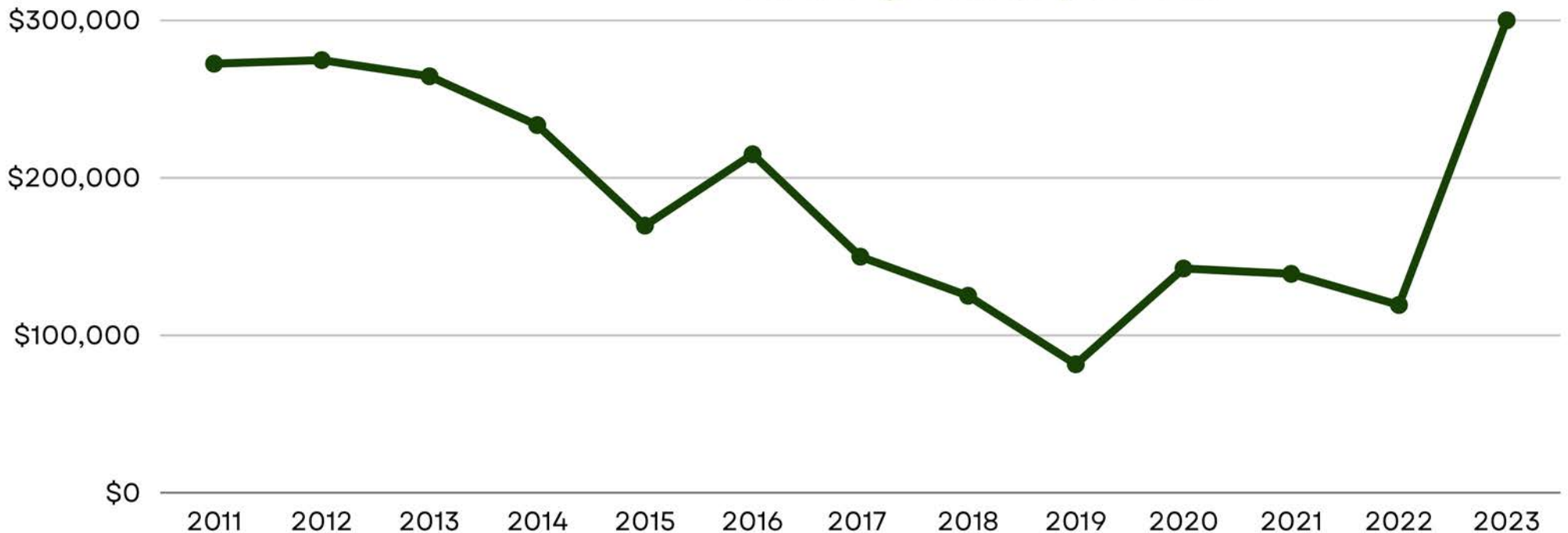
\$300,938

Major-Grants are projects that meet 1 or more of the following criteria:

- Budget is more than \$3,500
- Timeline is more than 6 months
- Project requires Campus Planning, Design, and Construction / University Architect Approval

worth of Major Grant projects funded in FY2023.

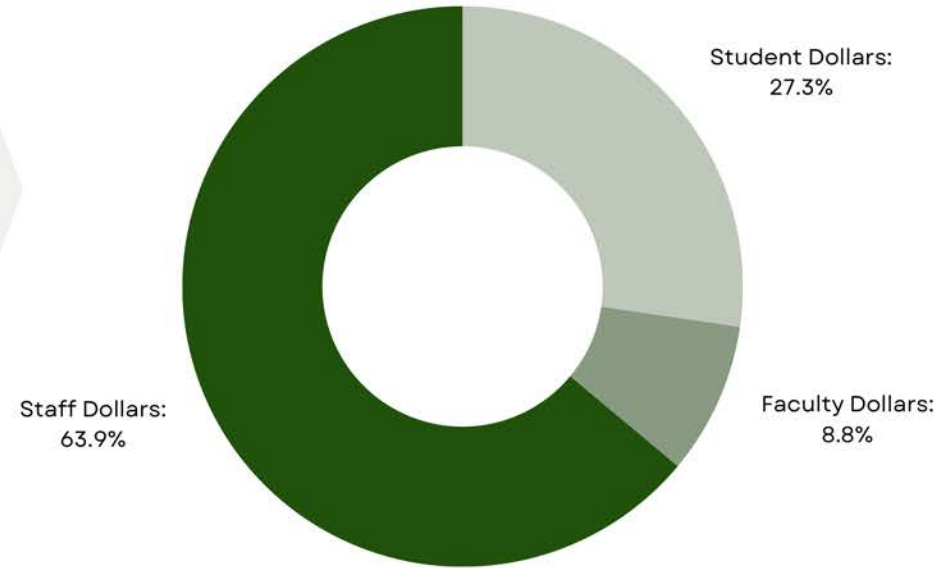
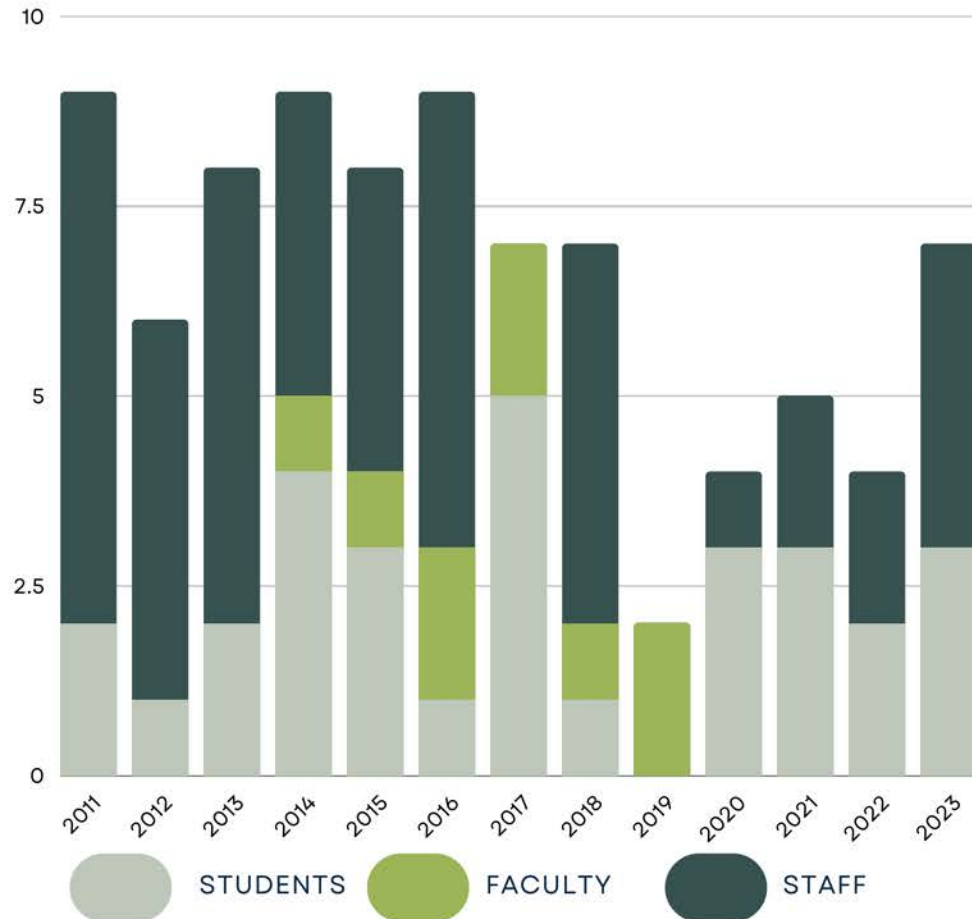
FY2023 was a record-breaking year for Major Grants. Since the COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of projects in recent years, there was a surplus of funds carried over into this fiscal year. With the quality of applications submitted, AGF decided to award as many feasible grants as possible.



MAJOR GRANTS

\$2,488,006

total Aggie Green Fund Major Grant dollars.



The pie chart above shows the distribution of funds across different campus members for the total Aggie Green Fund Major Grant awards. 63.9% are staff dollars with (\$1,398,011.51), 27.3% are student dollars with (\$597,356.09), and 8.8% are faculty dollars with (\$191,701.00).

The bar graph to the left shows the number of projects with the breakdown of faculty, staff, and students as the primary contact. Prior to FY2023, the number of projects were declining. This was likely due to Micro-Grant being more accessible and quicker to receive. This year was the exception due to the surplus of funds.

Of the seven Major Grants awarded, four were primarily led by staff members and three were primarily led by students.

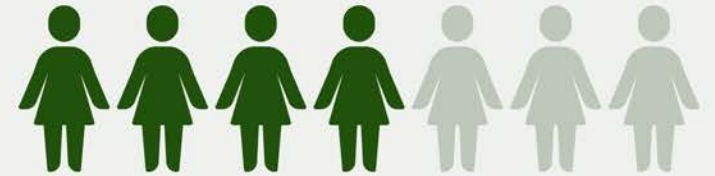
These campus members were from Utilities and Energy Services, Residence Life, Global Education, the Rudder Theatre Complex Lighting Team, Rudder Tower, Human Environment Animal Team, and University Libraries.

This trend of being the majority of projects funded being led by students and staff is not new to the Aggie Green Fund. In the four years, no faculty have submitted a Major Grant.

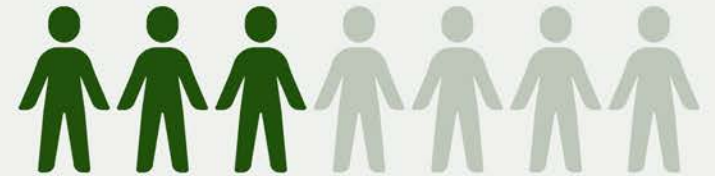
This is likely due to Aggie Green Fund monies being ineligible for research.

CAMPUS BREAKDOWN

STAFF



STUDENT



FACULTY



FROM A GRANTEE

"The Aggie Green Fund enabled our department to significantly increase the accessibility to recycle in Rudder Tower! Our expectation is that through the purchase of more recycling units we will be able to decrease the amount of waste our facilities are sending to the landfill and promote a sustainable mindset with the thousands of visitors we interact with on an annual basis."

WILL BEATY
MANAGER OPERATIONS & EVENTS
MAJOR GRANT RECIPIENT

DIGITAL RESOURCES
FOR EQUITABLE
INTERNATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES
\$86,441 | CALEB
CHAPMAN & DR. HOLLY
HUDSON



Create digital resources for international opportunities to combat the lack of study abroad printed materials created from the pandemic. This project's overall purpose is to increase participation in study abroad from underrepresented student groups, create a better acclimation process for international students, and work to develop highly accessible resources for students without creating waste and to be an industry leader in providing these types of resources.



HAND DRYERS IN EVANS
\$21,402 | EMILY WONG, LEXIE HUTSON, JIM SMITH, SUSIE GOODWIN, & ADAM LAWS

Install Dyson Airblade hand dryers in Evans Library bathrooms. Hand dryers prevent the need for excessive use of paper towels, especially since Evans is such a high-trafficked building on campus. This project will encourage the campus community to choose a more sustainable option compared to paper towels.

MENSTRUAL PRODUCT DISPENSERS

\$7,600 | JENNY FOSLI

WITH

HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ANIMAL TEAM



Install Aunt Flow steel menstrual product dispensers in Evans and the Annex. The main goal for this project is to help Aggies who are in need of menstrual products. It is estimated that around 1 in 10 college students who need menstrual products cannot afford them. Aunt Flow creates menstrual products that are made with 100% organic cotton and are plastic free, making them a more sustainable alternative to the standard pads and tampons.



PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANSION \$23,792 | TAYLOR COOLEEN

Expand the TRES plastic film recycling program that was started in 2018. As of August 2022, the program has diverted 5,200 lbs of plastic film from its five locations. The goal of this project is to expand the current locations across campus. This project will address the environmental aspect of sustainability by using recycled materials in production, which saves natural resources and energy, and reducing waste sent to landfills.

RUDDER TOWER RECYCLING \$33,085 | WILL BEATY



Install recycling bins in Rudder Tower. The overall goal is to increase recycling in Rudder Tower which serves as a multipurpose hub for event planning and hosting. This project contributes to environmental sustainability as increasing recycling serves the effort of diverting waste from landfills which contribute to pollution. The increase in recycling units will also show the university's commitment to a better future through recycling.



RESIDENCE HALL RECYCLING BINS

\$18,233 |
MK FUTRELL

Expand the accessibility of recycling in residence halls by providing stainless steel, 3 stream receptacle recycling bins for Moses, Underwood, FHK, Lechner, and McFadden. This project intersects personal and environmental sustainability awareness. This project is to help further student contributions to effective waste management for the TAMU community.

RTC PAR 64 LED CONVERSION

\$110,382 |
MARIA CROWELL,
KRISSIE DAY, JACIE
OLTJENDIERS, & DEREK
SHEPHERD



Replace the incandescent lamps currently used in the PAR 64 fixtures in Rudder Auditorium for LED lamps. The LEDs will use considerably less electricity; possibly as much as 90%. The direct impact is the reduction in cost of electricity, which is environmentally and economically beneficial. The indirect impact is the benefit to students and the community who utilize the auditorium.

MICRO GRANTS

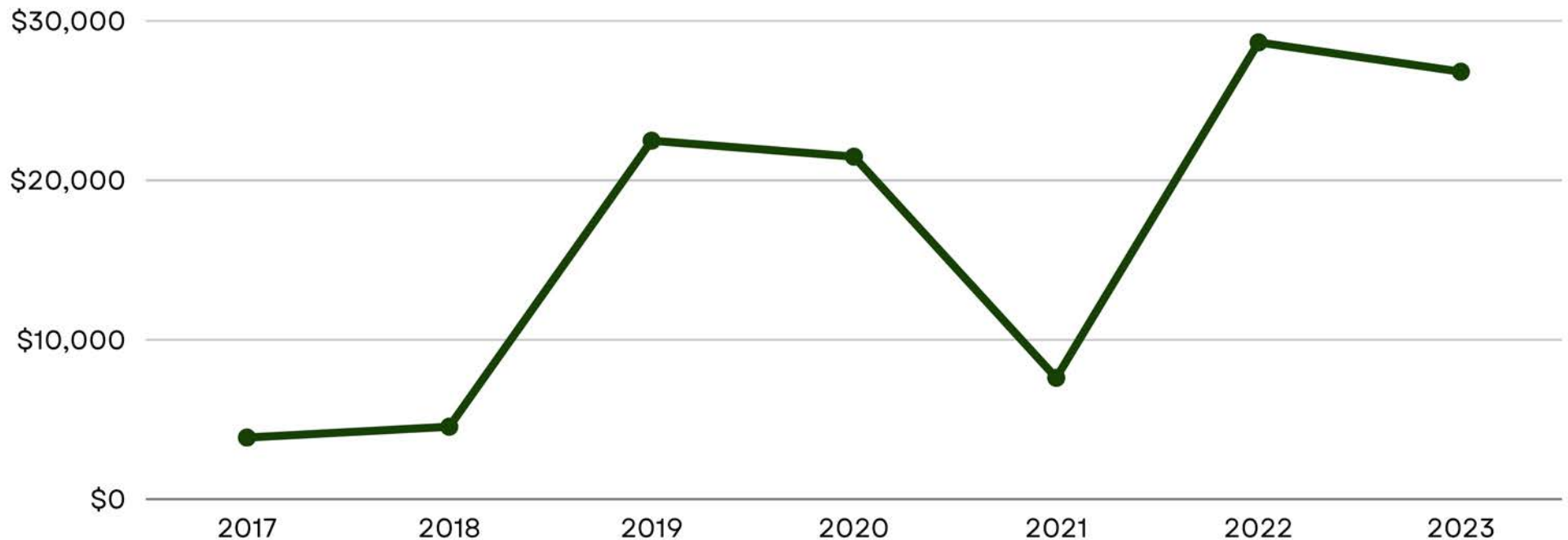
\$26,814.83

worth of Micro Grant projects funded in FY2023.

Micro-Grants are projects that meet the following criteria:

- Budget is less than \$3,500
- Timeline is less than 6 months
- Project must not require Campus Planning, Design, and Construction / University Architect Approval

In FY2023, we saw a slight decrease in the number of grant dollars going to Micro Grants from the previous cycle. However, this year's numbers are still above the \$20,000 threshold set for Micro-Grants each year.



MICRO GRANTS

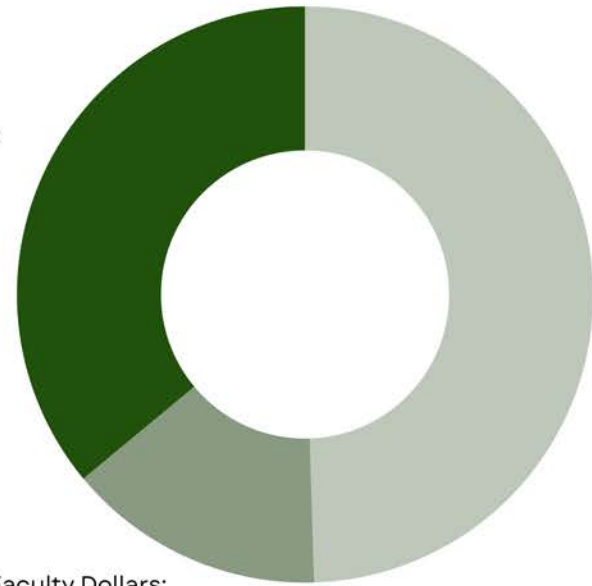
\$115,509

total Aggie Green Fund Micro Grant dollars.

Staff Dollars:
36%

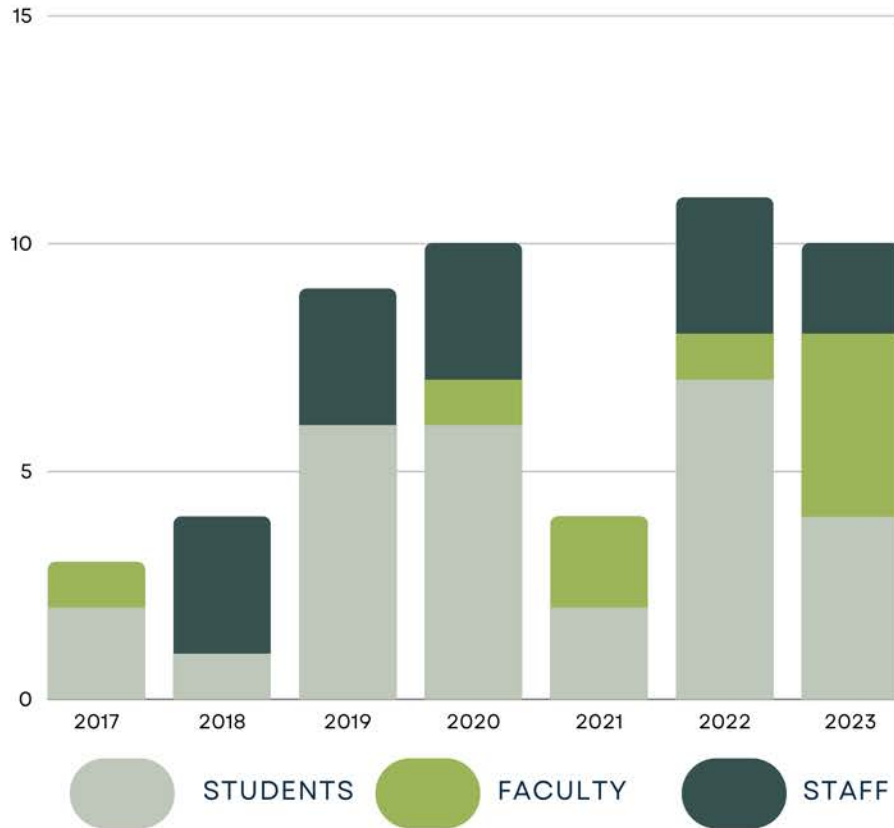
Student Dollars:
49.5%

Faculty Dollars:
14.5%



The pie chart above shows the breakdown of funds across different members of campus for the total Micro Grant dollars. 36% is staff with \$40,842.35, 14.5% is faculty with \$16,405.31 and 49.5% is students with \$56,118.10 of the total funds.

The bar graph to the left shows the number of projects with the breakdown of faculty, staff, and students as the primary contact. The number of projects has remained similar over the last two grant cycles with 10 or more grants. We consistently observe that the major of the grantees are students. This demonstrates that the Micro Grant program successfully appeals to students.



Of 10 Micro-Grants awarded, two were from staff members, four were from faculty members, and four were from students. These campus members represented the Women's Resource Center, Office of Registrar, Winnie Carter Wildlife Center, Education Abroad, Anthropology Department, Geography Department, Communications and Journalism Departments, Sociology Department, and Health and Kinesiology Department.

This was an interesting change from past trends where faculty is usually the lowest category of grantees. This is likely due to research being ineligible for AGF dollars.

This year, strategic marketing was aimed at classroom presentations which could be where the faculty increase came from.

CAMPUS BREAKDOWN

STAFF



STUDENT



FACULTY



FROM A GRANTEE

"Our Education Abroad team was so excited to hear about being awarded the grant and the opportunity for the staff to use the multiple Rocketbook products we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. It is also a great way to kick off the sustainability project Education Abroad is participating in alongside Global Engagement and International Student and Scholar Services. The Aggie Green Fund team was team was great to work with [and was] very responsive to questions. We are excited to reduce our dependence on paper products and are hopeful this sparks a sustainable mindset for our employees and inspire new sustainability ideas."

MELANIE GLEES ROGERS
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR II
MICRO-GRANT RECIPIENT



**AGGIES
CULTIVATING
FOOD SECURITY**
\$2,156 | CAROLINE
KEEGAN



Support engaged student learning, community ties, and outreach through sustainable agriculture and food security engagement. Students will work to cultivate herbs and vegetables to learn about local food systems, seed saving, and food justice. Educational materials and produce was distributed to immigrant families in partnership with the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN).



**ANTHROPOLOGY
DEPARTMENT WATER
FOUNTAIN
REPLACEMENT**
\$3,500 |
**JORDAN FRANKLIN
GARZA**

Install a bottle filling water station on the first floor of the Anthropology building, where there are many labs, offices, and classrooms and frequented by faculty, staff, students, graduate students, and visitors. A fountain will provide a more accessible, better and cleaner option for water, and encourage the use of reusable containers, working to achieve our common goal of reducing waste.

**CONTAINER GARDENING
WITH SOCIETS:
DEVELOPING
SUSTAINABLE FOOD
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
STUDENTS**



\$1,100 | SARA GATSON



Supports the premise that everyone should have food security by providing container gardens. Container gardening is the most convenient form of gardening for college students because it is versatile, mobile, easily accessible, and a great option for beginners and experts.

FROM A GRANTEE

"I am excited to use the Aggie Green Fund to enhance the student experience and make a positive impact on our campus by providing accessible recycling bins in an undergraduate dorm. Our course focused on fostering and persuading sustainable habits among college students, and the AGF allowed us to do so with real world application. I love that the AGF grant recognizes the importance of empowering students to lead positive change. Our experience working with the AGF Office was exceptional. The team offered guest lectures on sustainable practices, provided opportunities for student leadership to present ways to increase the chances of success, answered questions quickly, helped with the grant-writing process, and made the experience quite rewarding. My students are over the moon with excitement that they are making a difference on campus."

DAVID TARVIN, PH.D.
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR II
MICRO-GRANT RECIPIENT

EDUCATION ABROAD –
REUSABLE NOTEBOOKS
AND NOTE CARDS
\$3,498 |
MELANIE ROGERS



Minimize overall use of paper products in the Education Abroad office by providing staff with Rocketbook products. Rocketbook products are reusable notebooks and reusable cloud cards. This is a step towards Education Abroad's large-scale project to incorporate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within their office and programming abroad.



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR REUSABLE NOTEBOOKS (REGIBOOK)
\$3,251 | SNOW HAVLIK

Provide Office of the Registrar staff with reusable notebooks with pages designed specifically to help with organization and ease of taking meeting and training notes. This will allow for identification of several key paper use areas that can be reduced while also being beneficial in day-to-day activities. The purpose is to further decrease the amount of paper used by the office, whether that be notepads, notebooks, sticky notes, or copy jobs- which will also reduce the energy used for printing.

PROVIDE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER WITH MENSTRUAL CUPS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK
\$2,816 | CASSANDRA PODNAR



Provide menstrual cups to TAMU's Women's Resource Center to be distributed freely to students on the basis of need. The goal of this project is to create an accessible supply of menstrual cups on campus will potentially prevent thousands of disposable products from ending up in landfills., encourage their use, and help circumvent future financial and environmental costs from disposable menstrual products.



RECYCLING BINS FOR UNDERWOOD HALL \$3,024 | DAVID TARVIN

Provide recycling bins for the Underwood Residence Hall. Students are more likely to recycle with the bins in a convenient location. An increase in recycling will be achieved by making recycling more accessible. Resident Advisors will also be provided with informational pamphlets to present during hall meetings that cover the importance of sustainability.

FROM A GRANTEE

"The Aggie Green Fund is a crucial and much needed corner-stone puzzle piece to promote, educate, and implement knowledge on the potential of sustainable communities.

Because of the sustained support of AGF, our urban farming project is growing our capacity to offer a place for students to experience holistic means of relaxation through food growing as well as destressing through mindfulness practices."

LISETTE TEMPLIN
INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
MICRO-GRANT RECIPIENT



**TUFU AGGIES
MEDITATE
\$2,630 |
LISETTE
TEMPLIN**

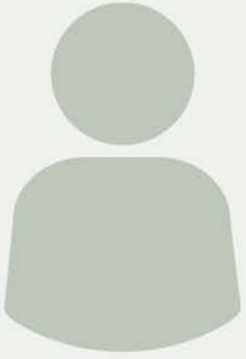
Address factors surrounding the expanding crisis of secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout among Texas A&M members. This program will overcome the pervasive sense of isolation and anxiety. By facilitating a safe and welcoming environment, the project team will overcome traditional academic barriers of rank, siloed affiliation, and preconceived notions about the power of improving one's self through the support of one's peers.

**WINNIE CARTER
WILDLIFE CENTER
WATER FILLING
STATION
\$3,470 |
DALILAH GUERRA**



Install a water fountain and bottle filling station at the Winnie Carter Wildlife Center. Installing a water fountain and bottle filling station would ensure proper student access to clean drinking water and would promote sustainability measures by encouraging students to bring reusable water bottles to fill for use throughout their shifts. The goal is to reduce plastic waste by encouraging the use of reusable water bottles.

SUSTAINABILITY



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.

In FY2022, the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee voted to shift the scope of the Aggie Green Fund from funding environmental projects to funding true sustainability projects to align with this definition to begin with the FY2023 cycle.

In its first year, campus submitted several projects that address aspects of social and economic sustainability. We hope that this continues to inspire all areas of sustainable change on campus.

Major Grants:

- Digital Resources for Equitable International Opportunities
- Menstrual Product Dispensers

Micro-Grants:

- Provide Women's Resource Center with Menstrual Cups
- Aggie Cultivating Food Security
- Aggies Meditate
- Container Gardening with SociEats

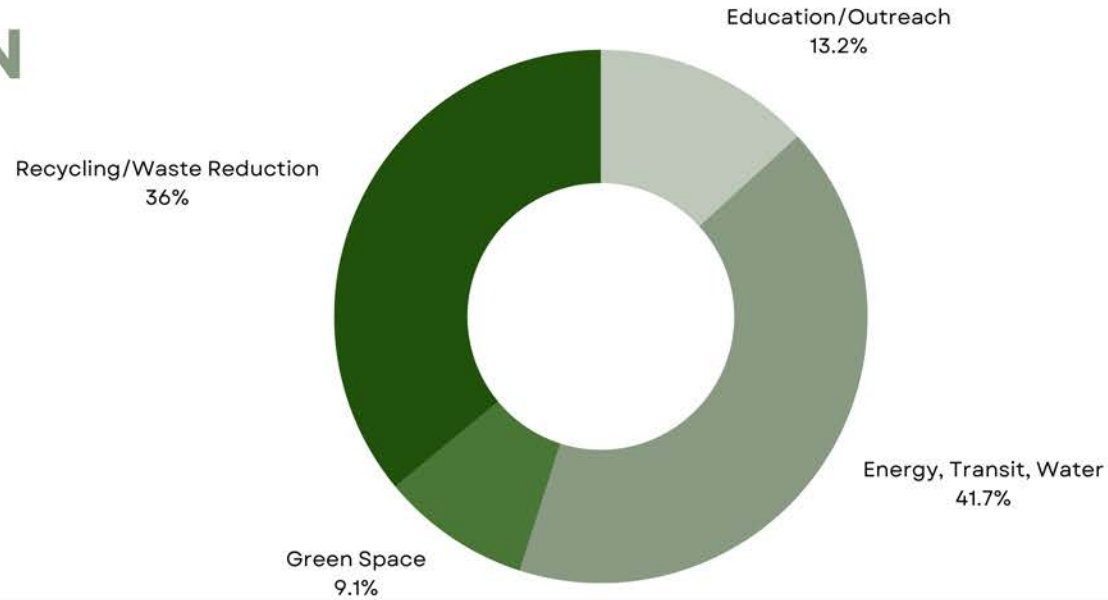
SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Prior to the scope shift, the project categories were:

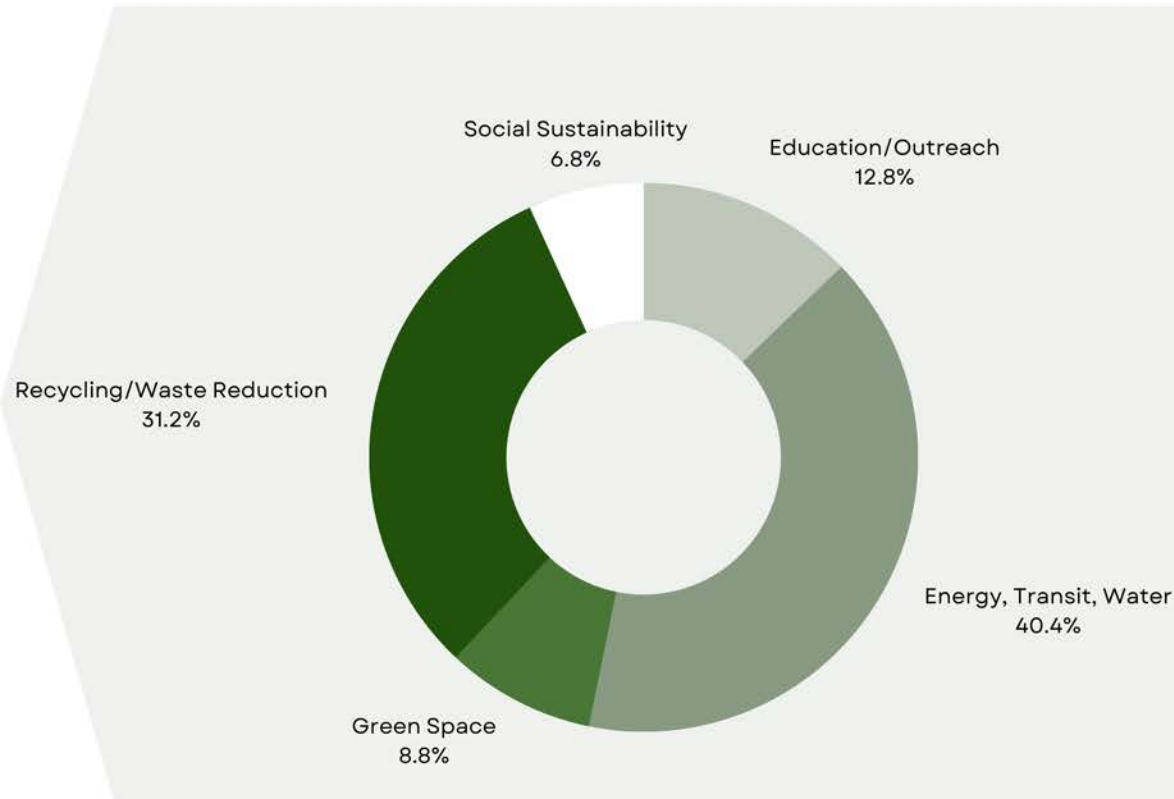
- Education and Outreach
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Energy, Transit, Water
- Green Space

The total Major Grant Breakdown is reflected on the pie chart to the right.



With the addition of a Social Sustainability category, the new percentages of Major Grants are shown to the left.

The largest difference is the decrease in funds going towards Recycling and Waste Reduction. The Digital Resources for Equitable International Opportunities and Menstrual Product Dispensers would've been classified as waste reduction initiatives before.



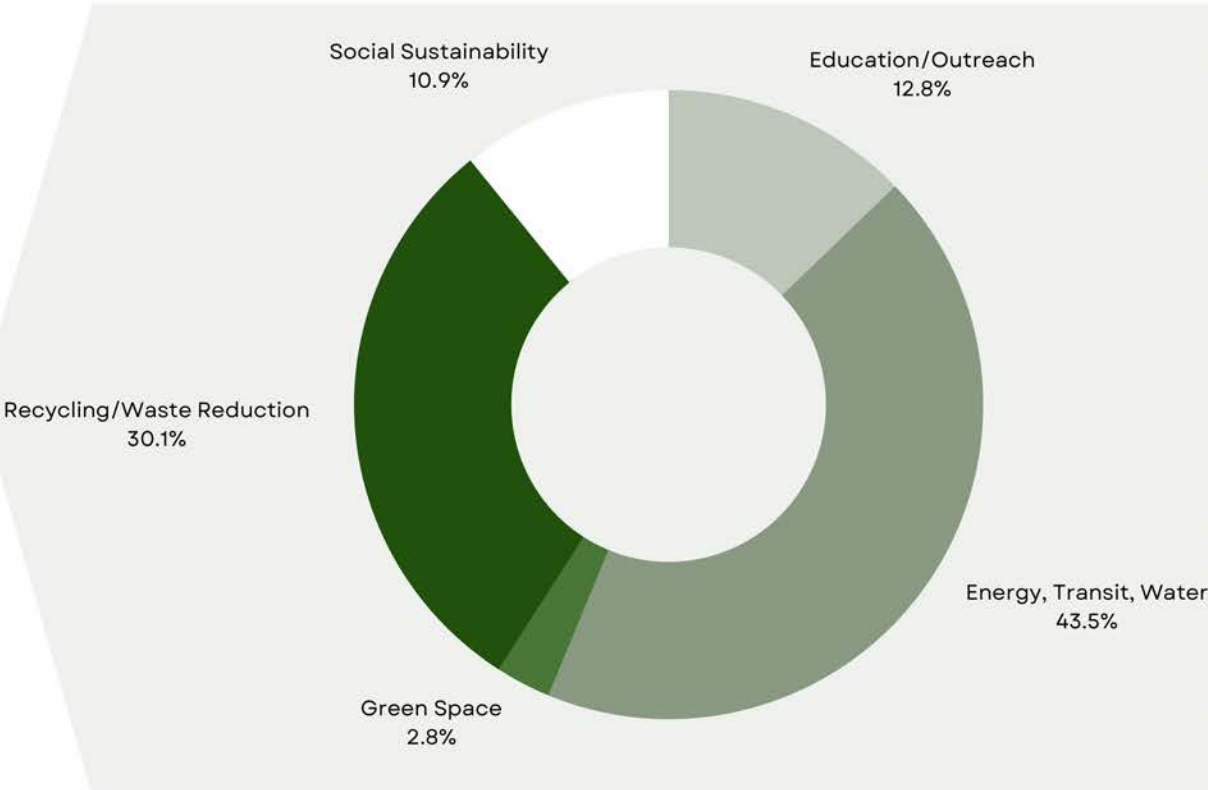
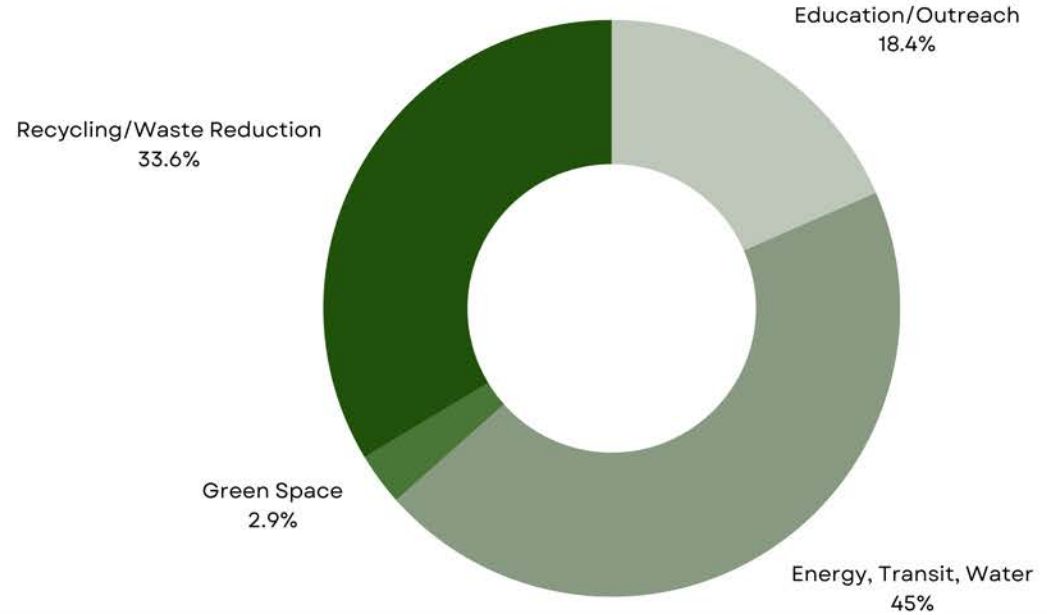
SUSTAINABILITY

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Prior to the scope shift, the project categories were:

- Education and Outreach
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Energy, Transit, Water
- Green Space

The total Micro-Grant Breakdown is reflected on the pie chart to the right.



With the addition of a Social Sustainability category, the new percentages of Micro Grants are shown to the left.

The largest difference is the decrease in funds going towards Education and Outreach. Four grants this cycle and two grants from the last cycle would have been classified as education initiatives without the Social Sustainability addition.

GET INVOLVED

APPLY FOR A MAJOR GRANT:

- **October 2, 2023** - Abstract Submission Opens
- **November 3, 2023** - Abstract Submission Closes
- **December 4, 2023** - Abstract Approvals Announced / Full Application Submission Opens
- **February 1, 2024** - Full Application Submission Closes
- **March 1, 2024** - Major Grant Recipients Announced

APPLY FOR A MICRO GRANT:

- **September 15, 2023** - Micro-Grants Open
- **March 1, 2024** - Micro-Grants Close (on a rolling basis)

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.

REQUEST AN INFORMATIONAL

If you are interested in having the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee present to your classroom, office, or student organization, please email greenfund@tamu.edu.



CONTACT US



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