



# AGGIE GREEN FUND

FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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## **Office of Sustainability Team**

Kelly Wellman, Director

Benjamin Kalscheur, Assistant Manager

Jesse Carswell, Operations Coordinator

Mamoon Masud, Graduate Assistant

Kim An Tran, Sustainability Technician

Nick Balleto, Sustainability Analyst

Paige Wirth, Sustainability Educator

## **Campus Leadership**

Karen Bigley, Director of Division Communications

Eric Mendoza, 2020-2021 Student Body President

Jane Schneider, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Operations

Ashley Skow, Administrative Coordinator

Jerry Strawser, Professor and KPMG Chair in Accounting

## **Campaign & Campus Partners**

Council for the Built Environment

Environmental Health and Safety

Howdy! Farms

Residence Life

Sustainability Environmental Management Committee

TAMU Urban Farm United

Texas A&M Athletics

Transportation Services

University Dining

Utilities and Energy Services

# FROM OUR DIRECTOR

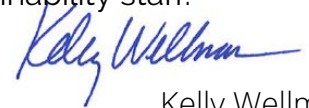
This was a special year for the Aggie Green Fund (AGF). Not only did our student-led AGF Advisory Committee thrive during a COVID-induced virtual academic year, it also marked the 10th anniversary of grant awards to support campus environmental initiatives.

Upon reflection, I fondly recall the passion, dedication, and vision demonstrated by the early leaders who united their student organizations to develop, market, and pass the 2010 student referendum which ultimately established the AGF. Those student leaders made known the need for environmental responsibility and laid the foundation for Aggies to continue the journey toward a more sustainable campus.

Since inception, 53 undergraduate and graduate students and 13 faculty and staff have awarded over \$2.1 million dollars for projects to increase Aggieland's environmental stewardship. The faculty and staff frequently serve in a mentoring capacity and supporting leadership role, while the student members shoulder the greatest responsibility.

It is truly an honor to work alongside the Advisory Committee as they strengthen the AGF through continuous improvements to our recruitment and application processes.

Over the past year, the student chairs met the challenges presented by COVID head on. Their resiliency helped us refine and improve our engagement with the student body through virtual sessions. Their efforts resulted in nine major and micro-grant projects receiving awards. Working with the Aggie Green Fund will always be a highlight in my role as sustainability staff.



Kelly Wellman



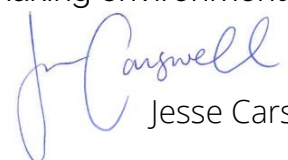
# FROM OUR ADVISOR

It has been almost a year since I have joined the Office of Sustainability and became the Aggie Green Fund's advisor. Even in this short time, I am filled with great pride at being able to help lead this effective and impactful organization.

Throughout this year, we were challenged with a new grant management software, a new advisor learning the

ropes during the grant cycle, and of course, a pandemic. Many projects had to be postponed until buildings could be accessed or materials were available again. We took advantage of the virtual space we were in and saw more attendance at informationals than before. We remained flexible and persevered during uncertain times and I like to think we came out stronger. We are excited about some changes made to the process that will provide clearer expectations, easier ways to monitor progress and impact of projects, and ensure better customer service.

I am especially thankful for the leadership of Mike McGill, Thomas Jistel, Faiza Hasan, and Ana Lara as student representatives. Without them, the accomplishments we saw this year would not have happened. I look forward to the next year and many to come making environmental differences through this organization.



Jesse Carswell



# FY 2021 AGGIE GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Student Representatives



Mike McGill  
Graduate, Genetics  
**Chair**



Ana Lara  
Undergraduate, Industrial Engineering  
**Project Analysis Chair**



Faiza Hasan  
Undergraduate, Environmental Geoscience  
**Marketing Chair**



Thomas Jistel  
Undergraduate, Public Health  
**Information Chair**

## Faculty & Staff Representatives



**Carol Goldsmith**  
Senior Research  
Associate, Institute for  
Science, Technology,  
and Public Policy



**Nathan Jones**  
Assistant Director,  
Utilities and Energy  
Services



**Ledric Sherman**  
Assistant Professor,  
Health and  
Kinesiology

The Aggie Green Fund is a grant-making organization for **environmentally sustainable** projects at Texas A&M University. 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 environmental improvements to our campus.

Since 2011, over **90** projects have received grants of more than **\$2.1 million** in the areas of **Education and Outreach; Energy, Transit, and Water; Green Space; and Recycling and Waste Reduction.**

# MAJOR GRANTS

FY 2021 TOTAL - \$139,020

## ELLER O&M STAIRWELL LIGHTING

Brian Wiederwohl | \$15,518

This project will provide new, more efficient lighting in the Eller O&M Building's stairwells. This will improve appearance, increase energy efficiency, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the safety for building occupants.



"The AGF team is always available to answer any questions I have and has been more than patient with me if I have had a problem or concern. They have been wonderful to take the time to be a guest speaker for members of our Sustainability Living Learning Community to educate them on the AGF, how they can be involved, and how students like them have submitted and received approval for their projects."

Kristianna Bowles, Graduate Assistant for  
Sustainability, Department of Residence Life



## EPPRIGHT HALL WINDOW FILM PILOT

Kristianna Bowles | \$55,682

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**This project will install a film on the windows of Eppright Hall. The film will reduce overall heat within the building resulting in lower cooling costs. It encourages positive emotional health among residents by giving them access to natural light without altering their room temperature.**



## TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS BASELINING

Lauren Lichterman | \$49,299

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**This project will provide funding for a Graduate Assistant to aid the Athletics Department in finalizing sustainability goals, collecting baseline data, and developing an Athletics Sustainability Plan.**

## SOLAR CHARGING STATION

Erin Ingram | \$5,495

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This project will provide a stationary, outdoor table with overhead solar panels. The table will increase the campus' use of renewable energy, lower greenhouse gasses, and educate students about sustainability through community outreach. This project is pending CBE approval.

## HLKN WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

Jessica Padgett | \$13,105

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This project will provide students, staff, and faculty in the Department of Health and Kinesiology water bottle filling stations that will promote sustainable practices, reduce plastic bottles in landfills, save money from the purchase of bottled water, and make it convenient to consume the recommended amount of water every day.





# MICRO GRANTS

FY 2021 TOTAL - \$7,621

## ALL-IN-ONE SOIL SENSOR

Joshua Tharakan | \$410

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This project will create a sensor capable of measuring important environmental parameters such as moisture, light, and temperature in order to monitor and aid in sustainable farming practices at Howdy Farm.



## TRANSIT WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION

Tami Mataga | \$2,842

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This project will install a water bottle filling station in the Transit Services building. This will provide staff, and the 250-300 student Aggie Spirit bus drivers access to convenient and fresh water as well as limit the use of plastic water bottles.





## SMART STRIPS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Jason Vaaler | \$1,025

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This project will provide smart strips to the Scholarships and Financial Aid office. These strips will reduce power usage in individual offices by making it possible to keep primary outlets on and turn off secondary outlets when not needed.



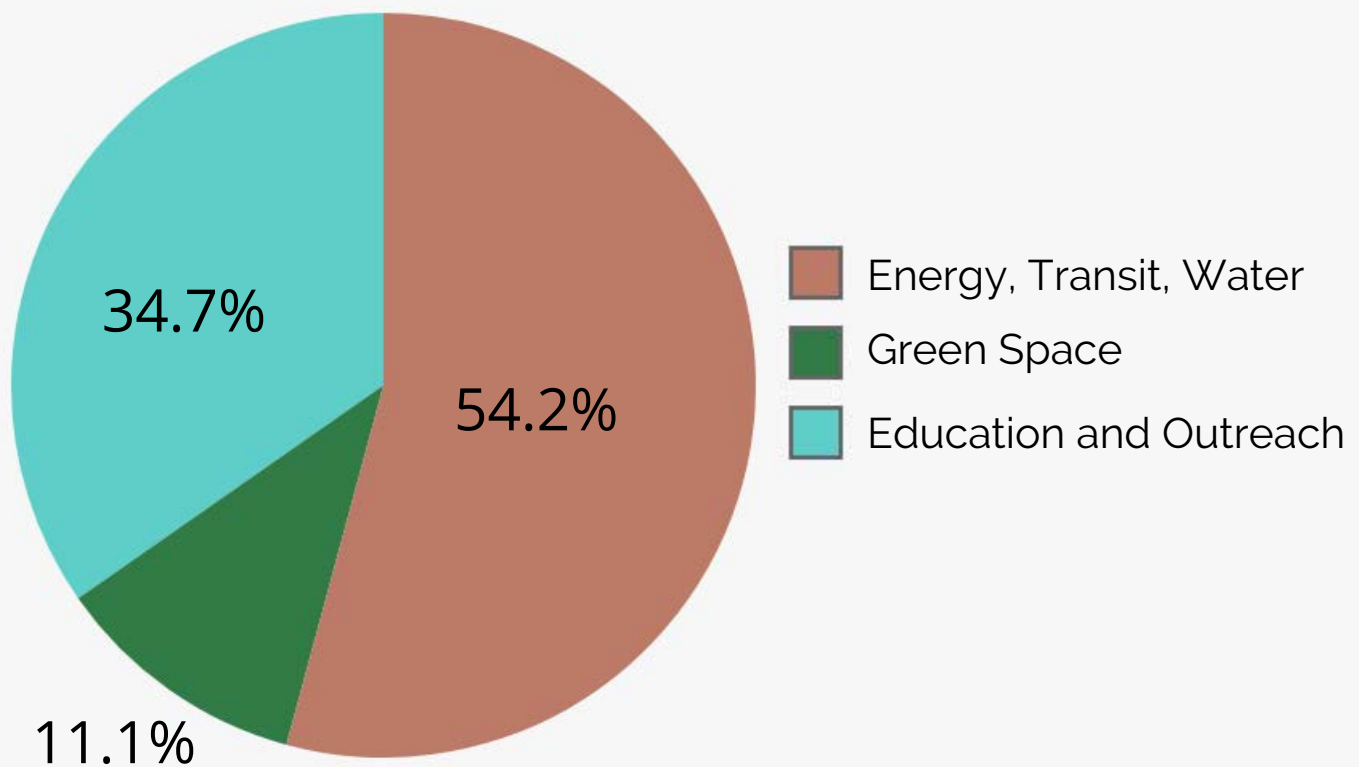
## TAMU URBAN FARM UNITED

Stephon Warren | \$3,345

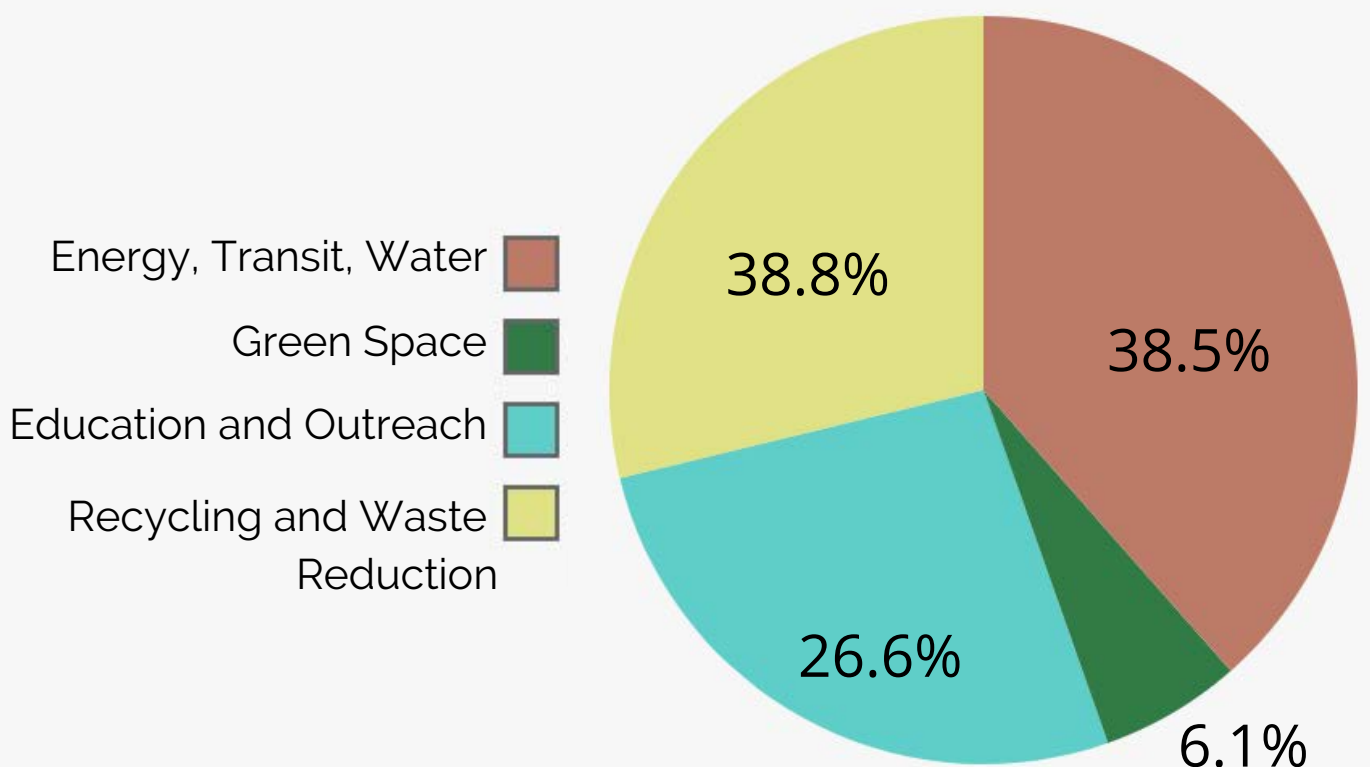
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This project will add four more vertical Tower Gardens, four support cages, and one compost bin to the already successful TAMU Urban Farm United. Adding these items will allow for increased production, production of foods high in Vitamin A and Potassium, and efficiently reuse waste materials for greenhouse use as compost or liquid fertilizer.

# FY 2021 AGGIE GREEN FUND DISBURSEMENT



# AGGIE GREEN FUND DISBURSEMENT SINCE 2011





# GET INVOLVED

## APPLY FOR A MAJOR GRANT

- October 4 - Abstracts Open
- November 4 - Abstracts Close
- November 25 - Abstract Approvals Announced | Full Application Opens
- February 1 - Full Application Closes
- February 22, 2022 - Recipients Announced

Apply at [greenfund.tamu.edu/majorgrant.html](https://greenfund.tamu.edu/majorgrant.html)

## APPLY FOR A MICRO GRANT

- September 15, 2021 - Applications Open
- March 1, 2022 - Applications Close\*

\*Micro Grants are accepted on a rolling basis. Micro Grants decisions will be announced within 30-45 of submission.

Apply at [greenfund.tamu.edu/microgrant.html](https://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 2022 on [greenfund.tamu.edu](https://greenfund.tamu.edu).

## BE A LIAISON

Represent your department and be a resource to potential applicants interested in applying. Email [greenfund@tamu.edu](mailto:greenfund@tamu.edu) for information.