

AGGIE GREEN FUND ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Prepared by
**TEXAS A&M'S
OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
& CAMPUS
ENRICHMENT**

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AGGIE GREEN FUND OVERVIEW

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 \$2.8 million to over 100 projects.

Projects are reviewed and selected by the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee. Any Texas A&M University student, staff member, or faculty may submit a project application. Projects must directly address sustainability on the Texas A&M campus, may not primarily address research aims, and must have publicity, education, and outreach considerations. The Aggie Green Fund is intended for sustainability projects that are not already funded by Texas A&M University. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate the greatest reduction in Texas A&M University's sustainability impact in a cost-effective manner and/or to projects with strong student involvement. Any Texas A&M University student, staff member, or faculty member may submit a project application.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Kelly Wellman
KELLY WELLMAN, MBA

This past year has been a return to my roots. In my early days in this office, I spent long and rewarding hours with the student founders of the Aggie Green Fund (AGF) as they brought this program to life. As our office expanded and we dedicated a full-time team member to managing AGF, my direct involvement with the fund lessened. However, in August 2023, I found myself once again at the helm of AGF as we began the search for a new Sustainability Operations Coordinator.

During the fall semester, I had the privilege of working closely with our hardworking student chairs, and I was reminded of their deep passion for making a difference. Mentoring these dedicated students allowed me to witness the Aggie Core Values—Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, Excellence, Integrity, and Selfless Service—in action. Whether hosting information sessions in the evenings, tabling on weekends, creating social media content, reviewing reports, or organizing monthly meetings, these student leaders took on the additional work because of their commitment to a more sustainable future. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the student leaders who give so much of themselves—your efforts truly make an impact!

In December, we were delighted to welcome Wendy Webber, our new Sustainability Operations Coordinator, to the team. Wendy quickly adapted to the complexities of managing both Major and Micro Grant intake workflows and award processes, all while guiding our student chairs. The combined efforts of the team resulted in remarkable achievements, with \$186,871 in Major and Micro Grants awarded to students, faculty, and staff. I am excited to see this momentum continue into the new year under Wendy's leadership!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to sustainability.

LETTER FROM THE ADVISOR



WENDY WEBBER

I joined the Office of Sustainability & Campus Enrichment in December just as the Major Grant abstract decisions were being sent out. That means I barely had time to meet the Aggie Green Fund Advisory Committee members before it was time to jump into the deep end of the Aggie Green Fund program and start working with the committee to evaluate Major Grant applications.

I got to start my time in the program witnessing first-hand the wide array of sustainable ideas Aggies have and are willing to put their blood, sweat, and tears into implementing. My excitement to be here was magnified.

Being able to join this office and this program has already been a rewarding and transformative experience. Getting to witness the passion and hard work that our grantees and advisory committee put into making this a more sustainable campus for all has been energizing.

I am eternally grateful to Taylor Leeder, Avery McCreight, Dalynne Quintana, Parth Shah, and Brooke Ubieta for their commitment not only to doing their jobs well, but also to helping a new Aggie Green Fund Advisor learn the ropes. They will always be my first Advisory Committee and I am thankful I had such a helpful and flexible group.

I am looking forward to building on everything I learned this year to help the impact of this program grow and make sustainability an Aggie tradition.

AGGIE GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE



TAYLOR LEEDER
Student Representative
Information Chair



AVERY MCCREIGHT
Student Representative
Marketing Co-Chair



DALYNNE QUINTANA
Student Representative
Chair



PARTH SHAH
Student Representative
Project Analysis Chair



BROOKE UBIETA
Student Representative
Marketing Co-Chair



CAROL GOLDSMITH
Staff Representative
Committee Member



NATHAN JONES
Staff Representative
Committee Member



LEDRIC SHERMAN
Faculty Representative
Committee Member

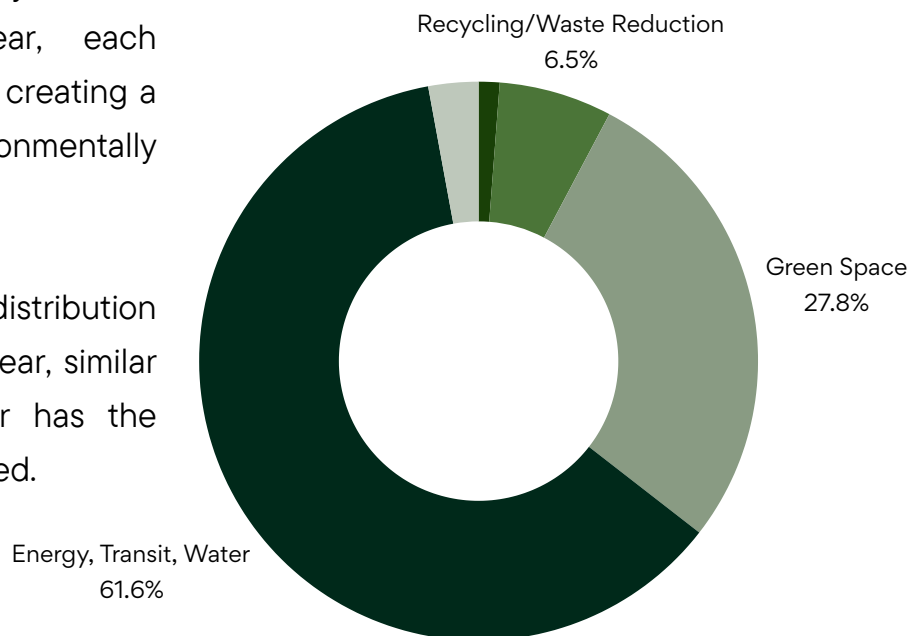
GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

\$187,871.51

out of \$2,871,991.01 all time awarded

The Aggie Green Fund is thrilled to announce that it has awarded \$187,871.51 in grants for the fiscal year 2024, supporting a diverse range of sustainability initiatives across campus. We are eager to showcase the innovative projects that have received funding this year, each contributing to our collective goal of creating a more sustainable and environmentally conscious university community.

The graph to the right displays the distribution of money by project category. This year, similar to last year, Energy, Transit, Water has the greatest portion of grant funds received.



Major Grant Total

\$169.8K



Micro Grant Total

\$18K



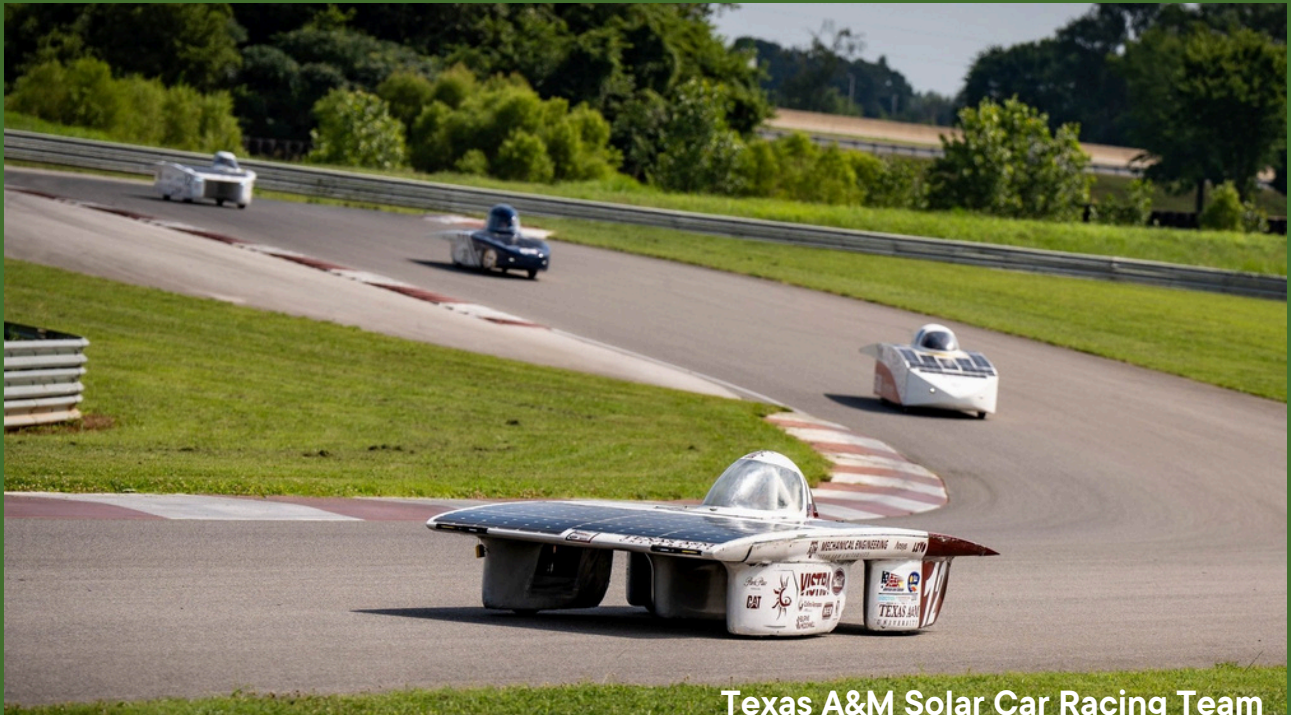
Overall Grant Total

\$187.8K

MAJOR GRANTS

Major Grants are for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

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



Texas A&M Solar Car Racing Team



Bush School Bottle Filling Stations



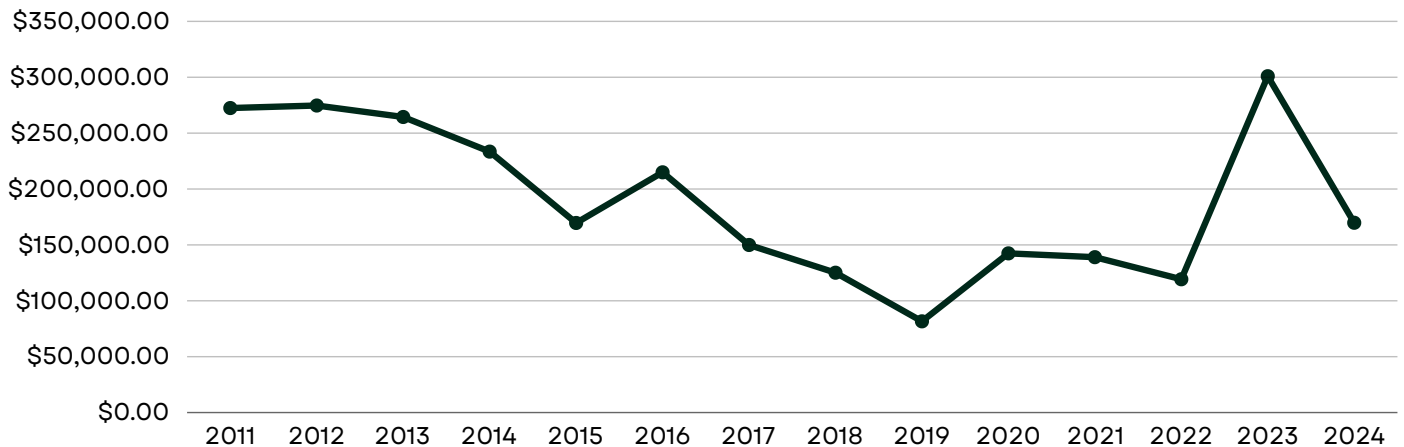
MSC Student Programs Office LED Lights

MAJOR GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

\$169,815.19

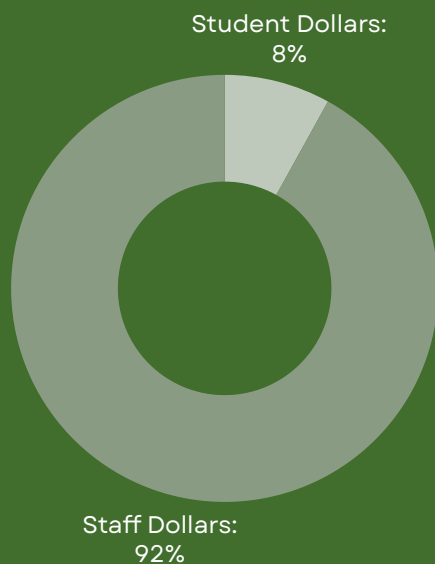
out of \$2,738,720.88 all time awarded

DOLLAR AMOUNT OF MAJOR GRANTS AWARDED ANNUALLY



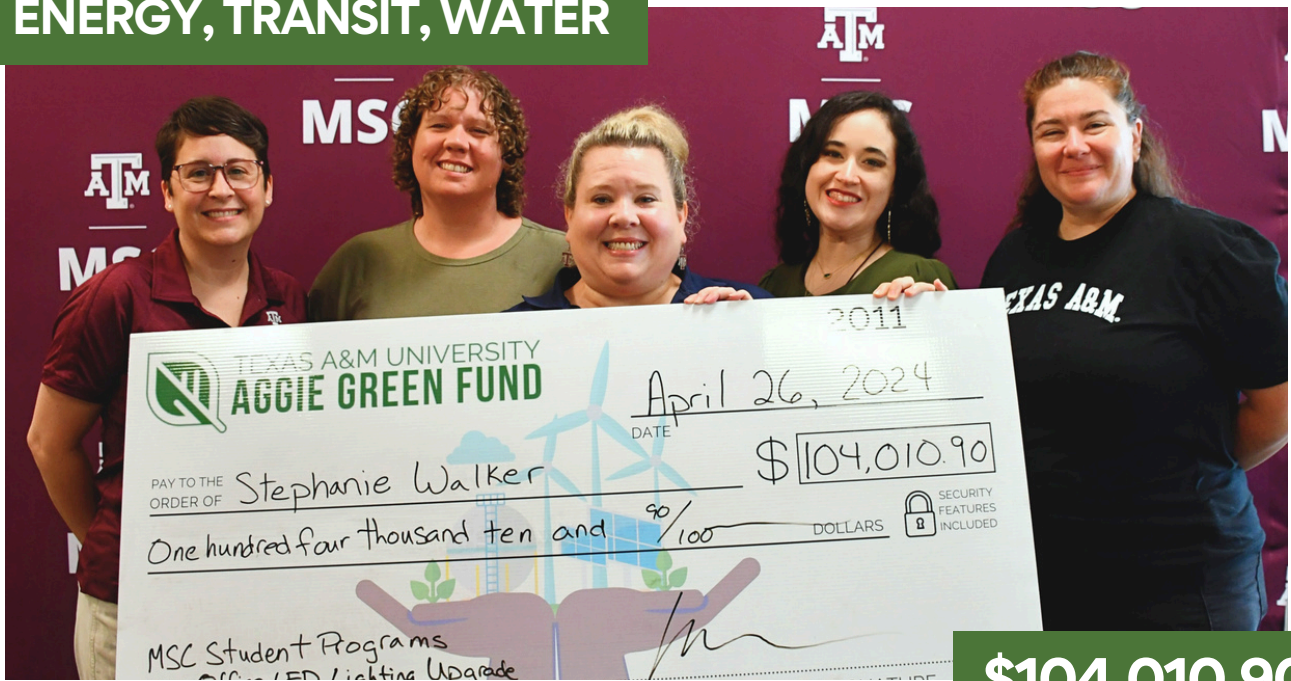
The Aggie Green Fund has returned to more standard funding levels following a period of increased allocations due to accumulated resources during the Covid-19 pandemic. While this year's Major Grant fund distributions are more modest, it reflects our sustainable long-term approach to supporting campus initiatives. We're excited about the innovative proposals we anticipate from our faculty, staff, and students for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year, as we continue to drive impactful sustainability projects across our campus community.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY APPLICANT TYPE



This past year, the Aggie Green Fund saw a shift in its Major Grant distribution pattern. Staff members were awarded a larger percentage of Major Grant dollars compared to previous years, reflecting their increased engagement in substantial sustainability projects. Interestingly, although the total funding allocated to staff increased, the number of staff award recipients and student award recipients was the same (2 and 2). A significant change, however, was the absence of faculty among Major Grant recipients this year, a departure from our typical distribution. This evolving allocation pattern underscores the dynamic nature of sustainability initiatives on our campus and the changing landscape of project proposals we receive each year.

ENERGY, TRANSIT, WATER



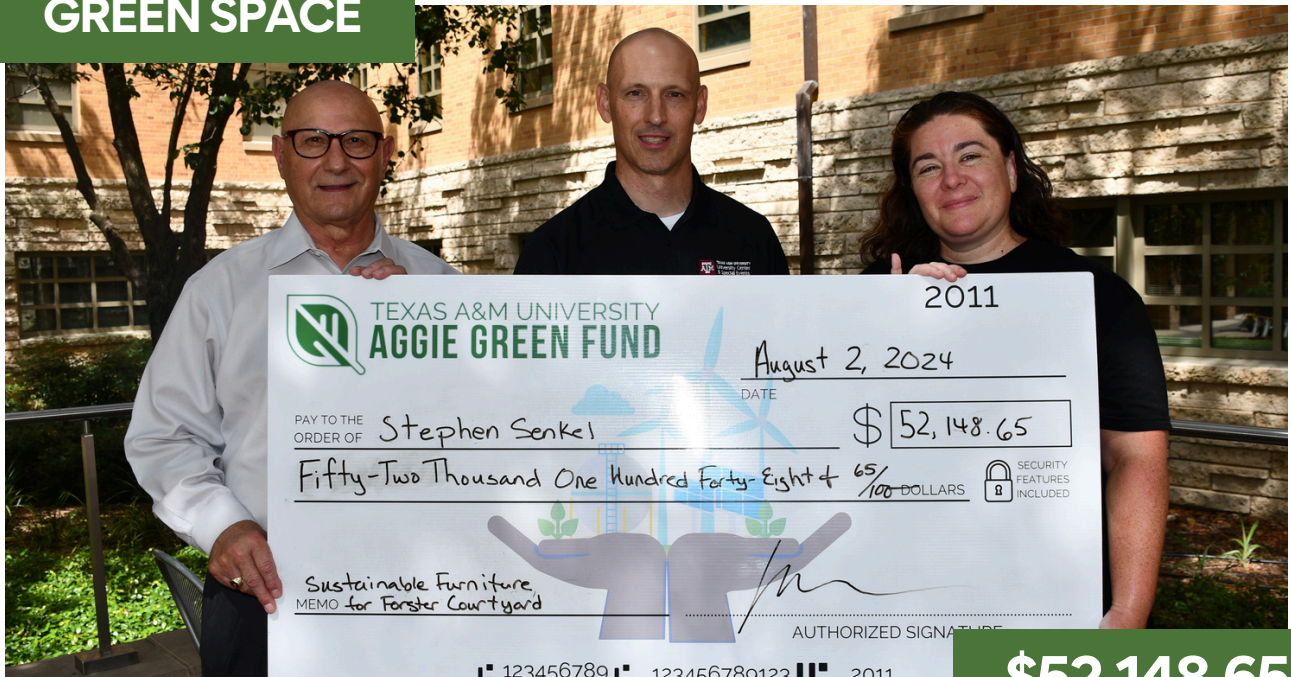
\$104,010.90

MSC STUDENT PROGRAMS OFFICE LED LIGHTING UPGRADE

STEPHANIE WALKER (STAFF)

Last year, the Memorial Student Center Director expressed an interest in exploring an LED lighting upgrade after seeing the results of a similar upgrade elsewhere on campus and the decision to apply for an Aggie Green Fund grant was made. The LED lighting project addresses environmental and economic aspects of sustainability as it reduces annual kWh usage. While cost savings are beneficial, energy conservation plays a crucial role in supporting the Aggie community and the state of Texas by reducing the demand for power—a resource of significant importance, especially during critical times.

GREEN SPACE



SUSTAINABLE FURNITURE FOR FORSTER COURTYARD

STEPHEN SENKEL (STAFF)

By purchasing sustainable furniture made from recycled material for Forster Courtyard, the University Center & Special Events department will be furthering their goal to limit the amount of waste generated and promoting recycling. Purchasing goods produced with recycled materials limits the impact on the natural world by lessening the need to harvest new materials from it. It also encourages more goods to be produced with recycled materials by showing that there is a market for them. In other words, it helps close the recycling loop and supports a circular economy. The new furniture not only serves as an educational tool for understanding the procurement of recycled content goods but also offers students and visitors at the MSC an outdoor destination. It encourages them to spend more time in a natural environment, away from the usual hustle and bustle of campus life.

ENERGY, TRANSIT, WATER



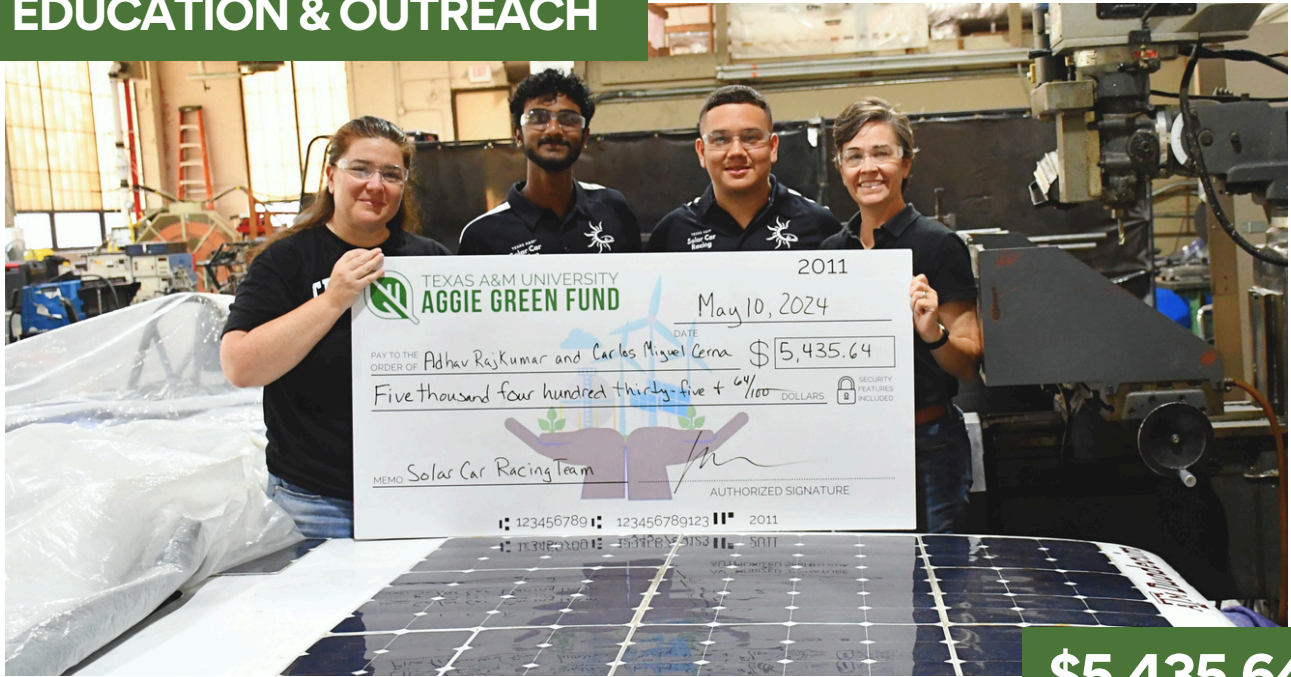
\$8,220

THE BUSH SCHOOL BOTTLE FILLER STATION INSTALLATIONS

SYDNEY RAMON (GRADUATE STUDENT)

Before this grant was awarded, the second and third floors of the Allen building housed two water fountains near the elevator and main stairwell that were retrofitted with the bottle filling stations. Installing these stations on both floors will improve water accessibility, promote reusable container use, and reduce plastic waste. High foot traffic in these areas ensures frequent use of the water bottle filling stations.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



\$5,435.64

TEXAS A&M SOLAR CAR RACING TEAM

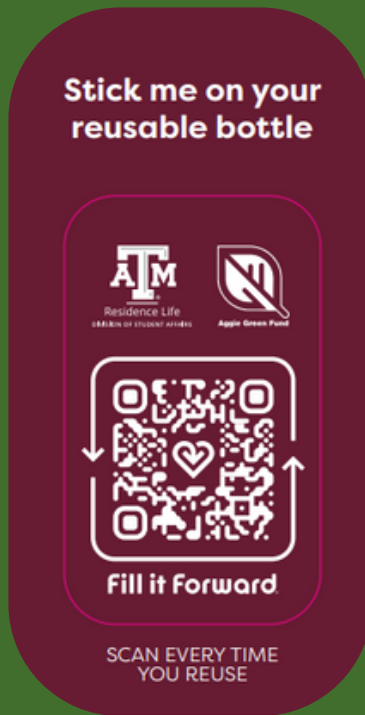
ADHAV RAJKUMAR (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT) & CARLOS MIGUEL CERNA (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT)

Texas A&M Solar Car Racing is a student run organization that designs, builds, and races solar electric vehicles in various national competitions. The primary goal of the organization is to showcase the potential and viability of renewable energy sources in the most rigorous and dynamic ways possible including building solar cars and racing in solar-powered car races. The creation process of the solar car requires testing to make sure that the race car works and works to its best efficiency. This grant funded the team's testing materials. In the Electrek American Solar Challenge the team placed 11th and 7th in the Formula Sun Grand Prix.

MICRO GRANTS

Micro Grants are for projects that meet the following criteria:

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



Fill-It-Forward



Aerogarden



Earth Month Textile Recycling



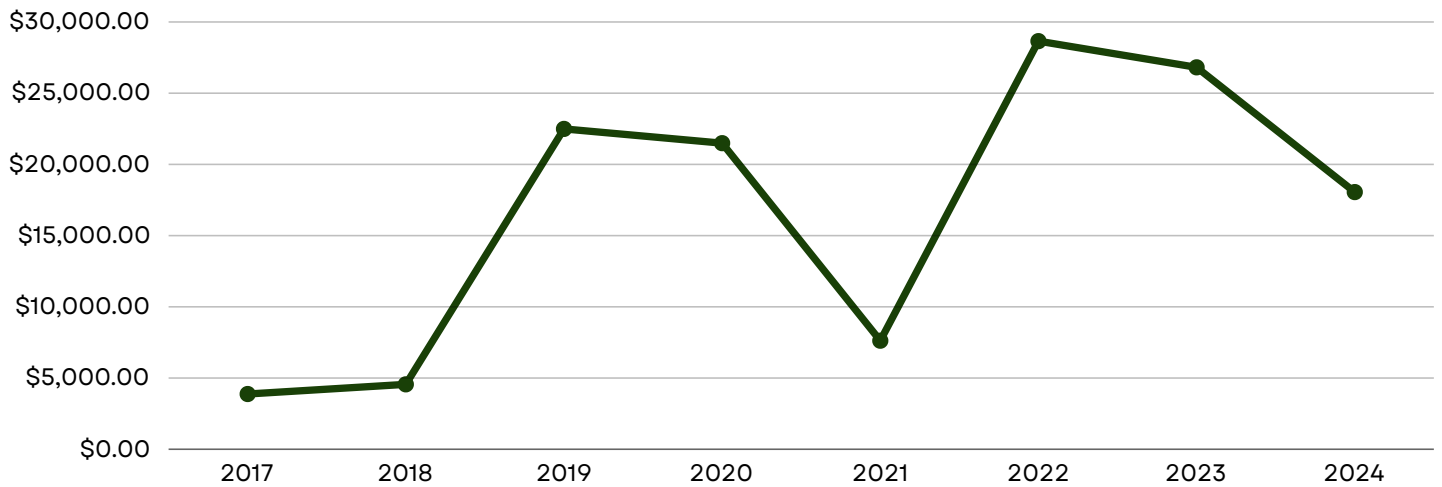
ECCB Menstrual Product Availability

MICRO GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

\$18,056.32

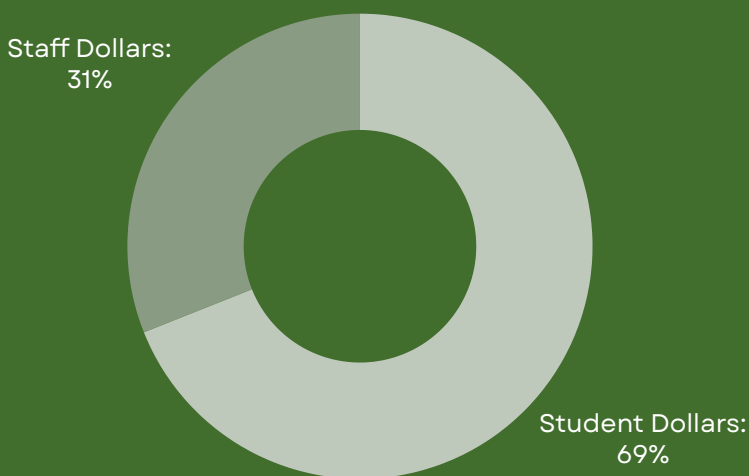
out of \$133,270.13 all time awarded

DOLLAR AMOUNT OF MICRO GRANTS AWARDED ANNUALLY



Although funds distributed decreased this year, there was only a decrease by two in number of grants awarded. The decrease can be attributed to the Aggie Green Fund no longer having excess funds from its dormancy during Covid-19. We look forward to the new ideas that our faculty, staff, and students have this upcoming 2025 Fiscal Year!

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY APPLICANT TYPE



The Aggie Green Fund witnessed a notable shift in its Micro Grant program this past year. We saw a significant increase in student participation, with more students applying for and receiving Micro Grants than in previous years. Students secured 69% of the total Micro Grant funds, marking a substantial change from past distributions. This trend highlights the growing engagement of our student body in sustainability initiatives. Interestingly, unlike in previous years, no faculty members were awarded Micro Grants, further emphasizing the strong student-driven focus of our recent funding cycle.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



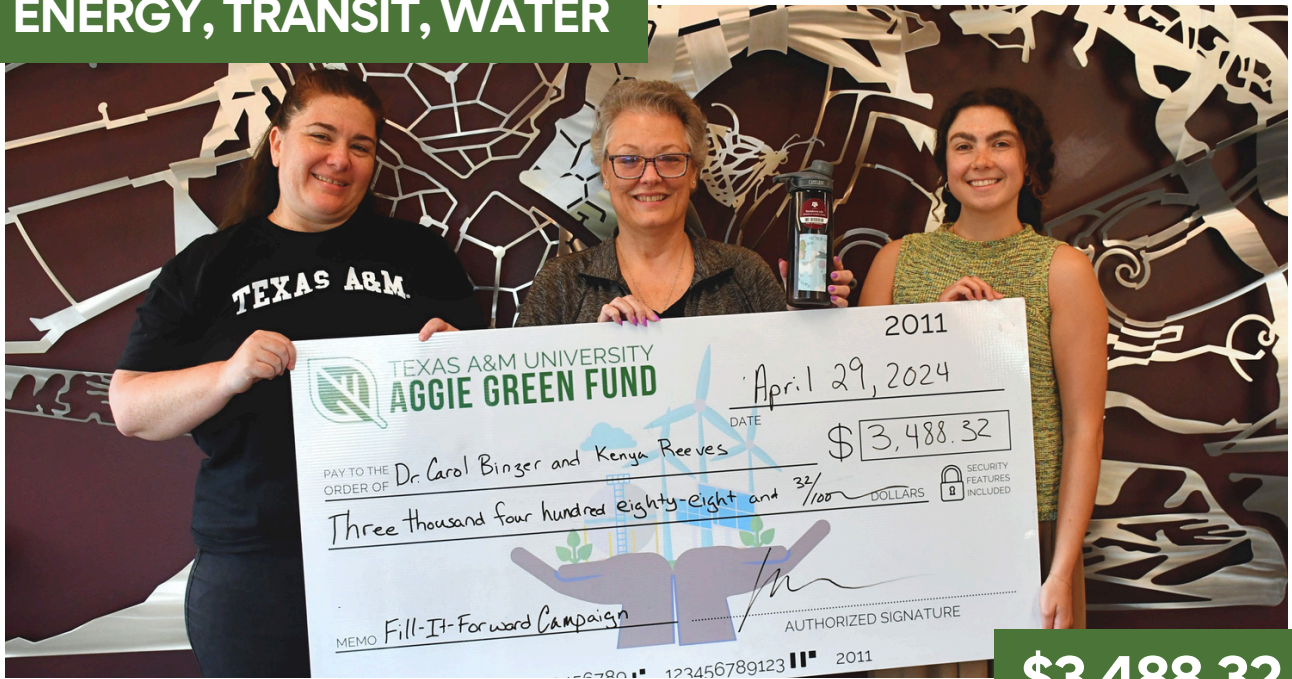
\$770

AEROGARDEN

SARAH COPPEDGE (STAFF)

Inspired by Sbisa's onsite food-growing program, the Aerogarden aims to bring fresh produce to the Office of the Registrar. The project brings year-round herb and produce cultivation for employees—including student employees—particularly benefiting those with limited access to fresh ingredients. The grant purchased a Farm 24XL Aerogarden with necessary supplies, allowing staff to harvest fresh ingredients for their recipes. The Aerogarden was placed in the main hallway of the Office of the Registrar, near the breakroom. This initiative aims to promote healthy eating, introduce new produce varieties, and foster a sense of community within the office.

ENERGY, TRANSIT, WATER



\$3,488.32

FILL-IT-FORWARD CAMPAIGN

DR. CAROL BINZER (STAFF) & KENYA REEVES (STAFF)

This project revives a 2019 initiative, partnering with Cupanion, a vendor known for sustainable products at AASHE conferences. Residence Life ordered Fill-It-Forward stickers, which can be applied to any reusable container and tracked via a mobile app, and distributed them to on-campus residents. The initiative aims to promote environmental sustainability by encouraging reusable container use, while supporting social sustainability by raising awareness and funds for clean water projects in developing countries through app usage. It complements previous Aggie Green Fund grants such as multiple bottle filling station installations, demonstrating the interconnectedness of sustainability projects and their relevance to our personal lives. Overall, the project promotes hydration, reduces plastic waste, and connects users to global water accessibility efforts, aligning with broader sustainability goals. By integrating these elements, the initiative showcases how seemingly unrelated sustainability efforts can create a cohesive impact on both local and global scales.

RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION



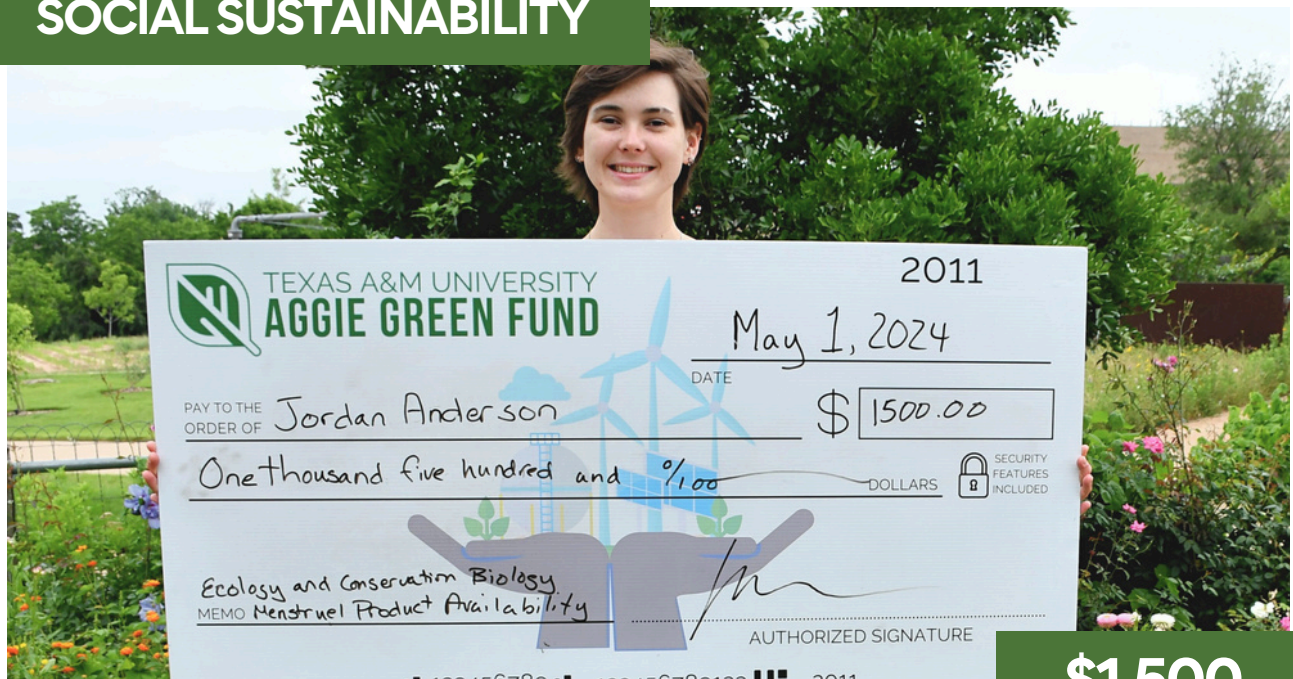
\$1,345

REGI INDOOR RECYCLING BIN

SNOW HAVLIK (STAFF)

Installing an indoor recycling bin in the Office of the Registrar increases recycling accessibility for staff and students in the Office. Before installing their bin, the nearest recycling bin was located outside the General Services Complex. In addition to the bin itself, Havlik raises awareness about environmental sustainability and educates staff and student employees on the positive impact of recycling to encourage the bin's use. The convenient location of the bin just outside the breakroom encourages more environmentally responsible behavior and fosters a culture of sustainability within the workplace. Ultimately, Havlik hopes this initiative will lead to increased participation in recycling efforts among office personnel.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY MENSTRUAL PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

JORDAN ANDERSON (GRADUATE STUDENT)

The "Ecology and Conservation Biology Menstrual Product Availability" project provided access to menstrual products by installing two menstrual product dispensers in the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecological Sciences building, which primarily serves Ecology and Conservation Biology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff. Dispensers allow for a large stock while preventing theft and unnecessary consumption, ensuring products are available to those in need. Providing menstrual products is crucial for maintaining good hygiene, supporting mental health, enhancing student financial stability, and improving attendance. By implementing this initiative, the department demonstrates its commitment to the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, ensuring that menstrual health is prioritized within our community.

RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION



EARTH MONTH TEXTILE RECYCLING

**DALYNNE QUINTANA (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT) &
AVERY FLORES (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT)**

The Sociology Club held an Earth Month Textile Recycling Challenge partnering with For Days and Trashie. The Sociology Club used grant-funded Take Back Bags and repurposed bins that were placed in the Harrington Education Center Classroom building. In return for recycled textiles, For Days provides store credit, which the Sociology Club will donate to Phoebe's Home, supporting domestic violence survivors. This initiative combines textile recycling with community support, demonstrating the Sociology Club's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility while promoting circular fashion practices.

ENERGY, TRANSIT, WATER



RECYCLING BINS AT THE ALLEN BUILDING

SIDNEY SANCHEZ (GRADUATE STUDENT)

Sanchez added three indoor recycling bins in the Allen Building, which houses the Bush School of Government and Public Service. The building's layout includes international affairs graduate students on the first floor, public service and administration graduate students on the second floor, and political science undergraduate students on the third floor. Before this grant was funded, there were no conveniently located recycling bins in areas where students frequently gather. By installing these bins, Sanchez aimed to address this gap and improve recycling accessibility for all students in the building.

RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION



ZERO WASTE: ONE BAG AT A TIME

TAYLOR LEEDER (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT)

Leeder's project addresses plastic bag usage in campus residential halls by providing eco-friendly reusable tote bags to students. These bags include information on various sustainability programs, aiming to raise awareness and encourage environmentally conscious practices. The initiative targets campus-dwelling students, recognizing the challenges of maintaining sustainability in college life. By offering practical alternatives and educational resources, Leeder aims to inspire a shift towards more sustainable habits. This project serves as a starting point for broader campus-wide environmental efforts, potentially expanding its impact in the future. Ultimately, Leeder's goal is to foster a culture of sustainability among students, beginning with this simple yet effective change in their daily routines.

RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION



SCRAPS TO SPROUTS

LARISSA WATKINS (GRADUATE STUDENT), JESS ATKIN (GRADUATE STUDENT), S'VANI CAMPOS (GRADUATE STUDENT), & JONATHAN CAMPOS (GRADUATE STUDENT)

The team's project aims to reduce campus food waste through vermicomposting, repurposing fruit and vegetable scraps from campus facilities to enrich a community garden. This process uses red wiggler worms to create nutrient-rich organic fertilizer at Howdy Farm. The resulting produce will be available to students and distributed to campus food pantries, veterans, and support centers. The initiative addresses environmental, social, and economic issues at Texas A&M by repurposing waste and improving access to fresh produce. Vermicomposting offers an organic, chemical-free alternative to traditional agricultural practices, preserving sensitive ecosystems. The student-run project responsibly addresses food security for the campus community, especially beneficial in areas with high cost of living and food scarcity.

TIMELINE FOR 2025 APPLICATIONS



APPLY FOR A MAJOR GRANT

- Oct. 1, 2024: Abstract Submissions Open
- **Nov 1, 2024, 5 p.m. CST:** Abstract Submissions Close
- Dec 6, 2024: Abstract Approval Announced
- Dec. 6, 2024: Full Application Submissions Open
- Feb 3, 2025, 5 p.m. CST: Full Application Submissions Close
- Mar. 3, 2025: Major Grant Recipients Announced

APPLY FOR A MICRO GRANT

- Sept. 15, 2024: Submissions Open
- **Mar. 3, 2025, 5 p.m. CST:** Submissions Close

GET INVOLVED



SERVE ON AGGIE GREEN FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Applications open in January 2025.

BE A LIASON

Represent your department and be a resource to potential applicants interested in applying.

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 us at greenfund@tamu.edu for more information.

CONTACT US

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