



CSI Sustainability is a collaboration between Campus Planning and Facilities Management and the Division of Economic Development, Continuing Studies, and Government Relations.

Sustainable Student Organization (SSO)

The purpose of the SSO is to encourage a stronger student presence in the sustainability movement at the College of Staten Island. This group will be the voice of the student body when it comes to the ideation and implementation of various sustainability initiatives that will push our college to become more environmentally conscience. The organization proposes dynamic discussions, educational workshops and informative panels to achieve the purposes of the SSO.

Natalia Sandor, President,

Meet Natalia Sandor, SSO President



Natalia Sandor, president of the newly created Sustainability Club is a Junior at the Macaulay Honors College at CSI. She is originally from Long Island where she owns a wholesale ice cream sandwich company called Sand Bars Handcrafted. Natalia also plays DIII soccer and enjoys writing.

Dolphin Cove Energy Competition



Our first Dorms' Energy Competition was held between April 13th and May 11th. Students were encouraged to reduce their usage of electricity during this period. Meters were read by Student Sustainability Club (SSO) members and winners were announced weekly. The two winning floors, North Cove 1st floor and South Cove 3rd floor were invited for an ice cream social. Let's do this again this semester!

Daylight Hour, 2018

CSI participated, once again, in the Daylight Hour. As compared with year's past, we aggressively promoted the event via social media, campus-wide emails, posted flyers, and other means of getting the word out. We had the full support and participation of the President Cabinet along with several of the campus community. This media campaign yielded exceptional results as can be seen in the juxtaposing trends from 2017 and 2018. During the daylight hour, it is estimated that CSI saved approximately 144 kWh of energy.





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Daylight Hour, 2018 (continued)



Daylight Hour Award, 2018



CSI Sustainability Receives the 2018 “Hype Master” Big Kahuna Award!

2018 Big Kahuna Award:

The Hype Master Award goes to the College of Staten Island Sustainability Initiative for spreading the word!

<https://daylighthour.org/awards/>

Greenhouse/ Plant Sale



SSO club members planted over 700 organic seeds at the 6 S greenhouse last semester. SSO provided opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning, development of interpersonal and gardening skills, and gain access to fresh produce. SSO members gained practical knowledge from Biology faculty about planting, producing food and managing natural resources. Additionally students promoted sustainability through plants sales to the College of Staten Island community and begin to built a strong social networks with other academic departments.





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Campus Community Garden (6S pit)



Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project. This clean up was made possible by College of Staten Island Sustainability, the Department of Biology, and the hard work of the Sustainable Student Organization (SSO). ***Special thanks to Biology Chair Chang-Hui Shen, Faiza Peetz, James Saccardo, Kinnea Keating, Grozdena Yilmaz & the Pre-Med students.***

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive non-native plant that invaded the 6S pit area. During the spring and summer semester students cut down the Japanese Knotweed and dug out as many roots out as possible. They covered the ground completely with tarps in order to smother the weed underneath. The tarp prevents the sunlight to penetrate the area and new weed to grow back. They covered the tarps with mulch to make it more attractive.

In addition, students also started a garden. They constructed raised gardening beds and learned about vegetable and flower life cycles. With Snug Harbor's compost, they rotated crops for mineral and natural resource optimization. SSO plans to expand the garden next semester and educate the community about local food systems and provide awareness and availability of healthy foods.



"It's not the money we save or the contribution we make that matters. But, the hearts and minds that transform, innovate, and magnify the responsibility that every community member has to reach our sustainability goals." **Marc Girgenti, Campus Community Garden Manager**



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