



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FOR AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS AT
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

Newsletters are a great way to provide students, faculty, and alumni a "sneak peek" into what is going on at the university and specifically within a given program. The purpose of this newsletter is to **promote** internships, volunteer opportunities, and professional development support services for students; **recognize** current students and recent graduates for their achievements; **encourage** student involvement in environmentally focused student organizations; **alert** students of changes to the program; and **engage** everyone - students, alumni, faculty and others outside of the program - in a dialogue about environmental issues.



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INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by: Alyssa Loirtie

This summer I had the opportunity to work as a Natural Resource Specialist/Park Ranger for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Berlin Lake in Deerfield Ohio. The main goals of the Army Corps of Engineers are to help the region and nation meet water resource development and needs, as well as environmental management and restoration. Another key focus, though not as important, is recreation management in accordance with environmental management. As a seasonal ranger, I mainly worked to enforce the recreation aspect of the job, although I had the opportunity to learn about the other key focuses as well. As the Army Corps manages so many waterways, water safety is a concern. Their slogan is "Know. Take. Wear." This logo encourages safe behavior with a three-pronged approach: **Know** the waterway you are on, **Take** a water safety course, and **Wear** a life jacket. Throughout the summer, "Know. Take. Wear." was promoted at water safety tables set up at our boat launch, providing information about water safety.



ALYSSA'S INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Other tasks included performing weekly boat patrols, hourly vehicle-based patrols through the 300-campsite campground, maintaining various facilities, and other jobs depending on the day. This internship provided great insight into what a federal job using an Environmental Studies degree could look like. No two days were the same and I gained a ton of on-the-job skills and valuable experience. If possible, I would recommend completing a federal internship during your time at KSU as it really gives you a feel for your future career.



KSU ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS ARE IN FULL SWING

by: Kathryn Burns

Consider getting involved. This semester there are opportunities to be involved with various student organizations on campus that focus on environmental issues. **The Kent State Environmental Society (KSES)** already had a very successful event at their first meeting earlier this month. The group painted bottles to give away for donations at the Haymaker's Farmers Market. The bottles turned out great (KSES definitely has some talented artists in the group!) Last year the organization raised money for a tree planting at KSU's Climate Grove. They are currently deciding on their next project: either a second tree planting project, or donating the money to a local or national environmental charity. This semester the club plans on learning about eco-bricking, organizing outing to downtown Kent's *Fruit Stand*, and making new friends with people who are passionate about the planet.



KSU ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS (CON'D)

Ocean Motion just recently had its first meeting as well. Ocean Motion is a marine conservation and sustainability club on the main KSU campus. This semester, they plan to do a trash pick-up at a beach at Mentor Headlands, conduct nature hikes, and possibly participate in *Trick or Trash*. Hosted by Rubicon, *Trick or Trash* recycles candy wrappers that can not be recycled with traditional methods. While Ocean Motion is still debating if they are going to participate in *Trick or Trash*, it was great to hear about the initiative and learn more about recycling and the effect it can have on our oceans.

The Future Environmental Professionals Club has also commenced with meetings for the semester. This group is a great way for students to get to know more about each other and their interests. The group talked about the **KSU Fossil Fuel Divestment Petition** and meeting with the Board of Trustees to convince the university to divest from fossil fuels (see page 7). Students talked about their passion projects and their goals as a club to create a sustainable campus.



ocean motion



Follow the mentioned
organizations on
Instagram!

**Kent State Environmental
Society**
@ksu_environment

Ocean Motion
@ksuoceanmotion

**Future Environmental
Professionals Club**
@ksu_fepc



KENT STATE X NORDSENSE

by: Kathryn Burns

The Office of Sustainability on Kent Campus is partnering with **Nordsense** to improve campus waste management. Nordsense manufactures sensors that are installed on the trash cans on campus. The benefit of using sensors is that they can optimize efficiency for maintenance workers who manage on-campus waste and recycling. Nordsense then creates a database of what is being collected and indicates how full each trash and recycling bin is and alerting staff when bins are ready to be picked up. These sensors allow maintenance staff to conserve trips, decreasing carbon emissions. Optimizing routes also helps to cut down on carbon emissions. Student interns of the **Office of Sustainability**, Anna Berry and Kathryn Burns, were shown a demonstration by Buildings & Grounds on how to properly install sensors using a drill. They have already begun installing sensors and this exciting project will help the KSU Kent campus become better at waste management.



KENT STUDENTS PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

by: Justin Thompson

Kent State University's **Future Environmental Professionals Club (FEPC)** is a student organization consisting of students from a wide variety of academic majors with a passion for the environment. The club formed out of the Environmental Studies Program but soon after expanded as students from other majors became interested in joining. The group works to educate members about job and internship opportunities, develop leadership potential, learn about different certifications, attend conferences, and networking opportunities, and participate on and off campus in service, education, and other fun outdoor activities. This diverse set of students predominately intends to become environmental professionals after graduation in fields such as sustainable fashion, environmental policy, oceanography, sustainable architecture, zoology, conservation biology, land and/or field research, political science, parks and recreation management, environmental education, communications and marketing, and in a number of other areas as well.



KSU STUDENTS PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS (CON'D)

Being an interdisciplinary club with a focus on the environment, FEPC recognizes how interconnected complex systems and communities are. With that in mind, FEPC students also recognize that Kent State University's community is much larger than just that of Kent, Ohio. The University's larger community consists of faculty members and administrators (both past and present), students along with their parents and families, alumni throughout the country and around the world, and all of the community members around each of the University's eight campuses across the state. It is with this broad sense of community and recognition that our impact goes beyond our day-to-day interactions that we also recognize where and how we spend our money also as an impact as well. In the United States we vote democratically twice a year, once in the primary election, and once in the general election. However, that is not our only form of voting. We also vote with our dollars. Every time we make a purchase or an investment, we are voting to support that product or service, the company's practices, and what we stand for.



KSU STUDENTS PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS (CON'D)

Economically, the law of supply and demand is directly influenced by these choices; when we chose to invest in the fossil fuel industry stocks and bonds, or the mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that hold those fossil fuel investments, we are voting to perpetuate the systems that are actively and directly contributing to climate change.

It is with this understanding that FEPC has decided to petition KSU to divest its endowments and any other investments that it may have from the fossil fuel industry. As a public institution, the University is allocated funding from tax dollars, and much of the student tuition, fees, and costs are paid with federal student loans. We, the signers, of the KSU Fossil Fuel Divestment Petition, do not feel that our tuition, tax dollars, or the University's endowments should be used to fund the (already federally subsidized) fossil fuel industry which directly contributes to climate change.



KSU STUDENTS PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS (CON'D)

With that being said, I would invite those reading this article to sign and share our petition using this link, (<https://chng.it/T979zQjm>), or by scanning the code on any of our **petition flyers** (see page 11). Over 1,500 other colleges, universities, and institutions have already signed a pledge to divest from fossil fuels including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and more locally Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Dayton. Kent State already advocates for sustainability on campus during their 'Sustainability Month' (October) and 'Earth Month' (April) and has been moving in the right direction for years. We ask that the University Board of Trustees comes to being more cognizant of how they are voting with university dollars. By divesting from investments in climate change including the fossil fuel industry, our university can help ensure a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for everyone.

Scan this QR code to access
the petition



KSU STUDENTS PETITION THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS (CON'D)



RISE
FOR CLIMATE
TO BUILD A FOSSIL FREE WORLD



Petition KSU to Divest from Fossil Fuels

- Sponsored by the Future Environmental Professionals Club - 2022-2023 -

ESDRI TOURS KENT STATE'S GREENHOUSE

by: Kathryn Burns

The Environmental Science and Design Research Institute (ESDRI) recently toured the greenhouse at Cunningham Hall. The tour, led by Melissa Davis (the Horticulture Facilities Director), gave student fellows a insight into the innerworkings of the Herrick Conservatory. The conservatory is open to all students and have volunteer hours on Fridays with the **Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club**. In the green house you can find a strawberry guava tree with edible fruits, a chocolate tree, and many other tropical plants at well. There is also a bench with a view of a koi pond down below. The greenhouse is a great place to sit and get inspiration as the bright and colorful plants are absolutely stunning. During the tour, students learned about native plants and KSU's very own Climate Grove. **University Facilities Management** and the **Department of Biological Sciences** are planting trees that model several climate change projections and the area serves as a learning tool for students on local flora and how they are affected by climate change.



ESDRI TOURS KENT STATE'S GREENHOUSE (CON'D)

On Friday September 30th, the **Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club** and **ESDRI** are hosting a tree planting event at the Climate Grove behind the Student Recreation Center (see the **flyer** on page 14 for details). Thank you to both the Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club and ESDRI for hosting this event!

If you are interested in joining ESDRI please check out their website: **Environmental Science and Design Research Institute | Kent State University**. If you are interested in joining the Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club, they can be found on **KSU Engage** at: **Herrick Conservatory and Sustainability Club - KSU Engage at Kent State University** (**campuslabs.com**).



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

at Kent State University



Environmental Science and Design Research Institute,
Center for Ecology and Natural Resource Sustainability,
and Department of Biological Sciences

Trees For The Future



September 23, 2022

10 AM (rain or shine) - OPEN TO ALL

**Climate Grove, Kent campus across from
the Rec Center**

Help us reforest the landscape and
build a better world

To volunteer or inquire,
email esdri@kent.edu

PHOTOS FROM THE GREENHOUSE TOUR



For more information, please contact:



Dr. David Kaplan
Director of
Environmental Studies
dkaplan@kent.edu



Dr. Aimee Ward
Assisant Professor
in Geography
award60@kent.edu



Kathryn Burns
Head Editor
kburns35@kent.edu



Thomas James Moore
Head Editor
tmoore80@kent.edu

<https://www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies>

