



Facilities and Services

Office of Sustainability 2016 Annual Report



Discover Sustainability Symposium speakers, planners, and the provost

Be a Green Aggie at NMSU!

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“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

- The Lorax

Wait! Wait!
Don't print me!

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Go Aggies! Go Green!

2016 was another busy year. Forty grade school students toured the Environmental Education Center (EEC), the Earth Day Fair was held on campus, outreach to UTEP sustainability events, and speaking at the AASHE conference on waste reduction using PeopleTowels® are highlights. Read on to find out more about all the things Green Aggies did in 2016 to make our university and the planet a better and healthier place to live, learn, and work.

Major NMSU Sustainability Accomplishments in 2016

- Continued to hold to our promise to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) to lower our greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere
- Completed Conservation and Modernization project with Ameresco, an energy services company, to implement budget-positive guaranteed energy savings on NMSU main campus
- Lowered our energy costs by nearly 33% on main campus thanks to the Energy Services Agreement CARE project: Conserving and Reducing Energy
- Completed installation of a total of 50 hydration stations since 2011
- One new building was LEED Silver certified
- Increased the quantity of environmental webinars to educate the campus and Las Cruces community as well as provided speakers and programs through the all-volunteer Sustainability Council.



Letter from the Sustainability Manager

One highlight of the sixth year of the Office of Sustainability was the *Discover Sustainability Symposium* in February, bringing together a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and the community to share knowledge from three unique speakers. The Environmental Education Center (EEC) has now been open for two years and we continue to host educational events such as environmental webinars, student hang-outs, Bicycle Friendly Community meetings, and Earth Day Fair planning. The deep support, love and care that everyone brings to sustainability efforts sustains me and I am grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joni".



joni newcomer, ND, LEED AP Manager Environmental Policy and Sustainability
newcomer@nmsu.edu
<http://sustainability.nmsu.edu>

Mission Statement

To educate the NMSU community about climate change and to develop a common vision of sustainability through innovation, education, outreach, and action.

Vision Statement

To empower the NMSU community to care about the environment in which they live, work, and play and to carry that knowledge into their personal lives and for future generations.

Sustainability Initiatives

1. Relationships
2. Energy conservation
3. Waste reduction
4. Water conservation
5. Climate change resilience
6. Food and health
7. Green buildings
8. Transportation
9. Materials
10. Social Justice



Core Values

- Respect and love for humanity and all living things
- Passion for the environment
- Integrity of actions
- Exemplify an understanding that the natural and built environments are intertwined
- Unity of purpose through collaboration and interaction of ideas



What is Sustainability at NMSU?

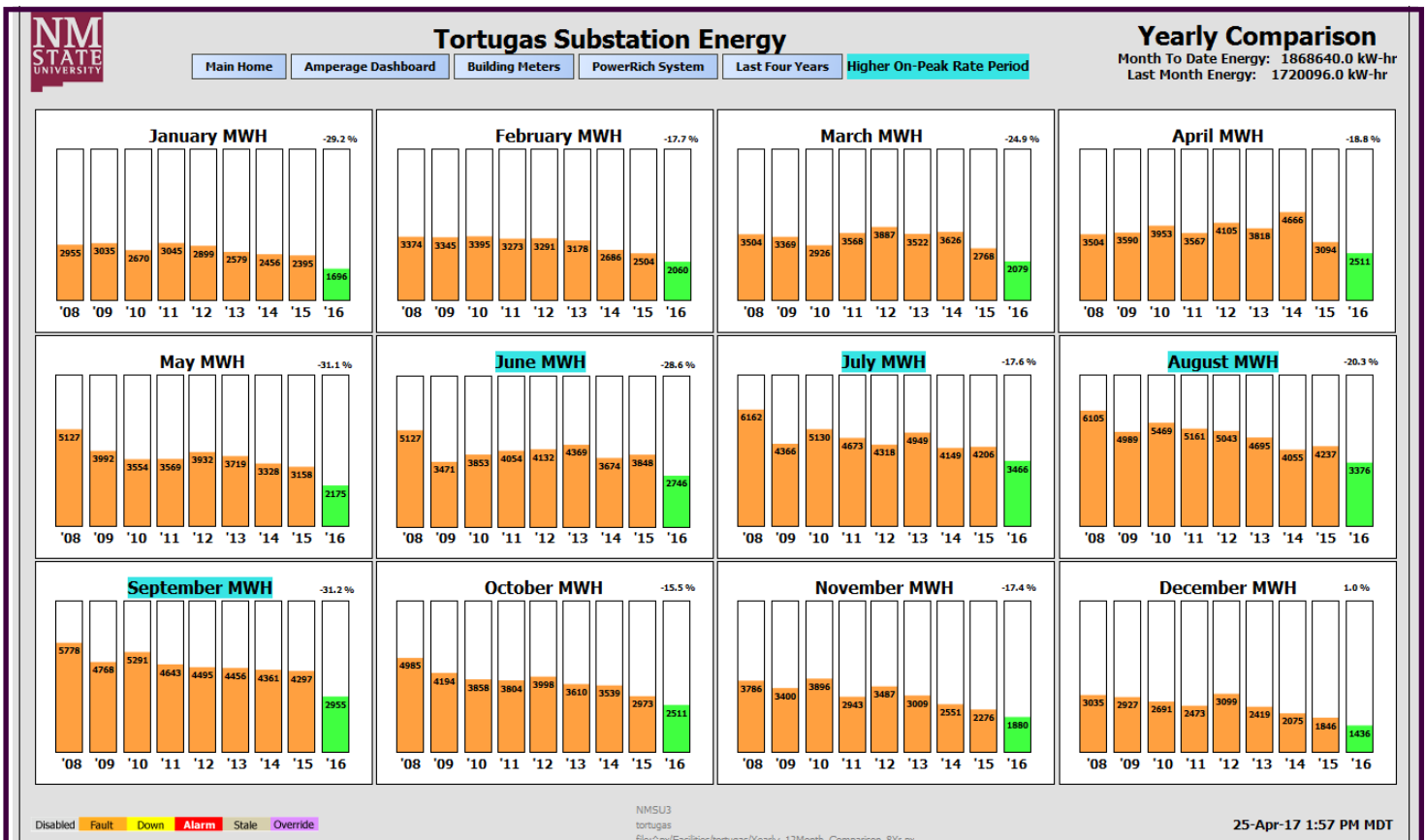
Sustainability at NMSU is a lifestyle and a responsibility. It features ways to improve and maintain the quality of human life while preserving the integrity, stability, and beauty of ecological systems for the future.

Earth Day 2016 volunteers from OASIS (Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability)

We started the Energy Services Agreement with Ameresco the summer of 2014 and finished it in 2016. As you can see from the chart below we had already started lowering energy costs by the end of 2016. In this chart, you can easily see the downward trend in our energy bills from El Paso Electric. But we must remember that energy cost and energy use are not the same thing—we still need to be aware of how and when we use energy on campus by turning off electronic devices and equipment whenever we can. Thanks to all the Green Aggies who have changed their behaviors to cut energy costs and Greenhouse Gas emissions on campus!

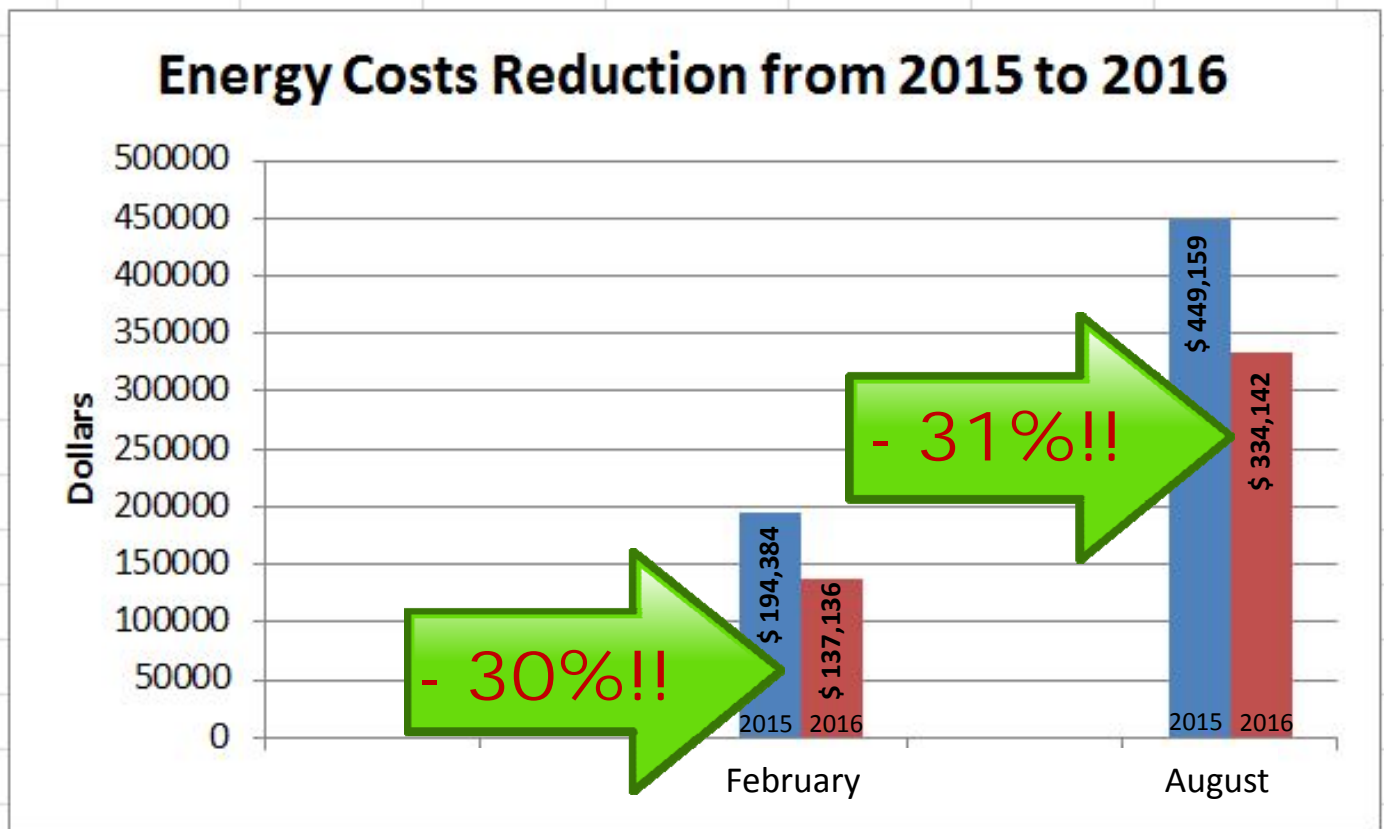


Energy Cost Comparison — 2008 to 2016



MWH—Mega Watt Hours

Below is a chart showing two critical months for utilities, summer and winter, that show how deeply we are cutting our energy bills.



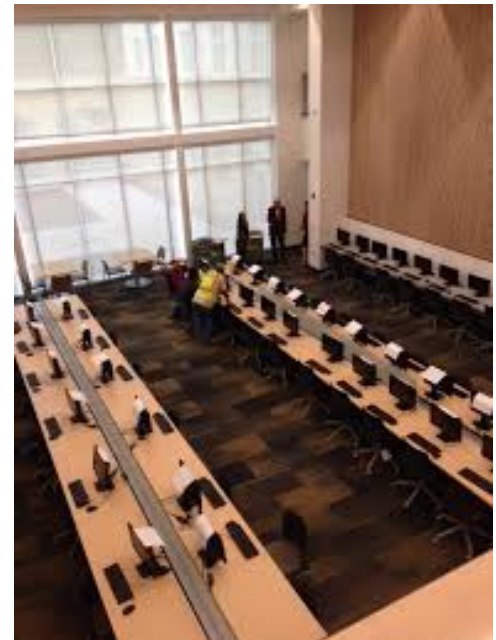
Green Buildings



We have 506,914 total gross square feet of LEED certified buildings campus-wide.
9 Gold and 8 Silver rated buildings



NMSU LEED Certified Buildings by Year		
Year	Building	Rating
2009	Alamogordo Health Sciences Center	Gold
2010	Football Coaches Office	Silver
2011	Alamogordo Advanced Technology Ctr.	Gold
	DACC East Mesa Ph. 5	Gold
	DACC Gadsden Center	Gold
	Gardiner Hall	Silver
2012	Addition to NMDA	Gold
	Carlsbad Allied Health	Silver
	Chamisa Phase II	Gold
2013	American Indian Student Center	Silver
	ASNMSU Center for the Arts	Gold
	Barnes & Noble	Gold
	DACC Hatch Center	Silver
	East Mesa Ph. 6/7	Silver
	Health and Social Services Annex	Gold
2014	DACC Sunland Park	Silver
2016	HJ Undergraduate Learning Center	Silver

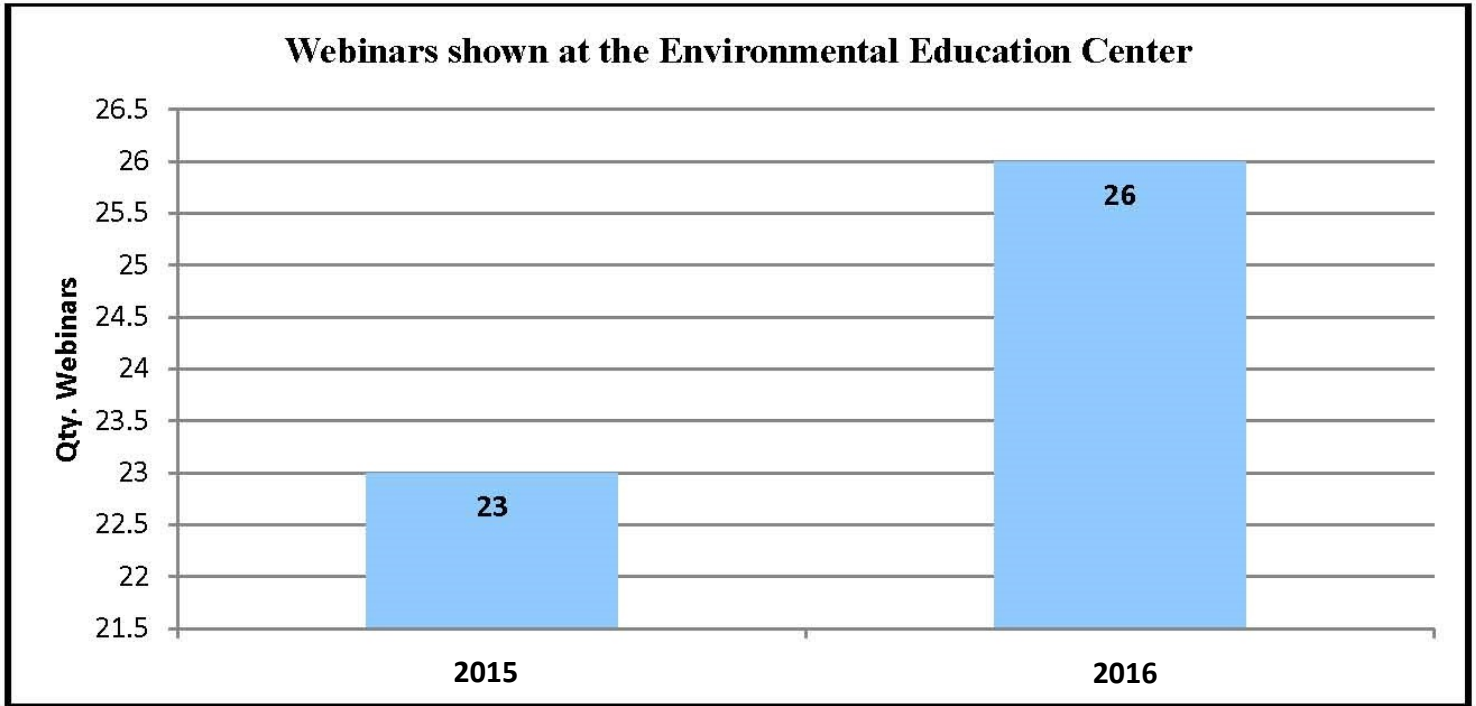


Undergraduate Learning Center —LEED Silver Computer Lab



Undergraduate Learning Center —LEED Silver in 2016

Webinars 2015 - 2016

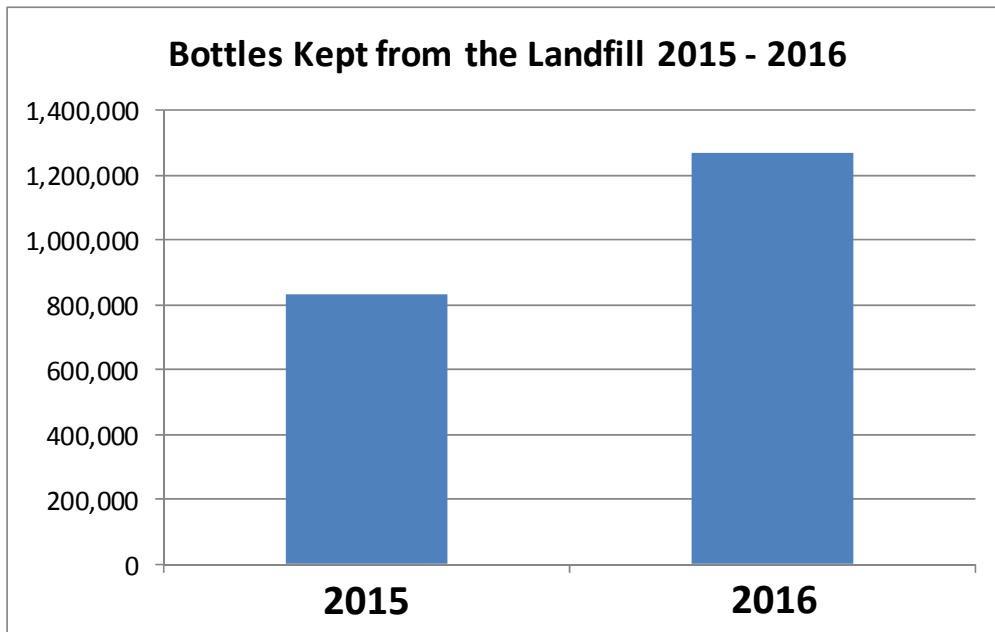


Webinars are a great way to educate these days. During the lunch hours we aired various webcasts from higher education and climate leaders to **learn about the role of campuses in adapting to a changing climate, innovations in climate resilience and mitigation, and community partnerships.** The broadcasts featured presentations and discussions touching on leadership and practical issues related to campuses and communities. The webinars addressed both opportunities and responsibilities in a changing climate.

The Environmental Education Center is the perfect location to educate. Look for our webinar announcements in the daily NMSU Hotline emails.



Our first hydration station was installed in 2012. By the end of 2016, **50 hydration stations were installed** in 34 buildings on main campus. Since a mere 25% of the plastic bottles we use go to the recycling bin (yes, some of us just toss them in the trash), by using our own reusable water bottles we are saving the university money in “tipping fees”, which is the charge we pay to tip trash into the landfill. To find out the locations of all the hydration stations on main campus go to <https://sustainability.nmsu.edu/hydration-stations/> .



It estimated that recycling, reuse, and composting create six to ten times as many jobs as waste incineration and landfills.



Fire Chief Johnny Carrillo and sustainability mgr. joni newcomer promote using your own reusable ToGo bottle

Americans throw away 25 Billion (with a “B”!) polystyrene coffee cups a year.

Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour! 25% of them are thrown away.

Celebrate Earth Day with NMSU OASIS Club and Southwest Environmental Center

Earth Day Fair
Sunday, April 17, 2016
Noon - 6 PM
NMSU Horseshoe
at N. Horseshoe and Espina
oasisnmsu.org

Entertainment

- 12:00 - 12:45 - Little Contra Band
- 1:00 - 2:45 - Gabrielle Louise
- 3:00 - 3:45 - The Hooligans
- 4:00 - 5:45 - Darryl Purpose

- Children's activities
- Sustainable vendors
- All-day live music and dancing
- Environmental educational booths

SUNPOWER by Positive Energy Solar | **SIERRA CLUB** | **sodexo** | **SSL** Solar Smart Living | **NATURAL GROCERS**

Thanks to our sponsors!!

KOHL'S | **THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER** | **SUNFLOWER GOODS** | **downtown desert yoga** | **VIEW market CO-OP** | **Health Alternatives**

OASIS had another fun Earth Day Fair



A well-attended presentation by John Hawley on water in New Mexico

“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”

- Ban Ki-moon



OASIS student club meeting in Environmental Education Center



The Swainson's Hawks with their two chicks. Proud parents!



Velo Cycle group planning the Aggie Bike Expo



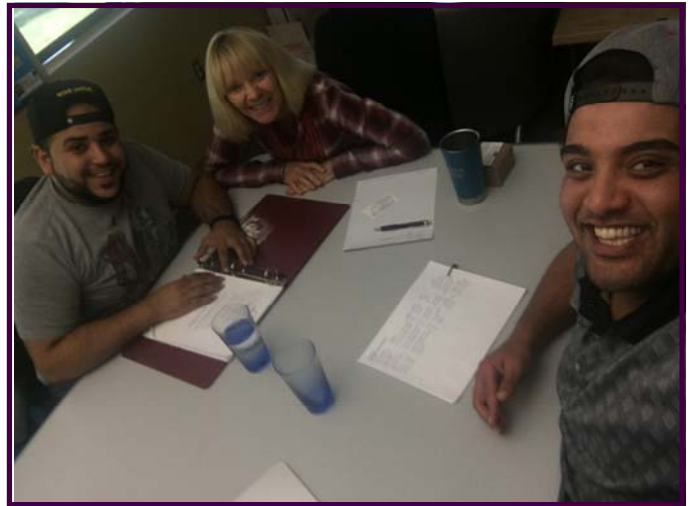
City of Las Cruces STAR Communities planning session

The manager of the Office of Sustainability reaches out regularly to people and organizations in the community and gives tours of the Environmental Education Center. Here are a few of her 2016 highlights:

- Participated in the City of Las Cruces “[STAR Communities](#)” planning session organized by the City of Las Cruces Sustainability Officer (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities)
- **Toured a professor from the University of Guadalajara Cooperative Extension Service** through the Environmental Education Center and showed him what NMSU does to be green
- **Chaired the Programs Committee** for the Sustainability Council providing some exciting guest speakers
- Met with NMSU Outdoor Rec and Velo Cycle, a Las Cruces bicycle advocacy group, to plan the first **Aggie Bike Expo** and tabled with the City’s Roadrunner Transportation and Environmental Health and Safety
- Co-chaired the City’s “**Bicycle Friendly City**” task force during the spring semester w/Ashleigh Curry
- **Outreach with other sustainability officers** from the City, White Sands, and UTEP to discuss topics such as water, urban agriculture
- Attended “Designing Healthy Communities” and “Health in All Policies” workshops
- “**Talked green**” with our district City Councilor, Greg Z. Smith
- **Presented at the annual AASHE conference** on the successes of our PeopleTowel® study
- Assisted the “[STORM Eindhoven](#)” so they could show off the electric motorcycle the college students designed at Eindhoven University of Technology in Netherlands during their [visit to Las Cruces](#)
- Had two **radio interviews**: one at KRWG “Puentes” radio show by Emily Guerra, and another for KTEP at University of Texas El Paso, on our sustainable efforts at NMSU



MacArthur Elementary School K-12 students tour the EEC



“Spiral Class” students Ahmed Al Mohamed Husain and Ali Al-Henjab working with Dr. newcomer

Students of all ages are educated on sustainability topics at the Environmental Education Center and all across campus and in the community. Here are a few of the Sustainability Manager’s 2016 highlights:

- Critiqued several **DACC architecture class final projects** during both semesters
- Worked with Dr. David Boje’s **“Spiral” class**, helping two masters students with their project throughout the spring semester (picture upper right)
- **McArthur Elementary students** had a special day learning about climate change at the EEC (upper left)
- Dr. newcomer was on the **ACES faculty search committee** for a new horticulture faculty
- Spoke to many NMSU classes and groups about ways to **be a Green Aggie** (Engineering, Ag Extension, English, architecture, and others)
- As OASIS co-advisor, planned the **Earth Day Fair** along with the OASIS president, students, and co-advisor Niki Harings



OASIS tabling for Valentine’s Day fundraising



OASIS meeting at the Environmental Education Center



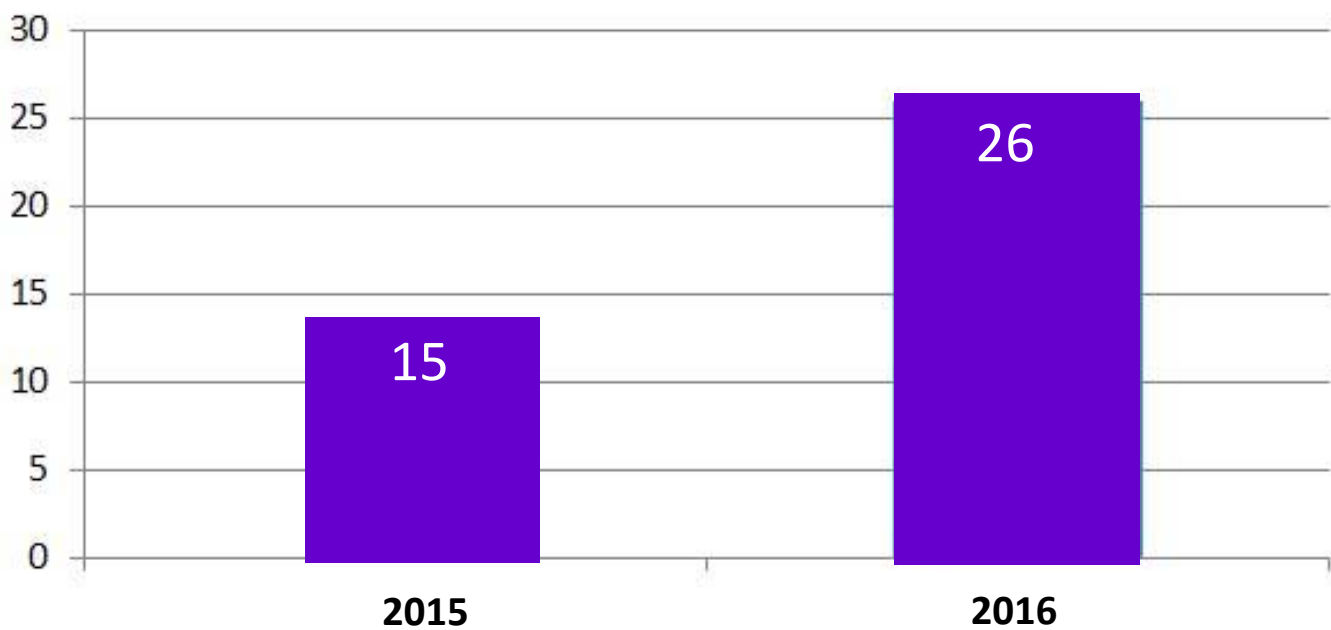
Meeting with Capstone Project students about Tiny Homes



Critique for DACC architecture class final project

The sustainability manager is a guest lecturer at NMSU classes as well as DACC classes on topics such as the [10 Sustainability Initiatives](#), waste reduction, green buildings, and LEED v4. Some of the professors that asked joni to speak were Catie Brewer, Tom Dormody, Luis Rios, Kenny Stevens, and Julia Kirton.

Guest Lectures and Classes Taught by Sustainability Manager 2015 - 2016





Aggie BIKE EXPO

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016
 NMSU Activity Center
 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Anti-Theft Bike Registration
Bike Swap Buy • Sell • Trade
Fix-A-Flat Workshop
Bike Commuter Workshop



Free Bike Giveaway!!!
 Enter your name for a free chance to win a brand new bike!
 Sponsored by Velo Cruces and Outdoor Adventures



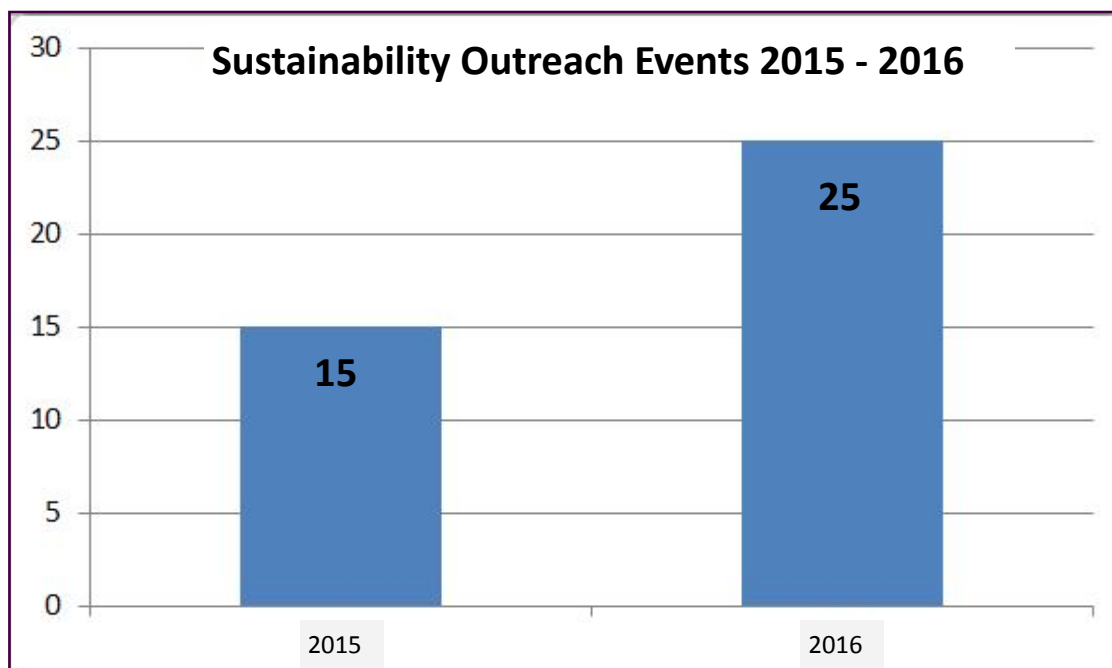
NMSU Outdoor Recreation
 recsport.nmsu.edu/outdoor 646 • 4252 outdoor@nmsu.edu



Aggie Bike Expo with EH&S at Activity Center



"Farmer's Night Out" —tabling on Halloween



The **Discover Sustainability Symposium** was a special occasion with three guest speakers who spoke about varied sustainability topics. It was a very successful event with students from all colleges attending along with faculty, staff, and the public. We are all grateful to the speakers for offering their time and expertise.

Provost **Dan Howard** did the opening introduction, followed by NMSU Professor, **David Boje**, who talked about the *Greening the Curriculum* program sponsored by the President's Performance Fund, and the creation of a School of Sustainability at NMSU.

- Stormwater consultant, **Claire Catlett**, presented *Stormwater and Low Impact Design*
- Systems biologist and researcher, **Mary Lucero**, discussed *Restoring Microbiomes for Food Security and Integrated Health*
- NMSU Associate Professor, **Lisa Grayshield**, spoke from her heart about *We Are All Indigenous People*
- **Special thanks to the volunteer committee:** Bryan Tempel, Miley Grandjean, Michelle Lebsock, and joni newcomer



Dan Howard



David Boje



joni newcomer



Claire Catlett



Mary Lucero



Lisa Grayshield

Join the Fun, Volunteer, and Learn about Sustainability at NMSU!

Council Leadership Team

Chair: David Boje
Past Chair: joni newcomer
Operations: Pat Chavez
Education: Dave Dubois and Luis Rios
Outreach and Engagement: vacant
Education and Programs: joni newcomer

The Sustainability Council Leadership Team consists of all volunteers. **We are always looking for people to join us and help make a difference for the planet.** To volunteer contact joni newcomer, Sustainability Manager, at newcomer@nmsu.edu.

Our meetings are every first Tuesday of the month from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in Milton Hall,



Sustainability Council meeting - come join the fun!

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

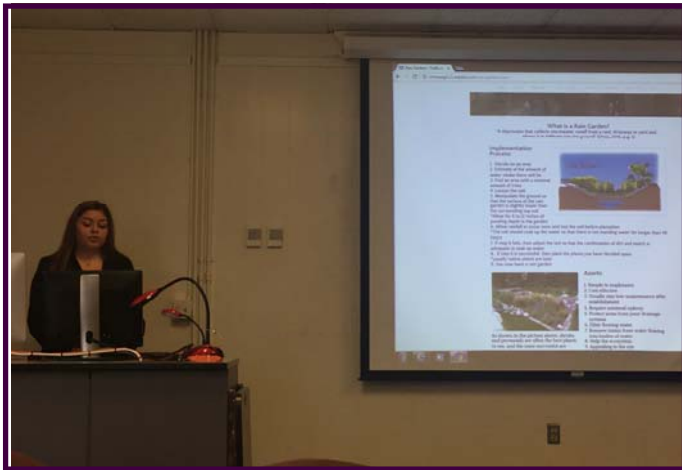
—Jane Goodall



Bob Pofahl speaking to the group



Loui Reyes, NMSU Graduate School, speaking to Council members



Student in Environmental Rhetoric class, Fall 2016 semester, giving her final presentation on an environmental topic.



Sustainability Manager “talks green” at UTEP sustainability event in the fall.



Barnes & Noble selling environmentally conscious items!

“The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth, the earth which bore us and sustains us, the only paradise we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need, if only we had the eyes to see.”
- Ed Abbey



Dr. Joni Newcomer speaks about waste reduction using PeopleTowels® at the AASHE conference with the co-owner of PeopleTowels, Mary Wallace



OASIS students (L to R) Carol Tessein, Lulu Saenz, and Bryan Murphy, tabling for the annual Earth Day event on campus

Special thanks to the following people:

NMSU Board of Regents
Pat DeSimio
Heidi Frohnappfel
Olga Holguin
Suzanne Montes
Heather Watenpaugh

Thanks to the following organizations:

OASIS (Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability)
FRN (Food Recovery Network)
The Central and Satellite Utility Plant operators
Sustainability Council volunteers

To those of you doing work behind the scenes, I am deeply grateful for your help, and your love and care of Mother Earth.

Individuals

David Boje	Suzanne Michaels
Carol Campbell	Mother Nature
Claire Catlett	Luis Rios
David Chavez	John Rivers
Ashleigh Curry	David Shearer
Dave Dubois	Darío Silva
Arianna Espinoza	Bryan Tempel
Dael Goodman	April Ulery
Joyce Newcomer Gosnell	Shelly White
Miley Grandjean	
Lisa Grayshield	
Kimmie Jordan	
Niki Harings	
Jack Kirby	
Lisa LaRocque	
Michelle Lebsock	
Mary Lucero	
Mike Luchau	



“Nowadays, if you don’t factor climate change into the decisions, you are going to come up with the wrong answer.”

- Katharine Hayhoe