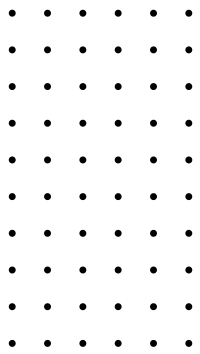
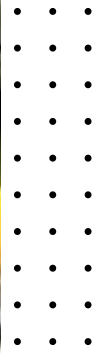


**STUDENT  
SUSTAINABILITY  
COUNCIL**



**SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE**

William & Mary



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## WHY SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

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Sustainability is a framework for building an equitable future that prioritizes wellness and empowers communities to create environmental leaders. By viewing our world through the lens of sustainability, we can identify solutions to societal, environmental, and economic issues that create flourishing futures for all.

At William & Mary, we seek to create leaders that will approach environmental issues with an integrative approach acquired through their lessons in sustainability, academics, and hands-on experiences. William & Mary encourages everyone in our community to get involved in sustainability. We have a wide range of opportunities for education, research, community engagement, funding opportunities, internships, and more!





## DEI

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are important factors to advancing sustainability. Sustainability is the blending of environmental and social considerations for our future. Uplifting diverse voices creates a welcoming community that produces an array of brilliant solutions to our sustainability concerns.

A sustainable reality does not exist without social justice. Advancing sustainability means supporting environmental justice. Environmental degradation, at a global and local scale, disproportionately impact minority communities. Through proper education, advocacy, and promotion of equal access to resources we can create a sustainable reality. The sustainability framework seeks to eliminate environmental injustices to make an equitable world.





# **WHO WE ARE**

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## **STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**

### **Mission**

Student Sustainability Council aims to increase student voices in W&M sustainability and make it a more accessible field of interest. The Council organizes a semesterly forum in order to facilitate conversations on sustainability and create connections between the various groups and individuals on campus. The Student Sustainability Council is a creation of the Committee on Sustainability (COS) and functions to share student feedback with COS.





# WHO ELSE DIRECTS SUSTAINABILITY AT W&M?

For the university's sustainability efforts to be effective, they must be collaborative. Student Sustainability Council is just one of the the groups at W&M working to push the university's goals forward and to make student voices heard.

All of the sustainability focused groups on campus work together to achieve goals and create a caring and uplifting community.





# **COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY**

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## **Mission**

The Committee on Sustainability was created in 2008 as an advisory board for institutional sustainability efforts. They are charged with ensuring the Sustainability Policy is implemented throughout the university.

The committee members are made up of faculty, staff, and students who meet to discuss the status of W&M sustainability and vote on proposals for Green Fee funding. COS also oversees the work done by the Office of Sustainability and oversees the acceptance of new university Sustainability staff.



# OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

## Mission

The Office of Sustainability fosters collaboration across the university in environmental, social, and economic flourishing. The office is a resource for the W&M community and engages students in the process of creating change in a manner intended to help them become leaders who will influence the world.

## What do we do?

- Integrate sustainability into the academics, operations, engagement, planning and culture of W&M
- Create a sense of community that drives sustainable progress
- Share weekly newsletters featuring sustainability events and opportunities
- Organize Earth Week events
- Provide educational experiences and resources to faculty, students, and staff so that they may be ambassadors of change

## Previous Projects

- Host alumni speakers to share their experiences in sustainability careers
- Organize Earth Day festivities with Student Assembly
- Sustainabite, monthly lunches featuring a sustainability speaker
- Semesterly lottery for campus garden spots
- Publishing data in the Sustainability Report sharing our advancements





# STUDENT ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY

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## Mission

The Department of Sustainability is a part of Student Assembly's Executive Branch. It consists of one secretary and a few deputy secretaries and undersecretaries who work on campus-wide projects surrounding sustainability.

## What do we do?

- Work on any Student Assembly projects and initiatives that are related to sustainability
- Sit on the Committee on Sustainability
- Work closely with the Office of Sustainability and the Student Sustainability Council

## Previous Projects

- Funded all public compost bins on campus
- Created a recycling guide for bins around campus
- Handed out free sustainable period products to students
- Held a Sustainability Activities Fair for students in Fall 2023
- Celebrated Earth Day with the Office of Sustainability and many environmentally-focused student organizations



# ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (ENSP)

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## Mission

The Environment & Sustainability Program (ENSP) seeks to create innovative change makers who carry with them a vision of how to resolve our contemporary environmental problems through science, policy, history, and imagination. The program reaches across the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. It is one of the most integrative environmental programs in the nation.

## What do we do?

- Students can major, minor, or just take courses in ENSP that focus on environmental science, environmental policy, and the environmental humanities
- Students can partake in environmental research with an ENSP faculty member or develop an independent project
- Host Spring Speaker Series which anyone can attend and can be taken for credit through ENSP 250
- Share information about environmental events, research fellowships, jobs, and more through ENSP listserv

## Previous Projects

- Parks & Ecotherapy Research Lab (PERL)
- Summer Environmental Research Fellowships





# INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATIVE CONSERVATION (IIC)

## Mission

The Institute for Integrative Conservation is a university department that functions at the local and global level to involve students in the advancement of conservation. They seek to create a biodiverse, inclusive, and equitable future by working with communities and environments around the world to find sustainable solutions to conservation issues. The IIC has brought a strong international community together through their network.

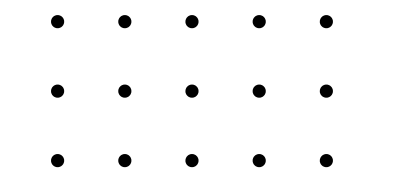
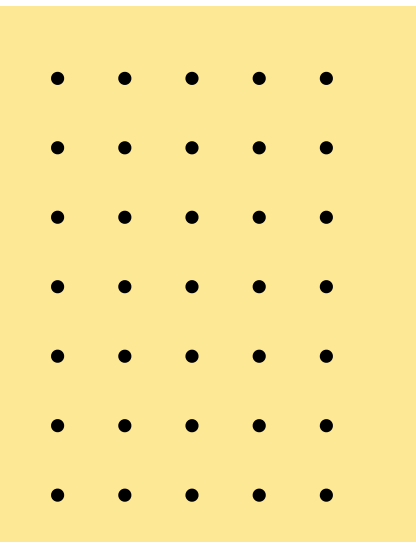
## What do we do?

- W&M students and faculty, and community partners can contribute to conservation research through the Conservation Research Program (CRP) and the Conservation Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab.
- Students can major or minor in conservation or even just take a few courses in integrative conservation
- Host speaker series revolving around a chosen theme
- Share newsletters with our listserv

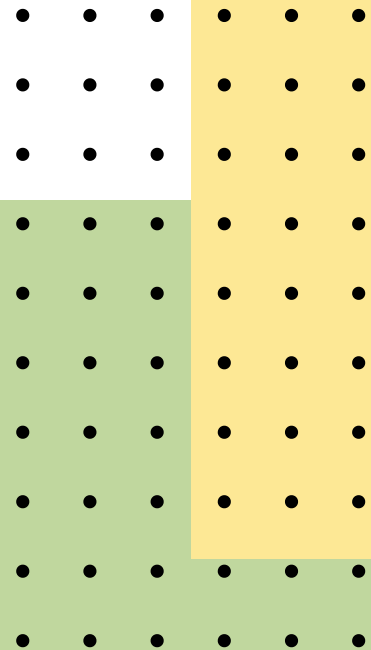
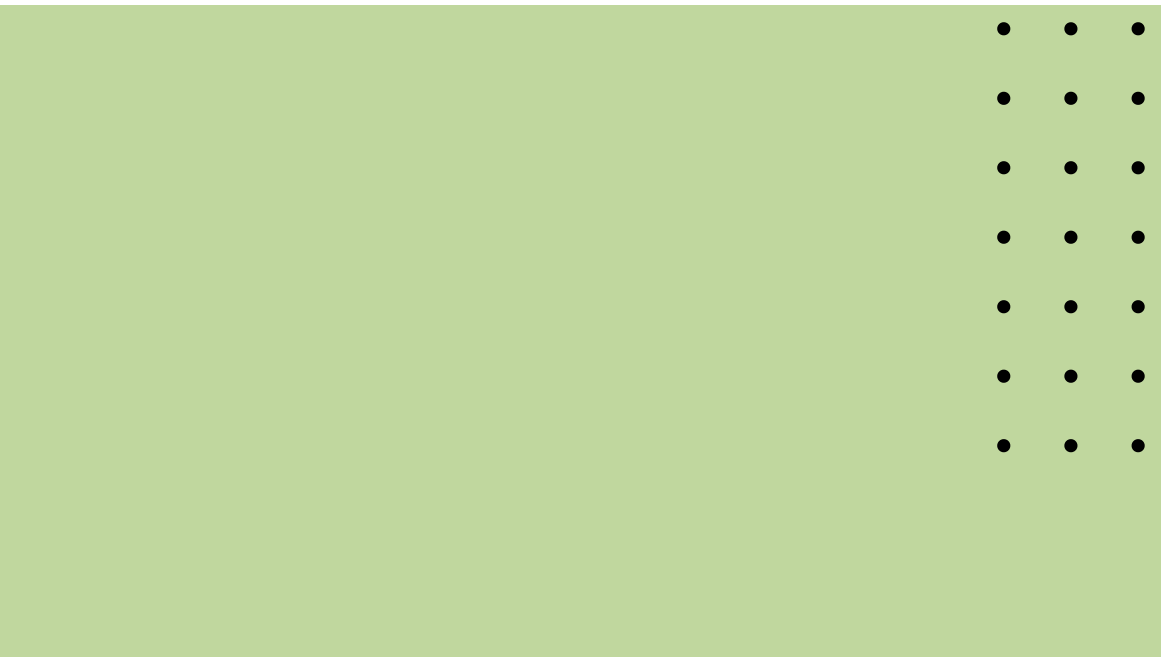
## Previous Projects

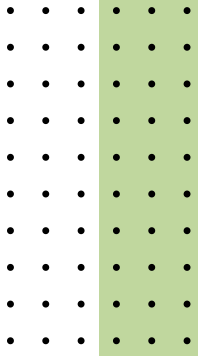
- Conservation Stories Podcast
- Open access conservation repository
- Hosts regularly occurring social events for those with conservation interests





# GET INVOLVED!





## FUND YOUR IDEAS– GREEN FEE

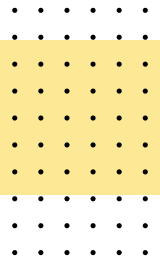
The Green Fee was passed in a student referendum that proposed using student tuition to fund sustainability advancements at W&M. Since its establishment in 2008, the W&M Green Fee program has funded more than \$1.6 million worth of sustainability-related projects. Every semester, the Committee on Sustainability approves funding for project proposals submitted by students, faculty, and staff. Projects awarded grants range greatly in size and subject, featuring research, community events, resource saving initiatives, wellness programs and more. Green Fee funds advance the university’s sustainability through the ideas from the W&M community.

### Examples of past funded projects:

- VIMS Composting Program ‘24
- Exploration in the Crim Dell Ecosystem:  
Community Engagement and Jellyfish Blooms ‘24
- Main Campus Solar Charging Bench ‘21
- Reducing Bird Window Collisions on Campus ‘16



# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- FOOD



## Dining Sustainability

### Four Planet Priorities

- Source sustainability: source products that meet our standards for protection of people
- Minimize food waste: reduce food waste by focusing on prevention, recovery, and recycling
- Embed circularity: redesign operations with circularity in mind, reduce consumption
- Operate efficiently: conserve water and energy, and reduce fuel consumption

Dining sustainability is currently under the contract of Aramark, which has an [ESG progress report](#) that further dives into the four priorities. The dining sustainability interns manage the [campus compost program](#).



## Campus Garden

William & Mary students, faculty, and staff can rent a plot when they enter the raffle system through the Office of Sustainability's Garden Interns. The campus garden is located behind DuPont Hall and has multiple beds where gardeners can grow various organic crops. If you have any questions for the Campus Garden Interns please reach out to [wmcampusgardens@gmail.com](mailto:wmcampusgardens@gmail.com)

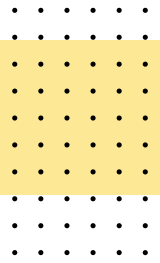


## Saturday Farmer's Market

The Williamsburg Farmers Market is situated next to W&M in Merchant Square. Every Saturday from 8 am to 12 pm, vendors from all across Virginia sell fresh produce, dairy, and baked goods. Students can use their dining dollars to purchase \$5 tokens that are accepted by most market vendors. The regular season is from March 16 to September 28 and October 12-26. Holiday Markets run from November 2 - December 21.

- The director is Tracy Frey and the email for any inquiries or concerns is [therner@williamsburgva.gov](mailto:therner@williamsburgva.gov)

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- WASTE



## Compost

There are 14 compost bins on campus whose locations can be viewed through this [interactive map](#). All food, paper products, and anything labeled “greenware” or “compostable” can be placed in these bins. Remove stickers from produce before composting and don’t put bones in the bins.

If you live off-campus, you can collect your compost and bring it to the green bins on campus. If you live on campus or nearby, you can [request Dining Sustainability to pickup your compost](#) every Sunday. Composting supplies and liners are also available through Dining Sustainability.

For questions, email [compost@wm.edu](mailto:compost@wm.edu).

**CAN I COMPOST THIS?**

**ASK YOURSELF...**

**IS IT FOOD?**



**IS IT UNCOATED PAPER?**



**IS IT LABELLED AS 'GREENWARE' OR 'COMPOSTABLE'?**



**IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, CONGRATS! YOUR ITEM IS COMPOSTABLE :)**



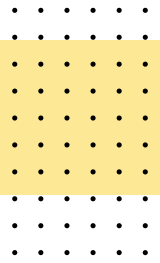
# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- WASTE

## Recycling

- In Williamsburg, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, metal cans, aseptic food & beverage cartons, and paper can be recycled
- No to:
  - Plastic Bags, # 3-7 plastics, greasy paper (pizza boxes), napkins, paper towels, tissues, milk cartons, juice boxes, twine, string, wire, ceramic dishes or ovenware, light bulbs, batteries, clothes hangers, styrofoam (cups, plates or packing materials).
- Use the [Recycling Wizard](#) to search for where to dispose of your specific waste.



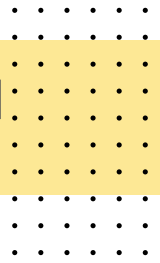
# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- WASTE



## Water Bottle Filling Stations

- Always carry a reusable water bottle with you and take advantage of the filling stations located around campus.
- These filling stations have 3 light colors to indicate the status of their filter system and tallies how many water bottles are being saved with each use
- Access a map of all the filling stations [here!](#)

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- TRANSPORTATION



## WATA

WATA provides transit services for W&M students, faculty, and staff, with a valid William & Mary ID. The WATA bus system is useful for getting around campus and traveling to off-campus services and landmarks.

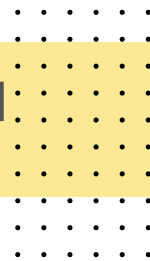
- [Routes and Schedules](#)
- [Interactive Route Map](#)
- Important Routes for Students:
  - Route 8 (W&M)
  - Route 2 (Richmond)
  - Route 5 (Monticello)
  - Route 6 (Jamestown)



## ZipCar

Any student, faculty, or staff at William & Mary 18 years or older can [join Zipcar](#) by paying a \$25 yearly membership. Trips start at \$11 an hour depending on the vehicle. Cars are reserved online and accessed anytime on Wake Drive or the Old Dominion lot off James Blair Drive.

[Zipcar registration](#)

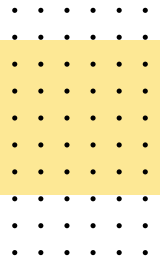


## Biking

The Bike Alliance supports bicycling as a safe, sustainable, and healthy form of transportation on campus. The Bike Alliance offers Group Rides, Mechanical Mondays, and Skills Clinics. There are 8 fix-it stations on campus that allow self-repair and maintenance of bikes.

- [Map of stations](#)
- [Registering your bike](#) with William & Mary Parking & Transportation gives the police the necessary information to help find and return your bike in case it is stolen. [Link here!](#)
- William & Mary offers [bikes that can be rented](#) upon request for daily (\$15), weekly (\$30), monthly (\$50), and semesterly (\$100) timeframes using W&M Express fees. [Link to request!](#)
- [Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg](#): sells donated, refurbished bikes at a fraction of the price of a new bike. [Link to website!](#)

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY- MOVING

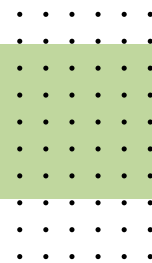


## Tips for moving in and out!

- Be mindful of what you pack. Only bring what you need, and coordinate with your roommate(s) about shared items.
- Use reusable bags and storage containers when packing.
- Purchase furniture from the Habitat ReStore, Goodwill, or second hand shop
- Inquire about getting furniture or essentials from other students moving out.
- Instead of throwing away, donate old furniture/items to thrift stores or another student.
- Keep an eye on the WM Free Stuff GroupMe, Facebook groups, and other messaging/social media platforms for students giving away and reselling their items.
- Consider bringing a bike, scooter, or other sustainable mode of transportation to campus.



# GET OUTSIDE!



## TAP Trips

TAP offers a variety of outdoor trips for students led by students, ranging from canoeing, camping, backpacking, day hikes, ziplining, and more. Trips vary in location, length, and price.

[Link to register for trips!](#)



## Climbing Wall

The climbing wall is located on the mid-level of the Student Recreation Center. It is open for use free of cost to students, staff, and faculty from 4 PM - 10 PM Monday through Thursday, 4 PM - 8 PM on Fridays, and 9 AM - 4 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.



## Matoaka Boat House

The boathouse is located on Lake Matoaka and offers free recreational kayaking and canoeing for students, staff, and faculty.

The boathouse is open from the beginning of the fall semester until November, following spring break until the end of the semester, and throughout the summer.

# GET OUTSIDE! MAPS

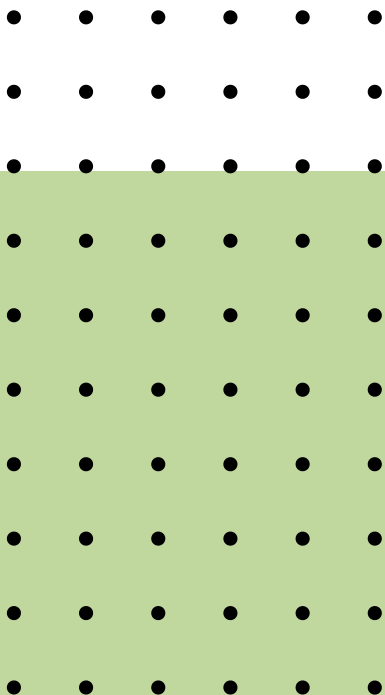
## College Woods Map

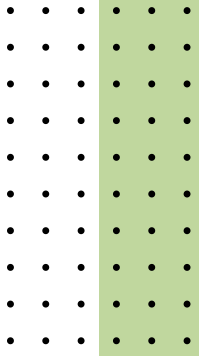
By Ryan McKinney [here!](#)

By AllTrails [here!](#)

## Campus Green Spaces Map

By the Parks & Ecotherapy Research Lab, the CGA, and the Bird Club [here!](#)





## EVENT PLANNING

Plan your events with sustainability in mind to reduce your waste, promote eco-conscious practices, and reduce your environmental footprint.

Refer to Student Assembly's Green Event Guide on the next page when planning your next event.

### **Request compost bins**

Foster sustainability through your club/organization events by making a request for Compost Bins.

Submit [this form to Dining Sustainability!](#)





# 5 TIPS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE EVENT

01

## Think consciously about what you are purchasing and how it will be disposed of

Ask yourself:

- How much plastic are we purchasing?
- Is the item only going to be used once?
- Could you opt for a reusable version?
- When your event is over, how much waste will have been produced?

03

## Avoid giveaways that will ultimately be thrown away or wasted

- T-shirts are great but most people already have a ton! If you purchase t-shirts don't get a different design made for every event. Choose a design that your members can wear repeatedly!
- When purchasing giveaways consider whether the items will actually be used. Gift certificates to local businesses or restaurants can be a great way to avoid a giveaway that'll create more waste!

05

## Aim for more sustainable food purchases

Ask yourself:

- Could we source this food locally?
- Will we have plant-based options?
- How much food is enough? Ordering just enough food will help avoid excessive food waste!



## Utilize digital marketing as much as possible

02

- Take advantage of social media and other online marketing platforms
- If you do use paper posters, make sure that you are being mindful of how many you print out and where you put them

## Buy compostable tableware AND make sure it ends up in a compost bin!

04

- Buying compostable items is great! Putting them in the compost bin is even better! Compostable items need to end up in the compost bin to biodegrade. In a compost pile, a banana peel will take just a few days to naturally decompose, but in a landfill, it takes years!
- Take advantage of our public compost bins or request a compost bin specifically for your event from Dining Sustainability ([greendiningwm@gmail.com](mailto:greendiningwm@gmail.com))



## EDUCATION & RESEARCH

William & Mary embeds the sustainability framework into the academic world. Through experiential learning, students become leaders of the sustainable future. W&M offers courses that deal specifically with sustainability and a larger array of course offerings that tie sustainability into their course structure.

Beyond the classroom, students can gain research experience in sustainability by working through with a department, applying for research programs, participating in faculty projects, or getting their own sustainable ideas funded.

## **Parks & Ecotherapy Research Lab (PERL)**

Directed by Dr. Dorothy Ibes, PERL is a part of the Environment & Sustainability Program. They focus on fostering mental health, sustainability, and environmental stewardship through connecting community with nature. They research mental health and nature engagement and advocate for nature therapy through their programming.

PERL provides students with free "Park Prescriptions" through the Campus Park Rx program. Complete [this form](#) to receive a customized list of local parks within a week!

If interested in becoming a Campus Park Rx Ambassador to help fellow students improve their health and wellbeing through time in nature, fill out the [interest form](#) ASAP. Positions are limited, with rolling applications and preference given to early submissions!

Read more [here!](#)

## **Institute for Integrative Conservation**

Student can take courses in Integrative Conservation or participate in interdisciplinary conservation research through the IIC.

Student, faculty, and conservation partners can find opportunities through the IIC's Conservation Research Program (CRP) and the Conservation Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab.

Read more [here!](#)



## **Keck Environmental Field Lab**

A part of the W&M Campus, the Keck Lab is a building off Lake Matoaka in the College Woods. It's a homeplace for seminar, lecture, and lab courses and provides support in research for the Environment & Sustainability program and VIMS.

The Keck Lab monitors water quality for the College Creek Watershed for the College Creek Alliance and collects real-time weather data.

Read more [here!](#)

## **Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)**

VIMS is home to School of Marine Science (SMS) for W&M graduate students and has a newly added undergrad Marine Science major. With a variety of research centers, programs, and lab groups, VIMS investigates natural resources, coastal & ocean processes, and ecosystem health. VIMS hosts a research experience for undergraduates (REU) in the summer through the National Science Foundation.

Read more [here!](#)

## **Washington Center**

The Washington Center offers Study in D.C. programs throughout the year that offer students high-impact learning experiences covering a variety of topics, such as sustainability.

The Global Scholars Program (GSP) places students in courses and internships that provide experiential learning. Scholars can practice using sustainable frameworks in their global policy experience.

Read more [here!](#)

## **Global Research Institute (GRI)**

The GRI offers students opportunities to do applied research on global issues. Diverse and multidisciplinary student and faculty research teams work together with community partners to work in diverse multidisciplinary teams discover sustainable solutions to global issues. The GRI has a variety of research labs and student programs, some dealing directly with sustainability, that students can apply to.

Read more [here!](#)

## **Center for Geospatial Analysis (CGA)**

The CGA is a resource for students and faculty looking to utilize GIS tools in their research and projects. The CGA offers courses, GIS support, and partnerships. Geospatial tools can be used to better understand the world and identify solutions sustainability issues such as social and environmental disparities.

Explore more [here!](#)

## **Faculty Research**

Gain hands-on experience by working alongside one of your professors. W&M faculty pages include their research areas and their preferred modes of contact. If you're interested in participating in research, reach out to faculty regarding opportunities in their projects or inquire about their mentorship on an independent project. Consider applying for the Green Fee to fund your sustainable research ideas. Check out [past projects](#) to see examples of funded research.

While sustainability can be researched through many lenses, the following departments more commonly explore sustainability: Environment & Sustainability, Marine Science, Conservation, GIS, Geology, Sociology, Biology, Anthropology, and Chemistry.

Explore more [here!](#)



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Serving the community is a great way to directly contribute to the creation of an equitable world. By participating in work with our partner organizations, students can better understand local social issues and engage more deeply with the community.

William & Mary's [Community & Civic Engagement](#) offers a variety of accessible ways for students to advance sustainability through social change.

Through [Williamsburg Engagement](#), students can join a team and become a returning volunteer at a community organization. You can also volunteer with a variety of organizations during [Service Saturday's](#).

Through the CCE, students can also support community change through [Civic Leadership Program](#) or dedicate their time to [Branch Out Alternative Breaks](#).

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# CONTACTS AND HELPFUL LINKS

## MAILING LISTS

[ENSP mailing list: click here](#)

[IIC mailing list](#)

Sustainability mailing list: [click here](#) or  
email [sustain@wm.edu](mailto:sustain@wm.edu)

[Sustainability related RSO's](#)

# **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Campus Garden:

[wmcampusgardens@gmail.com](mailto:wmcampusgardens@gmail.com)

Compost: [compost@wm.edu](mailto:compost@wm.edu)

ENSP Director: [bzkaup@wm.edu](mailto:bzkaup@wm.edu)

Keck Lab Director: [rmcham@wm.edu](mailto:rmcham@wm.edu)

[Office of Sustainability: sustain@wm.edu](mailto:sustain@wm.edu)

Service Saturday's and Williamsburg

Engagement: [rmtho2@wm.edu](mailto:rmtho2@wm.edu)

Sustainability Special Projects Coordinator:

[sethayer@wm.edu](mailto:sethayer@wm.edu)

## **CHATS**

Sustainability Leaders GroupMe

Free Food GroupMe

Free Stuff GroupMe

**STUDENT  
SUSTAINABILITY  
COUNCIL**

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/sustainability/get-involved/student-sust-council/>