

SOUTHEASTERN SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

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Newsletter

Vol 1



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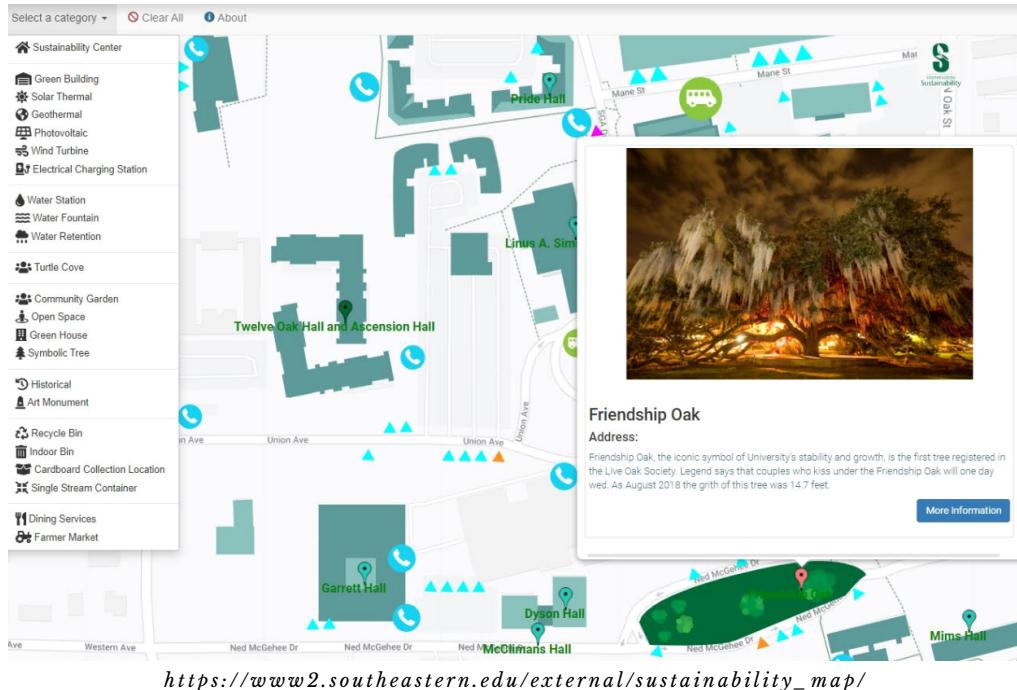
**Green
Talks**



A series of talks
about sustainability
& the environment

Southeastern's Sims Library and the Sustainability Center are hosting a series of Green Talks focused on environmental issues and making the University more sustainable. This collaboration is leading a campus-wide campaign to promote ecological awareness at Southeastern. The series began earlier in early March of 2019 with a talk about recycling and reducing waste on campus and continued every few months following. Each talk lasts around thirty minutes followed by a question and answer session.

Don't miss out on the next talk in the series February 5th on the second floor of Sims Library!
For more information regarding Green Talks and its upcoming events visit our webpage.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Southeastern Louisiana University's Sustainability Center

At the start of the year 2019, the Sustainability Center kicked off its very first campaign, 'I Choose to Reuse' to reduce plastic build up on campus and the surrounding community. Alejandro Martinez initiated this campaign to help eliminate the accumulation of plastic bottles on campus. 1,800 reusable water bottles were provided to students across campus and visitors of the Center. This campaign was the segway for the Center's installation of refillable water stations in buildings around campus with more fountains continuing into next year. This has positively impacted Southeastern's recycling program and reduces unsightly litter by reducing labor needs and beautifying our campus. 52 water refilling stations have been installed as of December 2019 with more to come in 2020. These refilling stations have already made a huge impact on plastic bottle reduction and have been well received by the student body.

The University obtained LED lighting in numerous buildings by the end of 2019. The old and new Biology building was the first to make the transition, followed by Sims Library, Fayard Hall, Campbell Hall, and the Nursing Center in Baton Rouge.

Also launched in 2019 was Southeastern's very own sustainability map. This map can be found on the Sustainability Center's website (www.sustainability@southeastern.edu) and includes the location of many sustainable resources on campus. This interactive map also includes background information on the various green energy projects on campus.

In December the Center was thrilled to host a tour from NASA's Education Specialist Louis Thompson. Louis toured the Center and discussed NASA's own projects being relatable to Southeastern's sustainable initiatives. The Sustainability Center's engagement with its community and student body has encouraged many students to reach out to the Center for partnerships in educational projects. One such project being a carbon footprint analysis of the University by Southeastern's Biology master's students.

STEM FEST NOLA SUPERDOME

October 19, 2019, Southeastern's Sustainability Center participated in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fest at Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. Dozens of hands on exhibits featured science, technology, and learning experiences. Hundreds of children and their families interacted with The Center's booth, alongside other departments from Southeastern including Biology, Computer Science, Science Olympiad, and Engineering and Technology. The Center's latest edition, the Heliodon (a device used to calculate the Sun's positioning and its effect on objects), was also present at the event.

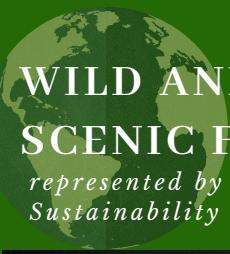


STEM Fest at the REC Center



NOLA' STEM Fest

For more information about the Center's involvement with STEM and other events, visit our web page [here!](#)



On October 19th, students, faculty, staff, and guests gathered to watch the Wild & Scenic Films. This festival (active around the world) inspires environmental activism and a love for nature-through film. Wild & Scenic shares an urgent call to action, encouraging festival-goers to learn more about what they can do to save our threatened planet

These short films highlight environmental issues in our region. Shown across the nation, this series combines inspirational and beautiful film making with pressing environmental issues to inspire action to protect the environment. From coast to coast, citizens are inspired to get outdoors and explore the environment around them and positively impact their communities and the environment in which they live.

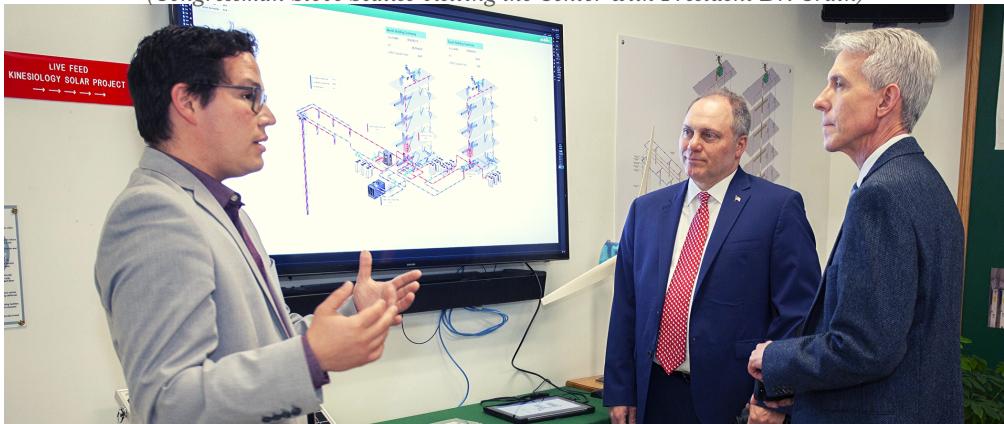


ENTERGY VISITS THE CENTER

At the heart of the Sustainability Center is its SEED building: an educational, 'real world' experience with sustainability and the environmental practices on campus. Every year the Center brings in numerous people for tours, having had 112 tours and reached over 1,500 people in 2019. Visitors include STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) students, local schools, and students from campus. One such tour November 7th was with Entergy's David Johnson, Vice President of Customer Service at Entergy of Louisiana, and Eunice Harris, Customer Service Representative. In their visit, Southeastern's Foundation's Representative Lynn Horgan discussed the strong relationship that Entergy and Southeastern Louisiana have had for years. The synergy in this partnership has generated numerous project initiatives and support within the local community of Southeastern.

Southeastern has been focusing on conservation efforts, from the new geothermal energy projects on campus to wind turbines at Southeastern's Sustainability Center. And with this, the Center was proud to show Entergy their latest award given by the Environmental Leadership Program national organization for pollution prevention and commitment to environmental protection.

(Congressman Steve Scalise visiting the Center with President Dr. Crain)



Contact us at (985)-549-3333 or email us at
sustainability@southeastern.edu

to schedule your free tour at the Center today!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @southeastern_sustainability.



ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

In May, the Sustainability Center was recognized by the Environmental Leadership Program national organization for its pollution prevention and commitment to environmental protection. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, who served on the selection committee, presented the award to Southeastern Physical Plant Director Byron Patterson and Sustainability Manager Alejandro Martinez in Baton Rouge at the ELP Awards ceremony. Southeastern's newest residence halls, Ascension Hall and Twelve Oaks Hall, draw from 220 geothermal wells situated 300 feet underground to heat and cool 556 rooms. The geothermal hybrid system significantly cuts down on heating and cooling costs. The center was created in order to save operating dollars and reduce waste going to landfills, while at the same time providing an invaluable learning component for students involved in energy, mechanical and construction engineering technology. This award brings national and state recognition to Southeastern and its efforts to continue to aid in greening our world.

How YOU can make a DIFFERENCE :

The Sustainability Center is able to continue educating and initiating projects in sustainability on campus and within the community thanks to donors like you!

For more information on how you can help support the Center's efforts, visit https://www.southeastern.edu/alumni_donors/foundation/

DINING SERVICES PARTNERS WITH THE SUSTAINABILITY CENTER



In response to requests for more sustainable food practices on campus, Southeastern's Dining Services has introduced its series of sustainable eating, Root to Leaf and Weigh the Waste. Beginning in September 2019, the Sustainability Center partnered with Dining Services for the first Root to Leaf event. This monthly event provides students with meals prepared with edible but often discounted parts of vegetables. 190 pounds of waste was recorded at the Mane Dish return on the day of Weigh the Waste in September. These series highlight the importance of sustainable eating. Don't miss the next event by following Dining Services on Instagram and learn more: @southeasterndining !

