



5 REASONS TO SWITCH TO NATIVE PLANTS

1. SAVE WATER, TIME & MONEY 2. HELP PREVENT EROSION 3. CREATE INTENSE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS 4. IMPROVE SOIL & AIR QUALITY 5. THEY'RE SAFER

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

10 A.M. - 1 P.M. NOVEMBER 15 COLUMBUS CAMPUS WEST EDUCATION ENTRANCE

50

CLOTHING SWAP, COOKIES & ROBOT BUILDING CONTEST

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: LILY95816@CCCNEB.EDU



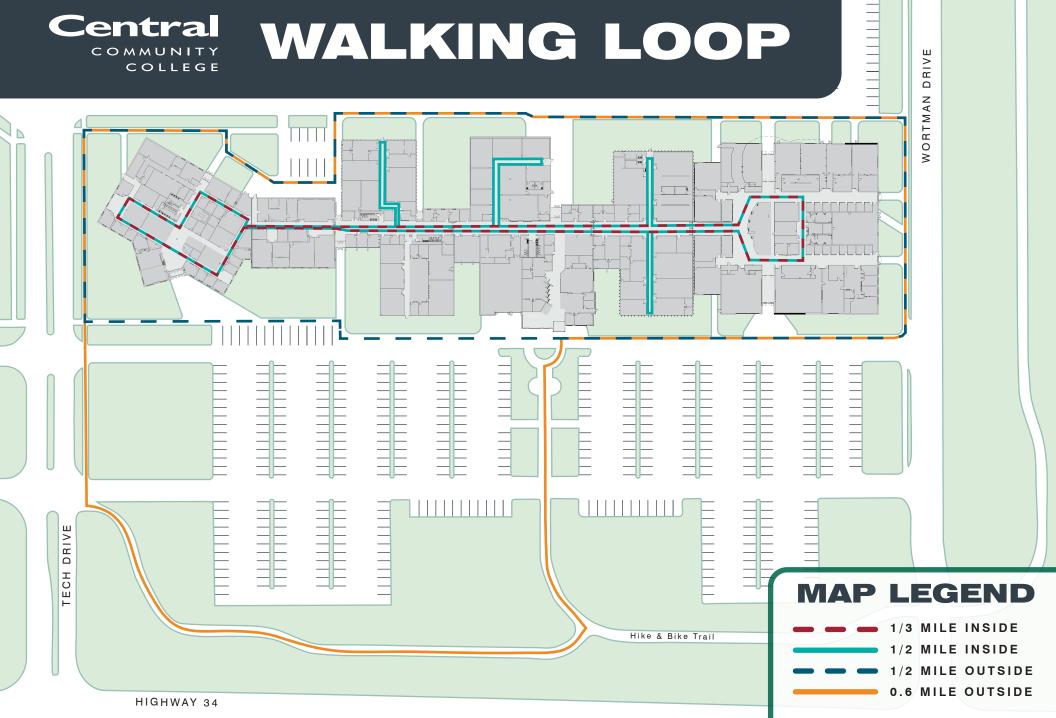




COMMUNITY

COLLEGE

CCC - GRAND ISLAND WALKING LOOP





Pathways to Decarbonization at OPPD

Register here for the SLPS webinar with OPPD CEO Javier Fernandez, it will also be offered in person to the first 70 to register at the UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

OPPD - Pathways to Decarbonization

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) announced their final plans to decarbonization in December 2021 to meet their goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Join UNO's Office of Sustainability as we host a community conversation with OPPD's CEO Javier Fernandez to discuss how this plan will impact UNO, other local higher education campuses, and the Omaha community.

Javier Fernandez joined OPPD in June 2017 as vice president and chief financial officer. He was selected by the OPPD Board of Directors to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer starting in July 2021.

Fernandez came to OPPD from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, in Portland, Oregon. He had been with the federal power marketing organization since 2012, most recently serving as executive vice president and chief financial Northwest Securities, where he performed public finance banking and financial advisory services to municipal jurisdictions, primarily in Oregon.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City, a master's degree in Business Administration from Yale University, a Utility Management Certificate from Willamette University, and a Utility Executive Certificate from the University of Idaho.

He currently serves as Board Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch, Bellevue University, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and Habitat for Humanity Omaha.

The presentation is on Monday, March 21 at 12 P.M. The presentation will be offered in person to the first 70 registrants. <u>Click here to register!</u>

Earth Month at Central CC

Central CC will be celebrating Earth Month each week in April at different campus locations. The CCC culinary food truck will give out street tacos at each location.

Kearney April 5

Tour of Sustainable features at Kearney Center Room 223

EV charging station demo 11 AM Sustainability Organizations and Student Expo- Atrium

Grand Island April 12

Sustainability Organizations, Student Expo and Documentary: Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives on restoring our world

Hastings April 22

Tour of Student State Fair projects at the Kearney building

Bike ride to the wind turbine tour

Columbus April 27

Pollinator garden planting with Sara Buckley- UNL Statewide Arboretum and Compost demo

Kindness Day Winners

The Environmental Sustainability Office recognized student and staff for Kindness Day on February 17, 2022. Kind acts were recognized on each campus, and they were entered into a drawing and also they were given lettuce, cilantro, or swiss chard seedlings!











Some of the Kindness Day winners not pictured include:

Steven Floyd, Alissa (AJ) Hodtwalker, Meghan May, Elijah Swantkoski, Josiah Rankin, Alina Vilai, Kathy Woitaszewski

Native Seed Winter Sowing and Cold Stratification

Students 4 Sustainability has collected seed from our pollinator gardens across our campuses and we have offered those seeds up for sale. We are also taking those seeds and preparing to germinate them to offer native pollinator seedlings come spring.

Many of these native plants have developed germination strategies that require a period of time that seeds must be subjected to cold, moist conditions before they will germinate. To accomplish this outside of nature we are using two techniques.

The first is called winter sowing. This technique utilizes reused plastic containers that are sown with seeds and put outside during winter to mimic the natural process. When the seeds germinate the container acts as mini greenhouse to protect the young seedlings from late frosts.

The second is cold stratification where seeds are sown in damp soil or vermiculite and placed in the refrigerator for the time necessary and then sown into seedling flats to germinate indoors and transplanted outside after the last frost date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21 April SLPS

<u>Earth Month at CCC</u> <u>April 5 - Kearney</u> <u>April 12 - Grand Island</u> April 22 - Hastings April 27 - Columbus

Benjamin Newton Environmental Sustainability Director

308-398-7962

Madison Hajek Sustainability Professional Intern madisonhaiek@comeb.edu | Kearney

William Gordon Sustainability Professional Intern williamgordon@cccnebiedu |Grand Island

Kazia Marquez Sustainability PT

ccnebedu |Grand

Island

Lily Rosberg Sustainability Professional Intern

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution



Happy Earth Month! CCC is hosting its 6th annual celebration of Earth Day. Activities are held throughout the month and at four different CCC locations. We will start things off with the SLPS Presentation from Creighton on April 26th, 2022. Once posted, the link will be available on our <u>SLPS webpage</u>.



Creighton to Announce Campus Sustainability Plan

In response to the recent United Nations declaration that achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 is the world's most urgent mission – and in solidarity with Pope Francis' call for swift and unified global action to address climate change and environmental degradation, Creighton University is advancing its commitment to sustainability through the release of Sustainable Creighton Initiative the (SCI).

The plan's details will be announced at an event on April 26, at 7 p.m. The

development of this plan was a University-wide effort led by the <u>Climate Change Task Force</u>, in collaboration with the Sustainability Governance Committee and the Office of Sustainability Programs.



Nick McCreary

Nick McCreary joined Creighton in March of 2020 as the director of sustainability, working to develop a campus-wide sustainability strategic plan. In the past he worked as a sustainability coordinator for Indiana State University, where he produced the Sustainability Fellows Program and took lead on creation of a Sustainable Cities Initiative. Mr. McCreary's diligence in the field of sustainability can be underlined by the magnitude of program frameworks he has previously developed and continues to institute at various levels. He holds a Master of Science in Sustainability degree from Saint Louis University, a Bachelor of Arts in Earth Sciences, with minors in political science and philosophy, from DePauw University, and is accredited as a LEED Green Associate.



Goodwill Industries

Tuesday April 12th through noon on Friday April 22nd (or until the trailer is full) the Goodwill trailer will be parked at the Grand Island campus awaiting your gently used donations. Your donations support the GI Wellness Committee's campus events. Every pound of items donated earns \$.05, up to 5,000 pounds.



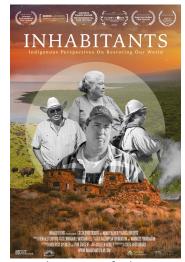
Central Community College Earth Month

April 5 Kearney

This year's Earth Month festivities will kick-off with a fantastic reprisal of the ever-popular tour of Kearney Center's sustainable features. The tour is set to begin at 9:30 a.m. in room 223 and will be immediately followed by an electrifying demonstration of the electric vehicle charging station. Feel free to peruse the exhibition of student projects and partner organization booths, or grab FREE street tacos from the Degrees Food Truck from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 12 Grand Island

In addition to the student exhibition and partner organization booths from 11 a.m. – 1p.m., our office will also be hosting a sustainable jewelry making table. Students are invited to create Earthy charms and baubles out of real plants and other accoutrements. The Degrees Truck will also be onsite during this time with fresh & FREE street tacos for students and staff!



A 2p.m. showing of the criticallyacclaimed documentary *Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives on Restoring Our World* will be held in the Student Center. Click on the poster for an indepth overview of the documentary.

April 22 Hastings

A tour of the Kearney Building and Student exhibition will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. Students and staff will also have the opportunity to eat FREE street tacos from the Degrees Food Truck from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Rounding out this event will be a short, brisk, and refreshing bike ride tour to the windmill at 1:30 p.m.



April 27 Columbus

The conclusion of our Earth Month festivities will begin with a hands-on pollinator planting demo with one of our favorite plant people, Sarah Buckley, of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. We will be in the pollinator garden from 10 a.m.noon. The Degrees Food Truck will also be present from 11 a.m. – 1p.m. If after eating FREE street tacos, students are still hungry to learn, they are also welcome to join our office for a bonus composting demonstration with Ash Gordon from 1p.m.- 2p.m.



April 28, Hastings Arbor Day

No Earth month celebration would be complete without recognizing Nebraska's very-own Arbor Day. Planting will begin at 10 a.m. east of the Adams Building.

Earth Month Events

<u>.CC Earth Month</u>

April 5 – Kearney

- 9:30 A.M. (Room 223)
 - Tour of sustainability features
 - Charging Station Demo
 - Student Expo

April 12 - Grand Island

- 11 A.M. 1 P.M.
 - Sustainable Jewelry Making
 - Sustainability & Student Expo
- 2 P.M. (Student Center)
 - Documentary Showing

April 22 – Hastings

- 10 A.M. 12 P.M.
 - Tour of Kearney Building & Student Expo
 - 1:30 P.M.
 - Bike ride & wind turbine tour
- April 27 Columbus
 - 10 A.M. 2 P.M.
 - Planting Demo (10-Noon)
 - Compost Demo (1-2)

April 28- Hastings

10 A.M.

- Arbor Day Planting

Benjamin Newton

Environmental Sustainability Director <u>benjaminnewton@cccneb.edu</u> 308-398-7962

Madison Hajek Sustainability Professional Intern madisonhaiek @cornel.edu | Kearney

William Gordon Sustainability Professional Intern Williamgordon/@cccncb.edu | Hastings

Lily Rosberg Sustainability Professional Intern III/25816@cccneb.edu | Columbus

Kazia Marquez Sustainability Professional Kaziamarquez@cconeb.edu | Grand Island

Justin Simmons Sustainability Professional Intern Justin81069@cccneb.edu | Kearney

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity



May you enjoy the highly anticipated month of merriment! Our office will once again be busy bees, preparing for our annual participation in the Central Platte Natural Resources District's Groundwater Festival. Additional information about this event and more on CPNRD may be found <u>here.</u>



Groundwater Festival

Hundreds of fifth graders will emerge from classrooms all over the surrounding areas to descend upon the Grand Island campus May 17th at 8am. Organizations from across the state are poised to dive into a range of topics from water systems to soil health.

Children will be casting wide nets, attending a full day's worth of activities, presentations, and will also include brief pollinator garden tour.

4H Pollinator Garden Tour

Local 4H groups reached out to our office and after a bit of planning, 4H will be guiding several young people on an in-depth tour of the Grand Island Pollinator Garden held on June 4th from 10AM-12PM. Don't worry if you aren't in 4H anymore, we will hold subsequent tours later in the month as well!



UNL Seed Lab

On the evening of May 23rd, UNL and Conservation Nebraska are hosting a phenomenal hands-on pollinator event. The event listing shares that visitors "will get the opportunity to try on a beekeeper (apiarist) suit and see hives up close, tour a pollinator plot and learn about pollinatorfriendly plants, and make their own take-home seed bombs!" This event is one time only on May 23rd, 2022 from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Registration is limited to the first 30 people. Students 4 Sustainability happily helped out by donating seed for use in the seed bombs.



Hastings Garden Installation Hastings Groundskeeping Supervisor, Aaron Theissen, remains ahead of the curve with yet another pollinator garden. This garden features the utilization of 'hill culture' or Hügelkultur in German. This method features the burial of logs beneath the soil in the base of the garden, which over time, will act as a nutrient supplement of sorts for the growing flora. This technique also encourages plant diversity, assisting in water retention, and heat conservation during growing seasons. Upcoming blooms will be visible from several vantage points in Hastings, but most noticeably, the Franzen room.

Garden rejuvenation and more May merriment



Columbus Garden Revamp The conclusion of our Earth Day Celebrations brought in Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Sarah Buckley, for another thrilling planting day. The Columbus Pollinator garden sits atop a hill Just behind the newly renovated Columbus Community Hospital Center for Science and Technology facility.

After two years of construction, the garden required a supplemental plant replenishment to further enhance and support the budding ecosystem. Wonderful participation and turnout from student volunteers made this event another success. We would especially like to extend our gratitude to the Multicultural Club for their continued support and enthusiasm!



Grand Island Student Recognition Ceremony

Students from our Students 4 Sustainability Club were recognized for their outstanding contributions in their leadership roles. Justin Simmons and William Gordon both received awards from the club's advisor. Highlights of their accomplishments include the seed collection and bank, electric bike generator, and countless office and garden hours.



We love our Earth and we want you to help us show it! In partnership with Grand Island's Clean Community Systems, students and staff are encouraged to drop in and join us for another lightening round of trash pick-up along the banks of the town ditches. This go around, we will be picking up along highway 34, between L.E. Ray Park, on Blaine St. and South Locust.

On May 16th you are invited to get further into your stewardship journey at 10AM. Please dress thoughtfully, as the terrain along the clean-up route may be moist, muddy, or generally unkempt. We will meet at the Grand Island bike share and plan to walk both sides of our route.

Vehicle Day

Children from Columbus area schools also had the opportunity to tour and inspect various vehicles on Vehicle Day, including one of our newest electric fleet vehicles. Astounded children eagerly crowded Sustainability Director, Ben Newton, asking the only the most important questions. The crowd favorite was a resounding, "How fast does it go?" Our answer: "The speed limit!"

May & Beyond Events

May 16 – Grand Island Hwy Clean-up 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

May 17 – Ground Water Festival - 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

May 18 – Nebraska Community Energy Alliance Board meeting Grand Island

May 23 – UNL Bee Lab - 5:30 P.M.

June 4 – 4H Pollinator Garden Tour - 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

June 21– CCC Grand Island Pollinator garden tour with Conservation Nebraska

Aug 26- Sept 5 we will also be back at Nebraska State Fair Sustainability Pavilion

Click the link for more details!

The Environmental Sustainability Office is also looking to fill positions for our Grand Island and Columbus locations. **More info can be found at:**

Paid Internships | cccneb.edu

Benjamin Newton Environmental Sustainability Director <u>benjaminnewton@cccneb.edu</u> 308-398-7962

Madison Hajek Sustainability Professional Intern madisonhalek@ccneb.edu | Kearney

William Gordon Sustainability Professional Intern William forden (accordingly | Hastings

Kazia Marquez Sustainability Professional

| Grand Island

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution