

In 2012 students in the Southwestern Community Garden Club wrote an internal grant to procure a pedicab. Funding was approved and the SU Garden was able to exponentially expand its operations on campus.

The Garden Club has been steadily gaining influence at Southwestern for the last few years. Now that the club has a pedicab it is able to collect compost from the cafeteria, several academic buildings (mostly from faculty and staff lunches), and the coffee bars on campus. The group also distributed kitchen compost containers to all the on campus dorms and will pick up their waste once a week with the pedicab. The group was previously constrained in that they were unable to carry compost from distant parts of campus; the pedicab has enabled them access to areas previously out of their range.

The bright green and environmentally painted and decorated pedicab also serves as a very noticeable symbol for the Southwestern Sustainability movement. While the compost pick-up itself offers students an opportunity to learn about composting it also serves as the garden mascot to a degree. It is fun, colorful, and a reminder that this university is pledged to and actively pursuing sustainability.

Dr. Joshua Long
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
Southwestern University
Email: jlong@southwestern.edu