

2020 Campus Sustainability Awards

The 23rd annual awards program recognizes outstanding individuals and departments who demonstrate a sincere commitment to continuing the CU Boulder tradition of leadership and student participation in campus sustainability. The awardees exhibit innovation that directly reduces the University's ecological footprint, enhances social cohesion and equity in the campus community, and integrates sustainability into the culture of Boulder and our local communities.

Matthew Bedeaux & Paul Rastrelli, Student Leadership Award

This award recognizes their work in organizing the CU Global Climate Strike events and calling on the campus community to take climate action. Matthew and Paul have worked tirelessly in their efforts to lead Friday climate strikes on Norlin Quad since September 20, 2019. These climate strikes have brought together students, staff, faculty, and community members in further increasing awareness about the Climate Emergency and stressing that immediate action needs to be taken. These efforts have brought a portion of the campus community together and made them aware that their voice is meaningful when it comes to enacting change. Strike attendees have been given numerous resources for how to get involved on campus and how to reduce their carbon footprint.

Rick George, Individual Achievement Award

This award recognizes Rick George's leadership in sports sustainability programs at CU Athletics Department and the PAC-12. When Rick George became the sixth Athletic Director to pilot CU's sports programs in 2013, he inherited the nation's first NCAA Division 1 sports sustainability program, Ralphies Green Stampede. RGS is a partnership between Athletics, the CU Environmental Center, Facilities Management, and an array of supporting units across campus. RGS had started a few years earlier and was already the leading collegiate sports sustainability program. Rick was ready to do more. With the construction of the Champions Center, the renovation of Dal Ward, and the new Indoor Practice Facility for football and track and field, Athletics brought forth four LEED Platinum buildings—the greenest, most high performance buildings that can be built.

In 2015, Rick ideated and drove the creation of the Pac-12 Sustainability Conference which forged the Pac-12 Sustainability Working Group. Sports and sustainability professionals from the Pac-12's twelve great universities now work side by side to advance sustainability across a combined 241 different varsity sports programs. In doing so, they influence the sustainability behaviors of millions of students and fans of those teams as the fans go about their lives at home, work and play.

Rick's commitment to social equity and inclusion shows with hiring practices and strategy. Rick put together an Athletics Diversity and Inclusion conference that is a model for engagement and impact. Rick is committed to insuring that the benefits and actions of sustainability and climate action are spread equally across all members of society, not just the privileged.

In 2019, as part of his commitment to phase out single-use plastics, Rick created a partnership with Ball Corporation to showcase the global rollout of the Ball Aluminum Cup for athletics beverages. Additionally, he cemented CU's status as the global leader of college sports sustainability when he became the first US collegiate Athletic Director to commit CU to abide by the United Nations Sports for Climate Action agreement. Rick is now leading the rest of the US college sports category to themselves sign off on the UN commitment and step up their games. On Earth Day 2020, several other US universities will be announcing their signature of the UN commitment thanks in part to his leadership.

Colleen Scanlan Lyons, Individual Achievement Award

Colleen Scanlan Lyons has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing partnerships for environmental conservation prioritizing the people who are most directly impacted by tropical forest conservation efforts. Through her work with the Governors' Climate & Forests (GCF) Task Force, and specifically through the GCF Task Force Global Committee for Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities, Colleen has mobilized connections between indigenous leaders, local community organizations, subnational governmental representatives, and the California Air Resources Board. These partnerships are enabling inclusive forest conservation efforts in GCF Task Force member states and provinces while simultaneously fostering low-emissions rural development initiatives on jurisdictional scales. Colleen's leadership on creating the Global Committee for Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities has provided a forum for members' voices to be heard by policymakers, governments, researchers, and international institutions considering carbon markets and carbon market standards which predominantly affect the indigenous peoples and local communities on-the-ground in tropical forest regions that will be the direct beneficiaries of carbon market payments.

The engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities with governments and other stakeholders has been a direct result of Colleen's propensity to foster meaningful connections between diverse actors. Her commitment to making the voices of these often marginalized peoples heard in climate policy forums and beyond shines through her tireless efforts to engage with, connect, and empower indigenous peoples, local communities, subnational governments, and civil society partners all over the world. Colleen's efforts with the Global Committee and beyond have inspired students (both graduate and undergraduate, in MENV, ENVS, and other

programs) to pursue research, projects, and careers in inclusive environmental conservation and sustainable development. Her power to connect students, employees, and professionals in the broader community has created enduring networks of environmentalists, economists, researchers, and others pursuing collaborative engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities around the world.

Leaf Van Boven, Green Faculty Award

This award recognizes Leaf van Boven's commitment to student learning and behavior change research. Leaf is a Professor in the Psychology Department in the College of Arts & Sciences. Leaf understands that research and teaching exercises are often times of self- and world-exploration. Leaf has honored this through actively listening to what issues students find important, as well as encouraging respectful and open communication in the classroom setting.

Leaf has not merely settled into a successful research career, but he has sought to push the boundaries of disciplinary endeavors while he has pursued work in the areas of creative climate communications and behavior change. He is helping to establish a center for Creative Climate Communication and Behavior Change (3CBC). His participation in a collaborative meeting with industry leaders, policy makers, policy analysts, and social-behavioral scientists to explore behavioral responses to developing carbon dioxide removal technologies resulted in ongoing research and a manuscript conditionally accepted at Royal Society Open Access. He co-edited a special issue of Behavioral Public Policy on the topic of Behavioral Climate Policy. He worked with Citizens Climate Lobby to develop and improve training protocols for citizen lobbyists. He organized an invited symposium on Psychology and Climate Change, a special plenary session at the Association of Psychological Science meetings (now postponed until 2021). He organized a Colorado Climate Retreat Sept. 7-9, 2017 that brought together the collective wisdom of many local CU professors, City of Boulder Environmental Planners, and students to generate a vibrant sharing of research, ideas, and conversation. He also participated in the Center for the American West event on the panel of experts for "Why are we stuck on dealing with climate change and how do we get 'unstuck'?"

Leaf's commitment to student and citizen growth and learning continues to deepen and he effectively works on research, teaching and service fronts together.

Janet Walker, Individual Achievement Award

Janet Walker works with Planning, Design and Construction and is committed to achieve zero waste in the RL2 building. This award recognizes her many efforts to improve recycling infrastructure & outreach and to minimize waste generation.. While many proctors make a

great effort to disseminate and promote recycling info to their buildings, Janet has taken her efforts further by helping to design the waste stream coming into her building and attempting to replace many of the items with reusables, especially food service ware. Janet has helped to advance sustainability on campus by educating a broad array of constituents about the merits of zero waste. More importantly, she has designed a system to allow people to practice zero waste.

Janet initiated a program to buy reusable service ware so PD&C events, including Town Halls with the public, Lunch & learn presentations with vendors such as architects and engineers, holiday appreciation events, and staff potlucks, could be conducted without the use of disposables. Janet shares information on zero waste tools and initiatives with the building occupants as well as the broader campus sustainability professionals. Her actions have inspired others, both in the building and across campus.

Facilities Management Environmental Services, Special Recognition for Departmental Achievement

Facilities Management (FM) Environmental Services deserves recognition for their work to expand campus compost collections. This effort is a partnership. The background and budget work were led by FM Environmental Services. The expansion and service support was a team effort between FM Environmental Services, FM Custodial Services, and the Environmental Center Recycling outreach program. CU Boulder Facilities Management (FM) has been slowly adding compost service to buildings since 2011. The goal was five new locations per year and in all newly constructed buildings. The reason for the slow expansion was the cost. Compost on campus was being collected by an outside vendor at a cost for each stop. Each building, using a twice per week collection schedule, would cost over \$3,500 per year to add service. With over 60 buildings to add, the projected cost to complete campus expansion was out of reach. FM Environmental Services figured out a way to cut cost and to speed up expansion. By internalizing collections, campus compost expansion was able to increase rapidly with 30 locations in FY20.

Christian DiSalvo, Special Recognition for Student Leadership

Christian Louis DiSalvo deserves recognition for his work in advancing CUSG's carbon emissions reduction programs. Christian has worked diligently with the Environmental Center and CUSG to calculate carbon emissions and offsets for both organizations. This work has included collecting data from the UMC, the Rec Center, and CUSG's cost centers, meeting with experts on campus to hone calculations, creating templates and workflows to document his work process, giving presentations to the Legislative Council of CUSG, and working alongside CUSG to develop a more robust annual carbon offset plan. Christian embarked on a student group volunteer

project to inventory carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. He grew into a role of expertise and leadership that will make a lasting impact. The carbon inventory efforts mark an important step for the university in mitigating its scope 1, 2, and 3 carbon emissions. Christian's work with CUSG has led to discussions about how the student government can decrease its emissions over time by monitoring data and setting incremental goals. Decreasing emissions is an even more important step than offsetting them, and CUSG is confident that his detailed accounting work will boost these efforts.

CU Green Labs Program

- Stem Cell Research & Technology Resource Center
 - Partnership for Lab Sustainability Award for creating a managed, shared equipment resource and space available to researchers at CU Boulder and beyond.
- CHEMunity - Green Chemistry Scholarships
 - Partnership for Lab Sustainability Award for their ongoing collaboration to create an opportunity for CU Boulder students to receive green chemistry education.
- EH&S Radiation Safety Office
 - Departmental Achievement Award for their actions to reduce the amount of research-related radioactive waste going to low-level radiation landfills.
- Cherie Summers
 - Individual Achievement Award for her leadership and advocacy for efficient use of building space, research equipment sharing, and resource conservation in Engineering.
- Benjamin LaFavor
 - Individual Achievement Award for going above and beyond to divert materials from landfill at the loading dock of a large laboratory research building.
- Mitchell Magrini
 - Individual Achievement Award for years of overseeing the Cristol Chemistry collections of brown lab glass and lab metal containers for recycling.