



WORKING TOWARD a  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
FUTURE

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | LIVE GREEN!

***2024 Symposium on Sustainapalooza  
Past, Present and Future Commitment Toward a  
Sustainable Future - Celebrating 15 Years of Living  
Cardinal, Gold and Green!***

**LIVE GREEN! AWARDS FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**

**About The Awards**

- The Live Green! Initiative encourages all faculty, staff and students to be fully committed to and engaged in making our campus, its operations and initiatives as green and sustainable as possible
- In celebrating the continued growth of the Live Green! Initiative, it is important to also celebrate individual and team excellence that brings the overall success we have accomplished as a university
- These awards recognize Iowa State University faculty, staff and students who are currently making an impact on the campus' sustainability efforts by generating awareness and interest through initiatives that focus on teaching, research, outreach and/or operations
- The Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability recognizes efforts across all aspects of the university, whether faculty, staff, student; individual or team efforts. The awards committee had a difficult task in choosing this year's recipients, since the nominated projects and initiatives were both diverse and impressive. Winning projects were awarded based upon excellence in sustainability efforts and not limited by category
- Nominations were evaluated within six areas: cultural impact, impact on natural resources, economic impact, transferability, legacy to the Live Green! Initiative and sustainability and overall award merit

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## 2024 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winner Facilities Planning and Management Custodial Services



Custodial Services has long been reaching beyond their direct responsibilities to ensure that considerations of sustainability are being applied to the indoor environment at Iowa State University.

Providing the infrastructure for the dedication of this 150-member team is a foundation of education, communication, and application of sustainable products and practices.

Within the past year initiatives incorporated by the team showcasing an impressive consideration of custodial stewardship in sustainability include:

First, replacing the traditional practice of annual floor stripping and waxing with two options - a 20-year protectant process and an enhanced cleaning process requiring no sealant or stripper. Resulting in life cycle cost savings of tens of thousands of dollars, as well as the enhanced consideration of environmental and human health within the campus-built environment.

Second, the assembly of a Green Products Testing Team. Focused on ensuring cleaning products encompass staff health and safety, impact on the environment, and effectiveness in performance, the team is tasked with providing genuine feedback related to new products as well as suitable replacements for current ones.

Third, the additionally thoughtful consideration given to engaging campus in aiding community in spearheading a winter weather gear drive with all proceeds going to The Bridge Home – offering homelessness support and shelter in Ames and throughout Iowa. A testament to the team's ongoing consideration of "doing better" beyond just their position responsibilities.

The collective effort and consideration of Custodial Services – inclusive of cleaning, waste reduction, and the focus toward future opportunities and impact, fully embraces dedication and commitment toward a sustainable future.

Congratulations to Facilities Planning and Management Custodial Services!

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## 2024 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winner

### Dr. Kurt Rosentrater, professor in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering



Fall semester 2023, Dr. Kurt Rosentrater, stepped into the role of teaching SUSAg 509: Agroecosystems Analysis. A required course component of the Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture; the course focuses on exposing students to the complex work and relationships in the agricultural supply chain. Under the leadership of Dr. Rosentrater, the student educational and engagement experience was especially invaluable.

As a component of the course, field trips were made to a diverse selection of agricultural facilities – research and production, conventional and non-conventional. During and after the visits, Dr. Rosentrater challenged students to keep an open mind and withhold judgment, to ask questions rather than making assumptions, and to find the positives, even when it could be challenging.

Throughout the semester, class discussions often came back to things that students saw or learned on these visits, the impact students experienced in being able to see the facilities firsthand and learn from the people working there, and the empowerment students felt through establishing meaningful connections between the course material and real-world learning experiences. Exam questions prompted students to explore and express these connections even further.

Dr. Rosentrater fosters economic and environmental sustainability in his students through his course content and his ability to establish connections between the content inside the classroom and real-world scenarios in agriculture. He fosters social sustainability through his contagious enthusiasm and passion for the field and through his support of students as they progress through their time at Iowa State.

Congratulations to Dr. Kurt Rosentrater!



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## **2024 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winner** **Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program**



The ISU Organic Agriculture Program has a successful history of supporting sustainable change throughout the state of Iowa. The 25-year program has actively changed the Iowa sustainability landscape by providing instruction and demonstrations of best practices in organic agriculture to farmers, students, and consumers around the state.

The Organic Ag Program's collective outreach in 2023 included seven field days, the 23rd Annual Iowa Organic Conference, the first annual Farmers of Color Conference and three webinars and trainings with USDA-NRCS. Through this

programming the ISU program reached over 1800 people, including 200 farmers, students, and industry representatives in attendance at the 2023 conference.

In addition, through the Program's Transitioning to Organic Partnership, an opportunity for farmers interested in organic production to transition their acres to organic, training was offered to 22 attendees in 2023, and more than 2,000 acres in Iowa are on track to become certified organic within 36 months. Creating strong and sustainable communities across Iowa.

The Organic Agriculture Program aids the next generation of organic farmers in continuing the organic farming practices of their parents and utilizing organic agriculture for their own needs, while also introducing students to organic agriculture and encouraging them toward a sustainable future.

**Congratulations to the Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program!**

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## 2024 Iowa State University Zero Waste Award Iowa State University Catering



The Zero Waste Award, a new award for 2024, showcases excellence in sustainability and is presented by ISU Recycling Services and Iowa State University's Recycling Coordinator. The Iowa State University Zero Waste Award is given to Iowa State University clubs, organizations, or departments that have fulfilled the requirements necessary to be certified as a Zero Waste Event – one in which all waste is diverted from landfilling.

This year's award winner successfully hosted not one, but two zero waste events. During the 2023 Destination Iowa State Picnic and the 2023 Welcome Weekend Breakfast, Iowa State University Catering Services, under the leadership of Cheryl Lounsberry, served over 6,500 meals to students, faculty, and staff. Each meal featured compostable service ware, recyclable drink containers, recyclable and reusable signage, and the composting of at least 85% of total food waste.

Congratulations to Iowa State University Catering!