

# WORKING TOWARD a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | LIVE GREEN!

## 2014 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.
- Awards are based upon initiatives and accomplishments that occurred (at a minimum) during the 2013 calendar year.

## 2014 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winners

### – Greeks Go Green –

Members include: Corrine Villim, McKenzie Robinson, Elizabeth Pritchard, Lisa Davis, Weston Navratil, Nick Herrera.

Greeks Go Green started in 2011 with a goal to educate and bring awareness to the Greek community through opportunities and initiatives to be more sustainable and energy-conscious. In two years, this organization has established sustainability chairs within the individual Greek houses that act as liaisons between Greeks Go Green and strategize ways to encourage sustainable practices within the Greek community. Greeks Go Green has also encouraged sustainable practices in the Ames community through a partnership with The Grove Apartments in assisting with their annual "Recyclepalooza" event. This organization also encourages the improvement of the Iowa State University campus by becoming a part of the Keep Iowa State Beautiful



organization will be expanding engagement opportunities in April by holding the first ever Greek Energy Challenge to encourage the reduction in energy use in Greek houses. Greeks Go Green actively works to encourage students, faculty, and staff in being fully committed to and engaged in making the Iowa State University campus as green as possible.

## Qiyi Li –

Qiyi Li is a fifth-year student in the Department of Landscape Architecture, with a secondary major in environmental studies at Iowa State University. Through her honors capstone project, and under the advisement of Michael Martin, Associate Professor from the Department of Landscape Architecture, Qiyi Li utilized a month-long art installation titled “A Little Dreamer” to raise awareness of environmental issues, and to increase public awareness of paper recycling and sustainable conservation practices. Qiyi Li’s installation consisted of 634 paper airplanes made from 8.5x11 inch sheets of paper discarded from the Design Building Printing lab. The number of planes reflects the number of trees worldwide that are cut for paper mills every five seconds, based on the rate of four billion trees per year. The project reached beyond initial expectations and impacted those at Iowa State University and beyond and was praised by Marwan Ghandour, Associate Dean and the chairman of the Interior Design Department who noted that the installation was the best project ever displayed in the atrium. Qiyi has used her work to inspire people to rethink sustainability in innovative new ways.



## Sustainable Agriculture Student Association –

Presidents: Jacqueline Nester and Emily Zimmerman  
Members: Gabrielle Roesch, Andrea Basche, Amanda Raster, Marie Louise Ryan, John Tilman, Rebecca Roberts, Adam Wilke.

The Sustainable Agriculture Student Association (SASA) is student-lead organization, which works towards promoting sustainable agriculture, consumer education and outreach, and improvement of the current agricultural paradigm. Since 2012 at least 20 members from the organization have volunteered to plan, prepare, and serve one meal per month through the Ames free community meal program, Food at First. In early 2013, Food at First director Chris Martin approached Gabrielle Roesch, the SASA co-president and head chef, with an opportunity to take over a community garden space. Their vision was to grow additional fresh produce for both the Food at First meal program and their perishable food bank called the “free market”. SASA and community members coordinated multiple weekly workdays throughout the year to grow and harvest produce. Through these efforts, the organization has been able to assist Food at First in providing healthy food options to 50-125 community member through the free community meal program as well as provide 160 bags of produce and several hundred pounds of tomatoes to the “free market”. SASA has worked to establish ties between the community and the university by making a commitment to help those in need and helping provide access to wholesome, local food without economic constraints.



## 2014 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Nominees -

### Community Design Lab –

In partnership with the Iowa State University College of Design and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Community Design Lab works holistically across scales to understand regional, city, and site opportunities in order to address design issues of health and wellness, agricultural urbanism, energy, sustainable community design, and the built environment. In 2013, Community Design Lab worked with an array of communities across Iowa, allowing the community members to participate in the design process. Community Design Lab has provided Iowa community members with accessible and environmentally responsible design solutions and a long-term impact of behavior and systems change by supporting healthy behaviors, social connections, and improved environmental quality.



### Nicaragua Biochar Project –

Members include: Bernardo del Campo, Matthew Kieffer, Juan Proana-Aviles.

The Nicaragua Biochar Project, recognized with the 2012 Live Green Award for Excellence in Sustainability, seeks to encourage and enhance the use of biochar towards environmental conservation and agricultural improvements in developing countries. In 2013, through a partnership with Emerging Opportunities for Sustainability International, this project worked to conduct field studies on three family-owned farms in Matagalpa, Nicaragua to assess the impact of slow pyrolysis biochar and digested manure to measure greenhouse gas emissions. Through this partnership, the Nicaragua Biochar Project also built a low-cost biochar reactor to produce biochar from locally available biomass in the region, which lowered greenhouse gas emissions and improved soil quality that has enhanced water and nutrient retention rates, as well as vegetation growth. This project worked to develop sustainable practices in Nicaraguan communities by producing approximately one fourth ton of biochar for use in field trials and by giving seminars to local farmers.



### Angadbir Singh Sabherwal –

Angadbir Singh Sabherwal is a student at Iowa State University pursuing an education in mechanical engineering, economics, international studies, and environmental studies who is dedicated to making a difference in the community. He has been proactively involved in environmental awareness and conservation campaigns, volunteering activities, and educating communities at Iowa State University and around the world. Angadbir has actively promoted sustainability through his work as Community Advisor to Barton Lyon Freeman Hall by strengthening the recycling program, creating a food drive for Food at First and the student-run food bank, The SHOP, and by organizing a Barton Lyon Hall college cleanup. He has also served



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the Ames community as a Minds of Tomorrow Ambassador, promoting engineering among K-12 students. Angadbir has also used his passion globally as the youngest member of the NGO, Global Environment Concern and the United Nations Climate Change Community. His NGO activities promote conservation efforts and education. Angadbir Singh Sabherwal seeks to improve the world with the goal of designing and promoting green technology and incorporating micro-finance and economic policies to empower international developing communities.