

WINTER 2025

LSA SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Stories, Resources, and Action

Authored by LSA Sustainability
Staff

MAY 16 2025

This report is best viewed digitally to take advantage of links and resources throughout. Please message sustainable-lsa@umich.edu if you have any questions.

View other [*LSA Sustainability reports*](#).

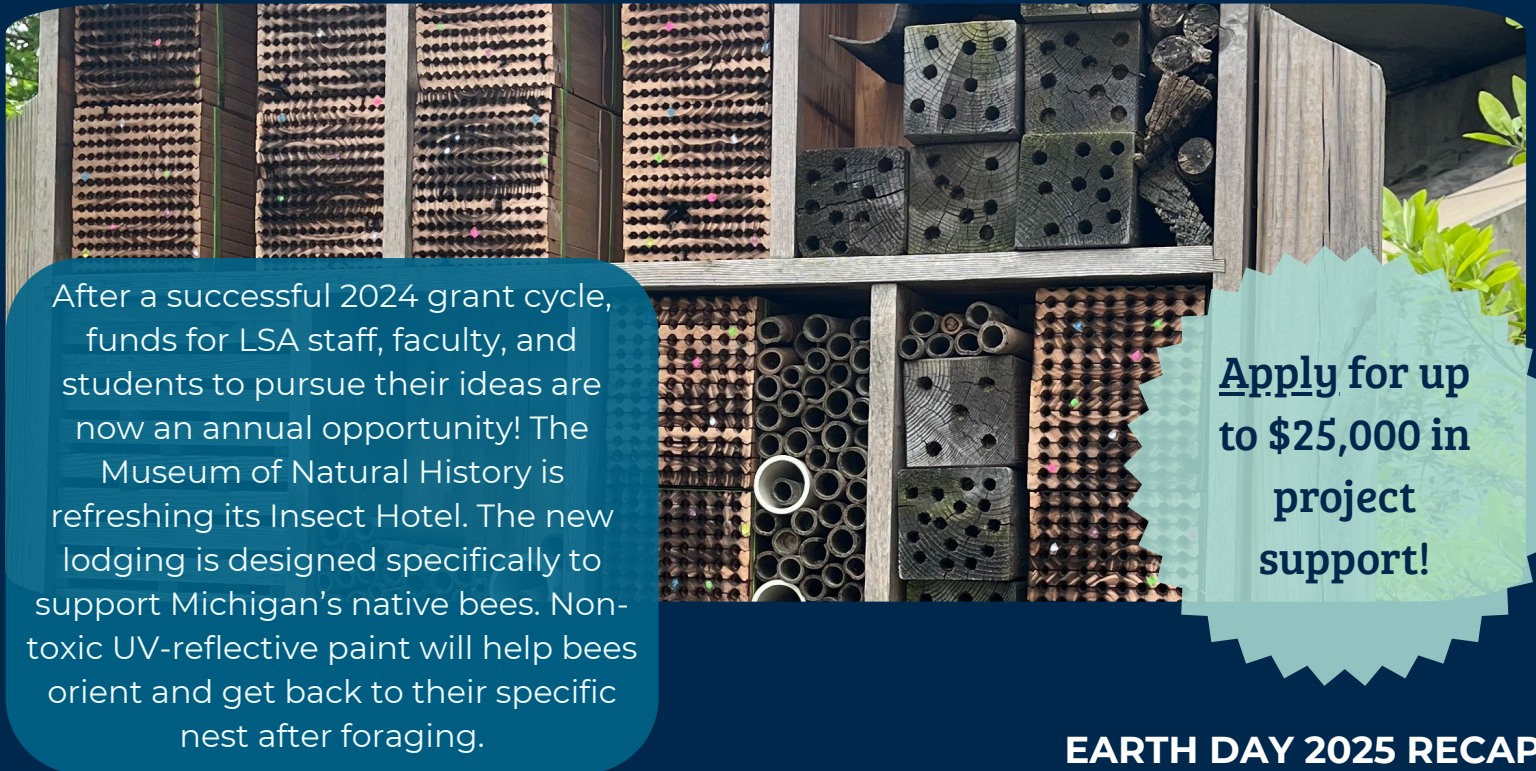
Learn more about the broader [*Planet Blue initiative*](#).

Welcome to LSA Sustainability

In 2024, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts embarked on the Year of Sustainability, a theme year focused on climate action at the intersection of academics, operations, and engagement. The new LSA Sustainability team will continue this work moving forward through a strong focus on facilities and operations, engagement, and ongoing collaborations with Planet Blue partners.



SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE



After a successful 2024 grant cycle, funds for LSA staff, faculty, and students to pursue their ideas are now an annual opportunity! The Museum of Natural History is refreshing its Insect Hotel. The new lodging is designed specifically to support Michigan's native bees. Non-toxic UV-reflective paint will help bees orient and get back to their specific nest after foraging.

Apply for up to \$25,000 in project support!

EARTH DAY 2025 RECAP



Interested in planting with us? Let our team know!

LSA Sustainability celebrated Earth Day with a "Swag Swap" for excess promotional items, ran a plant-based dye station for the LSA End of Semester Bash, hosted a Climate Cafe with the City of Ann Arbor, and planted 2,100 new native plants behind the Undergraduate Science Building!

University & College Collaboration: Waste Reduction



In 2024, the Office of Campus Sustainability proposed new waste reduction goals based on campus waste audits, collecting community input, and workstream development with key stakeholders. These goals are:

- Reduce overall waste.
- Achieve 50% diversion rate by 2030 and a continued 2% increase every year after.
- Improvement of SCIP (Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program) waste indicators.
- Establish a reuse goal by 2030.

Here's a peek behind the scenes at how the LSA community is making this happen!



Campus Race to Zero Waste

The 2025 U-M Campus Race to Zero Waste winner was Lane Hall! Achieving an 83% diversion rate takes community effort, but the real superhero is Lane Hall custodian Archie Criglar, Jr. To understand what this win means to him and his enthusiasm behind waste diversion, you can read his Spotlight story [here](#).

Mobile Waste Education

Created by U-M undergraduate students, Jack Pribble and Nethra Yandooru, Diag CARES (Compost and Recycling Education Station) is a mobile educational waste collection system. It is housed in Haven Hall and has been used for LSA@Play events, helping organizers achieve a diversion rate of 99%!

Chemistry Share-Ware Pilot

Led by Chemistry student Sheikh Nahiyen and funded through a grant from the Sustainable Lab Summit, this pilot allows groups in Chemistry to borrow “share-ware” items for student celebrations (candidacy, thesis). Items included in the “share-ware” library are plates, silverware, champagne flutes, etc.



Sustainable Operations

Becoming a sustainable LSA means embedding efficiency at all levels of our community and physical footprint. LSA Sustainability is part of the broader LSA Facilities & Operations Team, so our buildings are a key part of our strategy. This includes energy, water, physical materials, and making sure our spaces meet current and future needs.

Did you know?

When you submit a work order, you help us advance sustainability in our existing spaces by helping to **track and resolve maintenance** issues. Let us know if there is a leak, broken windows, or if a space is too hot or cold (under 68F or over 76F) consistently.

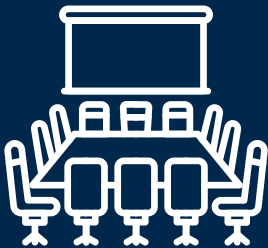
Navigate to lsa.umich.edu → Faculty and Staff → [Facilities and Operations](#) → “General Facilities and Operations Requests” or “Request a specific service”

Sustainable Spaces



Your Workspace

If you are headed out for the weekend or a longer trip, closing your windows and unplugging appliances helps us maintain energy efficiency. You can also report open windows with a ticket.



Your Team's Space

When we know that buildings are at low occupancy, we can save a lot of energy by adjusting the AC schedule. If your team will be out on field research or a conference, let LSA facilities know! We are grateful to partners at the Registrar's Office and Custodial Services who also help us support this goal. Looking for more actions? Consider becoming a [Sustainable Workplace](#) together.



Renovations & New Projects

From new buildings to classroom refreshes, Facilities & Operations embeds sustainability in your projects by choosing reused or responsibly-sourced furnishings, installing new lighting & occupancy controls, and more. Have ideas? Reach out to your Facility Manager and LSA Sustainability.

Lorch Hall Renovation

The [Board of Regents](#) approved the \$190M renovation project, where the building will be all-electric and is on path to become carbon-neutral.

Department-Level Action

LSA Units & Departments leverage their unique expertise, insights, and interests to lead change across their operations and programming. Here are a few examples of new efforts launched since our last update.

EAST HALL FACILITIES TEAM: ZERO-WASTE STUDENT-LED IFTARS



The East Hall Atrium is a popular event space. During Ramadan, student leaders used the space to host zero-waste iftars as a community. To help support these students, the Office of Campus Sustainability and East Hall staff teamed up to store extra compostable materials and compost carts on site. This made transportation easier and ensured students could break their fast on time, together, and sustainably.

[Request Zero-Waste supplies](#) for your event.

LLOYD SCHOLARS FOR WRITING AND ARTS YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY MURALS

Led by Mark Tucker, Art Director for the Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts, this public mural in Angell Hall was created and installed by students in [LSWA 140: Arts and Humanities](#), Sustainability Mural Painting. Each piece of the mural highlights different interpretations of the word “sustainability”.



Check out the [2025 Science as Art](#) competition run by the Arts Engine.

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS

English and Gender Studies PhD. Candidate Patricia Jewell, along with Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emerita, June Howard, organized and facilitated an ongoing series of events as part of a Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop called the Environmental Humanities Workshop. The interdisciplinary field investigates important questions surrounding people and the environment through multiple methods and disciplinary perspectives.

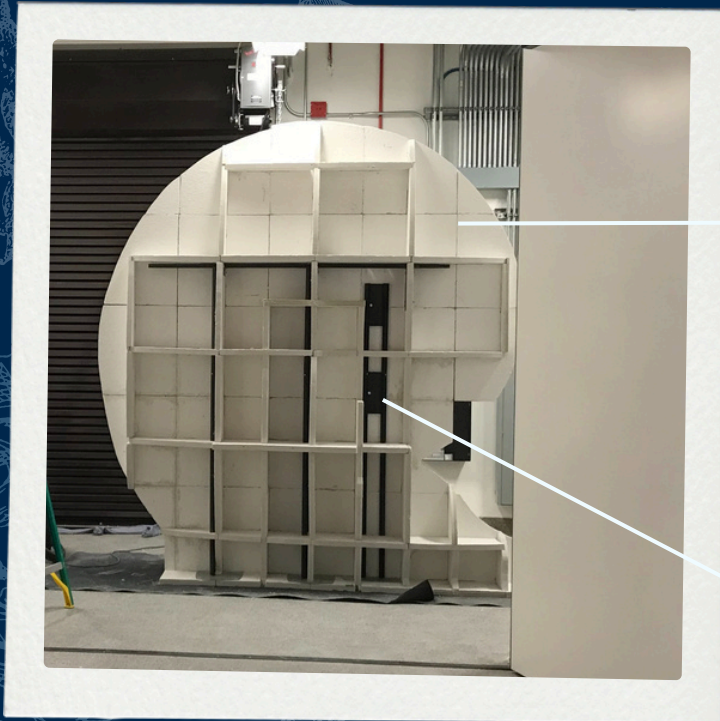
Learn more and register for upcoming events via [their website](#).



Remaking the Cretaceous

Later this spring, the Museum of Natural History will unveil its next Window Gallery exhibit visible from Washtenaw Avenue. While the display is new, the inspiration – and physical materials – are not. The ancient underwater scene is based on a classic diorama created by George Marchand and was previously displayed in the Ruthven Building.

The installation itself is primarily built, about 95%, from discarded building materials from LSA classrooms that went under renovation throughout 2024.



**Ceiling tiles from the
Chemistry Building**



**Hand Sanitizer Stands
from COVID-19**

(Rae Yung, 2024)



**Paint from
Angell Hall**



**Carpet squares from MLB
& LSA Buildings**



Individual Action

LSA is full of individuals with personal and professional commitments to the environment. Here are a few folks whose actions helped to advance LSA's climate goals and sustainability culture.



Lauren May

is an undergraduate Data Science student, [Graham Sustainability Scholar](#), and former [LSA Sustainability intern](#). We thank her for all of her work over the past year!



Morgan Gilboe

is an undergraduate student in the Geomicrobiology Lab researching HABs and is a leader in sustainable lab practices in Earth and Environmental Sciences.



Alex Galens

is an LSA alumna, who leads Sustainable Lab initiatives at U-M, including the Lab Reuse Program, the Freezer Challenge, and Sustainable Lab certifications.



Courtney Kliss

plans and advocates for barrier-free, low-waste events. She prioritizes impact by purchasing local, moving away from single-use materials, and buying durable functional swag.



Toni Bushner

is a lecturer in the Digital Studies Institute who regularly teaches about sustainable board game [design](#), which emphasizes accessibility and low carbon design.

**Are you a
sustainability
champion, too?
Join our team!**

The LSA Sustainability Champions cohort plays a key role in identifying opportunities, advancing culture, and proposing next steps for the college.

[LSA Sustainability
Champions](#)



Signs of Spring

LSA Sustainability is a partner of [Nature Rx](#), a campus-wide initiative which promotes health and wellbeing through time spent interacting with nature - whether that's the view from your window or a trip to the Arb.

Take a break in nature and enjoy "A Breath of Fresh Air" on May 21st at the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden, sponsored by MHealthy, CAPS, Arts Initiative, MBGNA, and the Nature Rx Project Team. Register [here](#)!

Getting Ready for the Bloom

The W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum is over a century old and is home to hundreds of individual specimens of peonies in 27 flower beds. [Peak bloom time](#) is typically around late May until early June. Enjoy an early morning walk, a lunch break, or an afternoon stroll!



Did you know that the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden is the largest heirloom peony garden in North America? At peak bloom the garden holds nearly 800 peonies and over 10,000 flowers.

Earth Day at The Arb

Hosted by Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, [Earth Day at The Arb](#) featured a full day of events with a number of activities led by LSA community members.

[Well-Being at LSA](#) hosted a guided session titled "Breathe and Bloom". The last session of the day was hosted by Clean Up Campus, a student organization led by EEB student Katie Kinney.



[Clean Up Campus](#), an [LSA Sustainability Fund](#) awardee, was awarded the Sustainability Group Award from the 2025 Michigan Difference Student Leadership Awards!

Early 2025 Collaborations

Housed in a multidisciplinary college, LSA Sustainability values partnerships and collaboration possibilities with groups across U-M and Ann Arbor. Events and engagement opportunities provide a unique way to do this, whether it be a full-day symposium on water, a three-day conference on food, innovative research solutions to global climate issues, or diverting waste at college-wide LSA events.

Water @ Michigan Symposium April 4, 2025



Event
Sponsor
3 LSA faculty-
led sessions.

Photo by Fatimah Bolhassan

Conference on Sustainable Food Procurement by Institutions



Sponsored 7
LSA students
attendance
fees.

Photo by Lars Panquin

Pee-Cycling: Snack & Learn March 24, 2025



Event
partner.

LSA@Play Event with Diag CARES March 27, 2025



Partnered with
Diag CARES to
divert 99% of
event waste from
landfills.

Photo by Nicole Berg

Sticking Around Ann Arbor This Summer?

Up Next

June 1 - June 7, 2025 | A2Zero Week | Hosted by the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations, this is a week-long celebration of climate action and community. [View More Information.](#)

June 12, 2025, 1PM - 4PM | [A Celebration: One Year of Lab Swap Shop](#) | Hosted by the Office of Campus Sustainability and LSA Sustainability, celebrate the Lab Swap Shop's first birthday! Enjoy extended shopping hours, sweet treats, and crafts.

Throughout the summer, visit the U-M Museum of Natural History to see the new Cretaceous Diorama recreation in the Window Gallery. The project, highlighted in this report, utilizes around 95% reused materials and can be seen from within the Museum or from the pedestrian bridge over Washtenaw Ave.

Fall 2025

Spearheaded by the Office of the Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action and the School for Environment and Sustainability, U-M Climate Week seeks to combine the strength of research with the energy of students to address solutions for climate challenges. Schools, colleges, and student groups from all three U-M campuses are encouraged to participate through events and activities.



Sign up for updates and the email list [here](#).

HARVEST FEST

A celebration of U-M's student-driven food initiatives, emphasizing sustainability, social justice, and creativity.

September 28

WEGE LECTURE

Annual lecture featuring Jennifer Granholm, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy

September 30

EARTHFEST

A celebration of sustainability initiatives across U-M and surrounding communities.

September 30

RESOURCES

■ [LSA Sustainability](#)

■ [Planet Blue](#)

■ [Graham Sustainability Institute](#)

■ [Office of Campus Sustainability](#)



Thank you!