

Education & Outreach

Sac State Sustainability has increased its partnerships with school districts throughout the Sacramento region and beyond. Each year, thousands of K-12 students visit our campus to see sustainability in action. For those schools that cannot visit campus, we bring sustainability education to them with customized classroom lessons such as honey bee and composting demonstrations. These partnerships support President Nelsen's commitment to community engagement and role as an anchor university. Many of the schools serve children from disadvantaged communities, and their visit to campus is often an introduction to the university setting, perhaps planting the seed for a future Hornet.

Composting Donations

As an anchor university, one of our commitments to the community is to foster the growth of aspiring community gardens through compost donations. Our donations help transform Sacramento food deserts into thriving urban gardens producing healthy food and creating resilient communities. The following are some of our regular compost recipients:

Cap Radio Garden: Capital Public Radio's garden – with its raised plant beds, beehives, fruit trees, rainwater capture system, and interpretive signage – is the first of its kind for a National Public Radio affiliate. The garden brings public awareness to topics such as food insecurity and sustainable food production. The garden also donates significant portions of their harvest to the students of Sacramento State through the ASI Food pantry.

David Lubin Elementary: Located just minutes away from the Sacramento State campus, we have donated compost to them to help support student gardens at neighboring schools. This school has multiple gardens on-site including a friendship garden to promote harmony amongst their students.

John Morse Therapeutic Center: This school is located in the Florin/Meadowview area of Sacramento and the compost delivered here is used in their produce garden, containing several fruiting trees, which are tended to and picked by the young students.

Kit Carson Elementary School: Students at Kit Carson enjoy learning about food production and urban agriculture methods throughout their various gardens on campus.

Leo A. Palmiter Junior/Senior High School: There is an amazing student garden at this facility which aims to teach at-risk students not only how to garden, but also how to use those skills towards culinary purposes. Located in the nearby Arden-Arcade area of Sacramento, students from this program also participate in managing the Cap Radio Garden, using Sac State made compost to grow produce, which ultimately is donated to Sac State students facing food insecurities.

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Yisreal Family Urban Farm: Its founder, Chanowk Yisreal, is renowned for his efforts to create and foster urban gardens, not just in his own South Oak Park neighborhood, but also in economically depressed neighborhoods everywhere. As one of the founders of the Gardeners of Color Collaborative, he heavily promotes gardening techniques and self-sufficiency to minorities. His whole family is invested in the cause as well. Their community farm is located across the street from a community center where they teach classes about how to farm and how to prepare the food that is harvested. A request to deliver compost to the Yisreal Family Urban Farm often includes a second delivery to the community center right across the street so that other members of the community can use the compost in their own gardens as well. Chanowk has been a great partner in that he often leads us to other community gardens in need of compost while promoting Sac State as a partner of the community.

Mama Josie's Community Garden: This garden is located in the Del Paso Heights area of Sacramento. The land for this community garden was donated by a privately owned small farm. We were happy to help establish this new garden using Sac State Made compost.

New Directions Church: This church facility has an expanding therapy garden for children escaping abusive environments. Some of our own Hornets have utilized this garden for themselves and their children. We are proud of this partnership look forward to further cultivating it as we move forward together.

Oak Park Sol: Oak Park Sol works to establish community gardens throughout the Oak Park area, investing back into this traditionally economically depressed part of Sacramento. When they wanted to establish a new garden at the corner of 15th Avenue and Martin Luther King BLVD., they reached out to us and we were able to help start the garden with Sac State Made compost.

Rosemont High School: This is one of the first schools we had the pleasure of donating to. Located ten minutes from the University, Sac State Sustainability enjoys a unique partnership with the high school. Not only have we donated compost to this school, but Sac State Sustainability personnel have also guest lectured to several classes about the benefits of gardening including composting and beekeeping.

Soil Born Farms: One of our earliest partners, this partnership became instrumental in getting the word out that Sac State was ready to donate compost! After being introduced to Soil Born Farms and working alongside their personnel for Sac State's Harvest Sacramento event, we came to an agreement with the farm to begin donating compost to them in exchange for a fruiting tree for every 5 yards of compost donated. These trees were then planted on the Sac State campus and they help to provide fresh fruit to all members of our Hornet Family.

Suga Cane Community Garden: Suga Cane was our first partner from the Del Paso Heights Growers Alliance. This group is dedicated to growing fresh produce in their neighborhood to share throughout the Alliance.

Theodore Judah Elementary: One of the oldest schools in the East Sac neighborhood, this school has a large garden to which we have been happy to donate our compost to help them continue to expand their gardening education.

Three Sisters Gardens, Cummins Way Farm: Located in West Sacramento, Three Sisters Gardens is a Native American-operated farm and are part of the Gardeners of Color Collaborative, a group of farmers dedicated to helping people of color have access to fresh produce. The Cummins Way garden is located right next door to an elementary school, and they, in turn, are working to try to institute an educational program with those students.

University of the Pacific—McGeorge School of Law: This garden is located adjacent their campus housing and is a means for resident students to access fresh seasonal produce.