

ANNUAL REPORT

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# Office of Sustainability

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2022-2023

# STARS GOLD...Again!

## Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

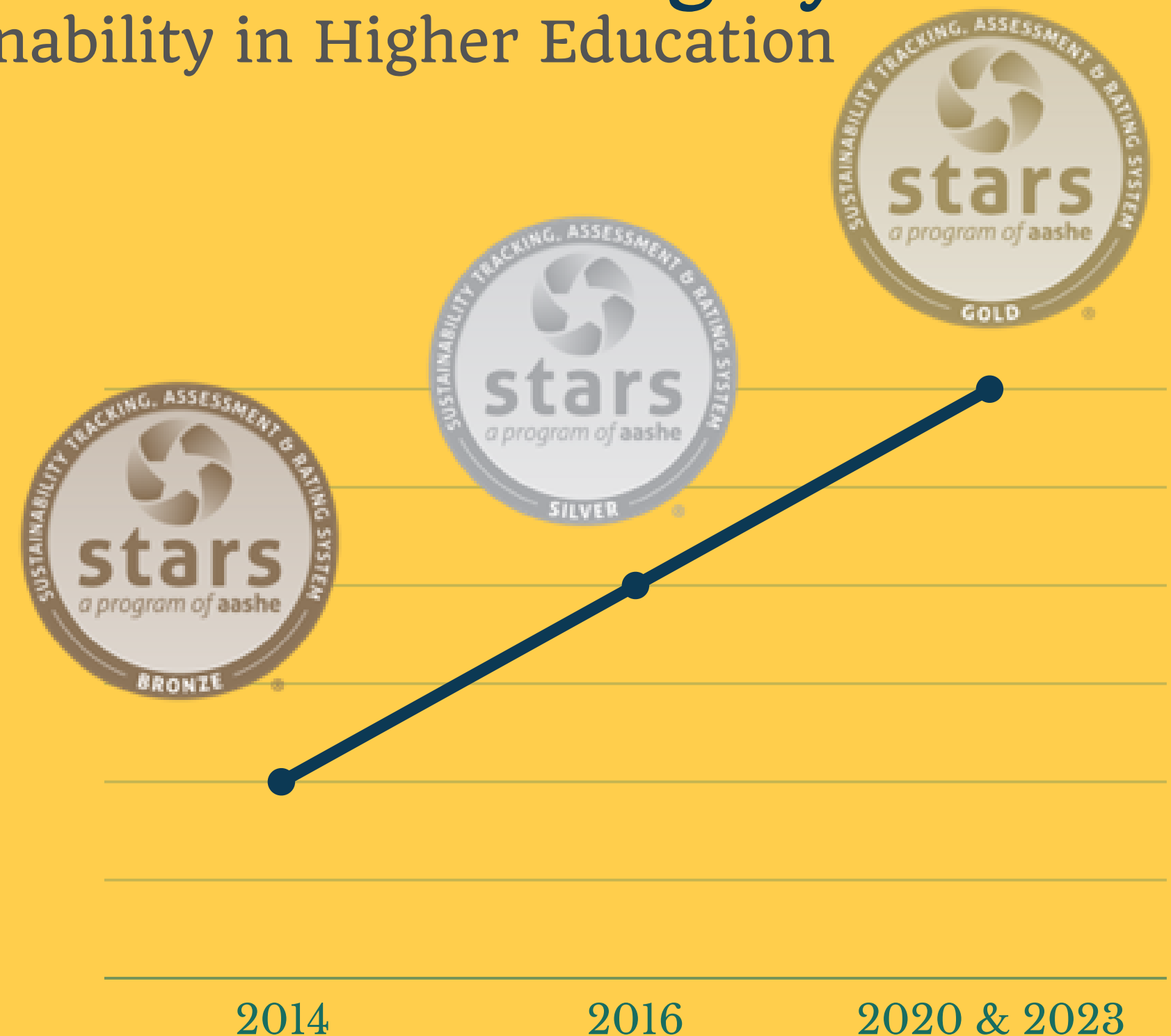
### FOUR CATEGORIES

*DOZENS OF SUBCATEGORIES, THOUSANDS OF DATA POINTS*

- Earned Saint Mary's its spot in Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges & University
- Publicly available data
- Effective benchmarking tool

### NEW INITIATIVES

- Food Justice internships
- Sustainability literacy assessment development



# Solar (+ Battery)

## Successful Solar RFP Implementation 2025

### **SITE 1: CARPORT**

- Approximate size: **1 MW**
- Co-benefits: provides shading, possibility of adding EV charging stations, live data, etc.

### **SITE 2: REC CENTER ROOFTOP**

- Approximate size: **300kW**
- Rec Center built "solar ready"

≈ **22% campus energy needs**

**Benefits:** Millions of dollars in energy savings over 20-years, advance CAP goals and educational + research opportunities...



The background of the entire page is a semi-transparent blue overlay on a photograph. The photograph shows two individuals, likely students or professionals, wearing hard hats and looking down at a document or tablet they are holding together. The scene is outdoors, possibly on a construction site or a field. The text is overlaid on this background.

# New Initiatives

Integrating sustainability and environmental justice into the curriculum has long been a goal of the Sustainability Committee and Office of Sustainability. Interdisciplinary classes, such as JCL 130, EES 120 and POL 126, have creatively interwoven topics of environmental justice, food and climate into coursework coupled with meaningful and relevant community engagement. Academic working groups tasked with furthering sustainability curriculum have organized research and teaching symposia, speaker series, movie screenings and much more throughout the years.

A current project underway with the aim of expanding sustainability-related curricular and co-curricular offerings is to develop recommendations and plans to utilize our resource-rich 420 acre campus for equitable and sustainable solutions. The campus as a living laboratory model provides opportunities for the Saint Mary's community to advance sustainability through place-based research, internships and teaching. Harnessing our campus' natural and built environment for curricular and co-curricular projects encourages the application of knowledge to a real-world context, enhances connections and skill development, and provides more opportunities to reach our climate goals.

A natural fit to test and develop this living lab model is in Saint Mary's half-acre campus garden. The outdoor educational space and working landscape aims to foster community while enhancing learning, promoting physical and emotional health and encouraging just, sustainable agrifood systems.

As the Legacy Garden enters its next phase we welcome all Saint Mary's staff, faculty and students to co-envision how this important resource could be enhanced and expanded for teaching, research, community and cultural events and to advance sustainable systems. To gather input, ideas, feedback and recommendations, we hosted a series of participatory garden visioning sessions.



# Reimagining the Legacy Garden

## CE PLACEMENTS + VOLUNTEERING

37 students in Fall 2022 + 20 Jan Term students + 12 students in Spring 2023 completed Community Engagement service hours in the garden, plus additional community volunteers.

## CAMPUS AS A LIVING LAB - EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS FOR STUDENTS, STAFF & FACULTY

Series of garden & food systems workshops (beekeeping, fruit tree care, soil care, spring planting, composting, grafting, etc...)

## CENTERING EQUITY & JUSTICE

- Expanding partnerships with food justice organizations
- Increase access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food for food insecure populations

## PARTICIPATORY (RE)DESIGN

Involve campus community in re-design and re-imagining of the garden

## GARDEN VOLUNTEER HOURS

Tuesdays 3-5pm

Wednesdays 3-5pm

Fridays 12-2pm

### Contact us

📞 925.631.4673

🌐 [stmarys-ca.edu/sustainability](https://stmarys-ca.edu/sustainability)

✉️ [smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:smcsustainability@stmarys-ca.edu)



Located behind South  
Claeys Residence Hall

# PARTICIPATORY GARDEN VISIONING SESSIONS

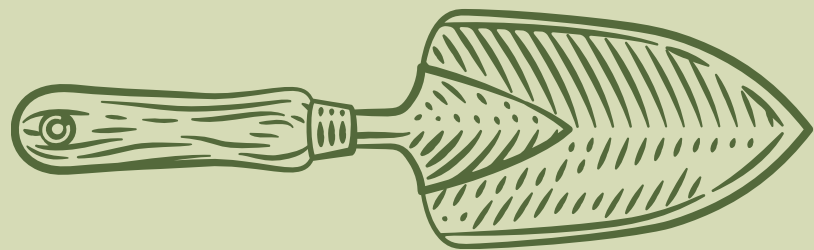


## WHEN

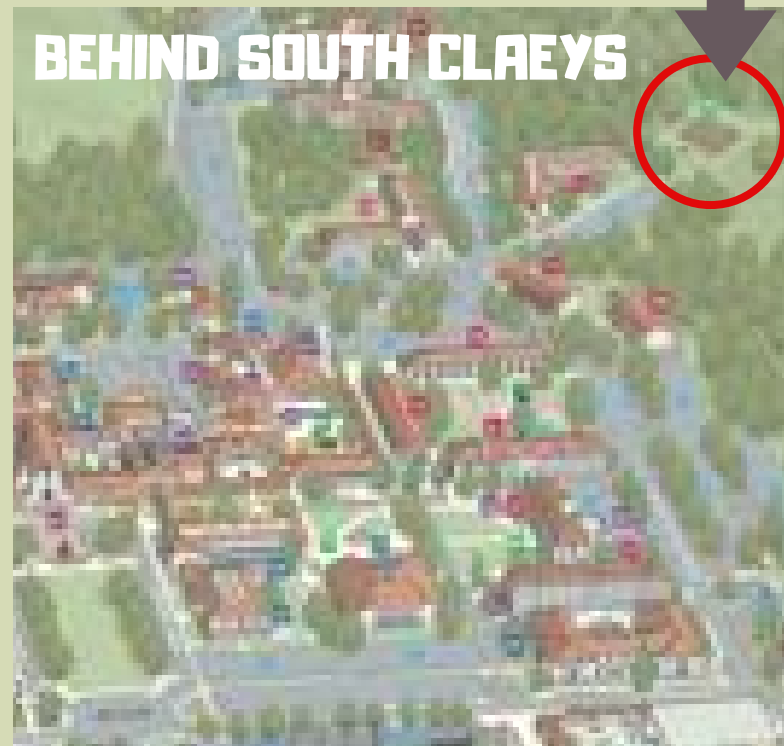
**Tues, Nov 15** at 3pm

**Wed, Nov 16** at 3pm

**Fri, Nov 18** at 12pm



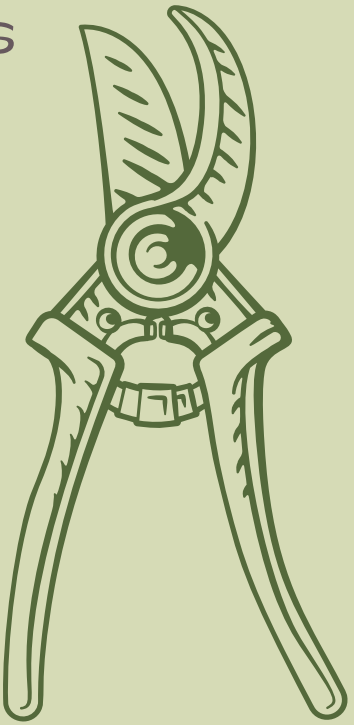
## WHERE THE LEGACY GARDEN



 IF RAINING, MEET IN DANTE 215

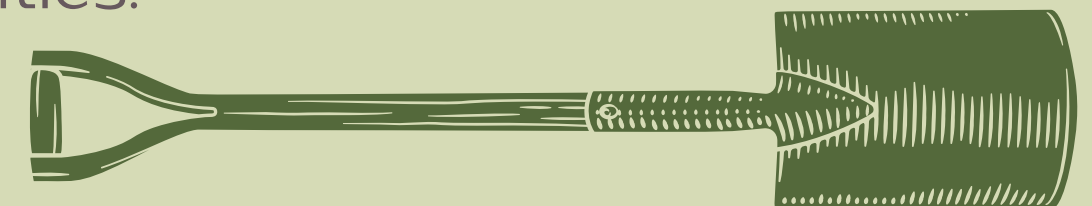
## THE LEGACY GARDEN

Saint Mary's half-acre campus garden is a living laboratory home to a diverse range of organic fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruit trees and animals. The outdoor educational space aims to foster community, enhance academic learning, promote physical and emotional health, and encourage just and sustainable agrifood systems.



## WHY PARTICIPATE?

As the Legacy Garden enters its next phase, we invite all members of the Saint Mary's community to co-generate ideas, visions and programs for this important campus resource. We hope these visioning sessions will allow students, staff and faculty to collaboratively reimagine or reaffirm the purpose and benefits of the campus garden, as well as identify infrastructure needs and new possibilities.





# Expanding Community Engagement Opportunities for Students

A photograph of a person standing in a field of tall green plants, possibly corn, with a chain-link fence in the background. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and is looking upwards. The background is a clear blue sky.

This year, dozens of community engagement students based at the Legacy Garden got out of our campus bubble to participate in one of five off-campus engagement opportunities at three urban farms engaging in on-the-ground transformative agrifood system change: Alameda Point Collaborative's (APC) Farm2Market, John Muir Land Trust Family Harvest Farm, and Healthy Hearts Institute.

We look forward to expanding these partnerships as well as offer these off-campus opportunities to the broader Saint Mary's community in the future.





# Makaiya Bedford

## Inaugural Food Justice Intern

### ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

Collaboration between CILSA's Community Based Internship program and the Office of Sustainability.

The intern works in the **Legacy Garden 4 hours per week** and works closely with the Sustainability Director to provide strategic leadership with the goal of **expanding off-campus food justice engagement opportunities.**

Offered all CE students five off-campus opportunities in three urban farms. See next pages.



# Alameda Point Collaborative (APC)

## Farm2Market



APC is a transformed naval base, housing over 500 formerly unhoused residents. The **Farm2Market** program provides a CSA and employment opportunities to APC residents.

During our three community engagement days we:

- Toured the farm
- Fertigated (irrigated + fertilized)
- Weeded & prepped a bed
- Harvested winter squash
- Fed & pet the pig!

# John Muir Land Trust Family Harvest Farm Pittsburg, CA

The Farm employs **transition-age foster youth** in a hands-on job-readiness program. The farm manager works closely with the foster youth and full-time, on-site social worker - a SMC alum!

During our community engagement day we:

- Toured the farm
- Mulched
- Weeded & prepped a bed





# Healthy Hearts Institute

## El Pueblo - Pittsburg, CA

Founded by Ray Harts, who grew up in El Pueblo neighborhood in Pittsburg. Ray has returned to El Pueblo to farm a 2 acre parcel with the vision of providing fresh produce with a **pay-what-you-can market stand, employment opportunities** and educational workshops for the community.

During our community engagement day we:

- **Planted over 300 native plants** for the farm's new hedgerow!



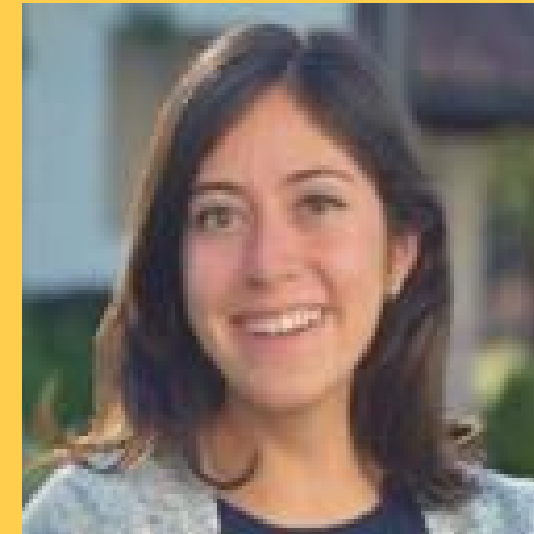
# 2022-2023 Free Store Team

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Student-run & operated



ASHLYN DREWRY



SOFIA CUEVAS  
DORADOR



BROOKE WENGER



# More Free Store Initiatives

## DIRECT STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Pop-up Shops
- CAB collaboration Thrift Crawl
- Business Clothing partnership
- Holiday Decor & Gift Shop

## SUPPLY RESOURCES CAMPUS-WIDE

- Recreation Center
- Intercultural Center
- Museum of Art (MoA)
- SMC Dining Hall
- Library
- Various Clubs
- Career Services



# Earth Month Events 2023

Hosted by the Office of Sustainability Student Leaders

## MUSIC IN THE LEGACY GARDEN



Get social, talk community + join us to meet!

Light snacks + refreshments for students!

**APRIL 18TH AT 11 AM-1 PM**

JOIN US IN THE GARDEN TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY IN HONOR OF EARTH MONTH

The Legacy Garden is located behind of South College Residence Hall


JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF

## THE GAME CHANGERS

An inspiring new documentary that will change the way you look at food!

WGBH

CAMPUS SCREENING ON  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 21 6:30 PM**  
LAFAYETTE ROOM / SODA CENTER



sustainably happy

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF

## GATHER

AN ANIMATED DOCUMENTARY


WGBH

CAMPUS SCREENING ON  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 6:30 PM**  
DELPHINE LOUNGE




## Healthy Lands, Healthy People

Central Coast County's Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study



<b>BEN WEISS</b> Agriculture Conservation Manager Resource Conservation District	<b>DEREK EMMONS</b> Agriculture Conservation Coordinator Resource Conservation District	<b>MARIANNE ZAVALA</b> Agriculture Conservation Coordinator Resource Conservation District
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April 21 1:00

limited in-person spots available + zoom options  
Registration link coming soon!



# Lasallian Values, Global Connections: Saint Mary's Leads Conversation on Sustainability

When it comes to having global conversations about sustainability, Saint Mary's College is quite literally leading the way for Lasallian educational institutions. As part of its 2023 Lasallian Heritage Days, in conjunction with Earth Month, the College's Office of Sustainability and Office of Mission collaborated with the International Association of LaSalle Universities (IALU) to hold a global dialogue on sustainability. The virtual event was attended by Lasallian educators from around the world—from Burkina Faso to Brussels, Rome to Mexico, the Philippines to Pennsylvania and far beyond—spanning time zones and areas of focus within the broad field of sustainability. As Vice President of Mission Francis Sweeney noted, the gathering sent a powerful message about the connection between two core Lasallian values: “care for the earth and the power of education to transform lives and communities.”

In Saint Mary's strategic plan, Sweeney noted during the event, “We have expectations for global involvement and sustainability. So today, we really wanted to highlight the great work by our Lasallian partners and dream together about advancing sustainability.”

Excerpt from SMC News Story by SMC Office of Marketing and Communications Staff | April 21, 2023



# Additional Sustainability programs...

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ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION  
Revisit Transportation Demand Management Plan in partnership with Public Safety & Transportation Committee



## ZERO WASTE

- Sustainable Move Out
- Three-stream bin infrastructure
- Waste reduction events



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

- Green Gaels Club
- Student Interns
- Student research & co-curricular projects



## SUSTAINABILITY LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Rethink & revive in partnership with Student Life & Academic Affairs



## ENGAGING FACULTY & STAFF

- Annual Symposium
- Speaker series



# And more...

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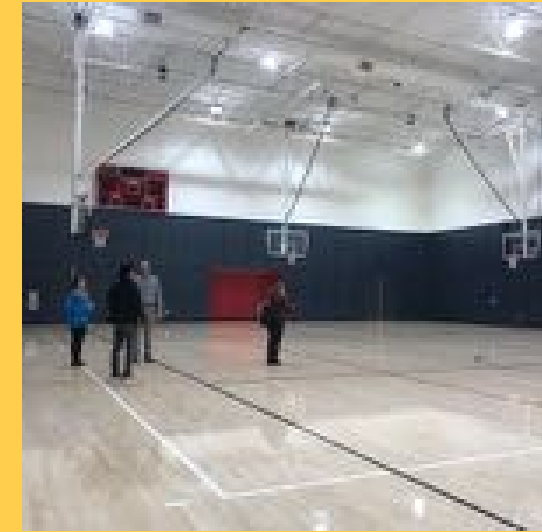
## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

- EV policies for 11 stations & email group
- Additional infrastructure



## EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Focus: Environmental & food justice



## STRATEGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- Prioritize low / no cost energy efficiency improvements
- To date: \$70K in incentives



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Conferences
- Internship / Job Opportunities

# QUESTIONS?

[SMCSUSTAINABILITY@STMARYS-CA.EDU](mailto:SMCSUSTAINABILITY@STMARYS-CA.EDU)

[WWW.STMARYS-CA.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY](http://WWW.STMARYS-CA.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY)