

LIVING LABS AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU's living labs are developed with the firm belief that student success is best achieved when concepts from inside the classroom are connected with real-world experience outside of the classroom. Multidisciplinary collaboration makes it possible to create sustainable and successful living labs. Four thriving living labs have come out of campus partnerships, all of which are student-led and serve to provide students with unique, hands-on learning opportunities.



Student-Managed Bee Hives at Durrell

As part of the Bee Campus USA Certification, three hives were introduced on campus in 2018 and are managed by students in the CSU Apiculture Club. A bee cam just outside the Durrell dining center, where the bees reside, has helped the hives become a focal point for visitors. Honey is periodically harvested from the hives and used in campus programming such as the Environmental Eats program, which is a partnership between the residence hall Eco Leaders and Residential Dining Services. Environmental Eats allows students to taste the honey and educates them on sustainable food choices. Since its inception, ASCSU granted

funding to the Apiculture Club to add four more hives at the Horticulture Center. housing.colostate.edu/bee-cam



Campus-Grown Greens

In 2017, a partnership between Housing & Dining Services and CSU's Horticulture Center created the Campus-Grown Food Partnership, which aims to aid in incorporating perspectives on sustainable foods and give students hands-on learning opportunities. Since then, more than 6,300 pounds of campus-grown greens have been produced and served in CSU's residential dining centers at salad bars, on sandwiches, grain bowls, and more. These greens are hydroponically grown in the Horticulture Center's unique green house, located just south of main campus. The program is managed by a Horticulture student intern who manages a cohort of graduate students responsible for the planting and harvesting of greens, as well as management of the hydroponic system. They are always exploring new ways to expand the partnership through growing different produce like tomatoes, herbs, and even fruit.

housing.colostate.edu/about/sustainability/green-dining



The Spoke

The Spoke is a living lab operated by student mechanics in partnership with Central Receiving. Housed in the University's first LEED Platinum building, the Pavilion at Laurel Village, The Spoke is a bicycle education center built to offer no-cost repair, maintenance, and education services to the CSU community. The Spoke's goal is to work with every customer to provide education on bicycle maintenance, safety, and repairs, and they carry many go-to items like tubes, locks, and helmets. In 2018, The Spoke received funding to develop and manage a pop-up mobile shop designed to offer services and education around campus in high traffic

cycling areas, particularly on the south side of campus. The Spoke has cumulatively provided 19,352 educational services since it opened in 2014. cr.colostate.edu/the-spoke



Earth Flow Living Lab

The Earth Flow in-vessel composting system (affectionately known as Oscar), located on the CSU Foothills Campus, accepts 2,000 pounds of material per day of pre-consumer food waste straight from CSU's residential dining centers. Oscar is operated by student interns from the Soil & Crop Sciences program who are responsible for loading materials, taking measurements, and making recommendations for recipe and operational improvements. Material is composted on site before being brought back to campus and used for landscaping projects, oftentimes

right outside the dining centers it came from. Student interns are responsible for loading material, tracking temperature, conducting soil quality tests, and making recommendations to adjust the recipe to achieve optimal results. On average, Oscar diverts 300,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill each year.

housing.colostate.edu/about/sustainability/zero-waste

You can help support CSU's Living Labs by:

- *Providing funds to expand an existing living lab*
- *Contributing funds to help start a new living lab*
- *Sponsoring the hourly wage of a student intern in one of the living labs (all students who work in the living labs receive an hourly wage)*

If you would like to support the Eco Leaders program, please contact Brittany Habben at Brittany.Habben@colostate.edu.