



From the Sustainability Council, a hearty “THANK YOU!” to everyone who engaged with us during Earth Week 2023. Please read on for some highlights. And have a great summer, Peacocks!

The Sustainability Council membership consists of faculty, administrators and students. **We would like to welcome new students into our active group.** If interested, please contact the founder and chair, Dr. Eileen Poiani at epoiani@saintpeters.edu.

Say hello to the new Kousa dogwood tree on the lawn of Millennium



On Arbor Day, April 28, a beautiful Kousa dogwood tree was planted and blessed on the Saint Peter's campus. Student Isabelle Bautista delivered the following remarks.

Saint Peter's University stands on Lenapehoking, the homeland of the Lenape people. Lenapehoking includes New York City, New Jersey and parts of New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenape as the original inhabitants and stewards of this place, honor their continuing relationship with Lenapehoking and express our gratitude for their past, present and future role as caretakers of these lands. Today, we return a part of nature to this land in the hopes of restoring this land's resources and fostering life for future generations.

Today, Arbor Day, is a day filled with hope and unity. I am honored to stand here as a student representing the Tri-Beta Honor Society and all students at Saint Peter's who care about the environment. As biologists, we harbor an appreciation for nature's mysteries. We also shoulder

the responsibility to protect the environment as much as we study it. Work towards climate justice, after all, is justice and dignity for all living creatures.

As members of this Jesuit institution, we can never emphasize enough the need to give back to the environment. We must work towards being more sustainable on and off campus. That is why when we take part in Earth Week, the knowledge and practices we demonstrate are what we should prescribe for the rest of our lives. When this tree is planted, a promise is made by the Saint Peter's University community. It is a pledge etched into the ground, a prayer uttered to the earth, that will outlive all of us and will remain for as long as we maintain and respect this land.

In the words of the founder of Arbor Day, Julius Sterling Morton: "While other holidays repose upon the past, Arbor Day proposes for the future." Let this tree propose an unshakeable connection that Saint Peter's University has with the environment and the creatures that inhabit our community, until the end of time.

-Isabelle Bautista, '25

Earth Week 2023 highlights



Green Out in the Quad was a success! Plants in the ground is one easy and beautiful way to fight climate change.



We loved the Clothing Swap sponsored by SAVE (Student Advocates for Valuing the Earth.) Congrats to senior and Sustainability Council member Noelle Sprenkle!



Members of the Sustainability Council, the greater Saint Peter's community and parishioners of Saint Aeden's, the Saint Peter's University church came together for a screening of ["The Letter,"](#) a documentary about Pope Frances' commitment to climate action. Many thanks to Father Rocco Danzi, S.J., Father John Hyatt, S.J., and parishioner Bobby Young for their assistance in organizing the screening.

- *Our Vision: The Sustainability Council supports a broad, holistic vision of sustainability, framing our work in pluralism and integrating the right of well-being today to that of future generations.*
- *Our Mission: The Sustainability Council, composed of a broad representation from the university community, initiates and implements institutional, academic and community programs that identify, inspire and foster sustainable practices and behaviors.*

Your feedback, photos, event notices and story ideas are always welcome. Please email them to Peacock Planet editor Georgia Kral at gkral@saintpeters.edu

Saint Peter's University Sustainability Council

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