



Happy Spring, Peacocks!

The flowering trees are opening, the daffodils are dancing in the sun and the Sustainability Council is hard at work planning for Earth Week 2024! But before we get to the end of April, we have lots to update you on now.

Keep reading for updates on our important recycled bench initiative, a professor's study abroad trip to Costa Rica and more.

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](mailto:epoiani@saintpeters.edu).

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**Save your soft plastics, Peacocks!  
Look for TREX bins on campus.**



*These containers are all over campus! Please recycle!*

Have you seen these bins on campus? Look out for them because if the SPU community can collect 1,000 pounds of soft plastic we will get a bench for all to sit on! Yes, it's time for the **TREX CHALLENGE!**

TREX is a sustainability conscious manufacturer of decks, flooring and other items that are made from recycled materials. Saint Peter's University is partnering with TREX to recycle 1,000 pounds of soft plastic. If successful, SPU will receive a FREE beautiful outdoor bench made from the materials we've gathered.

### **What can go in the bins:**

Plastic wrap, plastic grocery bags, bread bags, ziploc bags, bubble wrap

### **What can't go in the bins:**

Hard plastics: plastic bottles, plastic containers

*Important note: Plastic must be clean. No grease or messiness left behind, please.*

### **Bin locations on campus:**

Panepinto Hall  
Mac Mahon Student Center, 5th floor  
Gannon Hall, chemistry department  
O'Toole Library, office area  
Recreational Life Center (RLC)  
RLC Lower Level Mailroom  
More to come!

SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY  
COUNCIL PRESENTS

# TREX PROJECT

**WITH A GOAL OF COLLECTING  
1000 POUNDS OF SOFT PLASTIC**

**What we're collecting:**

- Plastic wrap
- Plastic bags
- Bubble Wrap

**What we're NOT collecting:**

- Plastic bottles
- Plastic Storage Containers
- Plastic Tubs

**SAVE YOUR CLEAN/SOFT PLASTIC TO PLACE IN  
THE BINS THAT ARE LOCATED AROUND CAMPUS:**

**PANEPINTO HALL  
MAC MAHON STUDENT CENTER - 5TH FLOOR  
GANNON HALL - CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT  
O'TOOLE LIBRARY - OFFICE AREA  
RECREATIONAL LIFE CENTER- LOWER LEVEL  
MAILROOM  
MORE TO COME!**

For more information contact: [EPOIANI@SAINTPETERS.EDU](mailto:EPOIANI@SAINTPETERS.EDU)

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**Costa Rica 2024: Turtles, camping & more!**





*Pictured are students on Dr. Brandy Garrett-Kluthe's travel abroad trip in Costa Rica over winter break. Photo courtesy of Garrett-Kluthe.*

Over the winter break, Dr. Brandy Garrett-Kluthe, associate professor of biology, led a group of students on a travel abroad trip to Costa Rica. On the trip students worked with two different non-profits, both founded and run by Costa Rican women: the Apami Wildlife Rescue Center and the Verdiazul Turtle Hatchery. They visited the Rincon de la Vieja and Arenal volcanoes as well as two mangrove habitats and five beaches. They also slept in tents!

Michele Peralta, a senior computer science and anthropology major called the trip “amazing.”

“My favorite part was visiting Don Jorge's farm in the Rincon de la Vieja area. It's a native family-owned organic farm where we learned about plants and wildlife and even got to see how coffee and chocolate are made,” she said. “It was incredible to see our favorite products being made right before our eyes.”

Garrett-Kluthe plans to bring students back to Costa Rica in the future. Stay tuned.

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**ICYMI: Sustainability Council hosts researcher**

## from Hackensack Meridian



Sean Fitzgerald, Director of Research and Academic Safety at Hackensack Meridian Health spoke to the SPU community about biological environmental health and safety earlier this month.

**Follow us on Instagram! @spusustainers**

Are you following [@spusustainers](https://www.instagram.com/spusustainers) on Instagram? Well, you should be!

Senior Jazmyne Andujar continues to manage our social media channel by creating thought-provoking content about issues of sustainability. Follow us to keep up to date with Council and non-Council sponsored events on campus.



## What We're Reading

Here are some media recommendations from Council Members:

- ['Global Greening' doesn't mean what you think](#), VOX
- [Biden's climate law has created a growing market for green tax credits](#), *The New York Times*
- [U.S. fully bans asbestos](#), *The Washington Post*

### Words to inspire action...

**"We've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can't wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes, we feel it. We know it in our bones."**

**-President Joe Biden**

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- *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](mailto:gkral@saintpeters.edu)  
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