

# THE GREEN AMBASSADOR



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## A Note from Our Director

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Hello from the Office of Sustainability! We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the summer months. It has been awhile since we've sent out a Green Ambassador newsletter. Please allow me to share why that is and what to expect.

For the last year, it has been my humble honor to learn about the sustainability-minded decisions so many of you have been making over the years — thank you. Meanwhile, for positive reasons, our team is 100% different than it was last year, resulting in us re-envisioning how we respond to the needs of our University and hiring team members accordingly. You'll see that reflected in the *Sustainability Spotlight*, as you have the opportunity to virtually meet our new team.

Going forward, we plan to expand out this newsletter: sending it with a higher frequency and to a variety of campus constituents, not just staff. It will now be a platform to learn more about sustainability on campus. We hope to highlight the unsung stories and people working to move us toward a more sustainable university; while also keeping you informed with ongoing news & opportunities.

It's an exciting next chapter for our office, and we are excited to share more with you! We look forward to continuing to work with you - *together, caring for our common home.*

Yours in sustainability,

Geory Kurtzhals



## Term of the Month

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August's term of the month is *carbon neutrality*, and Notre Dame has committed to become carbon neutral by 2050. But what does carbon neutrality actually mean?

[See how carbon neutrality is defined](#)

## Digging Deeper Toward Carbon Neutrality

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This summer, the University began its third geothermal installation below the Joyce parking lot. This project is one of many that aims to reduce the University's greenhouse gas emissions and increase campus' energy efficiency and resiliency.

[Learn more about geothermal energy systems at Notre Dame](#)

## Sustainability Spotlight

Our team looks a lot different than it did a year ago. Meet our new members who are working behind the scenes today to support a more sustainable and resilient tomorrow.



**Olivia Farrington** joined our team in November 2022 as **Program Manager and the Advisor to the Senior Director**. In this role, Olivia oversees the student intern program, strategic communication and engagement for the office, and provides support for various programs. Prior to her start with the Office of Sustainability, she served as the Senior Administrative Coordinator in the Department of Art, Art History & Design for seven years. Olivia has

had a long-standing drive for sustainability work, but credits much of her passion for communicating sustainability from her time as an outdoor educator and adventure trip leader.

**Angela Fox** joined the team in March 2023. As **Sustainability Program Manager, Operations & Analysis**, Angela is responsible for sustainability data collection and reporting, in addition to special projects and programs. Angela has 13 years of sustainability non-profit and community organizing experience, and is passionate about leading sustainability transitions in a way that empowers and inspires others to take action. She also believes that data is one of the great storytelling tools.



**Austin Poyar** is the **Program Manager of Sustainable Operations**, and joined the team in January 2023. He is a community-focused nonprofit professional with a passion for environmental sustainability. Currently in his role, Austin supports the university's waste reduction activities. He previously worked for five years at the national park friends group, the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In this position, he managed the organization's Administration and Facilities teams, as well as helped lead the Conservancy's Zero Waste work.

[Read the team's full bios](#)



Summer is in full swing, which means it's prime time for harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables! Now is the time to take advantage of local farmers' produce. Often, the most sustainable shopping options are those closest to home. Locally produced goods require less travel time (which equals less carbon emissions) and supports the local economy. Best of all, because they are in season, the produce is bursting with flavor!

Popular local produce shopping options include the [Mishawaka Farmer's Market](#), [Portage Farm Stands](#), [Purple Porch Co-Op](#), [South Bend Farmer's Market](#), and [Sunchoke Farms](#).

## Looking Ahead: St. Francis of Assisi

Mark your calendar for St. Francis Week 2023! Taking place October 2nd through the 6th, this annual week-long celebration honors St. Francis's life and work to positively impact our common home. Finalized details of this year's events will be updated on our [calendar](#). Some previous events include special Campus Dining menus, BioBlitz flora and fauna identification, and natural paper-making workshops.

### *Who is St. Francis?*

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology. He was born in the 12th century A.D. and he was declared a saint on November 29, 1979. He is known for loving the planet and living together with those in poverty.



Do you know about a sustainability event coming up?

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