



**2025 -
2026**



ANNUAL REPORT



[pcgarden_compost](https://www.instagram.com/pcgarden_compost)



sustainability@prescott.edu

GREEN MOUNTAIN CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

WHO WE ARE



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OUR MISSION

The Green Mountain Center for Sustainability helps cultivate the skills and knowledge needed to create a more just and sustainable society by building learning communities through events and programs, facilitating connections among stakeholders, and sharing resources.

OUR GOALS:

Green Mountain
Center for
Sustainability

Prescott College

COMMUNITY

Create a rich sense of community on the Prescott College campus and in online spaces for students, staff, community members, and alumni from Prescott College and Green Mountain College.

PARTNER

Collaborate with community partners on sustainability work, events, and advocacy within the Prescott Quad Cities Region and beyond.

LEARNING

Encourage and support on-campus and online sustainability courses, independent studies, senior projects, and co-curricular activities that use a bioregion as a laboratory for solutions-based learning.

RESOURCE

Serve as an incubator for research, community projects, and community organizing for sustainability.

MEET THE TEAM



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“ The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility... ”

- Wendell Berry



ELEANOR TISON

Director

For me, sustainability education is a priority. The Center has grown in its capacity over the past few years to serve as a hub of experiential learning on campus (gardens, composting & soil, poultry, food/seed sovereignty) and as a gathering space to build relationships & partnerships. As director, I am focused on continuing to foster a culture of collaboration and co-creation while supporting & mentoring student-led projects.



ZACHARY CZUPRYNSKI

Coordinator

From the farms of Pennsylvania to the canals of Amsterdam, and now situated in the rocky pines of Prescott, I bring an international perspective to sustainability for the well-being of people and the planet. Find me digging through dumpsters, sorting through spreadsheets, or running the trails of Prescott.



AUDREY ACEVES

Engagement
Specialist
(VISTA, AZServe)

My passion for gardening has grown into a commitment to sustainability and food justice. I enjoy learning about and promoting practices that protect the environment while increasing access to fresh, healthy food. I believe that cultivating gardens can also cultivate stronger communities, resilience, and a more equitable future.

Our team comprises a faculty member, a staff member, and an alum. This diversity allows us to connect sustainability work to every corner of the college, from the classroom to daily operations of the student experience. It also signifies the relevance of our work beyond any single stakeholder. The projects we build are carried forward by the relationships we foster along the way, to all who have been part of this community.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Annual Report for the 2025-2026. As we reflect on the past academic year, I am inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of our full student body, undergraduate and graduate, resident and remote, who continue to motivate our efforts and guide expenditures of Sustainability Funds at Prescott College through their proposals and involvement. But this year, I would like to particularly honor and celebrate the dedication, leadership and tireless work of our student-powered **Sustainability Crew** of 14 work study students. The Crew (a Dec 2025 Crew photo graces the cover) is a revolving roster of students of all years and competencies, from Adventure Education to Psychology, and this year included two online graduate students, as well as alum, Audrey Aceves '25, serving as our VISTA Engagement Specialist. Together they have been the life blood of the Center by collaborating in transforming ideas into action through planning, outreach, and daily hands-on care and maintenance of Center projects.

As illustrated in the flow of photos below, in 2025-26, Crew members, working alongside faculty, staff, and community partners, nourished our campus soil health with hand-sifted campus compost; expanded, designed, cultivated and harvested our ecologically-managed campus food gardens; maintained our waste reduction initiatives, such as our Campus Composting Project and Campus Free Store; and coordinated, prepared & served healthy meals at social connection events, such as weekly Taco Tuesday, and Free Store Friday 'Soup & Sourdough.' Our big, annual events, the fall Prescott College Harvest Fest & spring Seed Mania gardening education/seed giveaway fair, could not happen without a dedicated and diligent Crew! Their leadership demonstrates that students are not only learning about sustainability, they are actively shaping more resilient and sustainable communities. **I extend my sincere appreciation to our Sustainability Crew, as well as our community partners**, such as Slow Food Prescott and AZServe, and everyone who engaged with Center activities and contributed their time, creativity, and passion this year. Together, we are building a campus where sustainability is a shared responsibility and where student leadership, both in Prescott and beyond, continues to inspire meaningful, lasting change. We look forward to continuing this momentum with new opportunities to learn, lead, and grow a more resilient future **together**.

Eleanor Tison,
Director

Composting for
soil health...



Growing
polycultures...



Prepping
the harvest



Serving Taco
Tuesday!



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHT: *ENGAGEMENT*



05

Shortly after the Sustainability Center took root at Prescott College, the pandemic made a major dent in campus engagement. Students finished their Spring term remotely and returned to their Fall activities, still wearing masks and restricted to moving on campus only to attend classes or eat at the makeshift grab-and-go cafe. In response, the Green Mountain Center made a commitment in 2022 to restoring a sense of community and invigorating campus life, and we have surpassed our expectations. This academic year, the Center has engaged over 2,200 students, employees, and community members in sustainability activities, events, workshops, teach-ins, and more. This yields a **54% increase in overall engagement** since we first our goal in 2022.

54%

INCREASE IN SUSTAINABILITY
ENGAGEMENT SINCE 2022

2,250

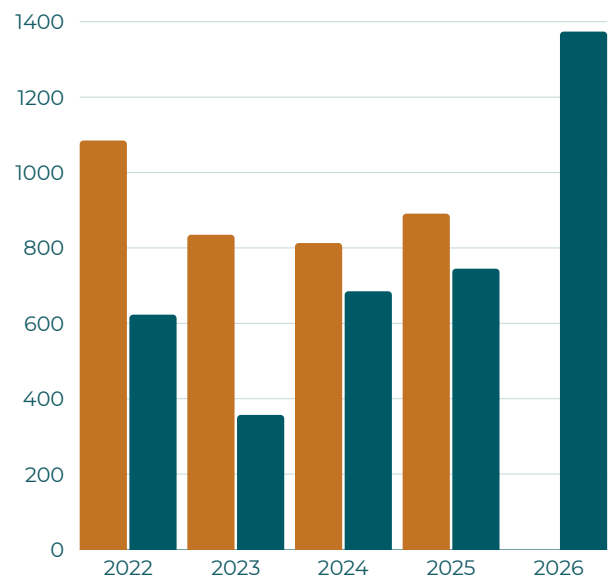
PARTICIPANTS IN SUSTAINABILITY
EVENTS DURING FY 25-26



Whether through events, workshops, teach-ins, or conferences, the Center strives to engage as many students, employees, and community members as possible during the academic year. Here are the most recent numbers of participants engaged in sustainability activities.

Fall - Brown
Spring - Blue

Sustainability Engagement



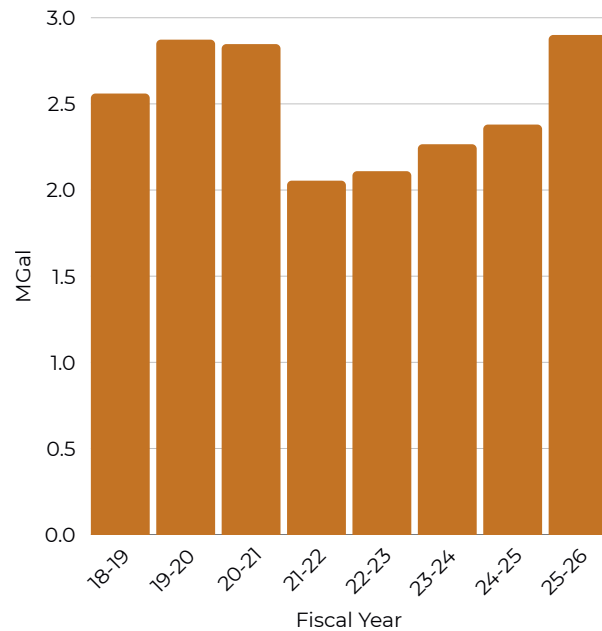
BY THE NUMBERS



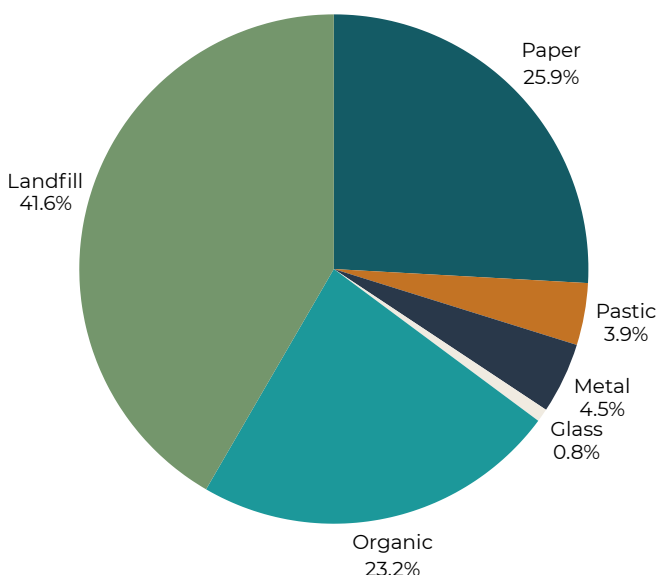
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WATER

After a slump in water use during the COVID years, we observe annual water consumption hovering around 3 million gallons per academic year. Partly responsible for this rebound is the extensive restoration work being conducted along Lower Butte Creek. With hundreds of new native plantings being established, we expect this flux of water use to be temporary until the new plantings can be weaned off irrigative support.



Waste Characterization (by weight) 25-26



WASTE

Every year, we conduct two full waste audits for an entire week to understand the total amount of waste and recycling deposited during the semester and to characterize the types of materials in our waste streams.

Here are the three most common mistakes people make when it comes to recycling:

- (1) recycling flimsy plastics and plastic bags – use the Terracycle boxes on campus – in Wren and the Housing Office!
- (2) not cleaning jars and cans before recycling them – rinse these out beforehand!
- (3) “I don’t believe recycling works” – Trust us. It does. See what happens to Prescott recycling [here!](#)

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHT: ZERO WASTE



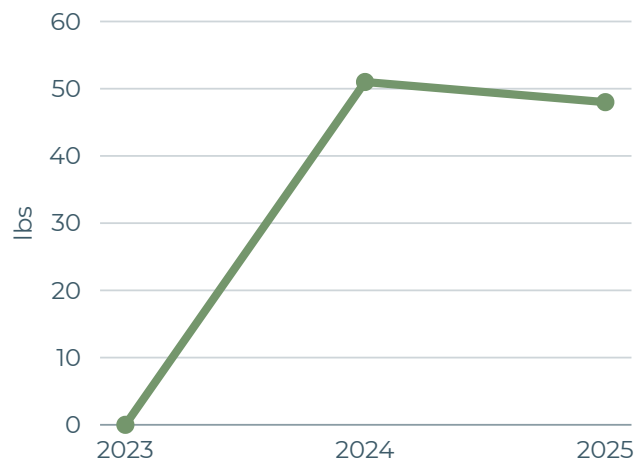
07

Previous waste audits revealed that single-use plastics are commonly mistaken as recyclable items, when they are not actually accepted by our waste hauler. In fact, these items contaminate the recycling stream and cause quality materials to no longer be recyclable. To prevent contamination, we partnered with Terracycle – a company that accepts hard-to-recycle materials, including fabrics, and turns them into objects like furniture and park benches. Over the past two years, we have been collecting snack wrappers, bubble wrap, plastic grocery bags, and other single-use disposable items in the Sustainability Center and Housing Office.

We have collected nearly **100 lbs** of materials since installing the boxes in 2024! Doesn't sound like much? Consider that the average snack bag weighs only a *tenth of an ounce*. Stack them all together and do a little math... **we've diverted the equivalent of about 16,000 standard single-serve wrappers from landfill!**

100 LBS

OF HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS
CAPTURED FROM LANDFILL

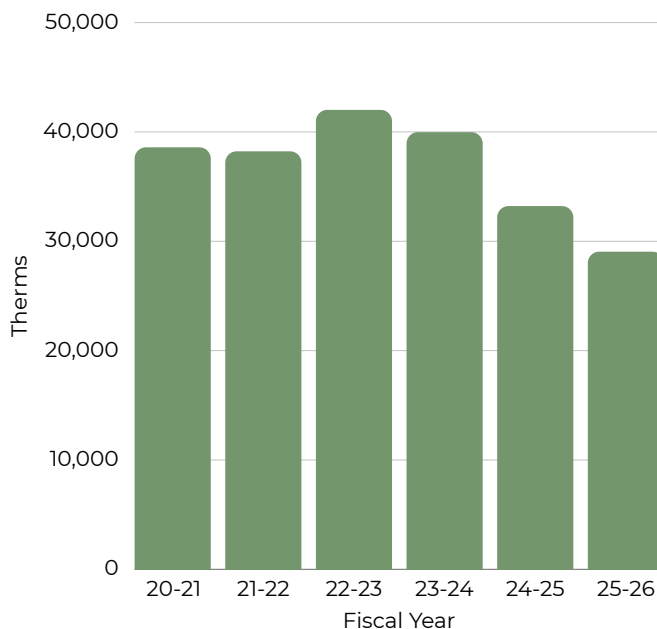


BY THE NUMBERS



08

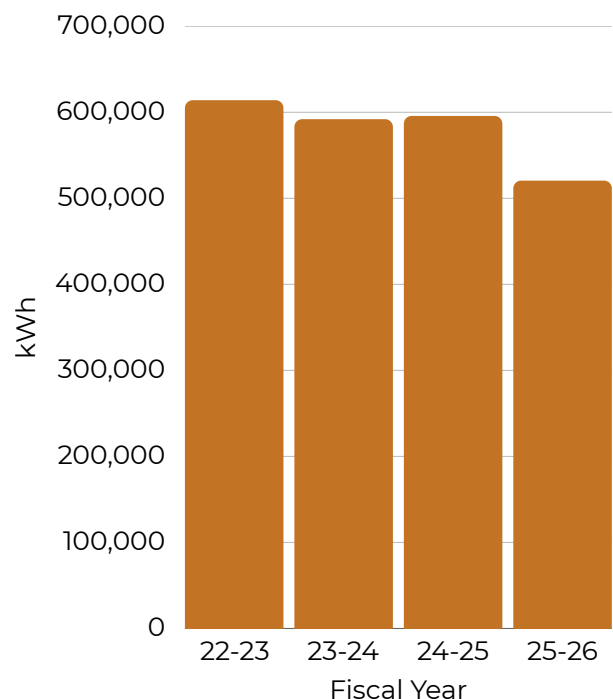
NATURAL GAS



Since the 22-23 academic year, we have reduced our annual natural gas use by **over 30%**, resulting in substantial savings and avoided greenhouse gas emissions! Although natural gas is commonly touted as being less harmful to the climate than coal or oil, it is still carbon-intensive compared to alternative and renewable energy sources. Therefore, we will continue pursuing strategies that reduce the need for campus heating (the primary use of gas), such as improving building efficiency, insulation, and appropriate conservation.

ELECTRICITY

We have achieved an **18% reduction** in electricity consumption since the 22-23 academic year. As with thermal energy, the price of electricity by our utility provider, APS, has increased substantially, underscoring the need for continued reductions in electricity use. A new rooftop solar system has been installed at our Gear Warehouse and is currently producing enough power to cover the building's consumption! We now have four working solar systems on campus, positioned at our Welcome Center, the Village (student housing), our campus Library, and the Warehouse. Diverse electricity production remains vital amid geopolitical conflict and rising costs.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHT: CAMPUS COMPOSTING



09

In collaboration with the Prescott Farmers Market Community Compost Program, we hosted **a free Earth Day composting workshop for community members** to learn about composting and constructing their own backyard bins. As we were phasing out our old decaying compost bins in the Village Kitchen Garden adjacent to our Center, the workshop presented an opportunity to participate in constructing a new system in the open area right next to The Village, just off the student housing parking lot. **These new bins are open to students, employees, and community members to deposit food scraps** as we try to empower others to divert valuable organics from landfill. GMC staff and work-study students will continue to manage this compost system with additional support from the Farmers Market Compost Program.

2,910 LBS

**OF FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTED IN
THE 25-26 ACADEMIC YEAR**



This past year, we composted **1.5 tons of food scraps** from The Village (student housing) and the Crossroads Cafe. Students collect buckets weekly, wash them, and return them to the residence hall and cafe. After about three months of turning, monitoring temperature, and decomposition, the compost is ready to be sifted and applied to our campus gardens. Compost is a vital amendment to our sandy and rocky soils in the Southwest. It provides soil organic matter, inoculates microbial life into our gardens, and maintains moisture and improves regeneration of nutrients in our campus food gardens. An incredible cycle of life! From soil to food and back to soil again. **For more information on how to compost, please reach out to the Center to get involved.**

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES



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STRATEGIES TO LOWER ELECTRICITY USE:

- keep office lights off when natural light is maximized during the day
- turn off all tech at the end of the day, especially before weekends
- keep doors and windows closed when AC is on to prevent loss
- host events outdoors when the weather permits

STRATEGIES TO LOWER WATER USE:

- turn off faucet while washing office dishes, scrubbing hands, or cleaning desk/kitchen surfaces
- if “greening” your office space, use drought-resistant, native plants
- report any leaks, irrigation cracks, or loose pipes to our amazing Facilities team ASAP!



STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WASTE:

- utilize reusable kitchenware as often as possible
- take broken or unused electronics to IT for e-recycling
- ask colleagues for items before purchasing new ones
- compost all organic waste (food scraps) in designated containers (ask Sustainability Center for one if needed)
- shop/donate to the Campus Free Store in Wren building

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

- participate in a Sustainability Center workshops, reading group, meals, or events (open to **ALL**)
- volunteer, intern, or work at the Sustainability Center
- bring a class to use the Center, Campus Gardens, and other sustainability resources for course activities or service
- submit proposals that increase participation in opportunities for networking, sharing, & connecting.



DEGROWTH READING GROUP

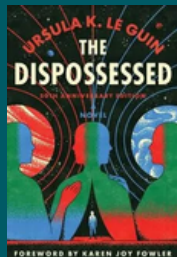


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We completed the **third year of our sustainability reading group**, established to connect with our online student population! Degrowth calls for a democratically-planned downscaling of production and consumption to lighten environmental pressures, increase human well-being, and work towards global solidarity and justice. It critiques the growth paradigm through lenses of (anti) imperialism, decolonization, and (eco)-feminism, seeking a more holistic approach to economics that creates a world of meaning, connection, and care rather than Gross Domestic Product.

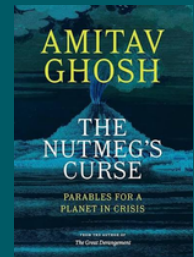
Learn more about degrowth [here](#) or check out this [comprehensive database](#).

Spring 2026: *The Dispossessed*

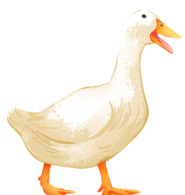


A classic science fiction novel written in 1974, that retains its relevance today. Shevek, a physicist, leaves his anarchist home world Anares to join the extremely capitalistic world of Urras to learn more about their society and to publish his groundbreaking research. Every other chapter reveals a new segment of Shevek's journey into this new world, while the others elaborate on his childhood upbringing into an anarchist society. *The Dispossessed* is an intriguing work of worldbuilding, with humorous and sometimes haunting culture shock that prompts us to reflect on the ways in which we organize our societies and economies.

Fall 2025: *The Nutmeg's Curse*

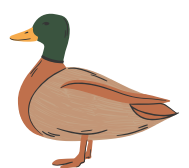


Amitav Ghosh provides a compelling narrative of a commonly taken-for-granted spice in nearly every middle-class household. He retells a story of early colonial expansion during the 17th century, when the Dutch East India Company was conquering small island nations for extremely lucrative spices: mace and nutmeg. In recalling the violent and oppressive overtaking of native island peoples for the purposes of colonial accumulation, Amitav Ghosh weaves past lessons into the present climate crisis, warning us of how the legacy of colonialism is still embedded in today's supply chains, even those deemed "green."



Want to join the reading group for Fall 2026? Join our Canvas page!

<https://prescott.instructure.com/enroll/FTKC7K>



ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES



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Each month, the Green Mountain Center of Sustainability and **Alumni Relations** host PC graduates from different areas of study to learn about their contributions to education, the environment, and society during and after college.

In February, **Sakénia McDonald, Ph.D.** explained how her education at Prescott College prepared the foundation needed to pursue research in the social sciences, emphasizing religion and spirituality, institutional power, and intersectionality. She is currently the owner of Deniese & Co., a boutique consulting firm specializing in qualitative research and technology, specifically working with and supporting girls and women of color, and lives in Marseille, France.

In March, **Atty Perry Stern, Ph.D.** discussed her experience with legal systems, tax policy, and community-centered research. Her research used decolonial and spatial analysis approaches to examine how property tax-funded climate mitigation and adaptation policies can disproportionately impact Black and African American communities in Washington State. She is currently the Rules Coordinator with the Washington State Department of Revenue, Director of the Maasai Grassroots Justice Clinic, and an interdisciplinary scholar.

In April, **Scott Mèxcal** discussed his journey in creating art to support immigrant justice, and has plans to share how Indigenous Planning Methodology is informing a current community project. In 2022, Scott earned his Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Social and Environmental Practice, under the mentorship of his capstone advisor Patrisse Cullors. Since that time Scott has gone on to teach full-time at South Seattle College and was awarded tenure in March of 2026.

Prescott College
**ALUMNI
SPEAKER
SERIES**
Connect with graduates
from all areas of study!

SCOTT MÉXCAL
APRIL 23, 2026 | 4:30 P.M.
Meet the alumni who earned his Master's
Degree of Fine Arts in Social and
Environmental Practice, studying art
activism for immigrant justice and
collective liberation.

ENDEAVOR MAPPING PROJECT



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Prescott College is one of thirteen **Endeavor Lab Colleges** that is focused on supporting the health and well-being of students. This year, the **Mapping Belonging group** was awarded \$10,000 to pursue a project that instills a sense of belonging on campus. These funds were used to compile a Prescott College Literary Field Guide—a tool to merge the sciences with the creative arts.

By pairing traditional field identification with creative writing, the project encourages users to build emotional and sensory connections to the land. Entries deepen awareness of the flora and fauna inhabiting the Prescott College campus and the surrounding Arizona Central Highlands, inviting readers to experience these species as co-inhabitants.

The final product includes physical and digital components: (1) a pamphlet campus map with a walking tour highlighting native flora and (2) an online webpage with species descriptions and creative contributions. These contributions include written pieces such as poems, short essays, and prose, as well as sketches for an artistic field guide.

Check out the **walking tour map** and a field guide submission below!

Common Raven

Wings drum the air,
low flying over the creek.
The sharp voice calls,
summoning the swarm.
Ever watchful,
the raven looms in the tree tops.
Ever resilient,
it feasts on what is left behind.
These esteemed and reviled creatures,
harbingers of war and death, stewards of wisdom and tricks.
They make their homes among us;
we make ours alongside them.



VISION FOR 2026-27



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Last year, the Center set goals to expand engagement initiatives for online employees and students, as well as launch the **Pathway to Platinum** program to achieve the highest possible rating via **AASHE STARS**. We continue to make progress towards these goals as reflected in the annual report. **Here are our guiding goals for the 2026-2027 academic year.**

Goal: Advance Prescott College's commitment to social sustainability and inclusive community development by continuing to expand engagement initiatives for online students and employees, fostering a values-driven virtual campus culture that is cohesive with the Center's successful on-campus community building.

- Monthly online sustainability education and engagement events targeted for graduate and online undergraduate students, but open to all (alumni, residential undergrads, employees, community).
- Informal, interactive events for online students during Fall Term Harvest Season/Spring Term's April Earth Month, such as a livestreamed "Seasonal Cooking" webinar series
- Targeted campaigns to engage employees in reducing water, energy, and electricity use by empowering them with accessible and impactful strategies



Goal: Integrate Prescott College into our local and sustainable food systems of Central Arizona and improve student access to healthy, nutritious foods.

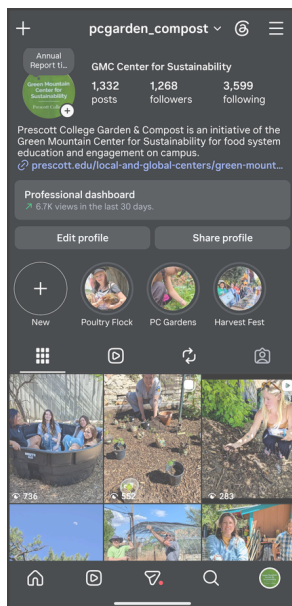
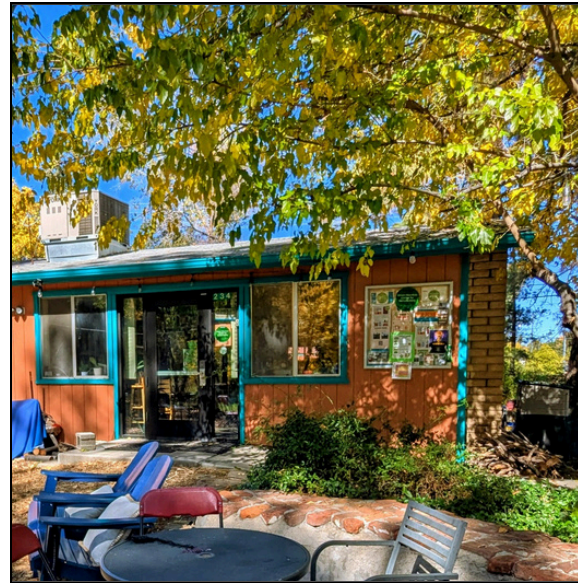


- Launch and assess a weekly **Fresh Food Assistance Program** for students featuring assortments of FREE "seasonal choice produce," sourcing locally grown produce purchased from Whipstone Farm & Delicious Earth Farm and our own Campus Food Gardens. Pick-up windows are offered on weekends at the Sustainability Center in Wren.
- Participate in the newly established Campus **Food Justice Committee** to support collaboration across academic, student leadership, and student engagement sectors at Prescott College to improve student nutritional security.
- Provide logistical support & funds to support the Crossroads Cafe in trialing items on their menu that will **feature sustainable, locally grown ingredients** in support of our community food system.

STAY CONNECTED



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There are several ways to stay connected and interact with the Green Mountain Center for Sustainability in the Wren Building on the Prescott College campus:

- MONTHLY EMAIL: **Sustainability Snippets** provides brief updates about sustainability news and projects on campus, remotely, and in Prescott. To be added to the mailing list, contact sustainability@prescott.edu.
- INSTAGRAM: **@pcgarden_compost**, where you can see how students on campus are engaging with sustainability.
- FACEBOOK: **<https://www.facebook.com/prescott.edu/>**

Check out our webpage on the Prescott College site:

<https://prescott.edu/local-and-global-centers/green-mountain-center-for-sustainability/>

THANK YOU

