



Toro Green Initiative Fund Report AY 2023-24

CSUDH

SUSTAINABILITY 

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1. Overview

The Toro Green Initiative Fund (TGIF), first launched in 2018-2019 with seed funding from President Parham, was established to inspire student leadership in sustainability projects on campus. Based on its early success, the CSUDH Office of Sustainability supports an annual \$5,000 ongoing fund to support TGIF initiatives each academic year.

In the 2023-24 academic year, TGIF attracted submissions of thirteen unique project proposals. Of these, four projects were awarded funding and successfully implemented during the 2024 spring semester. These projects have significantly advanced sustainability efforts at CSUDH, fostering a greener, more environmentally conscious campus community.

2. Funded Projects:

The funded projects for the 2023-24 academic year focused on practical solutions to enhance campus sustainability, addressing key areas such as waste diversion, alternative transportation, and water conservation.

2.1 Donation Bin

Applicant: Alekhya Dasari

Amount Awarded: \$2,000

A project was initiated to divert materials from landfills by installing a donation bin on campus. This bin is maintained weekly by the Office of Sustainability and has become a central component of the university's zero waste efforts. Donations are redistributed to the campus community during the monthly Pop-Up Thrift event held every first Tuesday at the Farmers Market. The initiative enables the campus community to drop off clothing, office supplies, and shoes for re-distribution to the Toro community.

The project has already seen widespread participation and has contributed to the campus goal of reducing waste while promoting a culture of reuse and community sharing. The bin is located on the 1st floor of NSM in the loading dock next to the IT Help Desk.



2.2 Bike Rental Program

Applicant: Alyssa Meraz
Amount Awarded: \$600

A bike rental program was proposed to make the campus more accessible for commuters seeking alternatives to car transportation. TGIF funding enabled the procurement of three bikes to launch an initiative offering free rentals to CSUDH students, faculty, and staff for up to 72 hours. The program is managed in collaboration with the Parking Office, allowing students, staff, and faculty to reserve bikes via the [Microsoft Booking](#) system.

The program has been successful in enabling a shift toward alternative transportation while reducing reliance on cars. It also aligns with broader campus sustainability goals by reducing carbon emissions and promoting healthier commuting habits.



2.3 Bike & Skateboard Racks

Applicant: Eric Jones

Amount Awarded: \$2,400

The Office of Sustainability partnered with Capital Planning to identify optimal locations for these new installations. As a result, nine new bike racks were installed across campus, replacing older, less functional racks, and a new skateboard rack was added outside the LSU building. These improvements have enhanced convenience and accessibility for micromobility users, further encouraging sustainable transportation options.



2.4 Rainwater Barrels

Applicant: Michelle Gonzales

Amount Awarded: \$0 (Funded by West Basin)

A project was introduced to increase rainwater harvesting on campus through the installation of water barrels. The initiative aimed to capture and store rainwater for various uses, such as crop irrigation around the Campus Urban Farm, thereby reducing dependency on potable water and improving water conservation efforts. TGIF funding supported the purchase and installation of two rain barrels at the Campus Urban Farm. This project not only enhances the university's sustainability practices but also serves as an educational tool to raise awareness about water conservation.



3. Conclusion

The 2023-24 cycle of the Toro Green Initiative Fund has delivered impactful projects that reflect the creativity and commitment of CSUDH students to sustainability. From reducing landfill waste to improving transportation accessibility, these initiatives demonstrate the university's dedication to fostering a sustainable future.

Looking ahead, TGIF will continue to inspire and support student-driven sustainability projects, reinforcing the university's role as a leader in environmental stewardship. With ongoing community participation and innovative ideas, CSUDH remains committed to creating a greener, more sustainable campus for all.

Questions?

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