



Office of  
**Sustainability**  
Princeton University



## AUGUST 2023 SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



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**Campus as Lab**

Feature



# MICROPLASTICS ARE EVERYWHERE — BUT ARE THEY HARMFUL?

**D**esigners thought when he and his colleagues made a beach bag, it would be made of recycled plastic bottles. But when they tested the bag, they found it was full of tiny plastic particles. The researchers, led by a scientist at the University of Michigan, found that the bag had shed tiny plastic particles into the water. The researchers found that the bag had shed tiny plastic particles into the water. The researchers found that the bag had shed tiny plastic particles into the water.

**U**sing more recycled plastic in their products could help reduce plastic waste. When it comes to plastic, there's still a long way to go. The researchers found that the bag had shed tiny plastic particles into the water. The researchers found that the bag had shed tiny plastic particles into the water.

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## Get Involved



**WE ARE HIRING!**

**THINKING.**

## ECO REP MEMBERS

- Provide bin monitoring services at campus events to support Princeton University's extensive composting program
- Support sustainability-themed events and activities on campus during the Fall and Spring semesters
- \$14.13/hour, flexible schedule
- Training provided, no prior sustainability experience required

[CLICK TO APPLY](#)

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# WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH SUSTAINABILITY AT PRINCETON?

Become a **Sustainability Chair** for  
your student organization!

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)


Upcoming Events




move-in


# RESALE '23

SAVE MONEY. SAVE THE PLANET. SHOP THE RESALE.

 sat, sept 9

 3-5pm

 dillon gym

 For more info follow  
@tigersgogreen

CASH, DEBIT/CREDIT ONLY. BRING YOUR PROX.  
OPEN TO ALL GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT [SUSTAIN@PRINCETON.EDU](mailto:SUSTAIN@PRINCETON.EDU)



# GREEN BRUNCH

A LOW-WASTE EVENT

Campus Club + Office of  
Sustainability

## WHAT IS IT?

- A chance to **meet leaders from sustainability student groups on campus** and learn about how to get involved
- We'll have **free Jammin' Crepes!**
- **All students are welcome**, not just those already involved with sustainability groups



## WHEN IS IT?

Saturday, September 23rd  
11:00am - 2:00pm  
Campus Club

Don't forget to RSVP on  
MyPrincetonU!





**OPEN WEDNESDAYS**

**September 6 through October 4  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Firestone Library / Chapel Plaza**

Terhune's Orchards, Nutty Novelties, The Granola Bar, OM Champagne Tea, The Soupeteer, Sprouts flowers, Judith's Deserts, Catalina Empanadas, Picklicious, Little Star Foods, Roper's Way Farm, Pies and Quiches, and MORE!

EMAIL: [pumarket@princeton.edu](mailto:pumarket@princeton.edu)  
PHONE: 609-258-6141

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Sustainability  
at Princeton



COMMUNITY &  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



Campus Dining



# COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY CELEBRATION

Powering possibilities  
for a greener future

**Saturday, Sept 23rd**

*10AM - 2PM*

**100 Stellarator Road,  
Princeton, NJ**

**News and Updates**

**Interim Director Named for Office of  
Sustainability**





As of September 1, Ijeoma Nwagwu will serve as the Interim Director of the Office of Sustainability after the departure of founding Director Shana Weber.

Nwagwu is the current Assistant Director for Academic Engagement and Campus as Lab initiatives and will serve as Interim Director while a national search is conducted for Weber's successor. She will lead an Office of Sustainability that is fully staffed, passionate about sustainability and operating at a high level. The team will continue to build partnerships across the University to achieve the goals laid out in Princeton's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), assuring the SAP evolves with emerging priorities.

As Princeton evolves its campus to hit its net-zero emission targets by 2046, Nwagwu says she and the Sustainability team will continue the mission of cultivating an ethos of sustainability at Princeton that inspires action at all scales in service to humanity and the world: "It is an incredible opportunity to inform and inspire the campus

and broader community about what it takes – from a technological, scientific, governance, and behavioral perspective – to become a net zero campus." ...[Read more](#)



## How Princeton Is Taking Composting to the “Next Level”

By Arlene Karidis, Waste360

Some eco-minded people at Princeton University view their small, New Jersey campus as a microcosm for the larger world—a place to vet sustainability solutions that could potentially be scaled and used in communities beyond their “bubble.”

They are leveraging the Ivy League school's capacity as a research institution to see how they might improve composting practices, beginning on their campus, but aiming to gain knowledge they can share with other institutions and communities.

“We use the campus as our lab to study and demonstrate potential solutions to sustainability challenges and looked at composting because of the problems we were seeing in our region,” says Gina Talt, project manager, Office of Sustainability Princeton University.

New Jersey and surrounding states' facilities were struggling to stay on top of odor and contamination. Some of them eventually shut down, forcing communities to scramble to find homes for their organic waste and prompting conversations around decentralized compost systems so economic and environmental benefits were more likely to stay local.

Princeton decided to pilot an in-vessel system; it was small enough for their early project, yet there was potential to scale. The rotary drum system has a 5,000-pound-per-week capacity of food waste, which comes from the dining halls. It's affectionately called SCRAPPY, a name that's caught on with staff and students.

"We are under capacity but have room to expand, which is the next hanging fruit that we want to pilot. How can we bring in more feedstock? How can we collect organics like we do trash and recycling?" Talt says.

Part of what she and her team are working on is piecing together a behavior puzzle, which has to do with helping people understand what to put in the bins to mitigate contamination...[Read More](#)

## Our Community



Say hello to

# Wilbranet

I love **spending time** with my **wife & our kids**.

**Wilbranet Labranche**  
Food Service Storekeeper with University Services since 2006

I'm very **proud of my children**.

My 22-year old son served in the Navy & is studying Civil and Environmental Engineering. My next oldest is a high school senior going into gaming & electronics. My youngest daughter just enjoys life!

I am rooted in my **faith in God** & my **love for Haiti**, my home country.

To me, **respect means**  
feeling like part of a team and recognizing one another's efforts. I embrace an attitude of appreciation.

**University Services**  
Princeton University Service Staff Members are the core of our campus community. For full staff profiles, check out [OneRespect.princeton.edu](https://www.princeton.edu/one-respect).



### Office of Sustainability

[sustain@princeton.edu](mailto:sustain@princeton.edu)

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