

ESS Newsletter

March, 2026



Students Participate in a Food Rescue

Food Recovery Network needs your help!

Food Recovery Network has officially started back up on campus! With the help of the Office of Sustainability, the food rescue committee under the Green Coalition, Parkhurst staff, and the Bonner Program, over 250lbs of food have been rescued so far. The food, rescued from Brooks dining hall, has produced three meals a week for partner organization, Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS). While it may be intimidating to sign up and get food safety certified at first, there is ample support for those wanting to get involved, and the certification under Food Recovery Network is simple to complete.

Rescues are currently taking place on Tuesday afternoons from 2-3pm led by The Office of Sustainability, and Thursday nights from 8:30-9:30pm run by experienced volunteers. You can sign up for these rescues on SignUpGenius found [here!](#) The food rescue teams have been reaching out to as many clubs and organizations on campus as possible to find more people to assist in food rescues. If you are in need of service hours for greek life, honor societies, or other groups on campus this is a great opportunity! If you or your student group is interested in helping with recoveries or have further questions, reach out to the Green Coalition or the Office of Sustainability.

Office of Sustainability Solar RFP

The Office of Sustainability has been hard at work on a new solar RFP (Request for Proposals). The RFP requests the addition of solar arrays to 7 buildings on campus including the Campus Center, Wise Center, Vukovich, Pelletier Library, Carr Hall, and Baldwin and Schultz dormitories. Baldwin will be a great place to install a solar array as the roof is flat and there's not very many trees on the Southern side. This RFP is unique in that each of the buildings needs a new roof so the request will include replacing roofs, AND installing solar. Kelly Boulton, Director of Sustainability, is hopeful that they will be able to turn a barrier into an opportunity and that this will be a good way for the college to do deferred maintenance.

The Office of Sustainability is considering working with the Capital Good Fund to complete this project. The Capital Good Fund is a nonprofit organization that can help get people solar who may not otherwise be able to get solar arrays, through better financing rates as a non-profit. Believe it or not, even with seven different arrays in the proposal, Allegheny's solar arrays are still a relatively small project. The arrays would be managed under a power purchase agreement model, meaning instead of paying for the arrays upfront, Allegheny would pay per Kilowatt hour of electricity. The developer will own the arrays, and be responsible for any potential maintenance. If desired, after 20-25 years or so, the college could purchase the solar arrays outright. At this time, there is not a plan to add any batteries for energy storage on campus, so the solar arrays will be connected to the city power grid. The market for electricity is high right now. The addition of 7 more solar arrays on campus will drastically reduce electrical bills for the college and hopefully be groundwork for the addition of more solar arrays and possibly batteries in the future.



Summer Work Opportunities!

Applying for summer jobs can be particularly arduous, especially as busy college students. The good news is that if you're looking for ESS related work this summer there are ample opportunities and places to find information. The ESS group on Gator Hub or posters around Carr Hall are a great place to get started, and if you need more support the Center for Career and Professional Development now has drop-in hours! My advice, ask your professors if they know of any positions that seem like they might be a good fit and don't underscore yourself when considering opportunities. If you need some help getting started, below are some positions currently taking applications.

Geyer Soil Labs

Participate in in-field soil collection, lab analysis, and data work during a 6-week position from May-June. Apply by Friday, March 27th! Email kgeyer@allegheny.edu with any questions.

Student Conservation Association

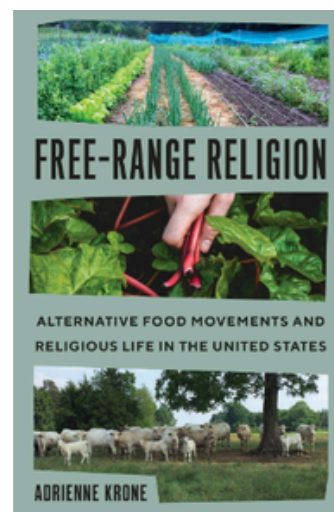
Interested in conservation, education, environmental protection, or something else? The SCA probably has a position you'd enjoy! They have ample positions open across the country, find them here: <https://thesca.org/join-the-crew>

Climate Programs Internship

Research climate resilience, justice, and decarbonization, develop resources and case studies for campuses nationwide, and support outreach and engagement across higher education during a remote 12-week position. Apply by Tuesday, March 31st! Find more information here: <https://secondnature.org/>
Email kboulton@allegheny.edu with any questions!

PA State & DNCR Internships

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hires for a variety of summer internships, including many positions in state parks. Find more information here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/tansferjobs?sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending>



Cover of Professor Krone's new book

Professor Krone publishes new book!

Adrienne Krone, professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability and Religious Studies, has just released her first book, *Free Range Religion*. This book explores the intersection of her fields of study by focusing on alternative food movements inspired by religious traditions. The book is broken into four case studies, and within each one Krone talks to farm owners who have issues with the current food system. She explores how their religious beliefs guide their values and ethics, and how that shapes the practices on their own farms.

Each chapter within *Free Range Religion* looks into a different farm, giving readers a unique insight into the rules and ethics of each religion followed in Krone's book. The first chapter follows the Adamah Farm Fellowship, a Jewish retreat center that encourages young Jews to explore their identities through hands-on work on a Jewish farm. Another case study was done at the Hallelujah Diet Health Retreat, which is a farm retreat that encourages a diet based entirely on what humans had access to in the Garden of Eden. The third is a study on Baldwin Family Farms, which is a Christian cattle farm that produces grass-fed beef that is slaughtered by an Islamic butcher. The final case study Krone explores is Pearlstone, which is a Jewish farm that practices Schmita, an ancient Jewish law that demands a year of rest for the land for every seven years of use.

Watershed Conservation Research Center Grant

The Watershed Conservation Research Center recently received a Growing Greener grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with a focus on watershed restoration. The three-year grant will be devoted to a project supporting restoration on Woodcock creek, which flows into French Creek, and Oil Creek, a tributary to the Allegheny River.

10 years ago, a new development was built upstream that changed the game for Woodcock Creek. What was once most likely a forested or agricultural area became a concrete landscape. The change in land-use and increased amount of impervious surface caused faster-flowing runoff, taking gravel with it downstream. All that gravel is piling up in the creek and causing flooding on an overpass road and disrupting floodplains. The goal of the WCRC's restoration project is to combat the excess sedimentation and flooding coming from the faster runoff and incoming gravel.

In order to do that, the WCRC will implement a process known as "chop and drop" restoration where they chop a select few trees along the waters edge and allow them to drop into the streams. The downed trees help to slow the flow of the stream and catch sediment, which will also help restore the floodplain and provide food and habitat for aquatic organisms. Additionally, it should eliminate the need for heavy equipment to shovel gravel out of the stream as a flood remedy, a solution that's destructive to the stream's ecosystem.

Similarly, a restoration project for Oil Creek was completed three years ago, so this grant will continue with a new restoration site further downstream. Along with implementing restoration work, the role of the WCRC is to research the impact of these conservation efforts and provide "the evidence that can support this type of restoration work in the future," according to Kelly Pearce, Co-Director of the WCRC. During the following years she and Co-Director Casey Bradshaw-Wilson will take students to these stream sites to collect fish and macros to study the impact of the restoration initiatives.

Upcoming Events!

3/19 - Clothing Swap *with the Green Coalition* - 4:30-6:30pm in the CC

3/28 - Tamarack Wildlife Rehab Center tour *with the Bird Club* - at noon, sign-ups will come out via email

3/28-3/29 - Camping *with the Outing Club* - details and sign-ups TBA via email

4/2 - Trashion Show *with the Green Coalition* - 6-7pm in the CC

