



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

UMB Sustainability

Nurturing our elm for years to come

This Month's Highlights

- Community Compost Pilot Update
- Sustainability Impact Report
- Veganuary
- Weather Station
- NexTrex Update
- Sustainability Fellowship Recap
- This Month's Creative Prompts

News and Upcoming Events

Community Compost Pilot Update

Starting in 2024, we're switching to a new compost dropoff system to allow for more flexibility.

How will it work?

- Participants can now drop off their food scraps and plant material to our two dropoff locations (Community Engagement Center and Campus Center) **at any time**



- Scan the QR code on the bin and submit demographic data to get access to the bin's code

Stay in the know by checking the [Community Composting Dropoff page](#) for the latest updates.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE SUSTAINABILITY



Fiscal Year 2023 Report

2023 Sustainability Impact Report

The Office of Sustainability has released its Fiscal Year 2023 Impact Report, summarizing its accomplishments from July 2022 through June 2023. The report details strategic plan progress, working group updates, various resources created by the Office of Sustainability, partnerships formed, and more.

You can find the full report on the [Strategic Plan Reports page](#) or view the [FY23 Sustainability Impact Report \(PDF\) here](#).

Veganuary

This month is Veganuary, which is an opportunity to try vegan meals for the month of January. Keep an eye out on our social media for different vegan recipes and videos of vegan meals we are making to celebrate! If you have any vegan recipes that you love making, send them our way, either through social media or [email](#). If you are newer to trying vegan food or want new recipes, visit the [Veganuary website](#) and sign up for emails to receive meal plans, an online cookbook, and nutritional advice.





Weather Station Installed at HSF3

UMB has recently installed a small weather station on the sixth-floor green roof of Health Sciences Research Facility III (HSRF III). This weather station, which is not yet operational, will take measurements including temperature, humidity, solar radiation, UV, wind direction, and wind speed, among other data points.

Be on the lookout for information about how to access the live weather data soon!

[Learn more in UMB's CATALYST magazine.](#)

NexTrex Goal Met!

Since July 1, 2023, the Office of Sustainability has been collecting plastic film and bags for a challenge by Trex. The goal was to reach 500 pounds of materials by Jan. 1, 2024 to be eligible to receive a plastic composite bench.

To date, UMB has exceeded its goal of 500 pounds! Thank you to all who participated over the last 6 months.

Stay tuned for more information about installation of the bench on our campus coming soon.





Facilities and Operations' First-Ever Fellowship Focused on Sustainability

Alex Skowron served as a data fellow in the Office of Sustainability for 10 months through the Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) Climate Corps program.

Alex's work included an inventory of the University's trees, a sustainability data dashboard, and other projects related to data collection, analysis, and visualization.

[Read more about the fellowship here.](#)

**SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER
CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY**

CREATIVE PROMPTS

The Sustainability Newsletter is now accepting responses to creative prompts that are centered around sustainability. This could take the form of art, poems, writing, story-telling, and more.

**CREATIVE PROMPTS FOR
FEBRUARY 2024**

- 1 Share about an experience with nature that impacted your life.
- 2 What are some ways you can encourage others to take action against climate change?
- 3 Tell us about an environmental achievement you have had.
- 4 What is the best natural environment you've experienced?

Written responses: 400-1000 words
Visual responses: maximum 11x17 inches
Submit by emailing:
sustainability@umaryland.edu

The graphic features a central illustration of a person sitting on a couch with a laptop, surrounded by decorative elements like a plant, a grid, and a speech bubble. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of bold and regular fonts.

New Creative Opportunity!

The Sustainability Newsletter is now accepting responses to creative writing prompts that are centered around sustainability. This could take the form of art, poems, writing, story-telling, and more. Written responses should be 400-1000 words, while visual responses should be a maximum of 11x17" in size.

The submission deadline for the February 2024 Newsletter is January 25th, 2024.
Email your submissions to sustainability@umaryland.edu with subject line, "Creative Writing Prompt".

January Creative Submission

Check out this great haiku from Jill Sullivan at the School of Pharmacy!



Plastic bottles, they

dissolve into earthly graves

Our compost future

JILL SULLIVAN

Monthly Green Tip

Our January Green Tip is about sustainable well-being. We know that in January, "new year, new me" can be overwhelming for some with the large lists of lifestyle changes that people share. It's important to take care of your mental health, and well-being during this time. Check out these [Life Kits](#) from NPR too.



Get Involved in Baltimore

Friends of Herring Run Parks

Monday
January 15,
2024

9am-
12 Noon



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

Herring Run Park
Shannon Drive & Lyndale Avenue
across from 3867 Shannon Drive, 21213

Our Parks need hands of LOVE!!
Help clean up post-flood debris, along the park and stream side. Participate in Tree Care with Baltimore TreeKeepers.
Dress for the weather!!

Follow us
@friendsofherringrunparks

www.FriendsOfHerringRun.org

MLK Day Clean Up and Tree Care by Friends of Herring Run Parks

Monday, January 15, 2024, from 9:00am-12:00pm

Shannon Drive & Lyndale Avenue
3867 Lyndale Ave Baltimore, MD 21213

Join Friends of Herring Run Parks and help clean up post-flood debris, along the park and stream side. Participate in Tree Care with Baltimore TreeKeepers. They will provide all the tools and equipment, including gloves. Dress for the weather! [Register here.](#)

Resources

Sustainability Term of the Month

Greenwashing: *misleading or deceptive claims that activities, products, and services are more sustainable and environmentally friendly than they actually are.*

Here are two sites you can use to check how sustainable the brands you use are, and also find new sustainable brands! [Project CECE](#) is mostly for fashion brands, while [Ethical Made Easy](#) includes homewares too. Do you have any tips to avoid greenwashing? Email us at sustainability@umaryland.edu and let us know!



Join a Sustainability Working Group

Looking for a way to get more involved with sustainability at UMB? Join one of our four sustainability working groups! Working groups are open to students, staff, and faculty. Working group meetings are held once every two months for a total of six meetings each year. Meetings last one hour, and some work outside of bimonthly meetings will be required.

If you are interested in joining any of the four working groups (**Reduction, Resiliency, Engagement & Education, and Green Labs**), please [fill out this form](#). For a brief summary of each working group, visit [this page](#).



January Environmental Dates

Find a cause in January to support!



Month of January
1/5
1/31

Veganuary
National Bird Day
International Zebra Day

Additional Resources

- [UMB Office of Sustainability Website](#)
- [Baltimore City Office of Sustainability](#)

Received this newsletter from a friend? Get the latest information on events and volunteer opportunities directly.

[Join Our Newsletter Email List](#)

Have an upcoming event or opportunity related to sustainability, the environment, or social equity and justice? Tell us about it!

[Submit a Newsletter Item](#)

Contact Us

Office of Sustainability
620 West Lexington Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
sustainability@umaryland.edu

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for more event information and resources.





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