



Work for Us!

There are currently two student worker positions that the Office of Sustainability is seeking to fill. The title of the jobs and brief descriptions are provided below.

Donations Intern: In this position, the student worker will assist with the Free Store and food donations by performing various duties. These duties include organizing donations and catalyzing outreach to UT's student body as well as the surrounding community. *This position can only be filled by students who are eligible for work study.*

Zero Waste Assistant: This position is available to both work study and non work study students. The student worker's tasks include working zero waste events, helping to conduct waste audits, and implementing the My Tiny Trash program.

Please apply to either of these fulfilling job opportunities and help us work towards making a noticeable difference on UT's campus.



Attend an Environmental Conference

The Office of Sustainability has funding available that can cover the costs of sending students and a faculty/staff advisor to a sustainable or environmentally focused conference, workshop, or summit of their choice. Apply for the funding opportunity by clicking the button below.

Conference Funding Application

Please apply at least 6-8 weeks before the date of the conference to leave ample time for review, decision making, and logistical preparation. Listed below are various sustainability-related conferences in the US this year.

[Climate Change Conference](#) in Chicago, IL: March 12th to 13th

[Sustaining Sustainability Conference](#) in Dublin, OH: April 20th to 22nd

[Refocus Sustainability & Recycling Summit](#) in Cincinnati, OH: May 18th to 20th

[Sustainable Consumption & Social Justice in an Urbanizing World](#) in Boston, MA: June 10th to 12th

Green Infrastructure on UT's Campus

When construction on Volunteer Blvd was completed a few years ago, many students were left confused to why the road was mutilated only to add medians and plants along the sidewalk. While the additions do add to the aesthetic value of UT's campus, they also contribute to a healthier environment. The official term for this type



of plant basin is a bioswale. A bioswale is a linear channel that is designed to slow and filter stormwater as well as divert the runoff water from traveling directly into nearby rivers. This type of channel works very well to combat the greater quantities of stormwater, or floods, that occur because of impervious surfaces such as asphalt. The bioswales are also constructed of mostly native plants, which provide habitats and food for local species.



Sustainability Internship Program

The Sustainability Internship Program offers students the chance to develop and lead their own project covering an Office of Sustainability program or initiative of their choice. Student interns can be from any background or major. They will benefit from a hands-on experience in an environmental organization and professional development training in unpaid positions. There are numerous positions available including, but not limited to, a Mug Project Intern, Food Waste Intern, and Public Recycling Drop Off Intern. **The program applications are open now and will close at 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 12th.** Click the button below to learn more information and/or apply for the internship program.

[Internship Application](#)



"Green" Heroes

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to delving deeper into the stories of real life heroes who are making huge strides in solving environmental issues. This month's edition will elaborate on Boyan Slat and his company called The Ocean Cleanup.



Boyan Slat was 16 when he became concerned about the amount of plastic in our waterways. He was swimming in Greece in 2011 and observed that he was surrounded by more plastic than fish. He then researched plastic pollution for a high school project and created the idea of a passive system for collecting pollution, taking advantage of the water's natural currents. In 2013, he founded a non-

profit called The Ocean Cleanup. He is now the CEO of the non-profit and is only 27 years old. The goal of The Ocean Cleanup is to remove 90% of the plastic that is in the ocean. A majority of plastic enters the ocean by traveling through rivers; additionally, 80% of river plastic stems from 1,000 rivers. Slat invented two different systems for collecting litter in both the oceans and rivers - a passive cleanup system and "The Interceptor."





The first image above shows the passive cleanup system for the ocean and the second image shows "The Interceptor" cleanup system for rivers. To learn more about The Ocean Cleanup and how the two cleanup methods work, click the button below.

The Ocean Cleanup

Community Events

Check out these sustainability related events in our community!

Urban Narrative and Climate Change: January 14th, 3:30pm

Ladies Night Climb: January 16th, 6:00pm

Sunrise Yoga: January 21st, 8am to 9am

Night Stargazing Hike: January 23rd, 6pm to 11pm

What Dung Beetles Tell Us About Climate Change: January 24th, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Sunset and Cider Hike: January 25th, 5:00pm

View the Outdoor Knoxville Calendar for more events.

"Unsustainable, a Planet in Crisis"

The School of Art held a ceremony on January 9th to honor the opening of a group art exhibition - "Unsustainable, a Planet in Crisis." This exhibit emphasizes environmental concerns and depicts planetary crises. Topics of the art pieces include climate change, the rise of disease and superbugs, plastics in the ocean, and pollution of the waterways from mining. You can view the exhibit at the Ewing Gallery, it will be on display until February 16th. Below are images of artwork featured in the exhibition.

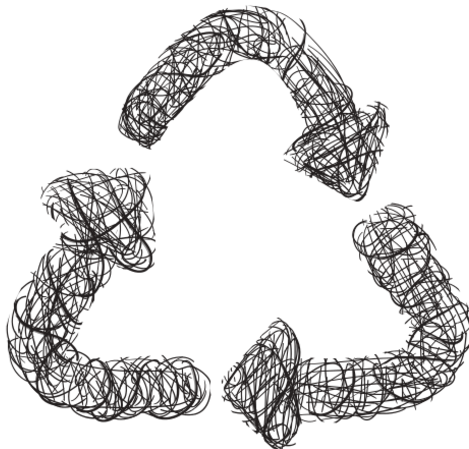


You can also view more information about the art show in an upcoming blog post that will be posted to the [Office of Sustainability's homepage](#). There will be in-depth details about the art pieces and the artists who created them.

The 5 R's of Zero Waste

A majority of people are aware of the three environmental R's - reduce, reuse, and recycle. However, there are actually five R's that serve as an important component of zero waste. Click the button below to read a blog post on the Office of Sustainability's website about the five R's of zero waste.

[Read More](#)



Sustainability Job Openings

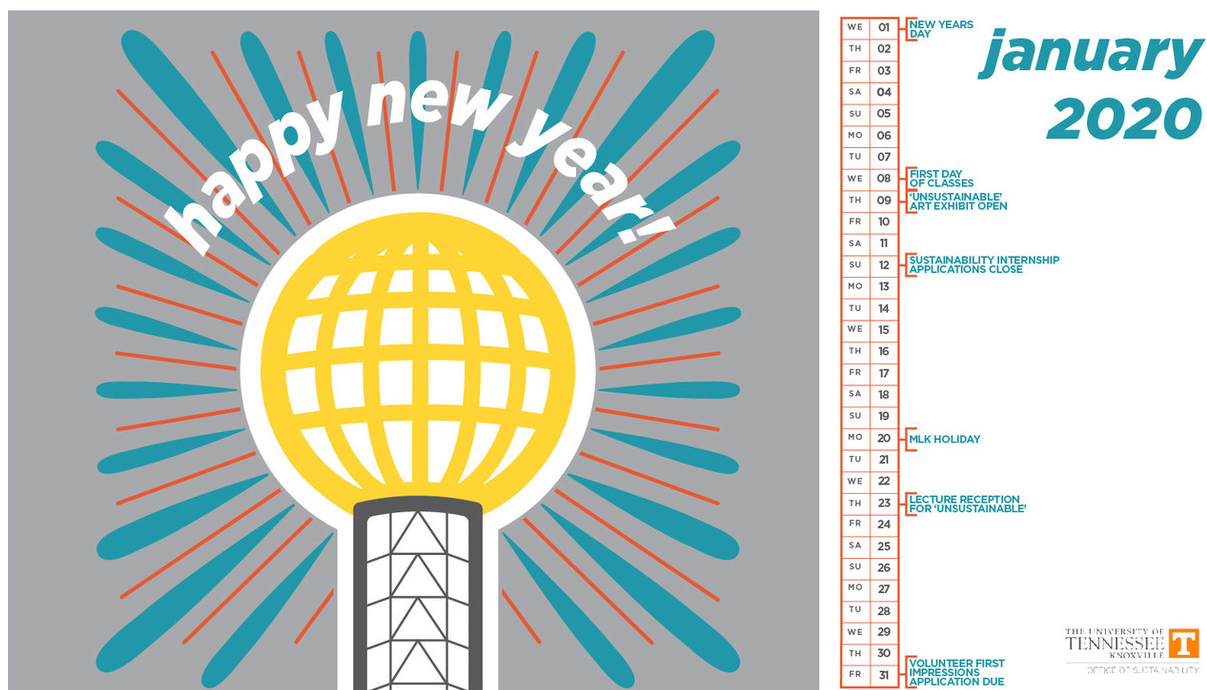
Below is a list of sustainability related jobs across the US.

[Executive Director of Sustainability](#) at Estée Lauder Companies

Recycling Education and Outreach Coordinator at Orange County Solid Waste Department

Sustainability Program Specialist at the Board of Governors

Zero Waste Program Coordinator at UT Austin



The January calendar is now available! We have multiple sizes and a phone background.

Email sustainability@utk.edu for a copy.



Sustainability.utk.edu

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