



STUDENT LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

The story of how students lead sustainability projects and sustainability impacts student mental health and enrollment



BERGEN HAAG

UW-Stout

Student Association Sustainability Director



MELINA NGUYEN

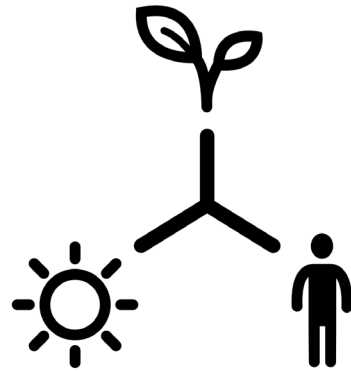
UW-Madison

Office of Sustainability

The People's Farm UW



FOOD JUSTICE EFFORTS AT UW-MADISON





WHAT IS FOOD INSECURITY?

Definition: The state or condition of not having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food to meet one's basic dietary needs.

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "food insecurity, n.", September 2023. <<https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/9467743206>>

Harvest Handouts at The People's Farm,
UW-Madison 2023



Examples:

Eating smaller portions or skipping meals due to lack of available food or money to buy food

Fear or anxiety related to food running out or lack of money to buy food

Lack of affordable fresh produce nearby or at regular intervals



STUDENT WORK TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

The People's Farm: farms organic produce, given to students each week for free



Open Seat Food Pantry: a campus food pantry for self-identified food insecure students



Food Recovery Network: redistributes excess food from campus partners into free community meals



Slow Food UW: volunteer-run kitchen providing healthy, local, and affordable meals





WHY SHOULD COLLEGES FOCUS ON FOOD INSECURITY?

“...more than **one-third** of college students are **food insecure** nationwide.”

Especially “...racial and ethnic minorities, former foster youth, and first-generation college students”

“...more than half of 2- and 4-year college students reported that they had some level of food insecurity, ranging from anxiety over food sufficiency to reduced food intake.”

Brescia SA, Cuite CL. Underestimating College Student Food Insecurity: Marginally Food Secure Students May Not Be Food Secure. *Nutrients*. 2022 Jul 29;14(15):3142. doi: 10.3390/nu14153142. PMID: 35956317; PMCID: PMC9370637.

Broton, K. M., & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2018). Going Without: An Exploration of Food and Housing Insecurity Among Undergraduates. *Educational Researcher*, 47(2), 121-133. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X17741303>



CHRISTINA TREACY

UW-Madison

Associated Students of Madison

Sustainability Chair

Food Recovery Network Co-President



UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SURVEY DATA

Main Survey Questions:

- Did the sustainability initiatives, operations, and opportunities available at your current University impact your enrollment decision?
- Do you feel that your mental health is positively or negatively impacted by your University's action or lack of action to address the climate crisis?



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MADISON SUSTAINABILITY

- Grassroot Campaigns
- Student Government Legislation
- Administrative Collaboration
- Outreach & Programming





FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK MADISON CHAPTER

Minimizing food waste & helping alleviate food insecurity on campus by recovering left-over food and serving it back to the community at 2 free meals per week





NINA HARTWIG

UW-Milwaukee

Energy & Water Stewardship Intern



WHY UW-MILWAUKEE?

- Sustainability Interwoven into Education
 - Conservation- B.S.
 - Freshwater Sciences M.S.
- Hands on sustainability opportunities outside the classroom



— OFFICE OF —
SUSTAINABILITY



ACADEMIC HANDS ON WORK

Undergraduate Program

- Developed a Pond Management Plan for a Local Organization
 - incorporated sustainable practices for long term environmental health

Graduate School

- Worked on a Offshore Wind Feasibility Project for the City of Milwaukee
 - focused on increasing green energy and work towards Milwaukee's City and Equity goals



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WORK

Gardens and Composting

- Produce for Food Pantry
- Secured a Hydroponic System
- Created a Community Composting Program
- Helped Divert Food Waste from Residence Hall
- Created a Student Agriculture Program

Water Stewardship

- Helping verify UWM through The Water Council's Water Stewardship Verified (WAVE) program





OTHER OOS INITIATIVES





GRACE LOPEZ JOHNSON

UW-La Crosse

Student Association Sustainability Director



SARAH KLEINSCHMIDT

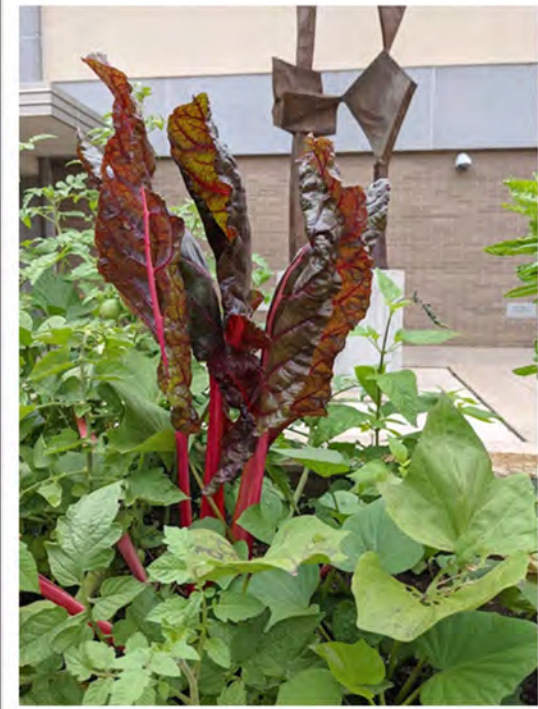
UW-Oshkosh

Green Fund Committee Co-Chair



FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

How Student-Led Initiatives Promote Food Security at UW Oshkosh



Food Insecurity: Defined

- Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods
- Limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways

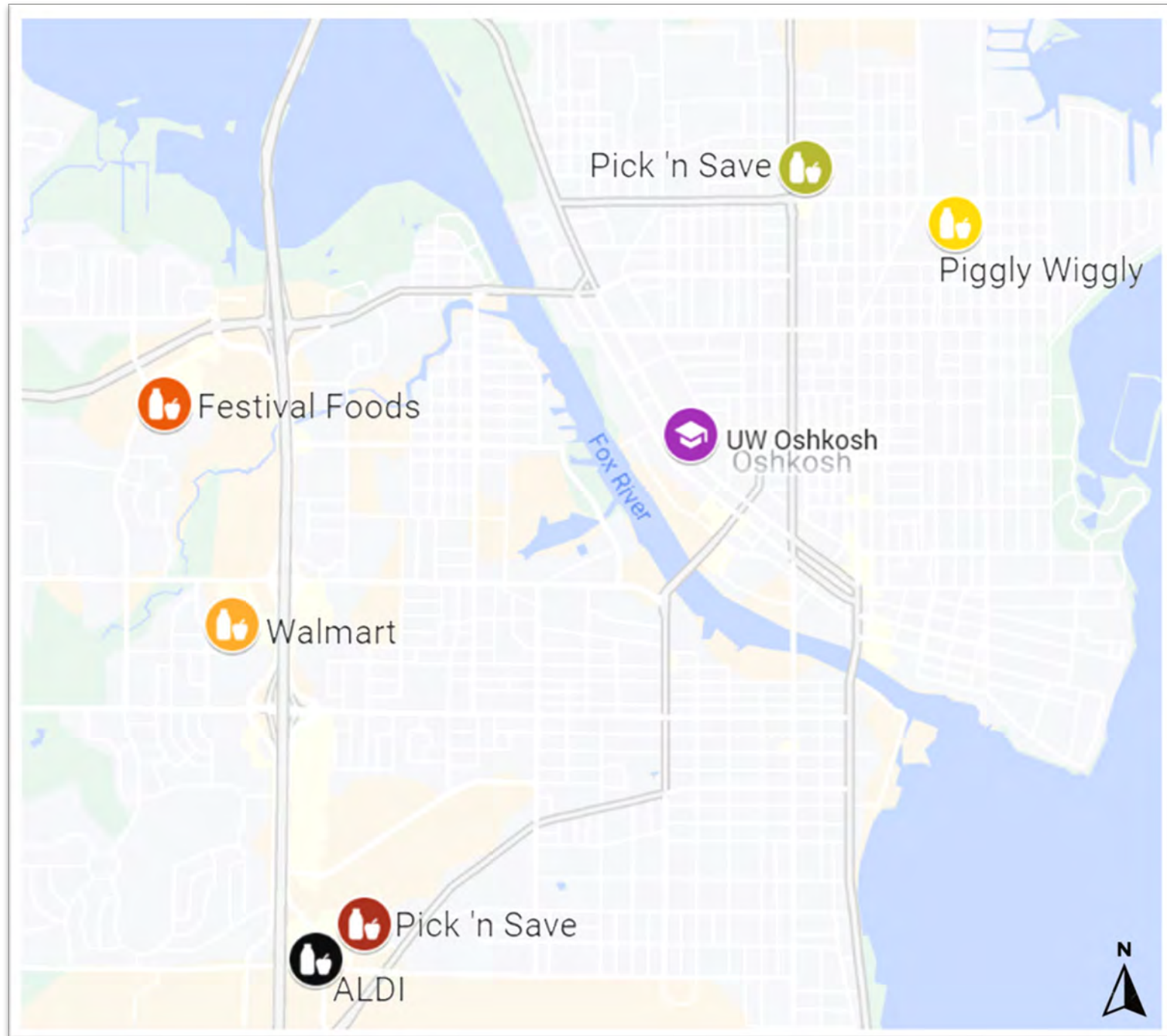
- US Department of Agriculture





OSHKOSH CAMPUS: A FOOD DESERT

-  Pick 'n Save (1.4mi/31-minute walk)
-  Piggly Wiggly (1.8 mi/39-minute walk)
-  Walmart (2.6 mi/58-minute walk)
-  Festival Foods (2.8 mi/62-minute walk)
-  Pick 'n Save (2.9 mi/65-minute walk)
-  ALDI (3.1 mi/69-minute walk)





UWO STUDENT GREEN FUND

Empowers the student body to **engage in sustainability** through the implementation of student-led, sustainability-minded projects and initiatives on campus



FOOD SECURITY



UWO STUDENTS
PARTNER WITH
THE GREEN FUND
TO PROMOTE
FOOD SECURITY
ON CAMPUS



EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

Pick-your-own produce

FREE to harvest

Open to EVERYONE

Tomato, Eggplant, Cucumber, Berries,
Swiss Chard, Asparagus, Rhubarb & MORE





THE CABINET (Food Pantry)

Open to ALL Oshkosh campus students

- FREE Food and hygiene products
- One visit per student, per week
- Visit in-person or submit online food request





THE CABINET: ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 11, 2020



First three weeks:
150 students served
800lbs. food
distributed

2022 (6 months):
700 student visits



“I really want to get rid of that stigma—there’s a stigma around asking for help—it’s ok to ask for help”

- Joy Evans

UWO Alumni
McNair Scholar
Previous Cabinet Director





SIERRA ROESKE

UW-Eau Claire

Intern to the Dean of Students

Veterans Affairs Student Worker



Students walk through Putnam Park on lower campus





Geology Major Katherine Langfield studies Little Niagara





Hydroponics are being used to satisfy internships and provide food for the Campus Harvest Food Pantry





Sunset on lower campus





BEN HURLEY

UW-Eau Claire

Student Office of Sustainability Member



LOU FLORES

UW-Stevens Point

Student Resource Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

Environmental and Sustainable Affairs Director, Student Government Association



THANK YOU

Comments, questions, feedback?