



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



## Office of Sustainability

April 2020



## Digital Earth Day

In order to celebrate the **50th anniversary** of Earth Day and UT Dallas, **Digital Earth Day** is brought to UT Dallas remotely by the Office of Student Volunteerism and the Office of Sustainability! Digital Earth Day features a series of **educational and engaging videos** from students, faculty, staff, and local agencies and businesses that focus on environmental and sustainable education and activities. Topics include gardening, crafting, recycling, repurposing, renewable energy, and more! Videos will go live on the [Office of Sustainability website](#) and on the [Office of Student Volunteerism YouTube channel](#) on **Earth Day, April 22**. Find out more information at the [Comet Calendar](#)! Interested in submitting a video? Contact the [Office of Sustainability](#). The deadline to submit is **April 15th**.



## Gardening Preparedness Webinar

Have you considered starting a garden? On **April 8th at 10am**, Founder and Director of the **Plano School of Permaculture Nicholas Burtner** will be leading a **free webinar** on how to prepare a garden, even if you have no experience. Registrants will learn how to prepare a garden bed, how to create fertilizer, which garden crops to choose and why, and herbs that help boost immunity. If you would like to attend this unique learning opportunity, [register here](#)!



## **Op-ed: Reflecting on the Tragedy of the Commons During COVID-19**

The **Tragedy of the Commons** was first described in a pamphlet discussing the overgrazing of cattle in village common areas published by economist William Forster Lloyd in 1833. It is hard to deny that the Tragedy of the Commons applies to what we are facing with COVID-19. **UT Dallas Associate Director of Sustainability Gary Cocke** reflects on its significance and what it means for the present and future of our society. [Read more.](#)



## **Sustainability at UTD**

We are in the midst of an uncharted time. The Office of Sustainability would like to take this opportunity to share with you how we do our best every day to create a healthy, vibrant, sustainable UT Dallas.



Our mission is to engage the UT Dallas community as a catalyst and champion for environmental stewardship and social responsibility while fostering a culture of sustainability that permeates all aspects of the campus experience. We believe that sustainability is a collaborative, interdisciplinary field to which all members of the UT Dallas community contribute. For this reason, the Office of Sustainability collaborates with stakeholders across the university to facilitate the integration of sustainability principles and practices into operations, academics, research, student engagement, and administration. We exemplify sustainability leadership as we contribute to the education of the next generation of leaders. UT Dallas is an [AASHE STARS Gold](#) rated institution.

We have explored some of these areas in detail for this month's newsletter. In [academics](#), UT Dallas has shown incredible growth, focusing efforts on three actions: increasing the number of sustainability-focused courses, institutionalizing the Community of Engaged Service Learning course, and collaborating in the co-curricular Comets to the Core program. [Student engagement](#) is integral to the Office of Sustainability's mission. The Office of Sustainability encourages students to partake in leadership, collaboration, and other skill-building activities and roles through events and partnerships on campus. Finally, we explore some of the sustainability initiatives found throughout UT Dallas [operations](#), such as LEED certified buildings, pollinator protection measures, and waste reduction efforts. If you are interested in learning more about the scope of sustainability at UT Dallas, we invite you to take a look at the [2020 Sustainability Report](#).

## The Greenhouse

Here you can find updates to the UT Dallas Eco Rep blog!



### Green Reads

Everyone is going to be spending a little more time inside these days. Sophia introduces us to some sustainability reads. [Head to The Greenhouse!](#)



## **Social Distancing, Not Nature Distancing**

Go out, as long as you maintain a safe distance. Paulina discusses connecting with nature in wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Head to The Greenhouse!](#)



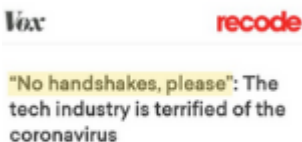
## **The Human Side of Sustainability**

Seeing stories of deer wandering streets can be fun curiosities, but it's important to remember that human health is integral to sustainability. Caroline asks us to utilize a lens that considers the health of nature and humans. [Head to The Greenhouse!](#)



## **Sustainable Self-Care Ideas**

It makes sense to feel a bit overwhelmed in current circumstances. Yen goes over some ways we can take care of ourselves during events that are out of our control. [Head to The Greenhouse!](#)



## **Coronavirus: A Few Things that Stifled America**

There are two predominant styles of thought when it comes to the assessing COVID-19 pandemic. Trenton reviews what experts call "base-rate" and "growth" thinking. [Head to The Greenhouse!](#)

# Important Dates

## Gardening Preparedness Webinar

April 8

10 a.m.

**Info & Registration**

## Digital Earth Day

April 22

**Info**

### Office of Sustainability

The University of Texas at Dallas

800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas 75080

[utdallas.edu/sustainability](https://utdallas.edu/sustainability)

