# YEAR REPORT 2020 | 2021



# TYGERBERG STUDENT COUNCIL

Universiteit Stellenbosch

# Sustainability

Compiled by

**Dharshana Moodliar** 

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# **TSR VISION AND MISSION**

Vision: A united body bound by the values of accountability, transparency and inclusivity striving to empower the student community in an intentional manner

Mission: To enhance our presence and advocating for the student community on both a micro and macro level by communicating strategically, prioritising continuity and project completion.



# INTRODUCTION TO PORTFOLIO

The Green and Sustainability portfolio aims to encourage sustainable practice and environmental awareness within the Tygerberg Campus community. The portfolio works in conjunction with the Dean's Management Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (DACES) – formerly Faculty Green Committee and the Residences Green House Committee Members to identify areas of improvement in sustainable practice on our Campus. The main aim of the portfolio in to encourage the preservation of Tygerberg's natural beauty, the sparing use of our resources and ultimately for our students to become "Global citizens" who are cognisant of how their actions affect individuals and the world around them. Afterall, Green and Sustainability is more than just a portfolio, but it should be a way of life.

Highlights from the Previous Term

- Welcoming Community Interaction Morning
- Green Event's Guideline
- Menstrual Health Webinar



# **PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVES**

- Improve our waste management systems on campus and reduce the total amount of waste produced by student communities
- Encourage the use of the Sustainable Event Guideline to ensure that all TSR and Residence events adhere to sustainable practice
- Encourage student understanding and involvement in sustainable practices & projects on and off campus
- Monitor and encourage Eateries (Vida e Caffe, Cups & Saucers and TSS shops) on campus to improve and maintain sustainable practises with regards to waste management, food prepping and packaging
- Enhance natural beauty on campus



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# **PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE**

I will require a subcommittee for my portfolio consisting of Green House Committee members and any other students willing to volunteer their services.

The responsibility of this committee will be a direct liaison with the Residences and the committee shall be responsible in assisting to organize TSR Green and Sustainability events as well as ongoing sustainability projects throughout the year. The committee will also serve as a panel of advisors for us to implement changes to ensure that our campus is indeed working towards maintaining sustainable practices and becoming more aware regarding environmental issues.

#### Committee Members:

- Tessa Brooke, DACES Student Co-ordinator/ 21927677@sun.ac.za/ 0818496024
- Mohini Anand, DACES Student Co-ordinator/ 21032041@sun.ac.za/ 0817714207
- Mieneke Dempers, Meerhoff/ 22623507@sun.ac.za/ 076 910 9382
- Iné Fouché, eNkanyini/ 22586415@sun.ac.za/ 084 446 1805
- Mbano Sibande, Hippokrates/ 23770228@sun.ac.za/ 065 888 6818
- Melissa Sampson, Huis Francie/ 22735739@sun.ac.za/ 084 591 2648
- Marc Nathanson, Osler/ 22548521@sun.ac.za/ 081 765 1243

#### Subcommittee Members:

- Anna Pansegrouw, MB, ChB II/ 24104671@sun.ac.za/ 060 976 2598
- Welmien de Villiers, MB, ChB I/ 24720836@sun.ac.za/ 071 879 8761

### Mural Committee Members:

- Carme Wardle, MB, ChB V/ 21132577@sun.ac.za/ 083 636 5663
- Carmen Victor, MB, ChB V/ 20975317@sun.ac.za/ 073 181 0558
- Louisa Sopeng, MB, ChB V/ 20109989@sun.ac.za/ 071 399 8695

# **REASONS FOR STANDING**

My quintessential passion in life is to find happiness through serving others and admiring the amazing planet we live on known as Planet Earth. Hence, I am inclined to live in a Green and Sustainable to minimize my carbon footprint and overall impact on the environment. I would like to transcend my passion, knowledge, and appreciation for the environment to those around me. I thus feel that there is no better space to see out this aspiration than running for the TSR Green and Sustainability portfolio for the Campus as this is where I spend most of my time.

From my 3 years of experience on this campus while working on my Meerhoff's Green Com and being a Green HK, I realized that the best way to tackle the challenges and promote sustainability is to work as a collaborative with other Residences and Faculty and thus in my term I would like to integrate the efforts of all induvial Green units on campus.

From my previous term on the TSR I was provided with a lot more insight as to how many of the structures are run on campus and this knowledge has equipped to be more efficient in the management of this portfolio in the upcoming term. I would also like to ensure the continuity of some of the projects which I have initiated which were unfortunately interrupted due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The TSR ultimately represent the students on campus and I would like to make subtle changes to the way Green and Sustainability is viewed in order to encourage active participation by the student body to live more sustainably in their individual capacity.

# **RESIDENCE LIAISON**

My residence liaison is Huis Nkosi Johnson



# YEAR PLAN PROJECTS

#### 1. Zero Waste to Landfill Talk

- a. New Project
- b. January 2020 (TBC)
- c. Talk hosted by the TSR for Societies, Social HK, Prims and Vice Prims regarding sustainable practice and limiting waste production when organising campus events.
- d. TSR, Green House Committee Members
- e. R2000 Refreshments and Promotions

#### 2. Earth Week

- a. Repeat project
- b. April 2021 (TBC)
- c. This is a week where the residences co-ordinate events related to environmental factors -waste management; water safety etc. This year I would like to encourage each residence to host their own event on each day in the week and the last event for the week can be "Green and Sustainability" themed night market. Aspects for the market may be organized by the Residences in conjunction with the TSR who will provide the budget.
- d. Faculty Green, Green House Committee TSR
- e. R5000 Stall creation, refreshments, and promotions

### 3. Community Interaction

- a. Continuation of Project
- b. 1 Initiative per term (The idea is to support the residences with their projects).
  - i. January Assist with the Community Interaction Morning organized by social impact.
    - ii. February/ March Trash Bash
  - iii. July Plastic Free Month advertise/ promote the use of less plastic; possible waste collection week within Residence to highlight how much waste is produced. Eco-brick building and bench instalment
  - iv. August Menstrual Health Panel Discussion
- c. All events are aimed to generate a greater awareness regarding sustainable living and environmental health.
- d. DACES, TSR, Green House Committee members
- e. R5 000 Transportation, event promotion and possible refreshments

# 4. Review of TSR Events Policy

a. Continuation of Project

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- b. 2021
- c. To make sure that all events organised by TSR maintain sustainable practises and there is a precedence of how events should be organised.
- d. TSR; DACES

# 5. Eateries sustainable practise review

- a. Continuation of Project
- b. 2021
- c. Make sure eateries on campus (Vida e Caffe; Cups & Saucers; TSS shops use eco-friendly packing and practise good waste management
- d. TSR; DACES

#### 6. Eco-bricks

- a. Continuation of project
- b. 2020 2021
- c. Encourage the construction of Eco-bricks as a means to promote plastic recycling in Residence spaces. These Eco-bricks could be used to design a structure for campus at the end of the year.
- d. TSR, Green House Committee Members, DACES
- e. R3000 Materials to build structure

### 7. Urban Greening

- a. Continuation of project
- b. 2020 -2021
- c. Enhance the natural beauty on our campus by redesigning the mural across from the library and installing a grass/ moss sign for eNkanyini residence.
- d. TSR, DACES, Green House Committee Members
- e. R10 000 graphic designer consult; paint supplies; sign payment (will also ask eNkanyini to cover some of the costs)

### 8. Re-usable Sanitary Products

- a. Continuation of Project
- b. 2020 2021
- c. Provision of free/ discounted re-usable sanitary pads or menstrual cups to students in need on campus. The idea is going to be discussed with faculty to fund the project.
- d. TSR, DACES, Green House Committee Members
- e. R5 000 (Amount TBC)

# 9. Outreach Projects and Food Drives

- a. New Project
- b. 2021

- c. As part of the social impact side to this portfolio, myself and the DACES student co-ordinators would like to get involved with volunteering and perhaps funding a local soup kitchen or an organization that delivers food parcels.
- d. TSR, DACES, Green House Committee Members
- e. R10 000



# HALF YEAR PROJECT FEEDBACK

#### 1. Earth Week

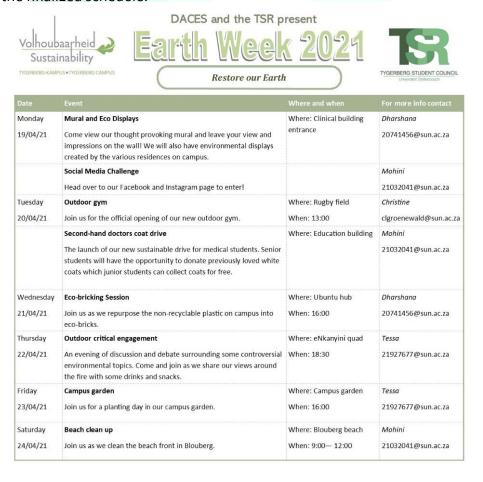
Earth week is an annual project that aims to acknowledge Earth day. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we centred our efforts around social media posters to create awareness. We also had a few small events to cover the bases in terms of environmental sustainability.

The contribution from the TSC included the printing of posters to be displayed in the clinical building. The organization and facilitation of an Eco-brick event as well as a critical engagement session. Visibility and assistance at both the Campus Garden and Beach clean-up. Sponsoring the Takealot vouchers for the social media competition.

In all, I think Earth week was quite successful. On my side, I did forget to submit the required permission documents that are required for events because of the pandemic, however, I did send it during the week.

Attendance for Green Events is still a problem, and I am really not sure how one can plan to gain more engagement.

Below is the finalized schedule:



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Tygerberg Student Council

# 1. Community Interaction

I did offer my assistance to the social impact HK for the community interaction morning during Welcoming, unfortunately they did not respond to my messages.

I did however assist in co-ordinating an Eco-brick session for the Meerhoff Newcomers which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The trash bash was omitted as it was originally supposed to be part of the community interaction morning as it is a fun and interactive way to teach the Newcomers about recycling.

# 2. Outreach Projects and Food Drives

As mentioned in my Quarterly report I was committed to supporting the Gaffoor Charity and I did donate food items to their soup kitchen. However, upon discussion with the financial manager, Nikita Heneke, it is decided that this will not be done in the future due to various university policies surrounding donation.

# **Newly Completed Projects**

# 1. Community Interaction

June | World Environment Day: Worked in conjunction with the Osler House Committee member to organize a clean-up to commemorate Worl Environmental Day. Unfortunately, the event did not take place due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave and the new regulations that were stipulated on campus.

July | Plastic Free Month: Worked in conjunction with the DACES student co-ordinators and House Committee members to highlight he importance of recycling and sustainable alternatives to plastic

August | Women's Month:

- Women in leadership Forum: The aim of this forum was to highlight South African Women in leadership positions across a number of fields. This forum was a platform for these ladies to share their respective journeys and inspire our current and future leaders to continue making a difference and encouraging innovation within their communities. Guest Speakers included Prof Mlisana, Prof Muller and Shivani Padayachy.
- Menstrual Health Webinar: Menstrual Health Education and Promotion of Alternative Sanitary Products. This Webinar was hosted by me and Ayesha Abou-Zeid (SRC)
- GBV Safe Space

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#### 2. Eco-bricks

Encourage the construction of Eco-bricks as a means to promote plastic recycling in Residence spaces. These Eco-bricks could be used to design an Eco-brick bench to be placed by the Campus Garden.

To date, 2 Eco-bricking sessions have been completed. One during Welcoming week with the Meerhoff Newcomers and the second during Earth Week.

I have reached out to faculty to join in on this initiative. I have since received several ecobricks from staff members.

I have also encouraged the residences to join in on a competition to see which residence contributes the greatest number of Eco-bricks to the cause.

Meerhoff has been on board with this initiative and the Meerhoff House Committee member, Mieneke Dempers, shall assist me in collecting the Eco-bricks at the end of August.

I have also finalized the construction of the Eco-brick bench with Waste-ed. We are just waiting for their creditor status to be approved before we begin the building.

### 3. Urban Greening

The mural project is at completion as the final painting is to take place in early September.

The project has been approved by Prof Bob Mash as well as the other relevant parties.

This is the final design that is to be painted. We just need to vote on the quote that is to be

used with the mural.



# **NEW OR REDESIGNED PROJECTS**

# 1. Urban Greening

- a. Redesigned project
- b. April 2021
- c. After limited engagement for eNkanyini, I decided to abandon the project of installing a grass sign for them. Instead, I decided to use this portion of the budget to sponsor a sign on behalf of the TSC for the outdoor gym equipment. This is in line with the values of thee TSC as it shows our support for student well being in terms of physical activity on our campus. It also enhances TSC visibility.

The selected quote for the sign is as follows:

- "Physical fitness is not only of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity". John F. Kennedy
- d. TSR, DACES
- e. R7069,63

# 2. Re-usable Mask Campaign

- a. New project
- b. May 2021
- c. As a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic the amount of waste due to the "incorrect" disposal of surgical masks has escalated significantly. The aim of this campaign was to encourage the use of re-usable masks by students on Tygerberg Campus. I arranged for 100 masks to be distributed to students on campus. Students were encouraged to fill in a google form indicating that they would like a mask and we have over 150 responses.
- d. TSR, DACES
- e. R1000: poster and advertising

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# INCOMPLETE PROJECTS

#### 1. Zero Waste to Landfill Talk

This is a new project that is aimed to educate the student population about the new Sustainable Event's Guideline that was compiled by my committee last year. I have decided to postpone this event to July of this year as in January many of the leadership structures were preoccupied with preparing for Welcoming.

Status: Cancelled

# 2. Community Interaction

July – Plastic Free Month – advertise/ promote the use of less plastic; possible waste collection week within Residence to highlight how much waste is produced. Eco-brick building and bench instalment

August – Menstrual Health Panel Discussion

Status: Completed

# 3. Review of TSR Events Policy

The aim of this project is to ensure that all events organised by TSR maintain sustainable practises and there is a precedence of how events should be organised. As a consequence of there being a limited number of events, I have not really had the opportunity to utilise the "New" events policy.

Status: Completed

# 4. Eateries sustainable practise review

Make sure eateries on campus (Vida e Caffe; Cups & Saucers; TSS shops use eco-friendly packing and practise good waste management. I can commend the TSS of the progress they have made to become more sustainable.

Status: Completed

# 5. Eco-bricks

Encourage the construction of Eco-bricks as a means to promote plastic recycling in Residence spaces. These Eco-bricks could be used to design an Eco-brick bench to be placed by the Campus Garden.

To date, 2 Eco-bricking sessions have been completed. One during Welcoming week with the Meerhoff Newcomers and the second during Earth Week.

I have reached out to faculty to join in on this initiative.

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I have also encouraged the residences to join in on a competition to see which residence contributes the greatest number of Eco-bricks to the cause.

Status: Almost complete

# 6. Urban Greening

After submitting our previous design to Prof Mash, we have had to restart our design process as Prof did not feel like our design was appropriate.

This is our current progress on the new design which I hope to have complete by the end of

May.



We are then going to send out a poll with the old design and the new design to the staff and students and the design with the greatest number of votes will be the one we put forward.

Status: Almost complete

### 7. Re-usable Sanitary Products

This project will be completed during Women's month in August.

Status: Complete

# 8. Outreach projects and food drives

I am still looking to collaborate with a school such as Settlers High where we could perhaps have a planting day in plantar boxes or an education session about sustainability.

Status: Cancelled

# **CANCELLED PROJECTS**

#### 1. Zero Waste to Landfill Talk

This is a new project that is aimed to educate the student population about the new Sustainable Event's Guideline that was compiled by my committee last year. I have decided to postpone this event to July of this year as in January many of the leadership structures were preoccupied with preparing for Welcoming.

Unfortunately, I did not find an appropriate time to host this event. I also felt that this event would not contribute to the student committee at this time as the number/ type of events that are allowed to take place on campus are significantly reduced due to the pandemic.

# 2. Outreach projects and food drives

I am still looking to collaborate with a school such as Settlers High where we could perhaps have a planting day in plantar boxes or an education session about sustainability.

I think a ran out of time during my term to properly initiate this project. Further to that the schools were closed for quite some time during the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave in June/ July.

# **BUDGET SUMMARY**

TOTAL EXPENSES				
Expenses related to activities	R	26 700,00	R	7 629,58
Earthweek	R	5 000,00	R	1 917,50
zero waste to landfill talk	R	700,00		
outreach projects and food drives	R	5 000,00	R	1 036,00
urban greening	R	5 000,00	R	3 086,54
re-usable sanitary products	R	5 000,00	R	1 500,00
eco bricks	R	1 000,00	R	89,54
community interaction		5000		

# ■ Sustainability

Date	Description(event)	projects	Transaction	Beneficiary	Amount
10/01/2021	Food for outreach project	Outreach	Reclaim	Dharshana Moodliar	R1036.00
15/04/2021	Posters <u>earthweek</u>	Earthweek	Purchase requisition	SJR printers	R747.50
28/04/2021	Takealot voucher earthweek competition DSAF	Earthweek	Purchase requisition	Takealot online	R250.00
04/06/20421	Cloth mask posters	Cloth masks	Purchase requisition	SJR printers	R920.00
20/06/2021	Eco brick posters	Eco bricking	Purchase requisition	SJR printers	R89. 54
19/07/2021	Mural designer	Mural	Purchase requisition	Takealot online	R500.00
06/08/2021	Paint materials for mural	Mural	Purchase requisition	Mecca paints	R2586.54
25/08/2021	Womens in leadership gifts	Women in leadership	Purchase requisition	Exclusive books	R1500.00

Total: R7 629,58

# **DIARY**

Project	Proposed Date	Alternative Date	
1. Zero Waste to Landfill Talk	January	July (Cancelled)	
2. Welcoming	ТВС	6 March	
3. Trash Bash	February	March (Cancelled)	
4. Earth Week	April	19-23 April	
5. Mural Design Completion	End of May	Middle of June	
6. Mural Painting	August	September	
7. Social Outreach (Princess Vlei Clean Up)	June (Cancelled)	August	
8. Plastic Awareness	July	Yearlong	
9. Women in Leadership Forum	August	10 August	
10. Menstrual health panel discussion	August	12 August	
11. GBV Safe Space	August	August	
12. Eco-brick Bench Construction	August	September	

# FINAL YEAR SUMMARY

# **Completed Projects**

- Earth Week: Received excellent feedback that this years' Earth Week was the best Earth Week Tygerberg Campus has had in a while.
- Community Interaction: Engagement in this component was completed on several levels from Trash Clean-ups, Social media awareness drives, Women's month initiative
- Eco bricking: this project was continued from my previous term. It entailed 2 in person Ecobricking events. Continuous social media encouragement to engage with the initiative as well as the production of a how-to Eco-brick video. The final aim of this project is the construction on an eco-brick bench which shall be erected in September.
- Urban Greening: The final design for the mural across from the library has been approved. This is a project I have been working on the past 2 years. The painting is scheduled to take place from the 6<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Reusable Sanitary Products: This initiative was highlighted during our Women's month online talks.
- Sustainable Eateries Review and Sustainable Events Guide: This was a yearlong process on my behalf and all the parties involved are trying to incorporate sustainable alternatives within their means.
- Outreach Projects and Food Drives: Initially, I was supporting the Gaffoor charity with their initiatives, but the finance policy changed so that donations could no longer be done.

# **Cancelled Projects**

- Zero Waste to Landfill talk
- School Outreach Projects

I think many things were a success in my second term on TSR simply because my year plan planned for COVID. I had contingency plans for all my projects, and I focused on awareness and larger projects with DACES rather than events. I think the main challenge that stands with this portfolio is engagement with the student community as well as a couple of apathetic House Committee members, but the holder of this portfolio should be someone that is passionate and perseverant about sustainability above and beyond the realms of this portfolio. In addition, engagement with faculty is sometimes a bit slow especially with regards to the finance department. With regards to the above, one needs to try and remain patient and have the energy to continuously follow up on emails etc.

I still believe that the combining of the Sustainability and Social Impact portfolio still needs to be ironed out. This year I was a part of two major faculty committees namely DACES and the

Social Impact Interim Committee. While from my past years of experience, I was familiar with DACES set-up, I felt a bit out of my depth in the social impact meetings. Dr Fisch also felt that my projects were not 'student centred'. I think that where Sustainability and Social Impact differ greatly. I feel that the workload would be too much for a member to have initiatives that fulfil both the Sustainability and Social Impact criteria in their Year Plan. If I may also add, the student impact committee only started to get the ball rolling on their plans in about April this year whereas DACES always has their agenda set out for the new year by November.

I think that the most valuable skills/ advice I can give my successor is to plan well. When constructing the year plan, try to iron out all the project plans to the finest details so you know exactly what you are going to be undertaking when. Good planning is hand in hand with time management. Try not to be over ambitious. You rather do a few projects well than set out numerous initiatives that remain incomplete at the end of your term. Remember to ask for your help when you need or even reach to senior members of the TSR when you are unsure about how to do something.

# REFLECTION

I have thoroughly enjoyed my second term on the TSR especially working with amazing people who are passionate about making a difference in our community through their respective portfolios. It was also great to be back on campus and have some in person events despite the COVID 19 protocols.

I really have learned so much about how top management structures work on Campus and I believe that this knowledge shall hold me in good stead in the workplace.

In terms of time management, my skills have not necessarily improved since being on TSR as I had been already exposed to managing my time effectively during my House Committee term. I do however appreciate the fact that by being on TSR, I am still maintaining good time management and a relatively balanced lifestyle while studying my degree.

I haven't really had any trouble with intra-council relationships, and I have enjoyed working with the members of the council that I worked with last year. The TSR half year camp was a great experience to finally bond with my council members.

I think the council has certainly worked effectively to achieve our vision for our term and it has been great working which such a dedicated team.

I would also like to commend the TSR media and marketing member this year for really working hard to improve the TSR's visibility via social media and through the development of our own website.

My recommendation from last year still stands true this year. I feel that the council should work towards in the upcoming term, is to better support one another during their projects and this can be done by attending each other's events to ensure that the council is always represented as a unit.

I also believe that the council should work on cultivating their relationship with the house committee as so may initiatives that the TSR initiates could be combined with the House Committees activities to be more effective.