



# EcoReps



ANNUAL REPORT 23-24

 **Temple  
University**  
Office of Sustainability

# LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

Temple University's commitment to climate action requires building a sustainable campus from the ground up. The Office of Sustainability's EcoReps program embodies this grassroots approach to sustainable development and engagement through empowering and developing student leaders on campus. Building on a holistic approach to sustainability, EcoReps' programming educates students on critical sustainability issues, engages campus partners and creates pathways for student leaders to succeed in a variety of roles related to sustainable changemaking.

The 2023–2024 EcoReps Annual Report reflects on a year of innovation and the unrelenting commitment of some of the most passionate students at Temple. As the coordinator of EcoReps, it has been incredible to see the progression of this program and participating students in raising awareness of sustainability issues here on campus. Additionally, this group of EcoReps has made great strides in encouraging others to be stewards of action in the broader North Philadelphia community. This year highlighted the powerful combination of creativity and ambition in advancing a greener university, evident in both the expansion of anchor waste reduction programs and the creation of new workshops addressing climate anxiety.

I am encouraged by the success of the EcoReps program this past year and eagerly await to see how future EcoReps can build upon the progress of the 2023–2024 academic year. Our EcoReps program embody what it means to build a sustainable campus from the ground up. I would like to thank every student who helped make this year a memorable one, and move us toward a more sustainable Temple.



Best,

*Bryce Forys*

Bryce Forys

Sustainability Coordinator

# WHAT IS ECOREPS?



Temple recognizes the important role that students play in building a sustainable campus from the ground up. The best way to initiate change is to become a part of it, and EcoReps connect and empower student changemakers to create a better tomorrow.

EcoReps is a peer education program that trains and develops you to embody, promote and lead sustainable change and climate action on campus.

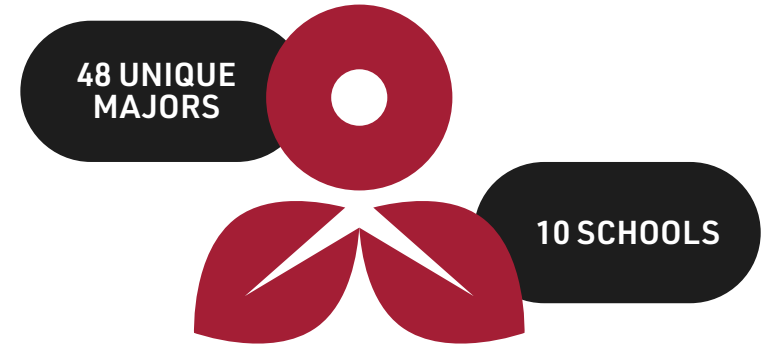


The EcoReps program is for all students from every college and major, who are concerned about our climate future and passionate about positive, sustainable change. EcoReps is your gateway to sustainability programming, volunteer opportunities and leadership development.



# WHO ARE ECOREPS?

EcoReps is open to students from all schools and majors here at Temple. During the 2023–2024 school year, the EcoReps cohort represented 48 unique majors across 10 schools.



Seen above is our 2023 cohort of peer educators in action at our 2023 retreat and orientation at Ambler Campus. Eve Machata (CLA), Leah Vene (CST), Nikki Ivan (CLA), Cara Rydzewski (CST), Rose Cohen (CLA), Mason Dofflemyer (CLA), Sidney Jeffries (Tyler), Ryan Rabenold (CLA), Alejandro Sanoja (CST)



# PEER-LED EVENTS

TOTAL  
PEER-LED  
EVENTS

88

TOTAL  
NUMBER  
OF PEER  
EDUCATORS

20



EVENTS IN  
SLOW FASHION

34



EVENTS IN  
FOOD RESCUE

33



EVENTS IN  
URBAN  
AGRICULTURE

15



EVENTS IN  
SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORTATION

13



EVENTS IN  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT &  
ADVOCACY

31

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EcoReps lead education and advocacy initiatives and outreach campaigns to foster dialogue, forge connections, and grow a coalition of leaders aware of critical sustainability issues and committed to principled climate action and policy.

Zero-waste events

Slow fashion

Urban agriculture

Food waste diversion

Sustainable transportation

Environmental wellness

Community engagement

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

EcoReps gain top-rated transferable skills and career competencies that future employers are looking for. EcoReps are able to work on a variety of programs and projects that foster personal growth and development as sustainability professionals.

### HARD SKILLS

- City and transportation planning
- Community outreach
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Event marketing
- Graphic design
- Program management
- Social media management
- Virtual mapping and spatial analysis

### SOFT SKILLS

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creative thinking
- Facilitation
- Initiative
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork

# PARTNERS

The Office of Sustainability works collaboratively with on-campus partners on a majority of its programs. Maintaining relationships on and off campus is critical to building a sustainable culture at Temple.



EcoReps volunteering at the 2023 Sanctuary Farm Fall Festival in North Philadelphia.

# FEATURED COLLABORATIONS

Our EcoReps helped support a variety of large-scale events aimed at highlighting the work of our office and our many colleagues and collaborators' sustainability contributions. See some highlights from our year below.

## TRANSPORTATION FAIR



In August, our EcoReps helped organize the Transportation Fair. This collaborative event at the Bell Tower provided students with the opportunity to learn about different resources to get around Philadelphia sustainably.

## WORLD FOOD DAY



World Food Day, held in October of 2023, gave Temple students, faculty and staff the opportunity to explore how different student and community organizations and university departments are taking initiative to make Temple and the extended community hunger free.

## EARTH DAY EXPO



The Earth Day Expo, held on Earth Day this past April 2024, provided students with the opportunity to learn about initiatives to promote sustainability on campus through student involvement, departmental research and action plan development.

## 22 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Temple Community Garden
- SciDesign
- The Accountability Initiative
- Temple Student Government
- TU Bio Society
- TU SEEDS
- Temple University Democrats
- Temple Climate Action
- Temple University Chemical Society
- PERIOD.
- Sharing Excess
- UNICEF x TU
- Net Impact
- International Business Association
- Association for Information Systems
- OwlChemists
- Swipe Out Hunger
- Alpha Phi Omega
- Public Health Beyond Borders
- Eta Sigma Gamma
- Japanese Student Association
- American Marketing Association

## 22 EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS

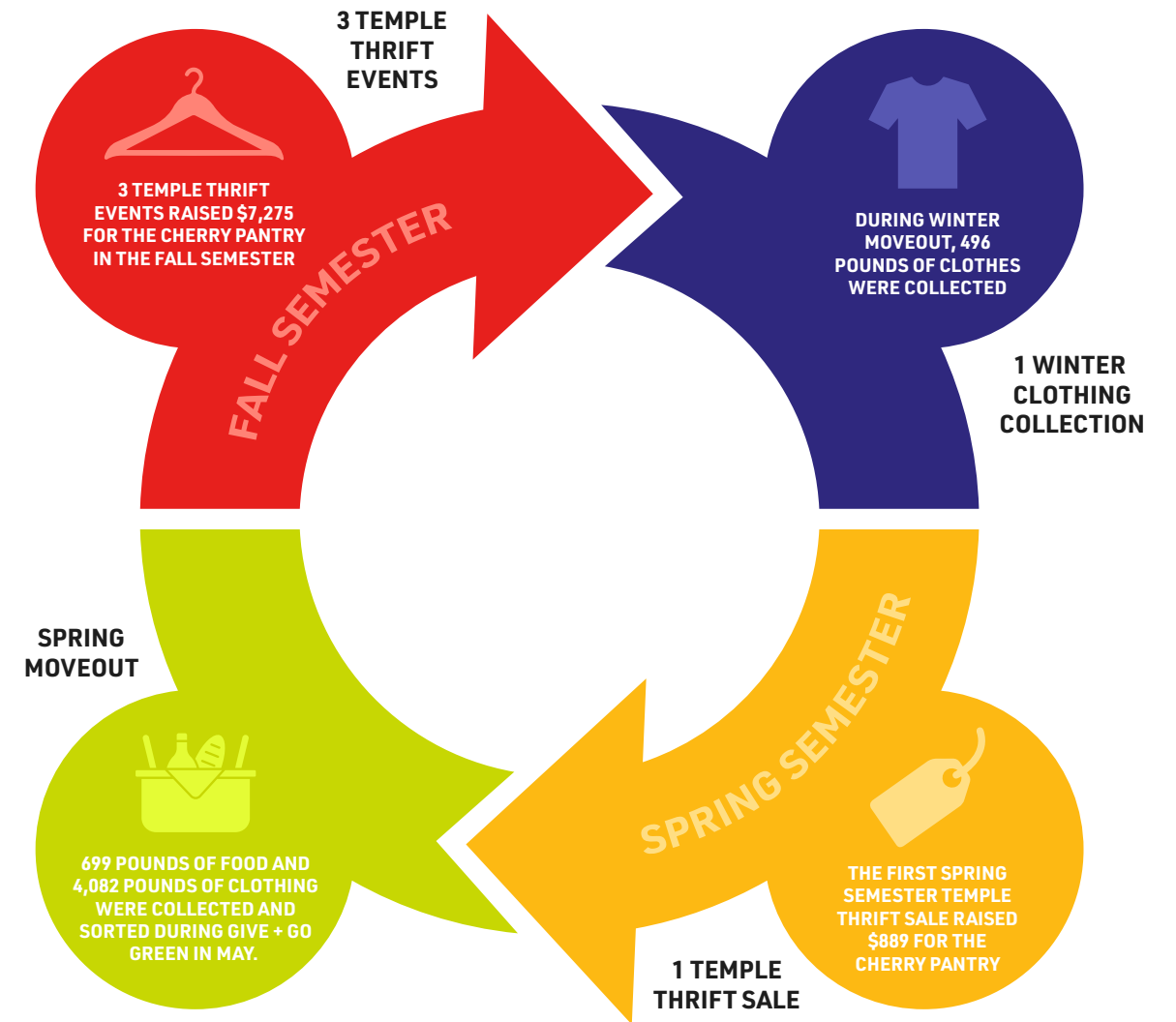
- Audobon Mid-Atlantic
- Good Buy Supply
- Sierra Club
- Center for the Advocacy for the Rights and Interest of Elders
- New Kensington Community Development Corporation
- Las Parcelas, Community Gardens
- Fairmount Water Works
- Transit Forward Philadelphia
- Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Circuit Trails Network
- Better Bike Share Partnership
- Indego
- SEPTA
- Clean Air Council
- Feet First Philly
- West Mount Airy Neighbors
- Resource Exchange
- Coalition Against Hunger
- Share Food Program
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Sanctuary Farm
- Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

# IMPACT

Our EcoReps program supports a wide range of in-person programming to integrate sustainability principles into all aspects of campus life. Our programs look to foster relationships with campus and community partners through thoughtful, engaging, and innovative in-person events. Through our EcoReps program our peer facilitators support anchor programs that increase our in-person impact towards building a sustainable culture on campus and beyond.

## TEMPLE THRIFT & GIVE + GO GREEN

Give + Go Green and Temple Thrift are two annual programs that establish circular systems to minimize waste impact and retain economic value through redistribution and reuse of commodities on campus. In the 2024 fiscal year, Temple Thrift raised \$8,164 through four sales and the support of 174 volunteers. These sales were supported by clothing donations from Give + Go Green, our annual donation collection and sustainable move-out program. In May of 2024, 47 Give + Go Green volunteers collected and sorted 4,082 pounds of clothing donations and 699 pounds of food donations. The food is taken directly to the Irvine Barnett Cherry Pantry and the clothes will be sold at our Temple Thrift sales in the fall semester.



## ZERO WASTE

In May of 2024, our EcoReps piloted Temple University's first-ever zero-waste event at the Green Building United Sustainability Symposium. EcoReps staffed various waste stations throughout the symposium to assist attendees with disposal, while also providing education on the importance of waste diversion efforts through composting, recycling and reusable dishware.



## WALK AUDIT

The Walk Audit Training Certification program is an original service-learning curriculum that teaches students how to evaluate the pedestrian experience. In October of 2023, the Office of Sustainability partnered with Clean Air Council, Feet First Philly and West Mount Airy Neighborhood Association to evaluate the pedestrian experience in high-risk areas of the West Mount Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia. Through this program and its skill delivery in asset-based community development and community organizing, it presents walking as a model for sustainable behavior change and active and engaged urban stewardship. The walk audit is run every fall semester.



## STORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Stories of Sustainability is a speaker series dedicated to telling Temple's stories of sustainability—our students, our staff, and our faculty's tales of climate action. With Stories of Sustainability, we hope to give a platform to share best practices and discuss the latest topics in sustainability to fuel climate action on campus. This past fall, as part of our Stories of Sustainability series, Becki Beadling, earth and environmental science faculty, held an interactive workshop to discuss the role of the ocean in a changing climate and how we can use both climate models and observations to improve our understanding of climate change. Stories of Sustainability are held in the spring and fall semesters of the school year.



## CLIMATE CAFE

In partnership with the Climate Psychology Association of North America, The Office of Sustainability developed our Climate Cafe program. Facilitated by EcoReps, Climate Cafe is a peer-led series of workshops to address topics of eco-grief, climate anxiety and other associated feelings surrounding climate change. These peer-led sessions are facilitated by EcoReps to give the Temple community the opportunity to develop coping skills and strategies to promote and protect student wellness and engender resiliency. Climate Cafes are held in both the fall and spring semesters throughout the school year.

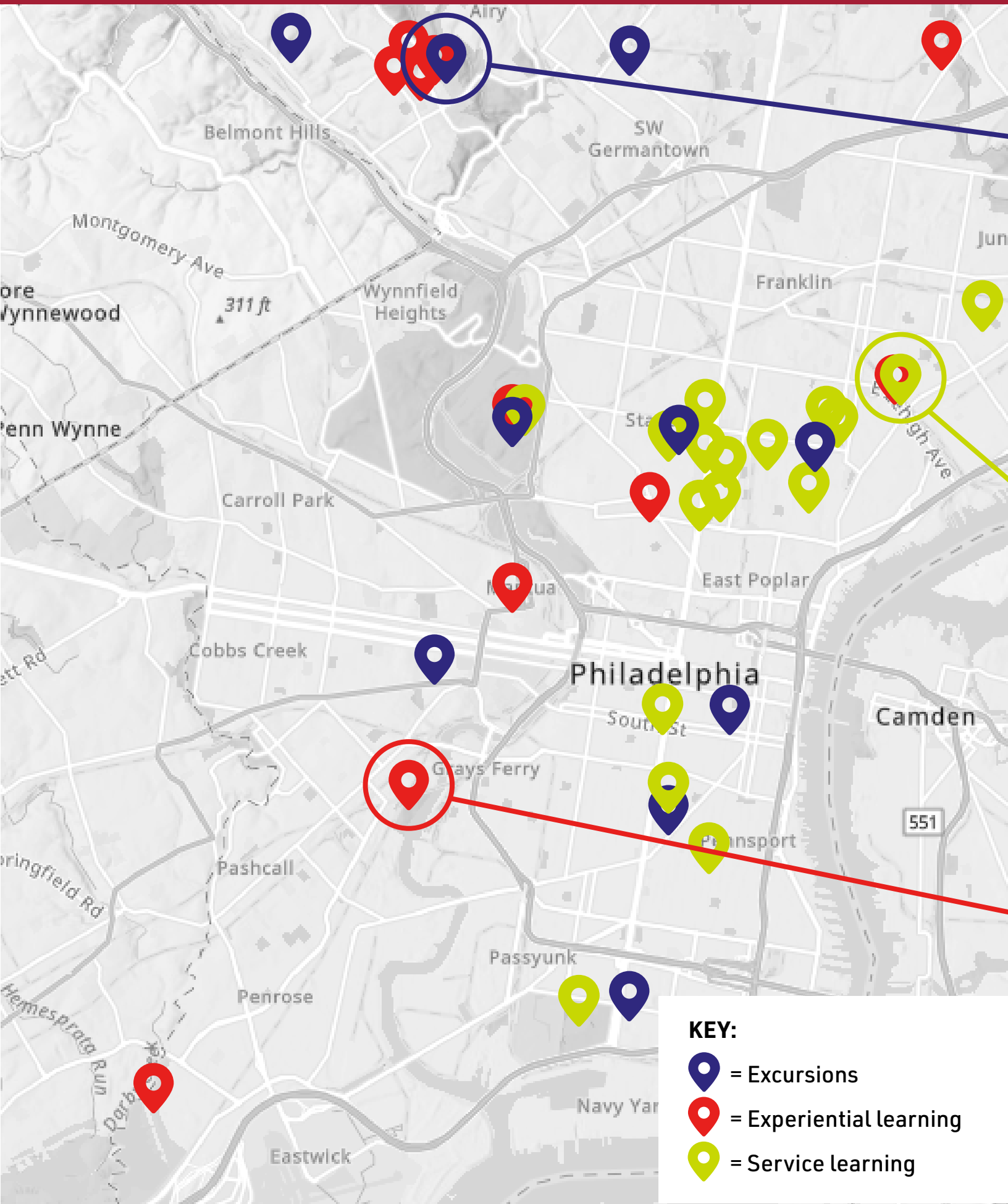


## WEIGH THE WASTE

In partnership with Dining Services, the Office of Sustainability hosts Weigh the Waste. Held every spring semester, this campaign utilizes student staff and volunteers to collect, weigh and divert post-consumer food waste in the dining hall. This program works to educate diners on the importance of limiting food waste, while also directly working to divert the collected food to compost. This past spring, over 52 unique student volunteers worked our Weigh the Waste station at J&H Dining Hall for one week in January and two weeks in March. Across this timeframe, our team diverted 3,003 pounds of post-consumer food waste from the landfill.



# ECOREPS MAP



## WISSAHICKON VALLEY PARK

In September, our EcoReps took an excursion using SEPTA Regional Rail to the Wissahickon Valley Park. Just minutes away from Temple's campus, this transit-accessible park gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves into nature without leaving Philadelphia.



## TUSCULUM GATEWAY GARDEN W/NKCDC

This past spring, programming leads led several excursions to Tusculum Gateway Garden just east of Temple's campus to assist with several garden bed build days. In partnership with New Kensington Development Corporation, these programs gave students a great opportunity to build community partnerships through urban agriculture and stewardship activities.






## DISCOVERY CENTER

This past winter, our EcoReps partnered with Audubon Mid-Atlantic to take a weekend trip to the Discovery Center for a bird tour of the Strawberry Mansion Reservoir. Students were able to utilize local transit to tour this critical stop on the Atlantic Flyway for migrating birds.



### KEY:

-  = Excursions
-  = Experiential learning
-  = Service learning



# REACH

This year, our student social media and communications team drastically increased engagement on multiple social media platforms.

## TUmove



3,428  
TOTAL  
VIEWS



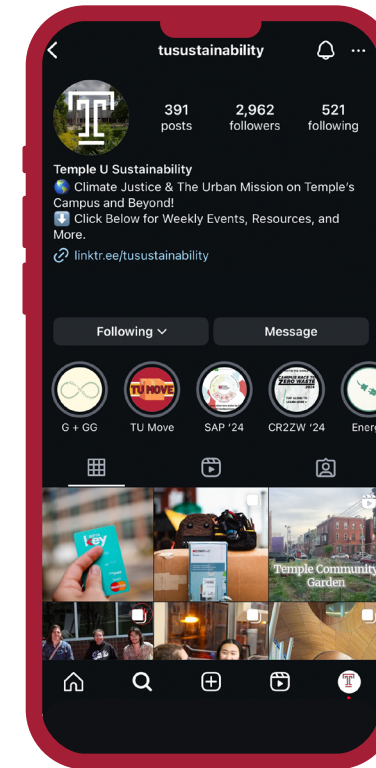
1,491 VIEWS



1,937 VIEWS

# SPRING 2024

A strategic emphasis on short-form video production boosted the reach of various campaigns and the broader visibility of sustainability programs on campus.



Reach on Instagram  
increased **262%**.

Increased follower  
count by **288 accounts**.

## ZERO WASTE KIT



7,437  
TOTAL  
VIEWS

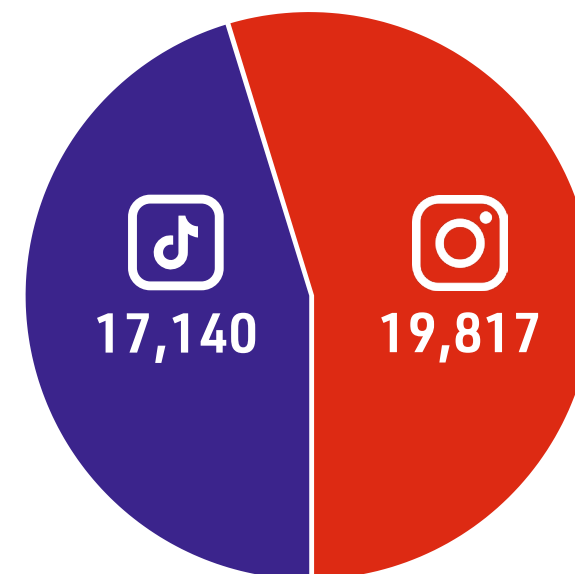


5,481 VIEWS



1,956 VIEWS

## 2024: JANUARY-JUNE



36,957 TOTAL VIEWS

INSTAGRAM  
REEL VIEWS

TIKTOK VIEWS

Looking to stay connected with our EcoReps program? See below for the various ways you can stay updated on upcoming events, workshops and opportunities in the world of sustainability.

## ENGAGE WITH US!



@tusustainability



@tusustainability



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