



Sustainability Squad

Promoting Human Dignity. Creating a Harmonious Future.



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Introduction





Human Rights Institute

- The HRI advances human rights awareness and education at Kean University through programming, events, and community engagement
- Guided by global human rights frameworks, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Student leadership and civic engagement through initiatives like the HRI Voting Squad, promoting informed and nonpartisan voter participation
- Encourages students to connect what they learn in the classroom with issues affecting their communities



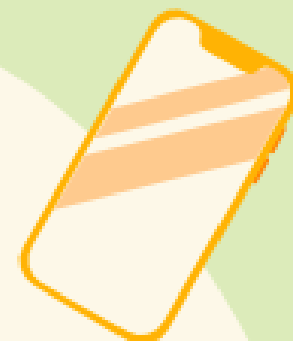
Overview of the Sustainability Squad (SQ)

- Enhances the President's Task Force on Sustainability by turning data and initiatives from the Task Force into meaningful opportunities for engagement.
- Engages with students, faculty, and staff to create a sustainability focused campus environment through education, outreach, and collaboration.
- Interdisciplinary approach to education and collaborates with various departments and student organizations to integrate sustainability into campus culture.



02

What is the Sustainability Squad?





Who Are We?

Student Leadership is the Core – Squad Captains



Leadership

- Serve as passionate and proactive student leaders driving sustainability initiatives across campus
- Lead a team of squad members to promote environmental awareness

Outreach

- Support the President's Sustainability Taskforce and Human Rights Institute
- Connect with students and campus partners

Data

- Assist with Kean University's STARS reporting

Inclusion

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- Connect sustainability with human rights and equity
 - Who is impacted? Who has access to participate?
 - Inspire meaningful change on and off-campus



Who Are We?



Squad Members

- Serve as student advocates for a more sustainable campus and community
- Expand Kean University's sustainability movement
- Engage with peers through campus initiatives
- Promote awareness to others about sustainability and practical actions
- Support campus-wide initiatives and community events



Peer Connections, Education, Collaboration

03

Connection to Human Rights





Human Rights Institute and Sustainability

Sustainability is a Human Rights Issue.

- The HRI integrates the UN's 17 SDGs into student engagement, education, and campus initiatives
 - With support of the HRI, SQ empowers students, faculty, and staff to develop programs that promote harmony between people and the environment for present and future generations
 - The HRI and SQ expands sustainability beyond the environment by recognizing social justice as essential to a truly sustainable future
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Squad in Action





Sustainability Squad: Our Work & What's Next



Campus and Academic Engagement:

- Partnering with the Human Rights Institute to take part in the 19th Annual Human Rights Conference



Career and Professional Development:

- Supporting students through career-focused opportunities including the Kean University Career Services Internship Expo and the Kean University Ocean Campus Career Expo



Community Impact and Environmental Action:

- Collaborating with off-campus partners in community initiatives such as Earth Day cleanups in Elizabeth and Rahway
 - Outreach at Kean Skylands Community Day
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How We Engage the Community



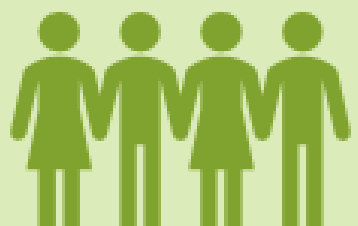
Our goal isn't simply to share information – it's to make sustainability visible, accessible, and relevant to everyday life.

Rather than asking individuals to change their habits overnight, we focus on engagement strategies that encourage the community to support sustainable actions. Engagement stems from helping students, faculty, staff, and community members see how their collective sustainable efforts lead to real, meaningful impacts.

Effective Approaches:

- Demonstrating how past collective actions achieves sustainable change
 - Highlighting success stories
 - Building relationships
- Creating accessible, collaborative opportunities for participation and community-building
- Collaborating with community partners
 - Schools, libraries, nonprofits, councils, clubs, councils
- Starting conversations in informal settings
- Participating in interactive tabling's at town/school events

Start with small, achievable projects!





Activity: What could students do for your organization?

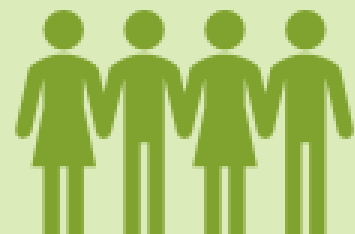


Imagine You Had 20 Student Volunteers
20 students → 1 semester → 1 partner organization

What can you accomplish together?

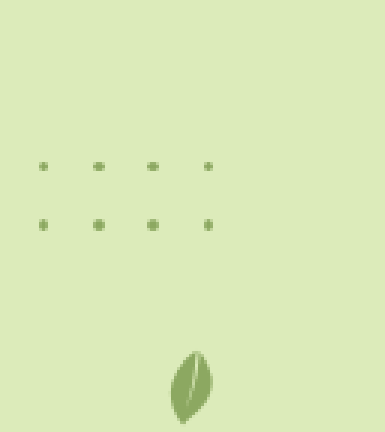
Turn to someone next to you and think about...

- What project can students create?
- What can students educate the community about?
- What can students create that your organization can continually use?
- What audience/other organizations are you looking to reach?
- What is the intended outcome?





Community Challenge



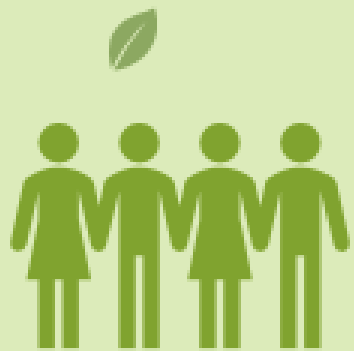
Your town wants residents to be better prepared for extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-related challenges.

The town wants residents to understand:

- How to prepare for extreme conditions
- Where to find emergency resources
- What to do before, during, and after climate-related challenges
- How to help those who may need additional support

How could you engage students in this effort?

Who would you partner with?



Tips for Engaging Students



Meet students where they already are



- Attend campus events and activities instead of expecting students to come to you

Make it social



- Let students work together towards a common goal to reach visible results

Let students lead the conversation



- Peer-to-peer outreach is most effective and relatable for students

Connect sustainability to student interests



- Show connections to well-being, career opportunities, health, leadership, change

Celebrate Contributions



- Highlight achievements, success stories, and the long-term impact of their efforts





Why This Matters



Sustainability is about people, not just the planet:

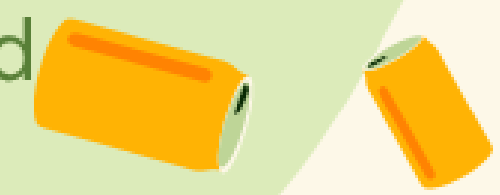
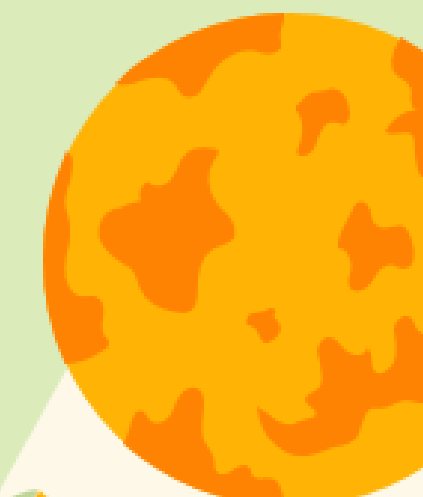
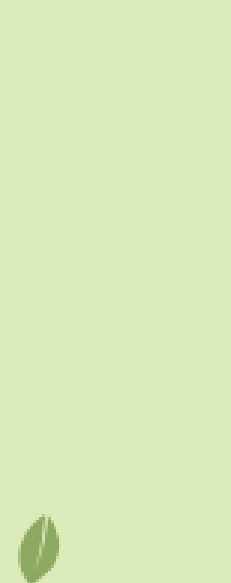
- The Sustainability Squad connects environmental action with human rights issues such as gender equity, education, responsible consumption, and climate justice

Addressing inequality strengthens sustainability:

- By highlighting regional, national, and global barriers to these rights, the Squad exposes the inequities that limit meaningful progress toward a sustainable future

Empowering the next generation of changemakers:

- Through initiatives at Kean University, the Squad inspires students to see themselves as part of a broader movement working toward a more just and sustainable world
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Conclusion: A Movement for the Future

SQ is more than a club – we are a movement:

- The Sustainability Squad mobilizes students to connect sustainability, human rights, and civic responsibility into meaningful action

Building the next generation of leaders:

- Through the Human Rights Institute at Kean University, students gain the tools to advocate for equity, environmental responsibility, and global human dignity

Expanding impact beyond campus:

- By aligning its work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SQ is shaping a future where student leadership drives lasting change in communities locally and globally.



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Follow us on Instagram @SustainatKean



Madan Sara

Film screening

October 27, 2026 | 3:30pm | HRI GALLERY

Followed by a conversation with
Etant Dupain



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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