

What's new in campus sustainability ...

An Earth Month to Remember

From an in-person trash pickup event to online conferences and lectures to Arbor Day tree plantings, iSEE and its partners offered a packed Earth Month menu for the University of Illinois campus community.

Things kicked off with the [community trash pickup](#) April 7, sponsored by the Institute and Facilities & Services, at which dozens of participants cleaned up the area around the Boneyard Creek.

A day later, iSEE hosted a “[Sustainability Rocks](#)” celebration on the Main Quad, where participants painted rocks with environmental messages. The results will adorn future iSEE sustainability features on campus.

In addition to four Congress lectures (see page 5 for a recap), iSEE also co-sponsored the annual Charles David Keeling Lecture on April 19, hosted by the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. More than 120 people attended the [online lecture by Alice Hill](#), the David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington, D.C.

Ahead of Arbor Day, iSEE planted its own tree outside the National Soybean Research Center — which will offset carbon impact of transporting Illinois Climate



Action Plan (iCAP) 2020 books from the printer to campus. (The books were printed on 100% recycled content paper, but iSEE went further to make the iCAP completely carbon neutral.) [Video of this tree planting on April 26](#) helped preview the annual Arbor Day planting on campus that was part of the April 30 Champaign County Sustainability Network (CCNet) virtual celebration.

And iSEE Communications Intern Maria Maring hosted the April 29 “TED Talk: Eco Edition” on environmental activism. The first three of these virtual talks, an ongoing monthly series, have drawn 115 attendees.

[Read more about Earth Month.](#)



ADAPTHAUS Opens

The Illinois Solar Decathlon student organization has finished work on ADAPTHAUS, a net-zero-energy home designed for adaptability.

Built in Champaign for the Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon Competition and supported by funding from the Student Sustainability Committee and a grant procured through iSEE from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the house features climate-conscious construction, advanced solar arrays, and a cost-effective, modular layout allowing it to grow with a family.

The group hosted a private grand opening this spring — another iSEE Certified Green Event — and public tours followed. [Learn more.](#)

Greener Campus Programs Grow

iSEE’s Greener Campus Certification Program has been quite active during the Spring 2021 semester.

During the past year, iSEE has certified:

- 28 events, including iSEE Congress and the “TED Talk: Eco Edition” series;
- seven Greek chapters, including gold-level awards for Delta Delta



Delta, Pi Beta Phi, Delta Gamma, Kappa Delta, and Zeta Beta Tau; and

- three offices, International Student & Scholar Services, Department of Communication, and Department of Chemistry Administrative Office.

[Learn more about all of iSEE’s Certified Greener Campus programs.](#)

Solar Farm 2.0 Up and Running — Increasing Campus Green Energy

In early 2021, Solar Farm 2.0 — an objective pushed by iSEE and accomplished by Facilities & Services — went online, increasing campus solar capabilities to 75 total acres and 25,000 megawatt-hours per year.

The achievement completes the 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) objec-

tive for producing 25,000 MWh per year by FY 2025.

With an ongoing wind power purchase agreement, the U of I campus currently features 50,000 MWh per year of clean energy. The iCAP calls for 140,000 MWh per year by FY2030, and the work has begun toward achieving this next goal.