

Take Action SC Student Ambassadors for Sustainability

University of South Carolina Tour

I recently attended a tour of the University of South Carolina (UofSC) with the Student Ambassadors. We were shown all of the UofSC's actions toward an eco- and environmentally friendly campus. One of the most interesting actions is UofSC's student-run urban garden. This garden was originally founded by a few students back in 2007, when they decided to start their own box gardens, where they would grow their own plants and foods to eat!

This initiative by a couple of students has now grown to many boxes of plants and vegetables! The first picture is of the original few garden boxes started by students, while



the picture to the left shows the many large garden boxes now maintained by students and the UofSC community, now educated about each plant.

A new system of watering the smaller plants is located in the garden's greenhouse. This new model is cost-efficient and introduces a way to conserve excess water involved in watering plants. A

downside identified is the amount of energy the system is required to produce.

I also visited UofSC's weekly Famers Market where anyone – students, teachers, and visitors - can buy foods grown in the student gardens and local as well as from eco-friendly businesses. This market is held on campus every Tuesday.



Green View



Original Artwork by Gayle Boyd, Dreher High School

In this issue: Fashion's Environmental Impact and Sustainable Fashion

Fast Fashion

The fashion industry is the second largest polluter in the world, which is largely due to the 'fast fashion' industry. The term 'fast fashion' refers to companies that sell cheap, mass produced clothing that re-create current trends. Fast Fashion companies often use child labor because of their need for inexpensive, low-skilled labor. It is estimated that Fast Fashion companies produce 10% of total global carbon emissions (Business Insider). To put this into perspective, this is as much carbon emissions as the whole European Union produces. A study found that 85% of all textiles from fashion companies end up in landfills each year, polluting our land, water, and air. The fast fashion industry is also the second largest consumer of water. Business insider explains that one cotton shirt requires around "700 gallons [of water] to produce" and about "2,000 gallons of water [are required] to produce a pair of jeans."

Fast Fashion is mostly cotton products, which have negative impacts on the environment from the use of pesticides, specifically "agrochemicals, and it's depletion of water resources and land/agricultural resources" (World Wildlife).

Made By Smateria



Recyclable Fashion

There are many clothing brands that strive to create fashion that is sustainable and eco-friendly. For example, Smateria, a company in Cambodia that produces 100% ethically-made recycled bags and other accessories. Smateria products are made out of re-used plastic, mosquito nets, motorcycle seats, and other material that would otherwise be thrown away. This reused plastic helps prevent extra CO2 emissions. In an interview, founder Jennifer Morellato says that what she likes most is how her brand turns waste "into something unconventional and of high quality."

Their brand is one of few that flawlessly incorporates recycled plastics into beautiful Italian handcrafted handbags!



Other sustainable companies include Patagonia, Rapanui, Repainted, and Planet Warrior.

Patagonia is a large clothing company that has been using recycled plastic bottles in their clothing since in 1993.

In 2013, Patagonia implemented a mission called "Worn Wear" to promote sustainability. Patagonia reuses 100% of the gear that customers return for recycling through their Worn Wear program, which means that they reuse old clothing and turn it into current trending clothes!

Recycle Fashion Shows



An annual recycled fashion show in Bloomington, Indiana called the **Bloomington Trashion Refashion** not only has a fashion show made from 100% recycled fashion, but it also promotes a body positivity movement, encouraging any and all models of any body type, age, and experience to participate.

The show's motto is that fashion "doesn't belong in the trash." At one time,

Columbia also had a recycled fashion show called the **Runaway Runway**.

The last one was at the Columbia Museum of Art in 2017 and you can see

it here: <https://fb.watch/5I0y87XN3W/>



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