

Created in 2013, Senate Sustainability Committee was designed to gather environmental leaders, administrative and faculty members, and interested parties together to increase and implement sustainable initiatives on the Brandeis campus, decreasing our school's negative impact on the outside world. As a group we tackle certain environmental issues on campus from a holistic perspective involving the administration and Brandeis faculty. Past projects have included the installation of sustainable appliances such as dual-flush toilets in residence halls, water bottle stations, and most recently a proposal to create an environmental literacy requirement ensuring all students take a course about human impacts on the environment before graduation (currently being reviewed by the UCC).

Student Union Website Committee Members

Matt Smetana – Committee Senate Chair, Student Union, President’s Task Force, UDR

Hello everyone, my name is Matt Smetana and I am a junior majoring in Environmental Studies and the Senate Chair of the Senate Sustainability Committee. In addition to being Class of 2017 Senator, I represent the student body on the President’s Task Force on Sustainability and am an Environmental Studies Undergraduate Department Representative (UDR).

My interests lie heavily in ecology and wildlife biology, but the connection to climate change and environmental degradation is evident and pressing. As such, this spring I will be planting a sustainable meadow consisting of various native plants to increase decimated pollinator populations and biodiversity in the region. My goal with this committee is to use connections made and knowledge gained to educate and empower the students of Brandeis, offering them tools to change the future of our planet.

If you would like more information on the committee and other matters, my office hours can be found on the Union page but you can also contact me at msmetana@brandeis.edu.



Rachel Zhu – Committee Non-Senate Chair, SEA

My name's Rachel Zhu and I'm a sophomore studying Film, HSSP, and other subjects because I want to learn everything. As far as environmental involvements, I'm the Non-Senate Chair of the Senate Sustainability Committee and co-president of Students for Environmental Action.

Although I'm not an Environmental Studies major, I feel that environmental awareness is a no-brainer and applies to all facets of life. If I leave any mark at Brandeis, I hope it's to make environmental consciousness instinctual and not an afterthought that we later regret. If you'd like to personally contact me to discuss the environment, life, or the latest *SNL*, you can reach me at rzhu19@brandeis.edu.



Mary Fisher – Sustainability Manager, President's Task Force

I am the Manager of Sustainability Programs for Brandeis University. Hired in July 2015, I am the first full-time staff member in sustainability in several years. I come to Brandeis from the organic dairy company Stonyfield Farm, located in Londonderry, N.H., where I worked for 5 years as life-cycle sustainability manager. There, I managed several aspects of Stonyfield's sustainability program, including a cutting-edge greenhouse gas accounting system, multiple aspects of waste reduction, corporate sustainability, employee engagement, and packaging sustainability. Before that, I worked for 5 years for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as a contractor, based in Washington, D.C.

My particular focus is on reducing the Brandeis' carbon footprint, so reducing utility usage (and therefore carbon output) is a continuous priority. I am very interested in renewable energy, organic and sustainable food, reducing waste of all kinds, and encouraging sustainable behavior in fun ways. I am also available to work with students interested in pursuing careers in sustainability, or learning skills such as carbon footprinting, energy analysis, or life cycle assessment.

I have a Master's of Environmental Management ('10) from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, with a focus on life cycle assessment, corporate sustainability, and industrial ecology; and a bachelor's in sociology, magna cum laude, from the University of Dayton, with minors in women's studies and journalism ('02).

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Sabine von Mering – Center for German and European Studies, FACT, President’s Task Force

Hello, I teach German Language, Literature and Culture and am a member of the core faculty in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. I co-edited a small volume entitled *International Green Politics* in 2001. My most recent scholarly work focused on right-wing extremism in Germany and the US and I am currently working on the role of climate change as a challenge for the humanities. As Director of the Center for German and European Studies I organize lectures, conferences, and cultural events in the interest of promoting transatlantic dialogue.

For several years now I have also been a climate activist on and off campus. I co-founded Faculty against the Climate Threat (FACT) at Brandeis and started the Mandel Humanities Center Working Group on Climate Change in the fall of 2015. I am the faculty co-chair of the President's Task Force on Campus Sustainability. Off campus I am the volunteer coordinator of the statewide steering team for 350Massachusetts for a Better Future, a statewide network of climate activists in Massachusetts. I joined the Senate Sustainability committee because it gives me hope to be working with students who understand the severity of the climate crisis.

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Stephanie Reifenberg – Brandeis Sustainability Fund, Farmers Club

Hi! My name is Stephanie Reifenberg and I am a senior majoring in Environmental Studies and Anthropology. I am the Student Representative to the Brandeis Sustainability Fund as well as a member of the Farmers Club E-board. My passion lies in the ocean, specifically with sharks, but since there's not an ocean on campus I find myself working on and becoming increasingly passionate about combating climate change through changes that we can make in our every day lives. I'm a member of this committee to create a sustainable campus, something that has to be implemented with the help of the student body and the leadership of the members of this committee. If you have any questions or want to talk about sharks feel free to email me at sreifenb@brandeis.edu or stop by my office hours!



Jake Greenberg – Net Impact

I am the President and Co-Founder of Net Impact: Brandeis Undergraduate Chapter and a member of Students for Environmental Action and Farmer's Club. As an Environmental Studies and intended Business major I feel inspired when learning about the intersection between different disciplines and the critical solutions needed to match environmentalism with businesses, organizations, and peoples' large array of interests and concerns. I am also a Community Advisor, living in North Quad with some of the best residents around, and have been inspired by my residents' interest in exploring nature, going green, and getting involved in every type of campus activity imaginable. As a sophomore, I look forward to the rest of my time at Brandeis and the passion we can tap into from the Brandeis community to inspire further social and environmental change. You can reach me at jakegree@brandeis.edu.



Jay Feinstein – Farmers Club

I am the president of the Farmers Club, which manages the Brandeis Rooftop Community Farm and organizes regular farmers markets and farm stands on campus. I am also one of the Undergraduate Departmental Representatives for Brandeis's environmental studies program. You might find me around campus writing, cooking, harvesting, or taking photos. I am part of the Senate Sustainability Committee because of my passion for the environment. I believe that the best way to move a cause forward is through collaboration, and collaboration is one of the cornerstones of this committee. Please feel free to contact me at jaydf@brandeis.edu if you have any questions about the rooftop farm, environmental classes, or if you need a buddy to make farm fresh veggie stir-fry.



Gerrianna Cohen – Farmers Club

Hi everyone, I'm a sophomore majoring in Environmental Studies and Computer Science. I'm the Market Manager of the Farmers Club at Brandeis and organize the farmers markets on campus. You can usually find me on the rooftop farm eating cherry tomatoes. My spirit fruit is a raspberry because they are both sweet and red-headed. If you have any questions about farmers markets or farming in general, email me at gerri@brandeis.edu.



Elizabeth Villano – Symbiosis

Hi, I'm Elizabeth Villano, I'm a senior majoring in HSSP from Pleasant Prairie, WI. I'm on this committee as a representative of Symbiosis, the newest Waltham Group program dedicated to environmental volunteering. I believe that collaboration is the key to fighting climate change, and the sustainability committee gives Brandeis students a platform to double our efforts and make sure we can support one another. You can reach me at evillano@brandeis.edu.



Victor Bianchi- Class of 2019

My name is Victor Bianchi and I'm a freshman majoring in Environmental Studies. I plan to also study Economics or Business on an international scale. In addition, I am an active member of the Senate Sustainability Committee. I plan to help Brandeis further reduce its carbon footprint as well as raise awareness regarding the issue of Climate Change. As we put plans into action, we need to assemble as an international community, in order to develop a strong environmental responsibility that represents our initiatives. We are the last generation that truly has the opportunity to end this problem and neglecting it isn't a possibility. If you would like any additional information please contact me at vbianchi@brandeis.edu.



Kate Farrell – Class of 2017

Hi, I'm Kate Farrell! I'm a junior currently studying Human Development, Creativity, and Media (an IIM that I was lucky enough to have approved this year). I'm on this committee because I've always been passionate about the environment. In high school, I started a Go Green club and brought together local business and community members for Earth Day-themed activities, lectures, and a fair every year. I was eager to see how I could help promote a love of and care for the environment in a different setting and with a great group of peers!

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Ray Trott – Class of 2016

Hi there! My name is Ray Trott and I'm a senior from Braintree, Massachusetts, a suburb just outside Boston. At Brandeis, I am an environmental studies major and the co-president of my a cappella group, Company B. As a part of the Senate Sustainability Committee, I am very excited to be working to raise environmental awareness on campus and to contribute to and improve Brandeis's sustainable practices. To the Brandeis student body, if you have any thoughts or questions about sustainability and environmentalism, I warmly welcome them; please don't hesitate to reach out to me at raytrott@brandeis.edu!

