

# UVA ECONETWORK



## Student Organizations

This is an attempt to compile all of the CIOs and other student organizations currently involved in sustainability. If you know of an organization not represented or would like to provide feedback on a current description, please email [uva.econetwork@gmail.com](mailto:uva.econetwork@gmail.com).

### Animal Justice Advocates - Food, Activism

Animal Justice Advocates at UVA is an organization that upholds students as valued participants in our education, committed to “leading lives of honor.” The UVA Honor Committee frames our honor code as one that “calls us to be honorable to each other not merely by not committing transgressions, but also by doing reverence to the other in our midst.” The Education Without Violence campaign takes this commitment to revere “the other in our midst” seriously as we challenge our university not only to divest from violence against animals, but also to become a leader in progressive and compassionate education. Moving forward with great hope in the university, we are nonetheless mindful of the university’s history of oppression, and while committed to and focused on issues specific to animals, we aim to promote an understanding of the intersections of systems of oppression affecting animals, humans, and the environment. At a university founded on the principle of student governance, it is our

responsibility as students to insist that the pursuit of knowledge be rooted in compassion; the alternative is a university grounded in oppression.

Contact information: [AJAatUVA@gmail.com](mailto:AJAatUVA@gmail.com)

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Animals and the Environment

This program through Madison House has volunteers that may work on a farm, caring for the farm animals and assisting with the farm's upkeep, help tend a garden, restore local parks and trails, help with horseback riding, or work at the SPCA. The possibilities are endless!

[Website](#)

## BiHOOphilic at UVA - Green Buildings

The mission of BiHOOphilic at UVA is to promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of biophilia, which is defined by E.O. Wilson to be "...the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms." The organization will bring together in friendship undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty of the University, in order to provide an outlet through which students interested in biophilia can affect a natureful change on Grounds and in the greater Charlottesville area, as well as further biophilic education and the sharing of biophilic experiences on Grounds and in the students' home cities.

While several students are in the architecture school, it is not a requirement to join!

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## Campus Kitchen - Food, Waste

The Campus Kitchen at the University of Virginia is a local chapter of the national Campus Kitchens Project based in Washington, D.C. The organization specifically strives to relieve hunger in the local Charlottesville community. They use locally-sourced food to prepare nutritionally balanced meals for charitable organizations like the Salvation Army. Student volunteers are in control throughout the entire process, from

food resourcing to food delivery. Simultaneously, Campus Kitchen at UVA furthers sustainability by using food from dining halls that would otherwise go to waste. They also work directly with The Local Food Hub, volunteering at its warehouse in return for donation-grade produce.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Charity: water at UVA

Charity: water at UVA works on behalf of the non-profit organization, charity: water, by spreading awareness of the global water crisis. They host events to fundraise in support of providing clean, safe drinking water to communities in need.

Contact: [charitywateratuva@gmail.com](mailto:charitywateratuva@gmail.com)

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## Civic Engagement Subcommittee

The Civic Engagement Subcommittee (CES) works to expand and deepen sustainability into the UVA community, both on and off of Grounds. CES seeks to promote, engage, and advocate for policies and practices that build an inclusive, safe, healthy, and equitable community aligned with environmental principles to advance the well-being of this and future generations to come.

Projects:

- Equity & Environment Fund
- UVA Sustainability Award
- Environmental Justice Martin Luther King Community Celebration Events
- Earth Week

[Website](#)

## Cville Solar Project

The Charlottesville Solar Project is a not-for-profit founded by students from the University of Virginia. The goal of the organization is simple: to make solar energy socioeconomically accessible.

[Website](#)

## Darden Energy Club

It is the mission of the Darden Energy Club to assist the Darden student body in gathering information about and facilitating employment in energy-related companies.

Following from this Mission Statement, the Darden Energy Club has set the following list of objectives:

- To promote, organize and host annual speaker panels focused on issues related to the energy industry.
- To help students learn more about the energy industry and to identify career opportunities in this industry.
- To build and enhance Darden's reputation as an institution which provides students and faculty with opportunities to work in and learn about the energy industry.
- To promote the discussion of energy-related topics by integrating cases and speakers into the First Year and Second Year course curriculum.
- To build and maintain strong relationships with Darden alumni working in the energy industry.

Contact information: [DardenEnergyClub@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:DardenEnergyClub@darden.virginia.edu)

[Website](#)  
[atUVA](#)

## Enactus at University of Virginia

Enactus at University of Virginia (Enactus at UVA) is a McIntire School of Commerce-affiliated organization which provides students with opportunities to work closely with business-owners and entrepreneurial leaders to develop innovative and sustainable (environmental and social focus) value within the Charlottesville community. At the University of Virginia, our chapter focuses on hands-on social entrepreneurship and consulting projects to empower the Charlottesville community.

Enactus at UVA values creative approaches to tackling long-term projects. Through participation on project teams, students will be encouraged to work independently and make use of available resources to further client

needs as necessary. Enactus at UVA values the approach that no ideas are too bizarre or ridiculous to propose en route to success within entrepreneurial and business endeavors.

Projects:

- They work with Lytos Technologies to produce green, enzymatic, broad-based bio-fungicides that protect high-value agriculture crops and restore crop yields previously lost to fungal pathogens, which supports increased revenues for farmers.
- They also work with Old Dominion Hemp to distribute industrial hemp animal products, utilizing the bulk of the industrial hemp plant with low processing energy while producing positive financial and environmental returns.

[Website](#)  
[atUVA](#)  
[Facebook](#)

## Engineers Going Global

From their website: our mission is to inspire students to be proactive and contextually-aware Engineers who empower communities to attain their basic human needs in a sustainable manner.

A current notable project is their work in sustainable EcoVillages.

While the name can sound deceiving, the organization is not only composed of engineers. The organization also has students in the Curry School of Education and the Architecture School.

[Website](#)  
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## Environmental Sciences Organization

The club is open to all students and majors, but is mainly composed of students from the environmental science department. They host weekly meetings that feature guest lectures from professors to share their research, student presentations, have an EVSC textbook sharing network,

and host interactive events around the holidays. They have done stream cleanups and volunteer programming outdoors in the past, as well as hikes and other socials to promote a connected, strong, green community.

[Website](#)

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## Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee

The Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee (ESS), a subcommittee of the University Committee on Sustainability, promotes and enables environmental stewardship via student, staff, and faculty engagement and direct action on Grounds. There are currently 13 working groups and five task forces within the subcommittee.

- **Energy Working Group**
  - The Energy Working Group aims to leverage the enthusiasm and broad expertise of the University community to promote energy conservation and decarbonization on Grounds.
  - More information can be found [here](#).
  - The EWG was looking into Electric Buses at the University, but stopped working because in 2019 UVA purchased a set of natural gas-powered buses.
- **Green Athletics Working Group**
  - Virginia Green Athletics is a student-run group that collaborates with the Office of Sustainability and athletics department to encourage and support sustainability across all athletic platforms. Members volunteer at Green Games and try to educate teams about earning "Green Team Certification" for example.
  - More information can be found [here](#).
- **Materials Working Group**
  - The Materials Working Group is a group underneath the Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee for the Committee on Sustainability.

- They work primarily to reduce and divert material waste at UVA, and have mostly focused on composting up to this point. So far, two trials have been conducted
- They conducted some popup composting by the food trucks and were successful in collecting large amounts of compost.
- Here is a pdf showing more about what they are working on currently:  
[https://sustainability.virginia.edu/sites/sustainability/files/2019-09/Materials\\_Working\\_Group.pdf](https://sustainability.virginia.edu/sites/sustainability/files/2019-09/Materials_Working_Group.pdf)
- Challenges for this group include a lack of student involvement, as well as a lack in consistency of meetings/emails
- A student you can contact in particular about this activity is Sonali Luthar. She was the 2019-2020 co-chair of the group along with the staff co-chair, Jason Snow.
- **Nitrogen Working Group**
  - A lot of the work of the Nitrogen Working Group centers around food, and working with UVA dining to both track the nitrogen footprint of our food as well as find ways to reduce it. This has involved sustainable food labeling as well as encouraging more plant-forward meals.
  - Projects/Initiatives:
    - Use UVA energy data to generate nitrogen emission values for the University.
    - Tracking and measuring the impacts of all Business-related travel at UVA (e.g. conferences, sports teams). The project is now working to minimize the footprint from these trips.
    - Measuring UVA's paper purchasing and estimating the environmental footprints of these purchases.
    - Community Nitrogen Footprint Project
      - Working with the City of Charlottesville and Climate Action Together to calculate the nitrogen footprint for the city
  - [https://sustainability.virginia.edu/sites/sustainability/files/2019-09/Nitrogen\\_Working\\_Group\\_Annual\\_Content.pdf](https://sustainability.virginia.edu/sites/sustainability/files/2019-09/Nitrogen_Working_Group_Annual_Content.pdf)
- **Transportation Working Group**
  - The Transportation Working Group promotes a sustainable, resilient, and multi-modal transportation network at UVA,

- o supporting the University's greenhouse gas reduction goals and enhancing accessibility to Grounds.
- o Find more information [here](#).

Contact: [sustainability@virginia.edu](mailto:sustainability@virginia.edu)  
[Website](#)

## FeelGood at UVA - Food

FeelGood at UVA is a CIO whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty one grilled cheese at a time. We offer gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches through a deli stand in exchange for donations, and then invest the proceeds in FeelGood's four partner organizations that provide sustainable hunger and poverty eradication around the world: The Hunger Project, CHOICE Humanitarian, Water for People, and the Pachamama Alliance.

[Website](#)  
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## Food Law at Virginia Association - Food

The Food Law at Virginia Association (FLAVA) strives to create a network of students, professionals and community members who are interested in creating a more just and sustainable food system. We aim to create a space to engage in dialogue about and take action relating to food law and policy, especially as it relates to global issues such as environmental sustainability, food access, public health and animal welfare.

[Website](#)  
[atUVA](#)

## Global Development Organization - Development

Global Development Organization is the UVA CIO that sparked the founding of the Global Studies department. We strive to foster development-related conversation by bringing together students, professors, and community leaders from across multiple disciplines. We



organize and host 4 large events each year – our Garden Party is in the fall semester and our Application Workshop, Case Competition, and Networking Brunch are in the spring semester. We also facilitate a monthly Dinner Series event in which we invite a professor with an interest in a global-studies field to share their research and experiences with a group of students over free dinner in a more intimate conversational setting. We also work closely with other CIO's and offices on Grounds to communicate events and opportunities via our weekly newsletter.

[Website](#)

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## Global Water Brigades Club at UVA

Global Water Brigades, a discipline of Global Brigades, is a movement of passionate students and professional volunteers from around the world dedicated to improving access to clean water and sanitation. Our students collaborate with water experts and community leaders to create and implement new and innovative solutions to water problems. Along with affiliate groups at other distinguished universities, our UVA team recruits student volunteers and water professionals, gathers supplies, and then travels overseas to work as a water brigade. Currently, the group is working with several impoverished Honduran villages in collaboration with one of their country's most highly regarded nonprofits, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños. The group records data for the production of quantitative reports and works to improve the water, sanitation, and economic infrastructures in underserved villages.

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[Facebook](#)

## Green Frame - Green Buildings

Green Frame is an urban design-build team focused on giving students across all majors experience in hands-on project design from concept to installation by creating sustainable projects. We were established in the fall of 2017. We seek to promote green technology holistically, ensuring that our installations are not only educational, but also interactive and beneficial to the UVA community.

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## Green Greeks - Waste

Green Greeks works on organizing ways to tackle the problems of sustainability in Greek life by providing solutions and implementing sustainable elements into houses and in daily-life on Grounds. Each sorority and fraternity house will have a Green Representative to represent their chapter in Green Greeks. They aim to cultivate a more ecological and socially beneficial mindset among Greek chapters and the surrounding community, inform Greek chapters about other sustainability initiatives and CIOs on Grounds through facilitated communication, thereby working to unify and diversify sustainability at UVA, and implement Cans to Cans in Inter-fraternity houses. They also strive to facilitate Zero Waste Philanthropy events for Greek chapters

Contact: [greengreeksva@gmail.com](mailto:greengreeksva@gmail.com)

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## Green Grounds - Waste

Three committees:

- Sustainaspace - We bring awareness to the benefits of the outdoors on mental health and recently created a green space map recording almost all the green spaces on grounds with descriptions and pictures and we hold a semesterly hike
- Green Corner Consulting - We work with businesses on the corner to reduce their energy use and waste and have helped them save thousands of dollars by becoming more sustainable
- Green Engagements: We plan and hold sustainability-centered events that bring awareness to ways we can improve grounds and inspire people to choose more environmentally sustainable lifestyles. These are all ongoing projects.

[Website](#)  
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## Green Leaders

The Sustainability Committee of Student Council oversees the Green Leaders, an umbrella organization for all the sustainability-oriented organizations on Grounds. Green Leaders meets monthly to share information on projects and find opportunities for collaboration. If you are the leader of an organization on Grounds interested in getting involved with sustainability efforts and are not yet part of Green Leaders, please email [studco-sustainability@virginia.edu](mailto:studco-sustainability@virginia.edu) for more information.

## Greens to Grounds

Mission: We are a non-profit, student-run CSA (community supported agriculture) model bringing fresh, local produce and specialty items to the UVA community. We strive to foster a more sustainable relationship between UVA and Charlottesville food producers. We seek to provide students, faculty, and staff with access to fresh, seasonal, and local food on a weekly basis, while providing local farmers and artisans with dedicated support from the University community. Join us in eating well, supporting Central Virginia farmers, and celebrating local food.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Growing for Change - Food, Green Living

Small groups of students work closely with participating residents in Westhaven public housing to codesign gardens for their backyards; typically these are vegetable gardens, but sometimes residents also want herbs, fruits, and flowers. Growing for Change members build and deliver these gardens free of charge, as well as supplying seedlings. They also provide gardening tools and assist with planting and garden upkeep as needed.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Habitat for Humanity Club at the University of Virginia

On a regular basis, members of the club volunteer on the build-site, at the Habitat Store, and wherever Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville may need them. Beyond this, they put on the Rake-a-Thon in early November and other fundraising events throughout the Fall and Spring Semesters. They participate in World Habitat Day on October 1st, Act! Speak! Build! Week during April, and other initiatives outlined by Habitat for Humanity International throughout the year. However, the most important thing to them as an organization is creating a community of people who care about and want to give back to the University/Charlottesville.

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## Hearts for the Homeless Charlottesville - Food

UVA's Hearts for the Homeless is a CIO that works with food shelters and brings free health screenings to the less fortunate community of Charlottesville!

[atUVA](#)

## HERA Initiative at UVA - Development

The HERA (Health Education for Reproductive Advancement) Initiative at UVA is an organization whose mission is to promote the sustainable development and growth of global, rural communities. In partnership with local community members, we identify issues central to our target communities and provide the resources necessary to implement solutions through extensive field research and on-grounds initiatives. Our chapter at the University of Virginia would strive to partner with local communities and facilitate the implementation of a sustainable public health project in the area of interest.

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## iGem at UVA

We are a student-run research team and synthetic biology interest group. Every year, we select a new team from our pool of applicants; those applicants will participate in the International Genetic Engineering

Machine competition through Spring semester, Summer and Fall. Team members work together to discover problems that can be solved using synthetic biology, design and engineering solutions to those problems, and implement functional prototypes of those solutions that will be presented in October during the iGEM Conference in Boston.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

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## Marine Science Society

The purpose of this organization is to inform the University of Virginia community of marine science happenings. Group events include faculty and professional presentations, hiking trips, weekend visits to the Eastern Shore for whale watching and aquarium exploration, and volunteer work with the Rivanna Conservation Alliance. All the topics of discussion will be related in some manner to marine science.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Net Impact at Darden - Green Business

Net Impact at Darden is a student organization whose mission is to inspire, educate and equip individuals to use the power of business to create a more socially and environmentally sustainable world.

Our members are pursuing careers or initiatives in corporate responsibility, social enterprises, nonprofit management, community and international development and environmental sustainability.

More broadly, Net Impact is a global nonprofit organization with student and professional members that has more than 240 chapters on six continents and thousands of professional, graduate and undergraduate members. Most graduate members are MBA students, but there are also members and chapters in other graduate programs.

Contact information: [netimpact@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:netimpact@darden.virginia.edu)

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Net Impact at UVA - Green Business

Net Impact at the University of Virginia is an organization run by students whose mission is to inspire, educate, and provide individuals with the necessary tools to intertwine business and social impact, creating a more socially and environmentally sustainable world. We focus on creating a positive change on grounds by raising awareness of sustainability careers, offering educational lectures on the importance of social impact in business settings, and giving individuals the opportunity to build relationships with local social impact business leaders. In broader terms, Net Impact is a global nonprofit organization with students and professional members that has more than 240 chapters on six continents and thousands of professional, graduate, and undergraduate members.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Outdoors Club at Darden

The mission of the Outdoors Club at Darden is to bring people with a love for the outdoors together. We organize outdoor trips and activities and champion opportunities to relax, laugh and connect with our community. We believe that interacting outside of the classroom is essential to developing strong connections among the many diverse groups at Darden.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Outdoors Club at UVA

Outdoors at UVA is a group of students and community members united by their desire to enjoy and create community around outdoor activities with friends, while promoting safety and environmental preservation, giving back and developing leadership skills.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Oxfam America Club - Activism

Oxfam is a non-profit global organization working to end the injustice of poverty. Oxfam's approach is about tackling the conditions that cause poverty in the first place, rather than the distribution of material goods. Oxfam's main goal is to provide international relief and development to create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice in communities. Oxfam America Club at the University of Virginia is a campus chapter that supports Oxfam initiatives, raises awareness, and helps local communities in need.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Profit with Purpose (PwP) - Green Business

At Profit with Purpose we teach by doing. Beyond teaching core fundamentals, and connecting members with professionals in the impact investing industry, we hope to simulate the investment process. Our initiative looks for members from all majors, aims at helping beginners and experienced impact investing enthusiasts, and seeks to work closely with all other social entrepreneurship ventures on Grounds. We hope to provide alternative career opportunities for students who are passionate about social, environmental, and financial impact.

Ultimately, PwP is building the impact investing network UVA lacks, and eventually will create a fund alongside our educational program to give members real world experience with investing in mission-driven startups.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

## Project Peanut Butter at UVA - Food

Project Peanut Butter at UVA partners with the international organization Project Peanut Butter (PPB). This global organization aims to alleviate the issue of malnutrition among millions of children. Children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) require fast and efficient attention. The revolutionary therapeutic program provided by Project Peanut Butter currently supports hundreds of thousands of children in sub-Saharan

Africa and other developing countries. With this program, 75-95% of children fully recover from malnutrition compared to the mere 20-40% of children who experience recovery after traditional treatment. Using FDA-approved peanut butter-like compounds, Project Peanut Butter provides nutritional food to children who cannot eat anything else. Clinics have been constructed in Africa for easy family access and informational programs. The main goal of Project Peanut Butter at UVA is to raise funds for the international organization as well as collaborate with similar goal-oriented organizations at UVA to address global public health challenges.

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Solar Car Team - Energy

The Solar Car Team at UVA enables students to obtain hands-on experience in the design, construction, testing, racing, and exhibition of solar cars. Students from all areas of study are invited to join.

Contact: <https://www.solarcaratuva.org/contact-us>

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Sustainability Advocates

The mission of the UVA Sustainability Advocates (SA) Program is to link the Office for Sustainability to the student body and to use our ideas and projects to instill knowledge, empower students, and create sustainable lifestyle changes.

- Sustainable grocery shopping focus for fall of 2019
- Rewarded those who brought reusable bags to the farmer's market while educating those that didn't
- Spring 2019 Campaign: focusing on educating the UVA community on sustainable coffee consumption through tabling events at the dining halls, free coffee for BYOMug participants, and pop-up grounds composting



- the biggest obstacle is working with contracted locations (i.e. Starbucks) with corporate policies that make it hard to put sustainability first.

[Website](#)

## UVA Clean Water

UVA Clean Water, formerly known as Clean Water Working Group, is involved with everything environmental sustainability relating to water. We focus on improving stormwater management practices and the sustainable usage of water at UVA. We host lots of events that are geared at educating students and staff on responsible water use such as the annual Beta Bridge Stream Clean Up and UVA Tap Water Challenge. Students who are interested in water sustainability can get involved by emailing the student chair of the group, Jacob Weitzman at [jkw7dk@virginia.edu](mailto:jkw7dk@virginia.edu).

[Website](#)

## Veggies of Virginia - Food

Veggies of Virginia's goal is to help improve the health of others, the environment, and the lives of all living creatures through the promotion of a plant-based lifestyle. We also aim to provide a community for students interested in plant-based living by hosting cook-offs, potlucks, and other social events. Some of our current projects include setting up volunteer days with local farms and animal sanctuaries, coordinating our second annual Great Vegan Bake-off, and planning a plant-based pledge for Earth week. For students who want to get involved, we have weekly meetings where we try to alternate between bringing in a speaker and planning upcoming events. Students can also come to any of the social events or potlucks, even if they are not able to attend the meetings. We encourage interested students to give a talk on a topic they are passionate about! Student-run lectures we have had in the past covered topics like zero-waste living, nutrition sources, and plant-based living abroad.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Virginia Environmental Law Forum - Activism

A student-run organization focusing on environmental law and issues.

What we do:

- Pro bono environmental law projects with local and national environmental groups
- Hikes, happy hours, and other social events
- Speakers and conferences
- Environmental career panels and mixers
- Promotion of an improved environmental curriculum at the law school
- Community service projects to benefit the environment in and around Charlottesville

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[Facebook](#)

## Virginia Environmental Law Journal

Since 1981, the Virginia Environmental Law Journal has published leading scholarship on environmental, land use, and energy law and policy. We are a student-run organization which publishes three issues per year. Our membership is open to students at the University of Virginia School of Law who participate in the Unified Journal Tryout.

[Website](#)

[atUVA](#)

[Facebook](#)

## Virginia Student Environmental Coalition Charlottesville (VSEC) - Activism

Focused on advocacy, education, and action around intersectional issues of environmental and social justice in our community. There are typically around 20 active members involved at the University of Virginia at one time, but our network extends to over 100 students, and even more state-wide. VSEC has recently been focused on opposing the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines, and on educating ourselves and our community about alternative, sustainable, renewable energy sources. In the past, VSEC has pursued a divestment campaign at UVA. In the spring, they plan to organize an event for Earth Week 2020 and engage in political activism related to bills being considered by the VA General Assembly. To get involved, search for the Virginia Student Environmental Coalition,

Charlottesville on Facebook or @vseccville on Instagram and send them a message! Otherwise, email us at

[virginia-student-environmental-coalition@virginia.edu](mailto:virginia-student-environmental-coalition@virginia.edu).

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

## WriteClimate - Activism

WriteClimate is an organization of students dedicated to promoting climate change awareness through activist and artistic means.

WriteClimate started in 2017 as a course taught by Professor Deborah Lawrence in the spring semester. Since its inception, students in this course have promoted climate awareness on- and off-Grounds by constructing public art displays out of various materials (physical copies of climate science and policy, single-use plastics, etc.). Inspired by Lawrence's message, former WriteClimate students decided to create a club, WriteClimate at UVA, which aims to achieve that which is limited by the scope of a classroom. This includes more politically-oriented activities, like co-hosting climate strikes and divestment rallies. Students at UVA can enroll in Professor Lawrence's course in the spring semester or get involved in the club year-round.

Contact information: Deborah Lawrence - [dlc3@virginia.edu](mailto:dlc3@virginia.edu)

[Facebook](#)

Updated as of: 04/16/2020