

Newsletter



WELCOME!

Thank you for signing up for the BSC Connect: Building Sustainable Connections' quarterly newsletter! We have several exciting announcements inside, as well as a few great events on the calendar.

In The News



Building Sustainable Connections (BSC) has been spotted in a few news publications on the topic of Identifying Greenwashing (Keloland Living) as well as a feature on our Green Business Directory (Sioux Falls Simplified). You may have also caught a feature on our Executive Director in SoDak 350's "Climate Champions" profile, and on Midco's Internal Feature, "Force for Good for Planet Earth". In short: we're starting to pop up everywhere, and we are so excited to bring attention to sustainable businesses in our community! Which ever of these articles brought BSC onto your radar, we greatly appreciate your support.

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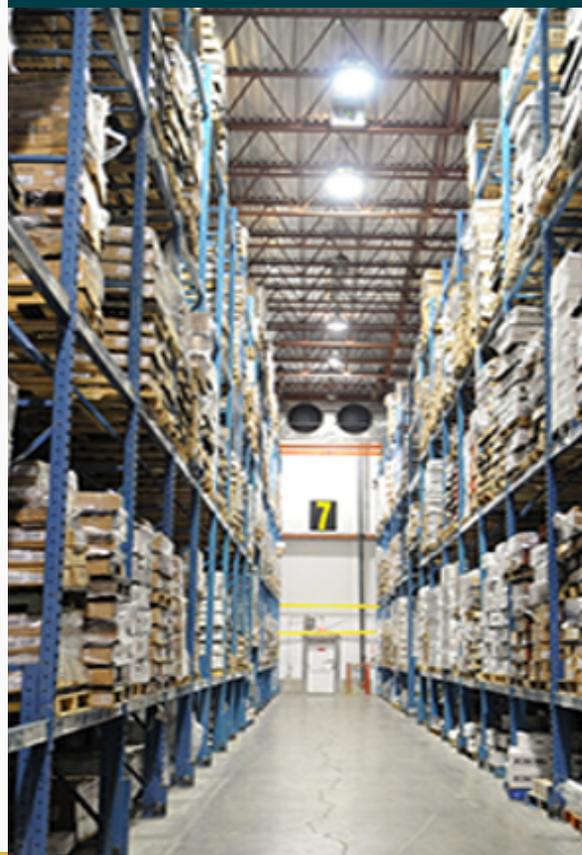
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Newly Certified Organizations



Congratulations to Americold!

Americold is a National brand that holds high sustainability values and encourages its local facilities to create innovative measures to reduce waste and emissions within their community. The Sioux Falls facility has taken this to a new level; providing proof of concept for many innovative energy reduction practices that have also been adopted by Americold National! As energy/power use represents the largest draw from their facility, local General Manager, Eric Smith, noted that he is always seeking to identify new and effective ways to reduce energy consumption. One such measure is the use of well water for the facility's on-site conductor. Here, rainwater collection is used as the primary water source for operational water use. Their onsite system also enables water to be reclaimed three times per draw through a filtration process; minimizing energy use and maximizing water conservation. Americold also stresses the importance of community involvement and preservation through their actions and facility decision-making process. Through an internal Engagement Committee, Americold empowers its employees to make decisions relating to sustainability and community outreach. This has led to group involvement in several local community cleanup and beautification events, prioritizing local small business services for landscaping and cleaning contracts, and participation in local pallet recycling program.



Newly Certified Organizations



Congratulations to Terra Shepherd!

Terra Shepherd is South Dakota's first (and only!) sustainable clothing boutique. The store promotes thoughtfully curated fashion, beauty, and lifestyle products that are held to high ethical and environmental standards. Terra Shepherd has implemented an exceptional model for waste diversion; utilizing recycled shipping and packaging materials, and giving new life to store fixtures and display cases. All single-use products used in the store - from shopping bags to toilet paper - are purchased in bulk and with recycled or tree-free products. With the objective of maximizing the lifecycle of all items, Terra Shepherd takes care to avoid non-recyclable additions, such as stickers, to their packaging. The store also hosts sustainable educational and community outreach events which include workshops on natural botanical clothes dyeing, informational sessions to identify greenwashing, and clothing swaps that ensure unwanted fabrics stays out of the landfill. In addition to making sustainable business decisions, Sara Jamison, store owner of Terra Shepherd, works to source products that are made and packaged sustainably; many of which are created by local makers. She provides information relating to the sourcing, dyeing, creation, and production of many products in the store's inventory within the item description on Terra Shepherd's website. Terra Shepherd emphasizes the importance of small changes with lasting impacts by offering "sustainable swap" events that introduce reusable alternatives to single-use items.



Green Business Tips



WASTE DIVERSION

We put a lot of thought into every section of our Green Business Certification checklist, and one of the areas where organizations of all sizes have the most potential to save costs and discover more sustainable alternatives is with our Waste Diversion section.



In our Waste Diversion section, we have identified thirteen items - ranging from composting food scraps to offering recyclable/compostable alternatives to plastic packaging.

While the image of a compostable "to-go" container may be what comes to mind when first reading "Use of recycled packing/packaging materials", this item allows for a great deal of interpretation as it suits your organization! Americold, for example, participates in a pallet recycling program here in Sioux Falls. The organization manufactures, reconditions, and recycles pallets for reuse, and companies like Americold are able to continually purchase and recycle broken pallets to keep them out of landfills.

For organizations that are limited on outdoor space, there are still great ways to participate in food waste diversion items. Terra Shepherd, for example, noted their storefront's large windows made for an exceptional opportunity to grow herbs and citrus trees for use in employee meals. This provides access to fresh, healthy food without the need for packaging or transportation, and does so at no additional cost to the organization.

Composting is another way to reduce waste and the environmental impact of food scraps in our landfills. If onsite composting is not an option at your facility, consider contributing to an individual's backyard compost operation, reach out to gardening communities, or contact Project Food Forest for more inspiration. Local composting organizations, such as SoDak Compost, make composting accessible to small businesses and individuals in the Sioux Falls area. If your organization generates less than 8 lbs of food waste per week, this may be an option for you for a minimal fee.

Upcoming Events

Green Drinks Networking Event

Presented by Building Sustainable
Connections and Augustana University

October 25th | 6 - 8 PM

Augustana University | Froiland Science Center, Room 114

BuildingSustainableSD.org



25 Oct

River Cleanup Event

29 Oct

Saturday, October 29th | 1 PM - 3 PM
Yankton Trail Park

BuildingSustainableSD.org

Join us to learn about the
City's draft sustainability
plan and provide your input.

Nov. 7, 6-7 p.m., Ronning Library
Nov. 9, 6-7 p.m., Prairie West Library
Nov. 10, 6-7 p.m., Downtown Library
Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m., Calle Library
Nov. 17, 6-7 p.m., Oak View Library



Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE
GO GREEN
to \$AVE GREEN

Learn from energy experts how much your household or business can save by adopting green technologies

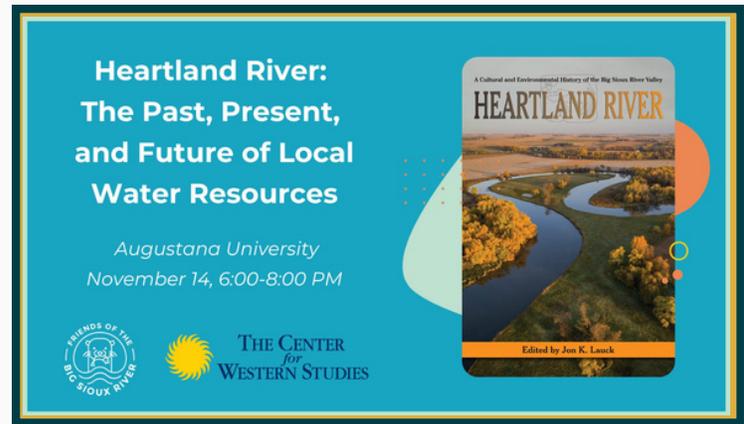
www.sodak350.org

Saturday, Nov. 12
9:30am - 12:30pm
Downtown Library
Sioux Falls

The poster features a blue background with a white wind turbine, a house with solar panels, and a green car. A circular logo in the top left corner contains the number 350.

12 Nov

14 Nov



**Heartland River:
The Past, Present,
and Future of Local
Water Resources**

Augustana University
November 14, 6:00-8:00 PM

Edited by Jim K. Lanch

The poster features a blue background with a photograph of a winding river through a landscape with trees. Logos for Friends of the Big Sioux River and The Center for Western Studies are visible at the bottom.



**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8
8 A.M.-5 P.M.**

Sioux Falls Convention Center
1101 N. West Avenue,
Sioux Falls, SD

**BIG SIOUX RIVER &
SUSTAINABILITY
SUMMIT**

CITY OF SIOUX FALLS SUSTAINABILITY

The poster features a photograph of people kayaking on a river. The City of Sioux Falls Sustainability logo is at the bottom left, and the Summit logo is in the center.

8 Dec

Newsworthy Links



Eastern Iowa Company Assuring Wind Turbine Blades Stay Out Of Landfills

Blades are made of carbon fiber, balsa wood, and composites; making them a suitable alternative additive for cement



This University of Akron Professor is Developing a Biodegradable Plastic

The process is carbon-negative and utilizes reclaimed carbon that already exists in our environment.

We greatly appreciate your support for Building Sustainable Connections and are now offering donor incentives for your tax deductible contributions.

Level 1

Donations of \$25-250
3" sticker



Level 2

Donations of \$251 - 500
3" sticker
20 oz bike bottle



Level 3

Donations of \$501 - 1,000
3" sticker
20 oz bike bottle
Cutlery set



Level 4

Donations > \$1,000
3" sticker
20 oz bike bottle
Cutlery set
Rocketbook Flip
Delivered in a keepsake
gifting box



Donor Incentives

Organizations wishing to sponsor BSC projects are encouraged to inquire with amber@buildingsustainable.org