

## [USFSP Heads West for Sustainability Conference](#)

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*From left: Dylan Canady, Cassidy McGrane, Alyssa Winston, David Vasquez, Brandi Murphy, Leeann Watson*

Six members of the USFSP Student Environmental Awareness Society (SEAS) recently attended the national conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in Portland. The AASHE conference is the largest gathering of higher education sustainability professionals and students in North America, with some 2,000 participants.

“When we found out that the conference was going to be in Portland, we were thrilled to be able to visit such a sustainably progressive city,” said Brandi Murphy, SEAS president. SEAS is the longest running organization at USFSP.

Murphy said there are a number of green efficiencies and technologies that the SEAS group brought back from AASHE, including a food waste digester and biodiesel vehicles. The organization will implement recycling efficiencies on campus during a spring campaign called *Recycle with the Herd, Revitalize the Burg*.

USFSP is a signatory of the American Colleges and Universities President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), said Murphy, which sets the campus apart for its leading role in influencing sustainability in higher education. We have been given a framework in which to implement and monitor our school’s climate action plan, with the hope that within 50 years our campus will become carbon neutral.

“This has fueled our community to build a movement and become stewards of the environment,” Murphy said. “Go Green, Stay Gold!” reads her signature line.

For more info about SEAS, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SEASUSFSP>, or contact SEAS president Brandi Murphy, [brandimurphy@mail.usf.edu](mailto:brandimurphy@mail.usf.edu)