



**WORKING TOWARD a
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | **LIVE GREEN!**

***2025 Symposium on Sustainapalooza
Connecting Community, Empowering Engagement,
Sustaining Our Future***

**LIVE GREEN! AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**

About The Awards

- The Live Green! Initiative encourages all faculty, staff and students to be fully committed to and engaged in making our campus, its operations and initiatives as green and sustainable as possible
- In celebrating the continued growth of the Live Green! Initiative, it is important to also celebrate individual and team excellence that brings the overall success we have accomplished as a university
- These awards recognize Iowa State University faculty, staff and students who are currently making an impact on the campus' sustainability efforts by generating awareness and interest through initiatives that focus on teaching, research, outreach and/or operations
- The Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability recognizes efforts across all aspects of the university, whether faculty, staff, student; individual or team efforts. The awards committee had a difficult task in choosing this year's recipients, since the nominated projects and initiatives were both diverse and impressive. Winning projects were awarded based upon excellence in sustainability efforts and not limited by category
- Nominations were evaluated within six areas: cultural impact, impact on natural resources, economic impact, transferability, legacy to the Live Green! Initiative and sustainability and overall award merit

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2025 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winner

Dr. Rachel Eike, Associate Professor in the Department of Apparel, Events and Hospitality Management



Dr. Rachel Eike has exhibited impressive and persistent commitment to sustainability throughout her career at Iowa State University.

Her passion and expertise related to both sustainable and reusable materials has established a ripple effect in student connection, interest and application in the areas of fiber textiles, wearable technologies and adaptive apparel design.

Most recently, Dr. Eike's research focus has not just included the extended life span of garments and fabrics, but also a sustainable option for final end-of-use. Through an especially unique

immersive classroom experience for graduate and undergraduate students, Dr. Eike has undertaken two landfill diversion research initiatives involving cotton textiles.

First, through inspiration of learning of shredded cardboard being researched as an option for animal bedding, Dr. Eike thought of extending research beyond cardboard fiber to cotton fiber. In collaboration with the Iowa State University Recycling Coordinator, Iowa State University beef farm and area farmers, impressive strides have been made in achieving form and function to ensure a viable, beneficial and value-added product of reused cotton fiber bedding for the agricultural industry. Current focus is in scaling her research toward broader producer reach and herd application.

Second, in true commitment to full-circle sustainability, Dr. Eike has not only committed to sustainability through innovative reuse – she is also equally committed to ensuring the least environmental impact in final disposal. This has been the focus of a series of composting trials currently underway involving different processing and “recipes” for composting end of useful life cotton garments and products – animal bedding or otherwise.

Dr. Eike's deep understanding of the critical role design plays in addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability challenges and opportunities; application of creative and empowering educational strategies for teaching repurposing within the apparel design classroom; and full circle consideration of end-of-life textiles, fully embraces her dedication and commitment toward a sustainable future.

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2025 Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability Winner

Fatemeh Ganji, PhD Candidate in Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering



Fatemeh Ganji has established herself outstandingly as a student sustainability champion here at Iowa State.

Research conducted by Ms. Ganji, “Projected Impacts of Climate Change on Hydrological Extremes in Iowa,” in collaboration with faculty advisors on climate risk and resilience, was developed to assess how climate change will affect future flood and drought risks in the state. Using high-resolution climate projections, the study provides insights into the intensity and frequency of extreme hydrological events, offering valuable information for scientists, policymakers, and community planners.

Within the past year her research results have been incorporated into the Iowa Climate Risk Survey, assisting in the assessment of public perceptions of climate risks and climate justice across Iowa.

Her collective research within climate variability in water resources offers insight and opportunities in informing climate risk awareness efforts, contributing to climate adaptation strategies, increasing public understanding of climate change, and advising the development of resilient infrastructure and policies, within Iowa and well beyond.

In addition to her research commitment, in 2024 Ms. Ganji was chosen as one of 12 Reiman Gardens Science Communication Fellows – an opportunity recruiting not only graduate students, but also faculty, researchers and other science-based professionals. The commitment of time was not insignificant in taking on this opportunity alongside her PhD work; however, Fatemeh took full advantage of the immersive experience: honing her ability to translate complex scientific concepts into accessible and engaging content for diverse audiences, developing innovative communication strategies to foster public understanding of climate change, and overarchingly committing to making science more approachable and impactful.

Ms. Ganji’s sustainability commitment also extends directly to community. She is a dedicated volunteer of the City of Ames Adopt-a-Flower Garden Program and also serves as the President for Iowa State’s Graduate Society of Women Engineers, fulfilling a passion for empowering other women in engineering to build each other up and have a place to support one another. Embracing, inspiring and ensuring a sustainable future.