

Phoenix Sustainability Initiative

QUARTERLY REPORT

PSI Project Groups

2025



Fall Quarter
September-
December
2025





PREFACE

“PSI’s mission is to mobilize UChicago students to advance sustainability on campus and in the broader Chicago community through student-led engagement, advocacy, and awareness projects.”

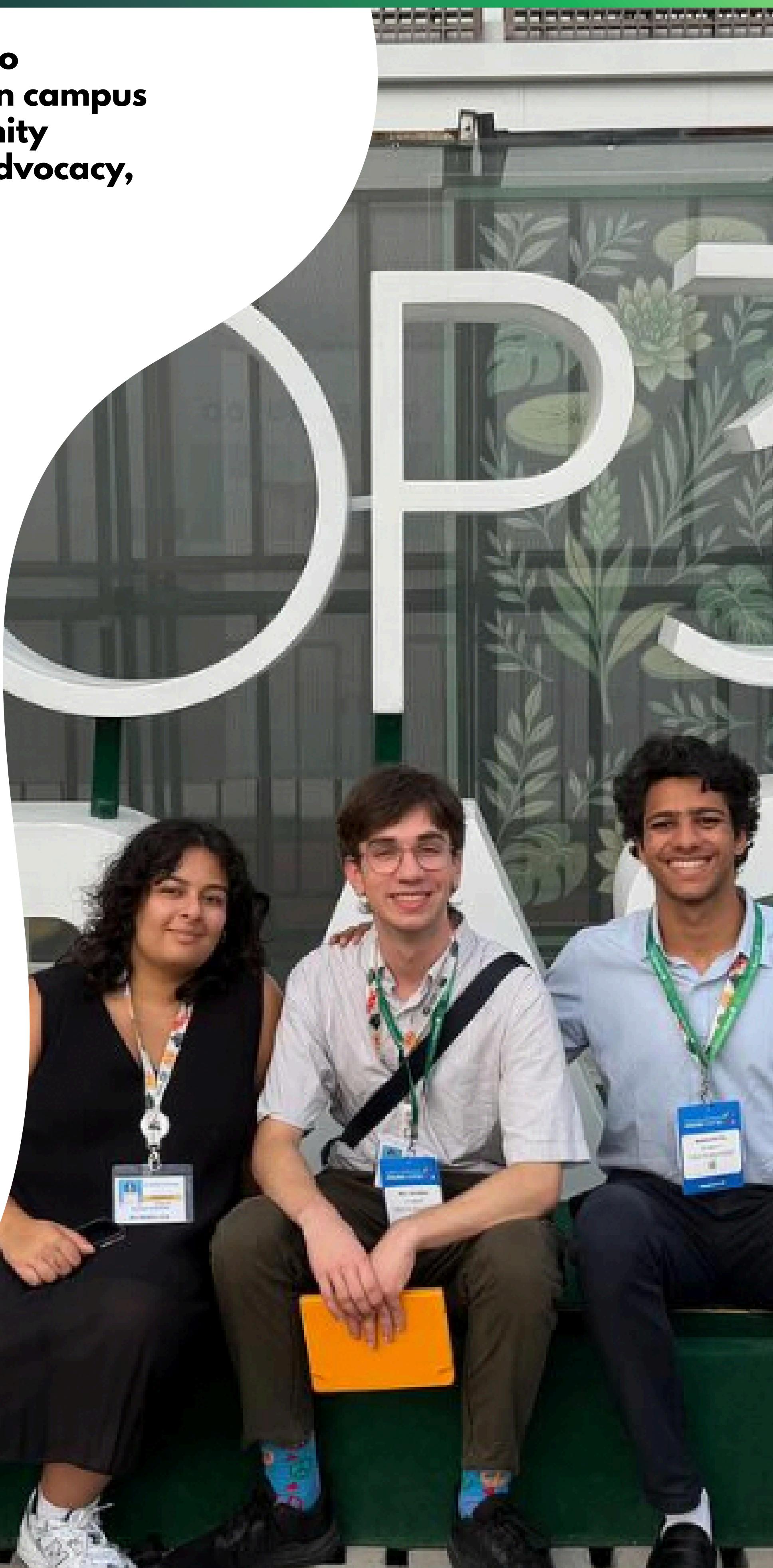
- PSI Constitution, Article II, Section I

Phoenix Sustainability Initiative, or PSI, is the University of Chicago’s largest and student-run sustainability initiative. Meeting weekly on Thursdays, PSI is divided into eight project groups that each address a different issue tied to sustainability and climate change.

PSI is committed to making change both on and off campus at UChicago. We provide services like campus composting to campus residents, and also work with local groups on activities like business assistance and cleanups through project groups like Community Action. We have accomplished a significant amount this fall quarter, and are working on many exciting new projects going into 2026.

This report is meant to provide an overview of what our project groups have accomplished over the course of the 2025 fall quarter. Each section will go over one of the eight project groups, with a brief additional section covering the less formal PSI working groups. Please direct any questions regarding this report to phoenix.initiative.uchicago@gmail.com.

- The PSI Board





CAMPUS COMPOSTING

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Campus Composting aims to fulfill our goal of reducing and diverting food waste from landfills and subsequent environmental impacts. In conjunction with South-side business Urban Canopy, we collaborate and provide composting services to campus departments, RSOs, official and student-run events, and more. We facilitate a subsidy program for off-campus affiliates to compost their personal food waste and continuously work towards more innovative solutions to the University's food waste problem. Through these initiatives, we assist with the implementation of composting infrastructure and increase student awareness surrounding organic waste disposal.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- This quarter, Campus Composting reached an important milestone in its mission by achieving 50,000 pounds of total composted waste since the group's founding.
- Campus Composting partnered with other organizations on campus for six separate events, including SASA's Diwali celebration and the inter-dining hall grill competition.
- Currently Campus Composting is expanding its available infrastructure for its community composting program, moving from one bin to three with the help of the UChicago Green Fund.
- Through the Green Fund, CC now supports composting for all student-run coffee shops.



CAMPUS WASTE REDUCTION

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Purpose: Campus Waste Reduction aims to identify diverse and unaddressed sources of waste generated by the University and find effective strategies to reduce their environmental impact.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CWR held a sustainable reuse event that allows people to swap clothing/household items, ranging from dishware to purses. We held the event in the Bartlett Lounge, and partnered with ReSource, which donated additional items to enhance the swap offerings. The goal of the event was to minimize excessive buying and avoid people throwing out old items they no longer use.
- CWR identified soft plastic to be a common form of waste generated from multiple areas of campus: back-of-house dining facilities, laboratories, dorm mail rooms, and Booth facilities. The project group are currently working to implement a pilot program where we partner with WasteNot, a local compost and recycling pickup organization, to place seven receptables in identified areas of need across campus. The collected materials will be donated to Trex, a company that recycles soft plastic into decking materials. This project was funded through the Green Fund.
- Currently, CWR is working with UChicago Dining and Chartwells to launch a plant-based recipe submission contest to improve sustainable and inclusive dining hall offerings. During Winter Quarter, the contest will open, and selected recipes will be implemented as a Station Takeover in Spring Quarter. The winning recipe, based on student vote, will be added into the regular rotation in the following academic year. The other submissions will be compiled into an online cookbook for students to use, especially while living off-campus.



COMMUNITY ACTION

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Community Action aims to connect students with environmental activism and service organizations across campus, Hyde Park, and the South Side communities. Through immersive and hands-on projects, we strive to build strong and long lasting relationships with members of our community.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CA hosted a recruitment Midway cleanup to involve potential PSI members and current members, while also helping clean the Midway of trash
- CA hosted a cleanup in Jackson park to remove trash.
- CA volunteered to assist with winterizing the outside gardening area for Plant Chicago to help prepare for renovations in the winter



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of Environmental Education is to engage and connect with students in the Chicago Public School System through a curriculum centered around various environmental and sustainable topics. Through lessons, students learn to identify actions they can do in order to have an overall net positive impact on the environment. Beyond the classroom, we attempt to reach a wider audience in the form of written publications and by giving our support to the schools that we partner with.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Environmental education runs weekly teaching sessions for the “Green Teens” program at the Gary Comer Youth Center, as well as at the Ray School, Woodlawn Charter School, and Dulles Elementary School.
- In total, EE members completed 16 blog post entries on the Environmental Education Blog.
- In January, EE will be collaborating with Bennett Day School in order to host a student speaker event.



DIVEST UCHICAGO

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Divest UChicago aims to build infrastructure to support the fossil fuel divestment movement at the University of Chicago from an institutional perspective. We seek to build a broad coalition of student organizations, alumni, faculty, and other stakeholders; engage members of the administration in open communication around divestment; and expand the reach of the campaign through work with media outlets and community organizations.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received tabling permission from the University and began tabling in November.
- Spent fall quarter educating new project group members on the history and status of UChicago's divestment movement in order to hit the ground running in the next quarter.
- Presented to the full PSI membership about the status of the UChicago Divest movement.
- Reached 3000 signatures on the divestment petition through a tabling event at the end of the quarter.



GREEN DATA

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Green Data merges students' passion for environmentalism and data science through substantive member education and member-led research- and consulting-oriented projects. With numerous learning and collaboration opportunities throughout the year, members leverage data to tackle issues of sustainability while developing technical and leadership skills. Using this analytical perspective, we aim to produce and share results that have a tangible impact on UChicago and the community at large.

Bloomberg

Ticker: SHEL LN Equity

Periodicity: Annual

Filing: Most Recent

Enterprise Value

	Restated: 2018 A 2018-12-31	Restated: 2019 A 2019-12-31
For the period ending		
Market Capitalization	240,899.17	232,912.29
- Cash & Equivalents	26,741.00	18,055.00
+ Preferred Equity	0.00	0.00
+ Minority Interest	3,888.00	3,987.00
+ Total Debt	76,824.00	96,424.00
- Adjustments		
Enterprise Value	294,870.17	315,268.29
Total Capital	279,358.00	286,887.00
Total Debt/Total Capital	27.50	33.61
Total Debt/EV	0.26	0.31
EV/Sales	0.76	0.91
EV/EBITDA	5.53	6.10
EV/EBIT	9.45	13.74
EV/Cash Flow to Firm	5.66	7.71
EV/Free Cash Flow to Firm	10.13	17.57
Diluted Market Cap	245,546.87	240,477.30
Diluted Enterprise Value	296,786.82	316,834.86
EV per Share	36.00	40.12
Reference Items		
Trailing 12 Month Values for Ratios	No	Yes
IFRS 16/ASC 842		

ONGOING FALL PROJECTS

- Green Data is currently working on a project analyzing campus waste patterns across multiple dining halls. The issue of interest is food waste in UChicago's dining operations, specifically how effectively current systems—an Eco-Digester and a newly installed Compost Accelerator—are diverting waste from landfills.
- Another GD project seeks to explore ESG and corporate finance. It seeks to evaluate (1) whether U.S. corporations have scaled back their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments following recent political shifts, particularly since Trump's return to office in 2025, and (2) how such retrenchment correlates with financial performance and real environmental outcomes.
- One project seeks to explore the use of Emissions Trading Schemes (ETS) to abate particulate emissions in developing countries, following a pilot study conducted in the Indian state of Gujarat. It seeks to evaluate where else in India this ETS might be applicable, based on local air quality, emissions and state resources. We will conduct an extensive literature review of the emissions regulatory landscape in India and compare the effectiveness of common regulatory policies such as command and control to ETS.
- Finally, another project seeks to explore patterns of plastic pollution through the lens of plastic pellet (nurdle) distribution across U.S. states and territories, using insights from the International Plastic Pellet Count 2025 report on a global citizen science effort to quantify the extent of pre-production plastic pellet pollution.



SCIENCE, ART, AND SUSTAINABILITY

PURPOSE STATEMENT

SAS seeks to bridge PSI to the general student body and grow the sustainability movement on campus by using media and the arts to render scientific research accessible and draw attention to environmental issues.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Science, Art, and Sustainability led tours of different labs at UChicago covering sustainability-related fields for PSI members.
- SAS raised \$270 from a poster sale ran for fundraising.
- Currently, SAS is in the process of collecting EcoBricks-- condensed bricks made of trash that can be repurposed.
- SAS is in the process of planning a workshop on mending personal items which will be accessible to the broader campus community.
- Finally, SAS is also planning a trip to the UChicago Field Station in Warren Woods, Michigan as opportunity to observe and document the dynamics of the Warren Woods ecosystem.



GREEN PARTNERSHIPS

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Green Partnerships empowers our members to promote sustainability by partnering with local businesses and nonprofits in projects advocating for sustainable practices. Along the way, our members develop and strengthen their skills in partnership formation, research and analysis, and sustainability consulting—implementing tangible green practices in their community.



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- This quarter, GP shadowed and gathered info from different labs on campus on their lab practices (Rowan Lab, Greenberg Lab, McCoy Lab), coming up with a proposal for switching to more sustainable practices, Glove recycling, plastic waste, solvent usage, energy usage (such as from greenhouse lights), etc.
- GP is organizing an on-campus book fair inspired by the classic Scholastic Book Fair, but adapted for the UChicago community. The event will be in collaboration with the Harper Library working group to give away books for free at the event, setting up tables for each category (i.e. course books, foreign languages, science, history, etc.).
- With the help of the operations manager at Urban Rivers, Green Partnerships has involved themselves in the grant writing process to potentially gain funding for project expansion regarding equitable access to nature in Chicago.



WORKING GROUPS



FALL QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Currently, there are two main working groups running through PSI:

- **Harper Library Working Group:** The Harper Library Groups aims to sort the thousands of books in the basement of Harper Library and shelve them so that they are available in the actual library. The group has met twice weekly throughout the quarter. Currently, the Working Group is partnering with Green Partnerships to organize a book fair with books from the Harper book collection. Thus far, the group has shelved 30,000 books.
- **Case Competition Working Group:** The Case Competition Working Group is currently planning PSI's annual case competition, in which students compete to present cases to solve a thematic problem that changes every year. The working group has secured prize funding and is now working on securing organizational partners for the event.
- **Fundraising Working Group:** The fundraising working group is a new PSI working group dedicated to securing financial resources for larger future projects. Currently, the groups is working on filing the permissions required to start fundraising from UChicago Alumni.



SOCIALS



PSI hosts a variety of social events for its members. Some socials that we have run during the fall quarter period were our start of quarter social, the Environmental Education polar plunge social, the "Big Soup" social (involving soup, believe it or not), and the Secret Santa event which transpired during PSI's final meeting of the quarter.

