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### **University of Texas at Austin and Huston-Tillotson University Named Winners of Inaugural College Sports Sustainability Makeover Contest**

Houston, TX (June 30, 2016)—The University of Texas at Austin and Huston-Tillotson University were announced today as the two inaugural winners of the College Sports Sustainability Makeover Contest at the Green Sports Alliance Summit in Houston.

The contest is designed to highlight college athletics' unique and powerful impact on community sustainability; to influence fans' sustainability behaviors where they live, work, and play; and to boost college sports' sustainability capacity.

Contest sponsors Max-R, Greendrop Recycling, Eco-Products, EcoSafe Zero Waste, and the University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Center provided prizes and support packages valued at over \$50,000 for each winning campus. Contest partners included the Green Sports Alliance and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

"The Makeover Contest was an overwhelming success as proven by the number of high quality submissions and the outstanding leadership of the two winning campuses," said Scott Jenkins, Chair of the Green Sports Alliance Board of Directors. "College sports has distinguished itself as a sustainability leader capable of using its cultural and market influence to promote healthy, sustainable communities. We all win in that game."

The small-campus category winner, Huston-Tillotson University (HT), a 141-year-old historically black institution, will receive ten new custom recycling and compost collection cabinets from Greendrop Recycling, a supply of compostable foodware from Eco-Products, a supply of compostable compost bags from EcoSafe Zero Waste, and on-site sustainability assistance from University of Colorado Boulder technical experts.

HT set itself apart from a strong field of 48 campus entries. HT has a robust commitment to sustainability in operations and curriculum as influenced by the HT Center for Sustainability and

Environmental Justice and HT's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2048. Additionally, HT has an active student-led group, Green is the New Black, which seeks to promote understanding and action of sustainability issues as they impact minority stakeholders. HT also seeks to engage its students in all aspects of sustainability by linking understanding of resource stewardship across all of its academic and athletics activities.

In the large-campus category, the University of Texas at Austin (UT) will receive ten customized waste and recycling bins from Max-R, a supply of compostable foodware from Eco-Products, and on-site assessments from University of Colorado Boulder sports sustainability staff.

UT-Austin's implementation of sustainability across many sports, not just their marquee programs, keyed its win by showing that even the biggest college athletics programs can implement comprehensive, large-scale sustainability efforts.

UT-Austin also aligns athletics' sustainability goals and actions with those of the campus and the City of Austin. That ongoing excellence and the transparency of campus' and athletics' sustainability efforts are disclosed in UT-Austin's STARS report and are committed to in the Campus Sustainability Master Plan.

Together, this leadership model demonstrates how a very large, research-intensive university can integrate sustainability across all facets of campus life including athletics and then leverage the power of college sports to expose the Longhorn's many fans to the benefits of sustainability principles and practices.

### **About the College Sports Sustainability Contest**

Winning campuses were chosen on the basis of need, suitability, leverage, and likelihood of success. Contest entries were received from 48 campuses in 24 states, including all campus types and athletics affiliations. This first of its kind contest ran from March to June 2016.

Contest sponsors and partners include [Max-R](#), [GreenDrop Recycling](#), [Eco-Products](#), [EcoSafe Zero Waste](#), the [University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Center](#), the [Green Sports Alliance](#), and the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#).

### **About the Green Sports Alliance**

The Green Sports Alliance leverages the cultural and market influence of sports to promote healthy, sustainable communities where we live and play. The nonprofit does so by inspiring sports leagues, teams, venues, their partners, and millions of fans to embrace renewable energy, healthy food, recycling, water efficiency, species preservation, safer chemicals, and other environmentally preferable practices. Alliance members represent more than 370 sports teams and venues from 20 different sports leagues and 14 countries. Visit [greensportsalliance.org](http://greensportsalliance.org) for more information.