



# THE FELLOWSHIP

The **Molloy University Partnership for Global Justice Fellowship** is committed to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and requires the fellow to become familiar with each of the UN goals, especially as they pertain to Long Island. The Fellowship also necessitates the fellow to select a goal and undertake a project to address that goal locally.

This semester's fellowship recipient, Nina Scanze, recognized the relationship between two of the U.N. Goals: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11) and Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12) and set out to research both goals in order to educate the public and her peers at Molloy on the importance of each goal and how individual and combined actions can have a significant impact in addressing issues of sustainability. Initially, Nina had decided to conclude her fellowship project by preparing a comprehensive report that documented Molloy's waste production, with a particular emphasis on the generation of plastic waste. The aim was to present this report to the President's office, with the objective of instigating change and expanding recycling efforts. However, Nina's plans changed when a new opportunity presented itself. This new endeavor will be elaborated on in this report at a later stage.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## FELLOW PROFILE



### **NINA SCANZE** **Senior** **Biology with a minor in** **Environmental Sciences**

- Vice Chair of Molloy Student Government Sustainability Committee
- Student Representative, Molloy University Laudato Si' Action Plan Committee
- Intern, Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways
- Molloy University Resident Assistant
- Member of EARTH and NATURE club at Molloy University
- Orientation Leader and Student ambassador at Molloy
- Representative of Mental Health and Wellness on Molloy Student Government
- “Green Champion” of sustainability efforts at WildPlay Element Parks Jones Beach
- Member of the National Society of Leadership and Success
- Winner of the Nassau Zone Physical Education award for leadership

# IN NINA'S OWN WORDS

## INTRODUCTION:

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Being awarded the honor of returning as the recipient of Molloy University's Partners for Global Justice Fellowship for Spring of 2023 filled me with immense gratitude. This prestigious opportunity allowed me to delve deeper into an issue that had been a persistent concern on campus: the absence of a plastic recycling program. Determined to make a tangible difference, I decided to focus my research on a narrower and more localized scale, specifically addressing Molloy University's need for such a program.

The lack of plastic recycling facilities on our campus has been a source of frustration for both students and faculty members. Considering our significant contribution to waste in Rockville Centre, it seems incongruous that a university of our size has not yet implemented a comprehensive recycling initiative. Throughout my investigation, I discovered that there are indeed various technical obstacles hindering the establishment of a recycling program in partnership with Rockville Centre, including limited resources and manpower. However, armed with a sense of purpose and driven by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goals 11 and 12, I am confident that I can leave a legacy by prioritizing a recycling initiative before my graduation in 2024.

By focusing on Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11) and Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), I am aligning my efforts with global sustainability



objectives. Implementing a plastic recycling program on Molloy University's campus would not only reduce our environmental impact but also inspire and educate our community about responsible waste management practices. I believe that by addressing the technical challenges head-on, rallying support from fellow students and faculty, and collaborating with local stakeholders, we can overcome the hurdles and make significant progress towards a greener and more environmentally conscious university. It is my fervent hope that future generations at Molloy University will continue to build upon this initiative, making it an integral part of our institution's commitment to sustainability and global justice.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

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During my time as a student at Molloy, I have witnessed Molloy's increasing focus on sustainability. The establishment of the Sustainability Institute, the implementation of white paper recycling across campus buildings, and the dedication to Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical and its associated initiatives are just a few of Molloy's accomplishments in reducing our carbon footprint. However, there are areas where Molloy University could enhance its efforts, particularly in waste reduction and sustainable disposal. As I spend most of my time on campus, I was disappointed to discover that Molloy does not recycle plastic. Nevertheless, this did not deter my desire for improvement. While I understand that plastic recycling alone cannot solve our climate crisis, minimizing plastic waste and appropriately disposing or reusing plastic materials play a significant role in the climate movement and represent

a crucial step that most organizations can take to reduce their carbon footprint. If we argue that plastic utensils must remain in on-campus eateries for accessibility reasons, then recycling the plastic bottles and aluminum cans that accompany them should be the least we can do. The University acknowledges this issue, yet it seems unable or perhaps unwilling to make an official change. Despite numerous discussions with administration and facilities officials over the past three years, recycling on campus has been dismissed with statements like, "It's currently not feasible, but we are actively working towards it," despite the overwhelming support for such a program from students and faculty. In Laudato Si committee meetings, I was informed that recycling would be addressed towards the end of our "6-year plan of action." Uncertain about where to start, I knew that I wanted to be part of the change, even if the school resisted.

## METHODS AND EXECUTIONS:

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Armed only with my passion and limited outreach capabilities, I began expressing my concerns about the absence of campus recycling to individuals who I believed could assist me in my mission. Together with my advisor, Demosthenes Maratos, I devised a plan to leverage my platform as a Fellow to address administration officials at Molloy University and voice our collective concerns about the lack of a plastic recycling program, along with the reasons why it should be implemented. Initially, our plan involved creating a comprehensive report on Molloy's plastic production and waste consumption, which we intended to present to President

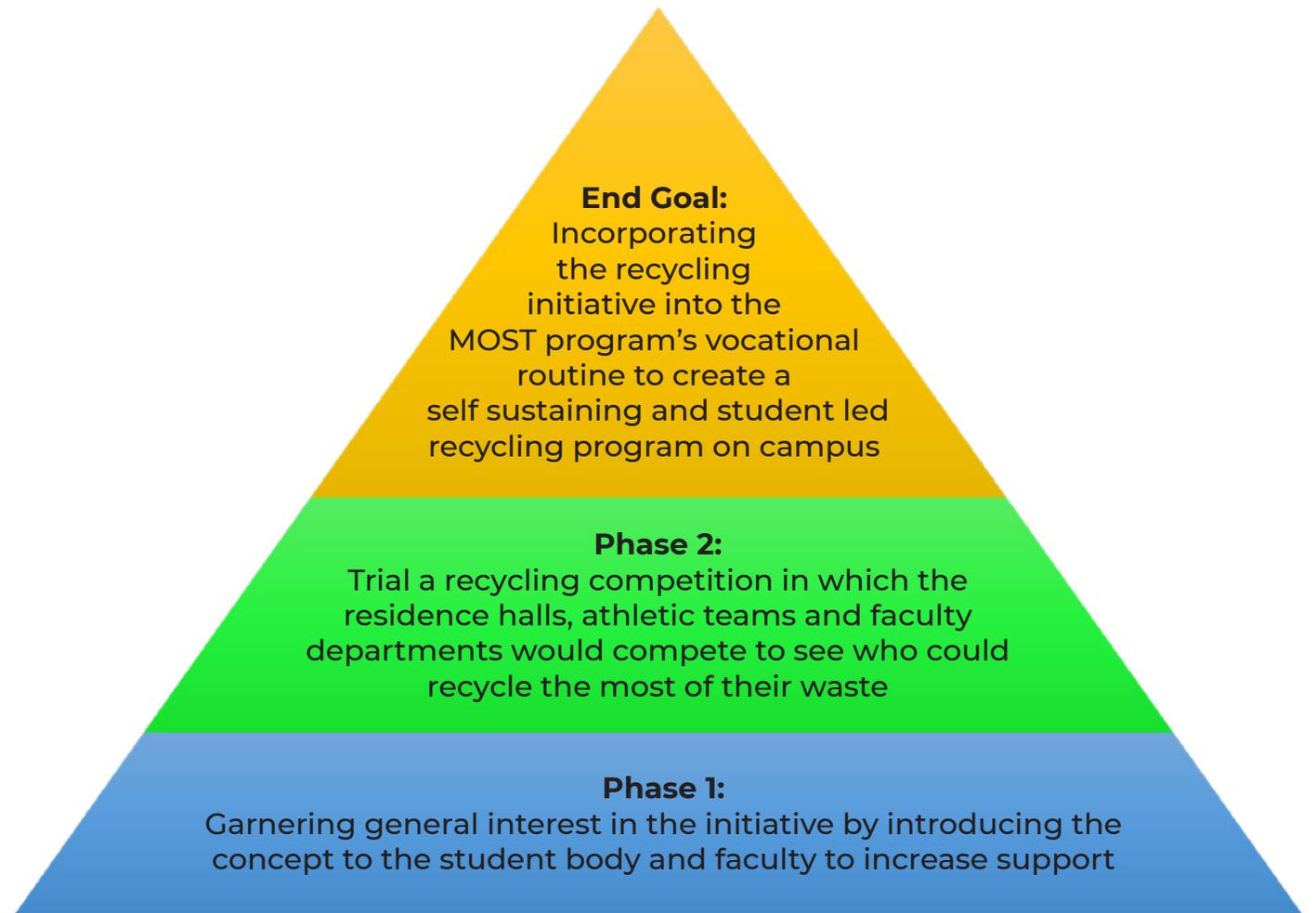
Lentini to initiate change. Although this plan may still come to fruition in the future, an unexpected opportunity presented itself that I couldn't overlook.

Jeannine Perrin, an administrative assistant at the Rebecca Center for Music Therapy, approached Demosthenes and me regarding my Fellowship work and proposed the idea of starting a student-led recycling initiative on campus. Collaborating with Jeannine, we developed a recycling initiative that would be difficult for higher administration to reject. The ultimate objective of our plan is to establish a recycling program led by students and faculty within each facility on campus.

We intend to place our own recycling bins throughout the campus and involve students from Molloy's Opportunity of Successful Transitions program to participate in recycling activities as part of their vocational training. To kickstart our efforts, we enlisted the help of enthusiastic students, faculty, and administration on campus, forming a group we proudly named Molloy C.A.R.E.S., which stands for Commitment and Responsibility Earth Stewards. Our group includes Jeannine, Demosthenes, and me, along with Carlos Dos Santos, the Assistant Director of Campus Life, Kelly Sacco, the Assistant Director for Communications, and Elizabeth Hertler, a student and President of the NATURE club. Molloy C.A.R.E.S. convened on consecutive Fridays to discuss our action plan for establishing an entirely independent recycling



initiative for Molloy University. We are currently in the process of developing several stages for our initiative, which are outlined below.



# CAPACITY BUILDING, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:



As part of our initiative, we have developed different incentives for each phase to encourage participation from the Molloy community. One such example is our partnership with the Molloy

Student Government's Sustainability committee, which I am proud to now chair. Together, we hosted a biannual thrift store event on campus, which helped to raise \$400 for Molloy C.A.R.E.S. This money will be used to purchase recycling separation lids that will be placed on garbage cans in every department and residence hall during our recycling competition in Phase 2. During the competition, we plan to engage residents,

athletes, and faculty in the recycling effort by offering prizes to those who recycle their day-to-day waste. Each department will select one member to oversee their recycling efforts for the week and then return the earnings from any bottle deposits to Molloy C.A.R.E.S.

We believe that these incentives will be instrumental in driving interest and participation in our recycling initiative. By partnering with the Sustainability committee and hosting a successful fundraising event, we have already seen a significant increase in awareness and support for our cause. We are optimistic that this momentum will carry over into Phase 2, where we plan to implement a fun and engaging recycling competition that will inspire the Molloy community to embrace sustainable practices. Through this initiative, we hope to create a culture of sustainability and responsibility at Molloy University that will endure long into the future.

MSG Sustainability Committee Presents:

**Campus Wide Thrift Shop**

April 26th, 2023  
12pm-4pm  
Public Square Patio

Any Questions?  
Contact Nina Scanze at  
nscanze@fions.molloy.edu

Proceeds will be going towards an environmental movement



## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

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1. Successful implementation of Phase 2: With the diligent planning and attention to detail invested in Phase 2, there is a strong possibility of its successful execution. This could lead to the achievement of significant milestones and tangible progress towards the initiative's goals. We are hopeful that this project will allow Molloy University to see improved sustainability practices, enhanced environmental impact, and increased awareness and participation within the Molloy community.

2. Timely and impactful results: The assertion that the initiative's goals will have quicker outcomes than the Laudato Si 6-year action plan suggests a sense of efficiency and effectiveness in the strategies employed. Additionally, since this project will be entirely community led, it could lead to future projects that circumvent some of the barriers that have been seen blocking sustainability efforts the past. As a result, the anticipated outcomes might be achieved within a shorter timeframe, delivering tangible benefits and visible changes. These outcomes could include reduced waste, increased recycling

rates, heightened energy efficiency, and an overall more sustainable and eco-friendly campus environment.

3. Long-term impact and legacy: My desire and commitment to bringing expanded recycling efforts to Molloy University before graduating, combined with the support and resources provided by the fellowship, sets the stage for a lasting impact. The projected outcomes will extend beyond the completion of the Fellowship itself. By creating a more sustainable Molloy University, I can establish a foundation for future generations of students to build upon. This legacy could inspire a culture of sustainability, leading to ongoing improvements in environmental practices, increased awareness, and continued efforts to make a difference. It is my goal to leave Molloy University better than I found it, and I believe we are one step closer to accomplishing that.

While these outcomes are speculative, they highlight the potential positive effects that could result from an ongoing initiative, my intended goals, and the support they have already received.

## FUTURE PLANS AND FOLLOW-UPS:

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We have been actively working on refining the specifications and logistics for Phase 2, and although we haven't finalized all the details yet, we are eagerly looking forward to its commencement in the Fall of 2023. As we continue to develop this initiative, it is evident that our goals will yield results at a faster pace compared to the comprehensive six-year action plan outlined in Laudato

Si. This realization fills me with immense encouragement and motivates me to keep making a meaningful impact.

One of my paramount aspirations before graduating is to bring about significant advancements in recycling efforts at Molloy. With the invaluable platform and resources afforded to me through this Fellowship,

I firmly believe that I am edging closer to realizing this goal. The support, education, and the remarkable platform provided by the Fellowship have instilled in me a profound sense of gratitude. I am immensely thankful for these opportunities, and I remain resolute

in utilizing the knowledge and connections I have gained to forge a more sustainable future for Molloy University. With unwavering dedication, I am determined to transform my vision into reality and make a lasting difference in our community.

## PERSONAL IMPACT:

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The support, education, and connections offered by the Fellowship have been instrumental in my personal and professional development. These transformative elements have equipped me with invaluable experiences and knowledge that extend far beyond the immediate scope of the Fellowship. As I continue to grow and evolve, I am increasingly empowered to make a broader impact in the realm of sustainability.

One of the projected outcomes of this transformative journey is my emergence as a passionate advocate for sustainability. Armed with the insights and understanding gained through the Fellowship, I am equipped to raise awareness about pressing environmental issues and champion sustainable practices. Through various platforms such as social media, public speaking engagements, and community events, I can effectively communicate the importance of adopting eco-friendly lifestyles and inspire others to act.

Moreover, the knowledge and expertise acquired during the Fellowship allow me to serve as an educator and mentor to others. By sharing my experiences, insights, and practical tips, I can empower individuals and communities to make sustainable choices in their everyday lives. Whether it's through

organizing workshops, leading training sessions, or participating in educational programs, I can contribute to building a more environmentally conscious society.

Beyond the boundaries of Molloy University, the Fellowship has instilled in me a sense of responsibility and commitment to environmental causes on a larger scale. I am motivated to extend my efforts beyond the campus, collaborating with like-minded organizations, NGOs, and government agencies to drive positive change. This may involve participating in regional or national initiatives, advocating for policy changes, or engaging in projects that tackle global environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, or biodiversity loss. I will use the skills I learned through this fellowship towards my future career in environmental studies.

In summary, the Fellowship's support, education, and connections have not only shaped my personal growth but have also empowered me to become an agent of change in the realm of sustainability. As an advocate, educator, and active contributor to environmental causes, I aspire to create a lasting impact that extends far beyond the confines of the Fellowship, making a positive difference in the world.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The *Sustainability Institute at Molloy University* acknowledges the generous endowment to establish the **Partnership for Global Justice Fellowship at Molloy University** and is very proud to be administering this unique opportunity for Molloy students. Since its establishment, this competitive fellowship generated quite a bit of interest from many worthy applicants, and in keeping with Molloy's mission, has provided a meaningful student experience while contributing directly to the identification of approaches to ending, or at least mitigating, environmentally or socially damaging decision-making on Long Island.

