**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tips:**

* Participate or volunteer in Ames, Story County, and ISU community events
* Provide educational outreach to the community
* Host a drive to collect items for the community, such as a food drive or clothing drive
* Showcase sustainability initiatives and features of your business by interacting with customers online through social media and website engagement
* Be a mentor in your industry by implementing an internship program or taking part in a career fair

**Examples in Smart Businesses:**

* Danfoss is a participant in the ISU Career Fair and offers internship opportunities
* McFarland Clinic hosts a Day of Caring, encouraging employees to volunteer in the community
* Nelson Electric partners with the Construction Engineering program at ISU to create a capstone project for electrical systems
* Wheatsfield Cooperative puts on community classes, as well as community “Stash the Trash” events
* The Loft and Duck Worth Wearing sponsor ISU events and organizations, such as the Triathlon Club, The Fashion Show, and TREND magazine

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Community Opportunities**

* *Adopt-A-Stream with Ames Smart Watersheds*
	+ Help keep our local streams clean by participating in trash removal events 2-3 times a year. More information can be found at [SMART WATERSHEDS AND REBATES | City of Ames, IA](https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/stormwater-program/smart-watersheds)
	+ Contact Liz Calhoun at 515-239-5575.
* *United Way Day of Caring* (September)
	+ United Way hosts an annual event where community members participate in service throughout the community. Get involved here: <https://www.uwstory.org/day-of-caring>.
* *YSS*
	+ YSS has many opportunities to get involved, from volunteering at events to joining the mentorship program. Opportunities can be found on their website, <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/sign-up-to-volunteer/>.
* *Food at First*
	+ Sign up to serve a meal at Food at First here: <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/sign-up-to-volunteer/>
* *Reiman Gardens*
	+ Throughout the year, Reiman Gardens has many opportunities to get involved, from Pumpkin Carving to planting and more. More information can be found at <https://www.reimangardens.com/volunteers/>.

**Iowa State Events**

* *Sustainapalooza & the Symposium on Sustainability* (February)
	+ Sustainapalooza and the Symposium on Sustainability are annual ISU events, working to promote sustainable opportunities and initiatives to students.
	+ More information can be found at <https://www.livegreen.iastate.edu/take-action/green-events/sustainapalooza>.
* *Earth Day* (April 22)
	+ Partner with the Iowa State community to celebrate ISU’s sustainability initiatives, organizations, and accomplishments.
	+ More information can be found at <https://www.livegreen.iastate.edu/take-action/green-events/earth-day>.
* *College Creek Cleanup* (June)
	+ As a celebration of National Rivers Month in June, volunteers from campus and the Ames Community team up to clean up trash in the main waterway through campus, College Creek.
	+ More information can be found at <https://www.livegreen.iastate.edu/take-action/green-events/college-creek-cleanup>.
* *Rummage RAMPage* (Beginning of August)
	+ Rummage RAMPage is an annual community event with the goal of keeping reusable items out of the landfill. All items are donated, with the profit going to local non-profit agencies and organizations.
	+ More information can be found at <https://www.cityofames.org/living/rummage-rampage>.

**Other Volunteer Resources**

* *Volunteer Center of Story County*
	+ The Volunteer Center of Story County strives to make a connection between those in need and businesses like yours searching to give back to the community.
	+ Contact director@vcstory.org for ideas and connections!
* *City of Ames Calendar*
	+ Stay up to date on what’s happening in the Ames community, found at <https://www.cityofames.org/about-ames/calendar-of-events>.
* *Ames Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar*
	+ The Ames Chamber of Commerce provides a calendar of yearly events that occur within the community, which can be found at <https://web.ameschamber.com/events>.
* *Think Ames Calendar*
	+ The Think Ames Calendar can help to keep your business updated on local events happening in the community, giving many opportunities for participation in community events! The calendar can be found at <https://www.thinkames.com/events/>.
* *Story County Conservation Calendar*
	+ Get involved in county conservation efforts through the Story County Conservation Center! Events can be found at <http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=41>.
* *Reiman Gardens Calendar*
	+ Reiman Gardens is a great way to volunteer or relax! Events can be found at <https://www.reimangardens.com/events/>.

**Donation Opportunities**

**United Way of Story County**

LIVE UNITED Campaign is a way for businesses to invest in our county by meeting the basic service needs of the people of Story County. Money raised goes to support over 90 programs in Story County, focusing on 3 impact areas of health, education, and financial stability. More information can be found on <https://www.uwstory.org/>.

**Food at First**

Food at First is a local non-profit organization that aims to reduce food insecurity in Ames. They host a daily free meal, open to the community, as well as a food bank. More information can be found at <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/financial-donations/>.

**Students Helping Our Peers (SHOP)**

SHOP serves the ISU campus by increasing hunger awareness and food security. The SHOP is an on-campus food bank, run completely by volunteers and donations. More information can be found at <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/shop-foodpantry-2011/new-page-1622736752565>.

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Opportunities within the Ames Community**

* **Ames Farmers Market** ($500-$5000 sponsorship options)
	+ More information can be found on <https://www.ameschamber.com/programs/building-relationships/sponsorship-opportunities>.
* **Main Street Ames Beautification Projects** ($1000)
	+ Projects can include landscaping, flowerbeds, signage maintenance, mural touch ups, etc.
	+ More information can be found on <https://www.ameschamber.com/programs/building-relationships/sponsorship-opportunities>.
* **Community Events** ($2000-$3000)
	+ Bringing the community together through supporting events such as Sidewalk Sales, Art Walk, etc.
	+ More information can be found on <https://www.ameschamber.com/programs/building-relationships/sponsorship-opportunities>
* **Investment in Downtown Ames** ($250-$2500)
	+ More information can be found on <https://www.amesdowntown.org/get-involved-invest>.
* **Adopt a Flower Garden**
	+ Contact Joe Newman at joe.newman@cityofames.org
	+ More information can be found on <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/parks-recreation/park-system>.
* **Sponsorship of Ames youth sports**
	+ Contact Ben Flaherty at ben.flaherty@cityofames.org.
* Sponsor Ames High sustainability club
	+ CAUSE - Citizens Actualizing and Understanding Sustainable Environments
	+ CARE - Compost and Recycling for the Environment
	+ Contact - Collin Reichert at collin.reichert@ames.k12.ia.us or ameshigh.cause@gmail.com
	+ More information can be found at <https://www.ameshighweb.com/showcase/2018/04/04/a-good-cause/>

**Opportunities to Sponsor a Club at Iowa State**

* *ISU BioBus*
	+ BioBus works to recycle waste vegetable oil from ISU campus dining facilities into biodiesel fuel that powers CyRide buses. The main goal of the organization is to increase sustainability efforts at Iowa State, however, the underlying emphasis is to create an experimental learning experience for students.
	+ Contact isubiobus@gmail.com or the club’s advisor, Thomas Brumm, at tbrumm@iastate.edu.
* *Soil and Water Conservation Club*
	+ SWCC promotes soil and water education, as well as conservation.
	+ Contact rlmuench@iastate.edu.
* *Trend Magazine*
	+ Trend is a student-run publication, with a focus on fashion in the Iowa State Community. This organization serves as an opportunity for students to gain experience in fashion, advertising, public relations, design, photography, and more.
	+ Contact the club’s advisor, Christine Wise, at clwise@iastate.edu.
* *PrISUm: Iowa State University Solar Car Team*
	+ PrISUm works to build innovative solar cars, making an impact on the future of transportation. More information can be found at <https://www.prisum.org>.
	+ Donate at <https://www.prisum.org/support>.
* *Engineers for a Sustainable World*
	+ ESW is an organization founded on the belief that engineers and community members can work together to solve problems in a sustainable way.
	+ Contact the advisor, Kaoru Ikuma, at kikuma@iastate.edu.
* *Ag Systems Technology Club*
	+ This organization works to bring students, industry, and the community together with opportunities in the field of Ag Systems Technology.
	+ Contact the president, Jolynn Nissen, at jmnissen@iastate.edu.
* *Solar Decathlon*
	+ Solar Decathlon is a collegiate level competition, testing students creativity and problem solving skills to design highly efficient, renewable powered, innovative infrastructure.
	+ Contact solardecathlon@iastate.edu or the club’s advisor, Andrea Wheeler, at andrea1@iastate.edu.
* Collegiate Chapter of Pheasants Forever
	+ Iowa State Pheasants Forever works to promote conservation education, restore wildlife habitat, and introduce and advance conservation policy.
	+ Contact the club’s advisor, Thomas Isenhart, at isenhart@iastate.edu.

A full list of sustainability-focused clubs can be found on the Live Green website: <https://www.livegreen.iastate.edu/take-action/student-organizations/environmental-sustainability>

A full list of clubs at Iowa State can be found on the StuOrg website: <https://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/>

**Other Resources**

**Internships**

[Indeed](https://www.indeed.com/hire/c/info/hiring-interns?aceid=&gclid=Cj0KCQjw38-DBhDpARIsADJ3kjnolasjFuFth3dgOt7A1qUJsS_iSnsg1j--hhoe8SAcam3_CWRF_VkaAjMYEALw_wcB) offers a comprehensive guide on how small businesses can structure new internship programs for it to become beneficial for the business and the community participating in the internship.

[Career Fairs • Iowa State University Career Services • Iowa State University (iastate.edu)](https://www.career.iastate.edu/career-fairs/)

**How Sustainability can Help your Business**

Reducing the amount of plastic waste can be a positive influence in the community by being a leader in more green practices. The [Doing Good is Good for Business](https://www.lessplastic.org.uk/for-businesses/) article discusses how businesses can use green initiatives to not only save money but also use these resources to grow their business in a positive way throughout the community.