



SPRING

*When Blue is Green Project  
Newsletter*

2025

## TOP NEWS

- 1 YEAR OF THE AQUAPONICS UNIT
- ALGAE ADDITIONS
- VIRTUAL REALITY TOUR
- EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
- SEMINAR SERIES



## About When Blue is Green (BiG)

The BiG project is a 5-year USDA-funded, Purdue-led research project focused on sustainable agricultural systems. Our goal is to increase local and regional production of nutritious, affordable seafood with a minimal environmental footprint, ultimately diversifying U.S. agricultural systems and dietary patterns.



## ONE FULL YEAR OF GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION

Since the BiG project began in 2023, we have commissioned a pilot-scale aquaponic system on Purdue's campus, with a total operating volume of 600 gallons. To date, we have produced over 300 pounds of microbially safe tilapia and 500 pounds of lettuce.



## ALGAE, TOO!

As we harvest fish and lettuce, we have also been harvesting algae! After careful experimentation, we have successfully developed a method to efficiently produce algae for value-added product extraction.

FOLLOW FOR MORE CONTENT!





## BiG SEMINAR SERIES

In Fall 2024, we kicked off our first semester of the seminar series! Three P.I.s from different disciplines provided updates to various campus participants on their ongoing research within the BiG project. This Spring, we have three more presentations, with the final one at the end of April! Keep an eye out for more information.



## VIRTUAL REALITY GREENHOUSE TOUR

Our virtual reality tour of the aquaponics facility offers an interactive experience, providing information on all aspects of the unit. This enables the BiG Team to deliver a more immersive learning experience at conferences for both consumers and attendees.

**Aquaponic greenhouse exploration!**

In this immersive experience, you will explore the BiG aquaponics system, designed with the goal of obtaining a zero-waste system. This educational tour will guide you through the various components of the system, highlighting essential food safety practices and tips to ensure the highest quality and safety of the fish and plants.

SYSTEM

PLANT

FISH

FOOD SAFETY

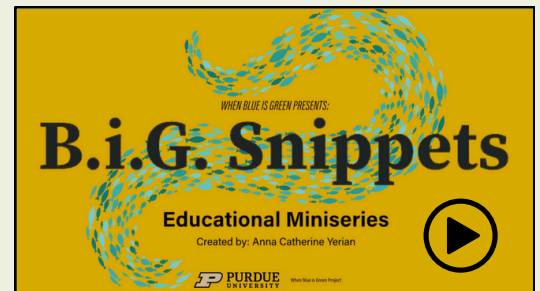
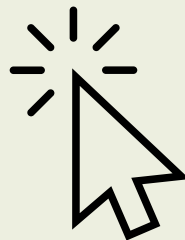




**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE UPDATES!**

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

You can now find a Learning Resources tab on our homepage! Currently, you can access two chapters on topics such as the Circular Economy and the Biology of Microalgae, as well as an educational video miniseries about the BiG System: Big Snippets!



**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

Ever wanted to see what BiG members are presenting? Now you can! The Poster Presentations tab will be continuously updated, allowing you to read about the research being conducted.