What is your year and area(s) of study?
I am a junior majoring in environmental science with minor in food and society.

What are some of your main responsibilities as Student Government Director of Sustainability?
My duties include managing issues of sustainability and informing the Government of sustainability opportunities, working collaboratively with student organizations on campus-wide sustainability initiatives, regularly communicating with the Iowa
State University Director of Sustainability and university administrators to cooperate on issues of sustainability, as well as representing the Government on applicable university sustainability committees.

Why were you interested in this position?
In a way, I guess I never had an interest in serving as “Director of Sustainability.” There was always just this internal passion and drive for creating spaces to promote initiatives and dialogues surrounding what sustainability means, and along with that, what it could mean to be sustainable.

What kind of an impact do you hope to make on campus with this position?
Although my position encompasses an expanse of objectives, my main goal is to initiate dialogues, initiatives and actions that, in turn, catalyze the all encompassing, multifaceted components of sustainability. In a way, it’s no different than planting seeds -- the seeds being facets and insight regarding sustainability. My hope is that those “seeds” take root and grow.

What do you wish students knew about sustainability?
As complicated and overwhelming as sustainability can seem, you don’t need to be a Whole-Foods-shopping, Rachel Carson-reading, tree-hugging individual to embrace the fruits of sustainability. (Not that there’s anything wrong with those things) But sustainability is so very intertwined with any and all of the miniscule decisions we make daily. Whether that be in the form of thrift shopping, taking cans to a recycling center or flipping the light switch off when leaving a room, everything comprises sustainability.

It’s equally important to realize that the facets of sustainability go beyond environmental awareness. Sustainability encompasses economic, environmental and social aspects of our world. So, making a budget and practice self care are methods of sustainability! My point: Sustainability affects every one of us in varying ways, and when practiced, only aims to benefit all.

What resources (especially at the Student Government-level) are available to students looking to be more sustainable in their everyday lives?
Student Government has taken a grand initiative toward making funding toward students who aim to pursue sustainability projects for Iowa State University. This is in the form of the Green Initiatives Fund. The Green Initiatives Fund (GIF) was created in March of 2017. The GIF is a $15,000 allocation from the ISU Student Government’s Special Projects Fund. These monies are accessible to all student organizations, as well as student groups who want to pursue a sustainability-based project. Whether that be instilling a rain garden or purchasing environmental education books to read to children, the sky is literally the limit. Application are accepted on a rolling basis; if you have a sustainability-based project in your back pocket and a student organization/group of individuals who would like to pursue said project, send me, Lia Gomez, an email at lvgomez@iasstate.edu for more information! Applications can be found at https://www.stugov.iastate.edu/greenfund/.

Anything else you’d like me to know?
In my position, I am here to serve as a resource to the ISU student populace. Whether there be a concern, question, comment or suggestion regarding sustainability...OR even if students want to have a dialogue over sustainability, name a coffee shop, library level, or swath of outdoors, and I’m there! If time doesn’t allow, I am always accessible by email (lvgomez@iasstate.edu).