
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
sustainability.ucsc.edu

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Fostering meaningful dialog and engagement in sustainability, justice, & inclusion.

The Sustainability Certificate Program provides a unique opportunity for UCSC employees to explore issues, concepts and strategies for building a more sustainable and inclusive campus through the lens of multiple disciplines and perspectives.

The staff and faculty in our program have ventured beyond their departments to share knowledge, expertise and curiosity with one another. The result is a rich learning community that leverages and highlights the unique resources of our campus. Our instructors are experts in a variety of sustainability topics, from renewable energy, city waste reduction, regional planning & ecological anthropology to psychology, buddhism and environmental

justice. Brought together under one program, participants are able to make connections between the many facets of sustainability and consider their interrelationships when identifying solutions to sustainability challenges.

As UCSC strives to meet its carbon neutrality, zero waste, and water conservation goals while balancing the needs of a growing and diverse student body, we need approaches to sustainability that recognize diverse lived experiences and support people's abilities to meet their own basic needs. The Sustainability Certificate Program provides a forum for a meaningful exploration of these important and relevant issues and trends.

"[The program] stimulates a sense of urgency based on understanding about the need to foster sustainable practices, particularly in the area of climate change..."

"The topics covered were really informative and the instruction was fantastic. I learned a lot and enjoyed being in the program..."

-Past Participants

Summary

The 2020 program engaged 90 staff participants representing 41 departments or units across campus. 31% of participants graduated in one year.

98

PARTICIPANTS

36

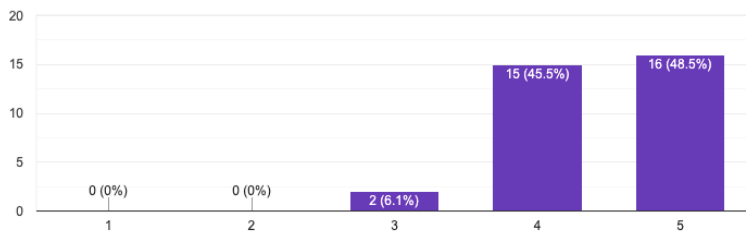
GRADUATES

Representing 41 campus departments and units. This represents a 64% increase in the graduation rate from the 2018-19 academic year.

Summary

15% of program participants completed a program evaluation. 94% of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program, and 6% were neutral.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION



53%

OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program would be most improved by expanding the program in some way, whether it be through more electives, hands on projects, continual learning or more interaction overall.

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



FIRST EVER STUDENT- TAUGHT COURSE OFFERED

Students from the Green Office Team created and taught two workshops that covered ways to become more sustainable at work.



SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO REMOTE LEARNING

Successfully transitioned all spring quarter workshops to Zoom format without losing enrollment and with maintained engagement.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our goals for the 2020-21 Certificate Program include:

MODIFY COURSE OFFERINGS



We utilize program feedback to identify educational needs; for 2020-21 we'll be adjusting course structures to adapt to the most effective remote learning models.

IMPROVE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Respond to feedback that calls for ways in which alumni can continue to connect with and act on sustainability issues at UCSC.

2020 GRADUATES

Aaron Jones, African American Resource & Cultural Center & EOP
Alexander Covington, ITS- Resource Planning & Management
Alessandra Alvares, Sustainability Office
April Zilber, Library
Benjamin Short, Staff HR - Compensation
Carla Sette, Teaching Assistant
Christopher Leverenz, Physical Planning Development and Operations, Grounds Division
Corinne O'Connell, ITS
Deauna Mansfield, FiUC Scout
Erika Solberg, Contracts Office - Physical Planning, Development and Operations
Erika Wolford, Academic Affairs
Esperanza Zamora, MA/Credential Program & Central California Writing Project in the Education Department
Hillary Schalit Bennett, Academic Affairs
Jackie Powell Research Center for the Americas
Jessica Bulleri, Risk Services
Kathleen Rogers Procurement Services
Katie Ritchey, University Library
Keenan Dalton, Procurement and Supply Chain Services
Kelly Roberts, Benefits Office
Kim Chamlin, Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)
Kimberley Hughes, Library
Kristin Palma, Special Events Office, University Relations
Lauren May, Procurement
Lisa Nielsen, Communications and Marketing
Matt DeMonner, PPDO - Engineering Services, Sr. Mechanical Engineer
Mark Firestone, Engineering Project Manager, Physical Planning, Development & Operations - Engineering Services
Mike Yamauchi-Gleason, CHES- Porter College & Kresge College
Nick Otis Office of Emergency Services
Nikki Vamosi, Real Estate Services/PPDO
Oxo Slayer, Senior Physical Planner
Pamela Dewey, Division of Social Sciences - Dean's office
Sarah Woodside Bury, Colleges Nine and Ten
Teresa Buika, TAPS
Zoe Weldon-Yochim, Graduate student in Visual Studies



The 3rd graduating class for the Sustainability Certificate Program celebrated via Zoom this year. Participants were honored by Chancellor Cindy Larive.

2020 COURSES

Sustainability in the UC

This course provides a general overview of sustainability efforts at UCSC, from policy and operations, to student initiative and programming, to academics and co-curricular activities. We will contextualize the UCSC campus' lens into sustainability within the larger context of the campus sustainability movement across institutions of higher education. Small group discussion and hands-on activities will engage participants proactively throughout the session. Instructor: Elida Erickson, Sustainability Office.

Sustainable Cities & Social Equity

We have become an urban planet, with most major economic, social, and environmental processes shaped by how our cities grow and change. Promoting more sustainable urban growth is critical for the planet's future, but there are important equity concerns in how we move towards more sustainable urban growth. This course will examine overall global patterns of urbanization and plans for development more sustainable cities, but will focus on California cities. We'll look at state legislation designed to promote more sustainable cities, and the social equity impacts of the urban planning processes that have emerged in recent years. Instructor: Dr. Chris Benner, Professor of Environmental Studies.

Climate Change & Justice

The people who have historically benefited the most from the burning of fossil fuels are not the same people who will bear the most severe consequences from climate change's impacts. This course will examine global and local climate impacts of climate change, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various efforts around policy and technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The course will also explore the social and environmental impacts of climate change and fossil fuel extraction, with a focus on indigenous rights and forest protection in Ecuadorian Amazon. Instructors: Christina Thomure, Capital Planning; Kevin Koenig, Amazon Watch.

Fostering Sustainable Behavior

Creating a more sustainable campus requires engaging people in behaviors that reduce waste and conserve resources, as well as more complex behaviors required to shift institutional norms and foster a more just, equitable and sustainable culture. The common response to this realization emphasizes needing to "change people's behavior." This course will challenge the premise that people need "fixing" and provide a framework for exploring what psychology can tell us about how to best foster sustainable behaviors that endure over time. Participants will gain tools for developing and evaluating engagement strategies within their role in the University setting. Instructor: Shauna Casey, Sustainability Office

2020 COURSES

Intersections Between Diversity & the Environment

A core value at UCSC is our commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and a “green” ethic. It is such a foundational principle that it is assumed that all members of our campus community share the same understanding of sustainability, and that it is an unqualified good. This class/workshop/elective explores how certain forms of environmentalism, including those in the mainstream, have perpetuated discrimination and exclusion based on race, class, ethnicity, gender, place of origin, and other characteristics. We share the results of research conducted with undergraduates to highlight how these issues have manifested at UCSC and how they affect student success, sense of belonging, and retention. We also expand our discussion to include how low- income, people of color disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation, contamination, and scarcity. Finally, we discuss how our campus and larger community can be more environmentally just, from forms of communication and interaction, to curricular and co-curricular programs. Instructors: Dr. Flora Lu, College 9 & 10 Provost and Professor of Environmental Studies; Elida Erickson, Sustainability Office; Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, American Indian Resource Center.

Green Offices

As campus employees, we each spend a significant portion of our time in offices across campus. How offices are set up and the everyday choices that employees make while they are at work can have a major impact on sustainability! This course provides an introduction and overview of ways to implement sustainable practices in an office environment. You will learn best practices from staff and student experts through our Green Office program, and share highlights and lessons learned with other colleagues across campus in regards to the formation of office green teams, zero waste practices, water and energy use. You'll also have an opportunity to learn more about how to get Green Office Certified. This class meets for 1.5 hours and would require 1-2 additional hours should you choose to pursue a formal certification. Instructors: Sustainability Office Staff and Student Green Office Team

2020 COURSES

Beyond the Blue Bin

This course provides an in-depth look at waste management. We'll explore waste systems on campus, locally and regionally, the current international recycling industry collapse, and how our cultural conception of waste as a society has gotten us into this pickle. This course will examine how the mantra of the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle needs some updating and have fun with interactive games. The goal of this course is to provide you with the information you need to take action, get Trash Talk certified so you can make your department's events Zero Waste, and to equip you with skills to be able to think through a reduction and reuse lens in your role both on campus and at home. Instructors: Kristen Lee, UCSC Sustainability Program Manager; Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Assistant

Climate Science & Policy

This course will provide participants with an updated overview of climate science and examine global and local climate impacts. The presenters will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various political and technological efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and examine how municipalities plan for and address climate change. Instructors: Ellen Vaughan, UCSC Climate & Water Action Manager & Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Sustainability & Climate Action Manager