

---

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**2023**  
**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, 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.

*"It is such a wonderful program and I really enjoyed this opportunity."*

*"It opened my eyes to sustainability on campus, in Santa Cruz, and in general."*

*"This class brought up some topics/facts I was not aware of. Great program!"*

*-Past Participants*

---

# Summary

The 2023 program engaged 55 staff participants representing 40 departments or units across campus. 47% of participants graduated this year.

# 55

## PARTICIPANTS

---

Attended classes in the 2022-23 academic year.

# 27

## GRADUATES

---

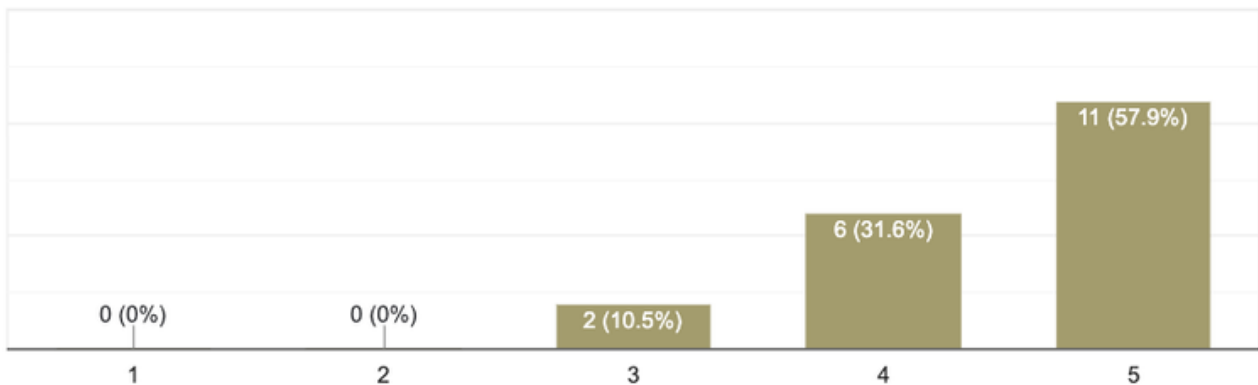
Representing 40 campus departments and units. This represents a 68% increase in the graduation rate from the 2021-22 academic year.

---

# Summary

34% of program participants completed a program evaluation. **89.5%** of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program, with "zero" unsatisfied.

## PROGRAM SATISFACTION



# 47.4%

OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program should be offered via ZOOM, and **31.6%** wanted the program to be offered in a hybrid model. **10.5%** wanted to go back to in-person learning.

# 2022-23 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## SUCCESSFUL THIRD YEAR OF FULLY REMOTE PROGRAM

*Participants were grateful, and continued to be comfortable with remote learning. The ZOOM format, that began during Pandemic year, continued to be successful, and allowed for telecommuters to join in.*



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASS WAS A SUCCESS

*The new Community Engagement class, which offered an opportunity to volunteer with a local organization, was well received by participating UCSC community members.*

# LOOKING AHEAD

*Our goals for the 2023-24 Certificate Program include:*



## MODIFY PROGRAM MODEL

*Feedback indicated that many participants would enjoy in-person classes and a hybrid model would be ideal to be inclusive of telecommuters. The 23-24 year will be hybrid, including optional in-person classes as well as fully remote class offerings.*



## STRONGER CAMPUS-WIDE PROMOTION OF THE PROGRAM

*Feedback from participants indicated that they would love to hear about the program more often and that they wished "all staff would participate". Next year we are strengthening partnerships to broaden the program's reach.*

# 2023 GRADUATES

*ALEA LAMPMAN, University Business Services*  
*ANTHONY BRUNETTI, Building & Utility Services*  
*AUDREY VOSSELER, History of Art & Visual Culture*  
*BRIDGE KENNEDY, Career Success*  
*CORINNE LOPEZ-ALLEN, SHR Employee & Labor Relations*  
*CRISTY SORENSON, SHR Employee & Labor Relations*  
*ELENA VALENCIA, SSE - Hispanic Serving Institution*  
*EMILY MADDOX, Interdisciplinary Instruction*  
*EMILY SHUPING, Physical Plant*  
*HANNAH PEDERSON, Art Department*  
*JAMIE LYNN SIEGEL, Registrar*  
*JASON GREENBERG, Art Department*  
*JENNIFER DIER, Research Administration*  
*JACK CHAPMAN, Art Department*  
*JULIE TRAVERS, Research Administration*  
*KISCHKA BLUSPIRO, Registrar*  
*LABRIS WILLENDORF, Engineering Department*  
*LESLIE HEINRICHS, Undergraduate Education*  
*LI-CHIU MILLER, Real Estate Services*  
*MEGAN DINDIA, Office of Campus Provost & EVC*  
*MELISSA FIKE, Art Department*  
*MONICA GONZALEZ, SHR Employee & Labor Relations*  
*RICHARD SAN, Audit & Mgmt. Advisory Services*  
*RUTHANNA BARNETT, History of Consciousness*  
*SARAH HARKER, College 9 HSG & Student Life*  
*SHELLY GRABE, Psychology*  
*WILLIAM RETIN, University Business Services*



*2023 Graduates, the  
 6th cohort,  
 were honored by  
 Chancellor Cindy  
 Larive.*

# 2024 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: Derek Martin, Sustainability Office Programs Manager; Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Manager

## **Climate Justice**

The people who have historically benefited the most from the burning of fossil fuels are not the same people who are bearing the most severe consequences from climate change impacts. This course will examine global and local climate impacts from the frontlines of extraction in places like the Amazon Basin, to fenceline refinery communities here in California. We'll discuss the strengths and weaknesses of policy efforts to curb emissions including the UNFCCC process, explore social movements to keep fossil fuels in the ground and hold industry and financial institutions accountable, and hear directly from indigenous leaders about their efforts to defend standing forests and advance their rights.

Instructor: Kevin Koenig, Amazon Watch Climate and Energy Director

## **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

# 2024 COURSES

## **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: Derek Martin, Sustainability Office Programs Manager and Student Green Office Team

## **Intersections Between Diversity & the Environment**

A core value at UCSC is our commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and a “green” ethic. This course explores how concepts of sustainability and environmentalism, while assumed to be universal, reflect histories of discrimination and inequality, privilege some landscapes over others, and (de)center certain understandings and experiences. We argue that environmental policies and discourses are inherently radicalized, classed, gendered, culturally contextualized, etc. We begin the course providing a framework and overview of environmental justice, and then share some results of research conducted at UCSC examining undergraduate perceptions and behaviors. Finally, we discuss how our campus and larger community can be more environmentally just.

Instructors: Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, Community Archivist at the UCSC University Library; Elida Erickson, Director of Sustainability, Dr. Flora Lu, Professor of Environmental Studies at UCSC.

## **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 of more sustainable cities.



# 2024 COURSES

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. In particular, we will focus on the City of Santa Cruz's sustainable policies, programs and projects as well as how they are integrating social vulnerability and equity into these processes.

Instructor: Dr. Chris Benner, Professor of Environmental Studies & Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Sustainability & Climate Action Manager

## **Sustainability in the UC**

The purpose of this course is to provide 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, Director of Sustainability

## **Transportation for All: Sustainability, Land-Use, and Mobility Justice**

This class will peel back the layers of history that have created the unsustainable transportation system that all of us interact with in our daily lives. We'll explore how structures of systemic inequity and human psychology inform the public resources we rely upon. We'll deep dive into our own thought patterns about transportation, and how large-scale change and individual action go hand in hand. This course will look at the perspective from the United States as well as issues and opportunities in the Santa Cruz community.

Instructor: Jonathan Weidman, Director of Transportation San Diego State University (former Sr. Associate Director at UCSC)

## **Community Engagement**

Believing in the value of bridging our campus with our community, as well as the rewarding nature of connecting with community members, the Sustainability Certificate Program now offers an opportunity for participants to volunteer and engage locally, while getting credit towards their certification.

This elective course has two parts, totalling 3 hours. Initially participants will contribute 2 hours of volunteer work at a local organization of choice, in person, prior to attending the mandatory 1 hour class in Spring quarter. In this portion of the course, all participants will have an opportunity to share back about their experience volunteering in our community and help inspire others to get more involved in giving back!

Facilitator: Alessandra Bicudo Alvares, Sustainability Office staff