
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2022
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.

"Great learning experience. Grateful to the University for investing in our education."

"Thank you for creating this opportunity. I am grateful for the exposure to these topics, the knowledge and that the university wants to create conversations around these topics."

-Past Participants

Summary

The 2022 program engaged 32 staff participants representing 24 departments or units across campus. 50% of participants graduated in one year.

32

PARTICIPANTS

16

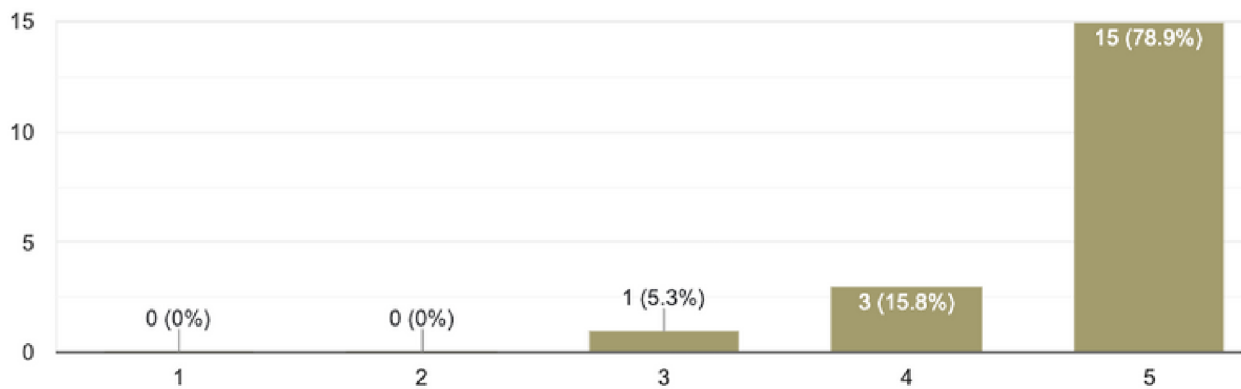
GRADUATES

Representing 10 campus departments and units. This represents a 59% decrease in the graduation rate from the 2020-21 academic year.

Summary

59% of program participants completed a program evaluation. 94.7% of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION



57.9%

OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program should be offered via ZOOM, and 42.1% wanted the program to be offered in a hybrid model. 0% wanted to go back to in-person learning.

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



SUCCESSFUL SECOND YEAR OF FULLY REMOTE PROGRAM

The ZOOM format that began during Pandemic year continued to be successful, and allowed for program continuation.

Participants were engaged and very comfortable with remote learning



CONTINUED PARTICIPANT ACCESS

The ZOOM offerings continued to allow off campus employees to participate.

Some claimed they wouldn't have been able to otherwise.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our goals for the 2022-23 Certificate Program include:



MODIFY PROGRAM MODEL

Feedback indicated that the majority of participants like remote offerings although some do prefer a hybrid model.

The 22-23 year will be completely remote.



ADDING A NEW CORE COURSE

This year we are adding a new course called "Community Engagement" where participants can do a volunteer opportunity of their choice, and engage outside of our campus.

2022 GRADUATES

CHRISTINE MEGARIOTIS, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology

CRYSTAL DALE, Psychology

EAMONN MAHAR, CHES

EDEE WILSON, Real Estate and Contract Services

JEMZI ORTIZ, Resource Centers- American Indian Resource Center

JESSICA GUILD, The Humanities Institute

JESSICA MACIAS, Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP)

JOSHUA FRANCIS, Design & Construction

JULIE HUGHES, CHES

JULIE PHILLIPS, College Student Life

JULIE SUTTON, Ground Services

LAURA ANNE DAPPER, Real Estate & Contracts Services

MIE SATO, CHES/ARCH

NATHAN WEINER, Physical Planning Development & Operations

SARA CHRISTIANSEN, Real Estate & Contract Services

VICTOR QUIROZ, Real Estate and Contract Services



The 5th graduating class for the Sustainability Certificate Program were celebrated via ZOOM once again. Participants were honored by Chancellor Cindy Larive.

2023 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 Assistant

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

2023 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 and Provost of Colleges Nine and Ten and John R. Lewis College.

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.

2023 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 forces and structures of systemic and human psychology all inform the public spaces that we all use each day. We'll deep dive into our own thought patterns about transportation, and how systemic 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 our local community.

Instructor: Jonathan Weidman, Associate Director of Transportation and Parking Services.

NEW Class - 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, via ZOOM. In this virtual 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