

---

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ  
*[sustainability.ucsc.edu](https://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**

---

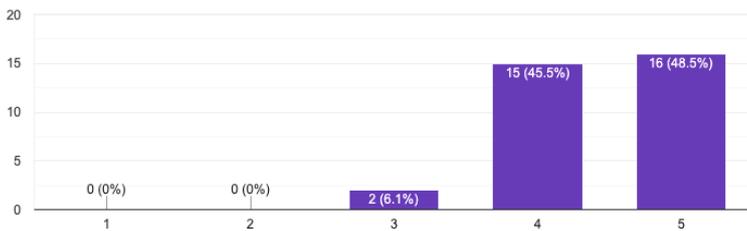
Representing 41 campus departments and units. This represents a 64% increase in the graduation rate from the 2018-19 academic year.

---

# 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