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SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**2021**  
**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.

*"The classes cover much more than just be sustainability across campus and out into the world. The classes covered so many topics about justice, racism, equity and all the factors that link us humans to each other and all beings. It was a privilege to participate on work time."*

*"It [The Program] was good! It was educational, thought-provoking, well run."*

*-Past Participants*

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# Summary

The 2021 program engaged 63 staff participants representing 45 departments or units across campus. 36% of participants graduated in one year.

# 63

**PARTICIPANTS**

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# 39

**GRADUATES**

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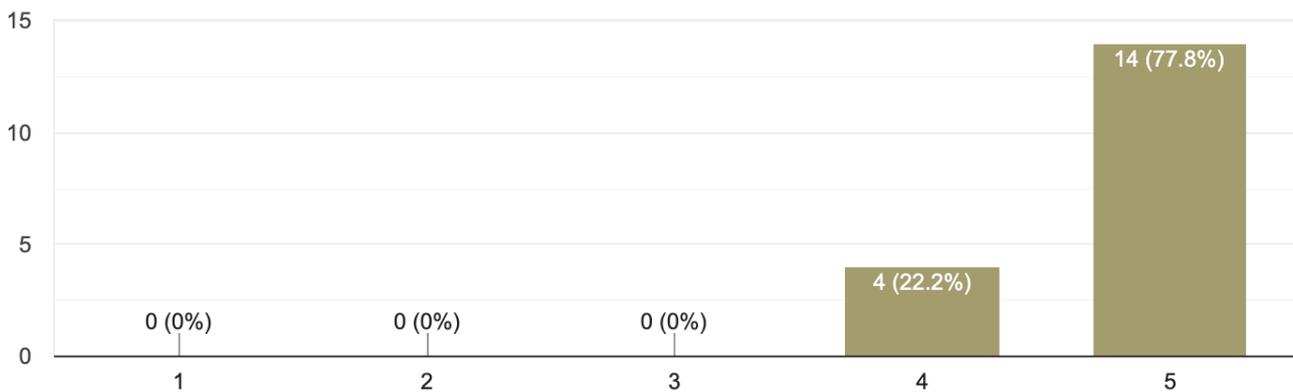
Representing 31 campus departments and units. This represents a 10% increase in the graduation rate from the 2019-20 academic year.

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# Summary

46% of program graduates completed a program evaluation. **100%** of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program.

## PROGRAM SATISFACTION



# 55.6%

## OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program should be offered in a hybrid model, and the other half were tied: 22.2% wanted to go back to in-person learning and 22.2% wanted classes to continue via Zoom.

# 2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## SUCCESSFUL FIRST EVER ONLINE PROGRAM

*Transition to a Zoom format during Pandemic year was a very successful endeavor. Participants were engaged and adjusted to remote learning with 100% satisfaction rate.*



## INCREASED PARTICIPANT ACCESS

*The Zoom offerings allowed off campus employees to be able to participate. Some claimed they wouldn't have been able to otherwise.*

# LOOKING AHEAD

*Our goals for the 2021-22 Certificate Program include:*



## MODIFY PROGRAM MODEL

*Feedback indicated participants like remote offerings and some do prefer a hybrid model, thus 21-22 year will be mostly remote with an in-person class offered 3 times.*



## ADDING A NEW CORE COURSE

*Considering the many areas in Sustainability that have to be addressed, we are always trying to expand the program. This year we are adding a course in Transportation.*

# 2021 GRADUATES

*Alex Belisario, Crown College*  
*Alyssa Herring, Bay Tree Bookstore*  
*Amy Hyler-Essig, Student Affairs & Success Division*  
*Andrea Hilderman, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Aubrie Cook, Porter College*  
*Breanna Van Otterloo, Dining Services*  
*Collin Cowsill, Stevenson College*  
*Christy Ishimine, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Christi Voennell, Stevenson College*  
*Edwin Dunn, Colleges, Housing & Educational Services (CHES)*  
*Erika Carpenter, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Erin Foley, Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems*  
*Gina Hernan, Mathematics Department*  
*Janina Larenas, Literature Department*  
*Jimmy Gaffney, Environmental Studies Department*  
*Jean Nilsson, Planning & Budget*  
*Jill Paydon, Talent & Acquisition*  
*Jose Sanchez, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Kathy Cooney, Porter College*  
*Katrina Ricca, Education Partnership Center*  
*Kevin Tresham, Housing Services*  
*Laura McShane, Literature Department*  
*Leah Kahn, Computer Science & Engineering Department*  
*Lisa Swaim, Global Engagement Division*  
*Mariko Walton, Applied Mathematics Department*  
*Mark Firestone, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Meagan Edwards, TAPS*  
*Mel R. Scanagatta, School of Engineering*  
*Michael Hanson, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Michael Pisano, Labor Relations*  
*Michele Celello, Environmental Health & Safety*  
*Regina Spranger, Ecology & Evolutionary Bio*  
*Savanah Headstone, Porter Housing & Student Life*  
*Sharon Tosto, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Sophia Sholtz, Physics Department*  
*Sue Matthews, Colleges, Housing & Educational Services (CHES)*  
*Tanya Guerrero, Physical Planning Development & Operations*  
*Tuong Truong, ITS*  
*Willie Brown, Colleges, Housing & Educational Services (CHES)*

*The 4th graduating class for the Sustainability Certificate Program celebrated via Zoom once again. Participants were honored by Chancellor Cindy Larive.*

# 2021 COURSES

## **NEW Class - Transportation for All: Intersections of Sustainability, Land-Use, and Mobility Justice**

Transportation accounts for 47% of greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Cruz, and our proposed solutions are often too simplistic and continue to support systems that are inequitable. 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 patriarchy, white supremacy, capitalism, 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. We will look at the American perspective as well as issues and opportunities in our local community. Instructor: Jonathan Weidman, Associate Director of Transportation and Parking Services.

## **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, 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: UCSC Sustainability Program Manager & Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Manager

## **Climate Change & 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, 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

# 2021 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: Sustainability Office Staff and Student Green Office Team

## **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, former Sustainability Office Programs Manager

## **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

# 2021 COURSES

## **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 & Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Sustainability & Climate Action Manager

## **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