
SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
sustainability.ucsc.edu

SUMMARY

Exploring topics, concepts and strategies for building a sustainable & inclusive campus

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, faculty and partners in our program 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 and beyond. Our instructors are experts in a variety of sustainability topics, from renewable energy, city waste

reduction, regional planning & transportation to psychology, and environmental justice.

As UCSC strives to meet its carbon neutrality, zero waste, inclusive sustainability 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 professional development goals. The Sustainability Certificate Program provides a forum for a meaningful exploration of these important and relevant issues and trends.

"The program was so insightful and life changing."

"I have learned so much through the courses I have participated in! All of the presenters were engaging and prompted me to reflect on my own role in how I practice sustainability in my own life."

"[A key success was] bringing a diverse campus population together for a common understanding of sustainability."

-Past Participants

Summary

The 2023-24 program engaged 40 staff representing 27 departments or units across campus. 40% of participants graduated this year.

40

PARTICIPANTS

Attended classes in the 2023-24 academic year.

16

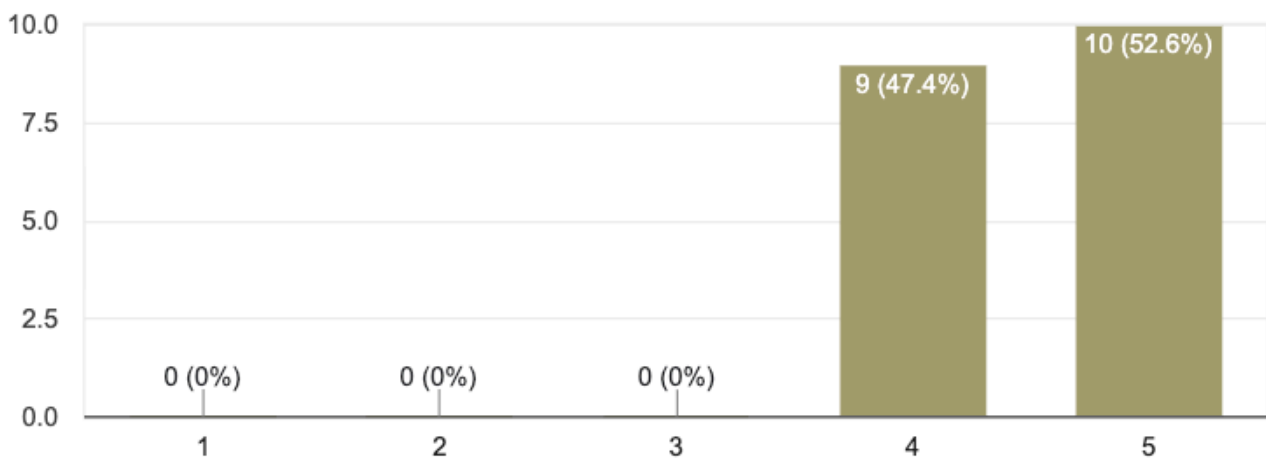
GRADUATES

Representing 27 campus departments or units and 40% of total participants.

Summary

48% of program participants completed a program evaluation. **100%** of respondents were satisfied with their experience in the program.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION



74%

OF RESPONDENTS

Said the program should be offered in hybrid format. **16%** wanted the program to be offered via Zoom only. **5%** wanted to go back to in-person learning.

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS



SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF HYBRID PROGRAM

Participants from off campus were able to participate remotely, while on campus participants enjoyed the in person format. The Hybrid format allows telecommuters to join while local staff can have the interpersonal experience. A win win for everyone.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, A “TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE”

The Community Engagement class continues to be well received by participating from UCSC and community members, creating “transformational experiences” and community interest.

LOOKING AHEAD

2024-25 Certificate Program goals include:



BUILD ON STRENGTHS

The 2024-25 year will continue to be hybrid, including optional in-person classes as well as fully remote class offerings.

We are continuing to strengthen partnerships to broaden the program's reach.



REFINE STRUCTURE

To address current thinking and approaches to sustainability topics, we have added a new course: “Sustainability and Environmental Justice.”

Working with UC Learning Center we are making participation in the program even easier.

2024 GRADUATES

ANGEL RIOTUTAR - American Indian Resource Center

BAILEY BURGESS - Merrill Housing & Student Life

CASSANDRA ISAACSON - Environmental Studies

CRISSY DIAZ - Engineering Advising

ED REISKIN - Finance Operations and Administration

iLEANA BRUNETTI - Sustainability Office

JASON PEREZ - Colleges 9 & John Lewis Dining

KRISTIN BRUBAKER - Education Partnership Center

LUCAS GASPERIK - Art Department

MARCIA BOCK - Financial Affairs

MICHAEL DOLDER - Physical Planning, Development & Operations

MICHAEL FUKUTOME - Physical Planning, Development & Operations

MICHELLE SOHNLEIN - Risk Services

RYAN (LUMPY) ERVIN - Custodial Services

SALVADOR PEÑA - Grounds

XIAODONG ZHANG - Earth & Planetary Sciences



The 2024 Graduates, the 7th cohort, celebrated graduation with Chancellor Cindy Larive.

2025 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 Change 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 Assistant Director of Sustainability for Operational & Strategic Initiatives & Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Sustainability & Climate Action Manager

2025 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 & Green Office Team

NEW - Sustainability and Environmental Justice

TBA

Instructors: ileana Ortega Brunetti, Assistant Director of Sustainability for Equity and Co-Curricular Programs & Angel Riotutar, AIRC Director

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.

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.

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

2025 COURSES

Sustainability at 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, UCSC Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives & 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: Tracy Wang, UCSC Associate Director of Transportation

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, UCSC Sustainability Office Events Coordinator