2013-14: Outcomes for Student Internships supported by Measure 45

This year the Sustainability Office sponsored 40 student internships; 30 of those positions were housed in the Sustainability Office and 10 were sponsored in different units across campus. These interns provided assistance on a variety of projects; to follow are some of the outcomes of our 2013-14 internships.

Carbon Fund

- Allocated $144,818.40 in funds to 23 projects across campus and in the Santa Cruz community
- Received a total of 40 project applications, the most the Committee has ever received in its four years of existence.

Education and Outreach for Sustainability

- Hosted 4th Annual Sustainability Inter-Organizational Retreat, which was attended by more than 120 students and staff from sustainability organizations across campus.
- Engaged in conversation about sustainability with 1076 UCSC and Santa Cruz community members at 35 tabling opportunities.
- Added 332 new people to our e-newsletter list, obtained 140 new followers on Twitter, and 270 new likes on Facebook, broadening the network of people we are in contact with regularly about sustainability on campus.
- Presented about campus sustainability to resident advisors, tour guides, and orientation leaders so that they can include sustainability information and resources in their programs and tours.
- Created a Sustainability Living Lab Map featuring places on campus where sustainability projects, classes, and opportunities exist.
- Hosted a Spring Sustainability Fest event that featured presentations, a poster session, awards, and lunch for 86 participants.
- Promoted and engaged the campus about zero waste in the Chancellor’s Sustainability Challenge, with 809 people taking zero waste pledges.

Green Labs Program

- Certified three new labs
- Facilitated the use of UCSC’s Green Labs Certification Program criteria in the development of a UC system-wide Green Labs pilot program
• Supported EH&S in the promotion and continuation of the Styrofoam, pipette and glove recycling programs

Green Office Program

• Certified 10 new offices
• Created a new certification self-assessment calculator tool which provides participants a first-hand educational experience that highlights their current office practices

Provost’s Sustainability Internship Program

• Created literature review of climate action plans at universities; developed a matrix to document topic sections, highlights, unique content, and reference information to help UCSC prepare for its climate action planning process.
• Coordinated and hosted a campus-wide Walk-to-Class Challenge day to promote sustainable transportation
• Created a 5+ year native seed inventory and germination study with Younger Lagoon Natural Reserve, supported volunteer workdays and educational materials.
• Cataloged UCSC food sources with the Real Food Calculator
• Co-created events and programs at the Kresge Common Ground Center including World Cafes, speaker series and developing fiscal and organizational documents.
• Created a series of three zero-waste promotion videos and updated the Financial Affairs website to include information on sustainability.
• Updated the Campus Natural Reserve educational material, academic plan and created field activities
• Created of an user-friendly catalog for Environmentally Preferred (EPP) office supplies within the UCSC purchasing tool, CruzBuy
• Completed waste assessment of McHenry Library Global Village Cafe and the creation of a waste remediation strategy.
• Designed, recruited and hosted 9 workshops in the Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA)

Waste Reduction

• Successfully executed the first annual Edge of Eden concert as a large-scale zero waste event
• Collaborated with Grounds Services to conduct a waste assessment, sorting through over 20,000 pounds of trash from 50 out of a total of 127 dumpsters across campus. The assessment
revealed that over 1/3 of the campus trash is comprised of compostable materials.

- Worked with Colleges, Housing & Educational Services to create a Virtual Green Residence Hall Room as an educational and promotional tool for new UCSC students
- Implemented a pilot program to provide recyclable latex gloves to laboratories participating in the Green Labs program