

Climate Action Fellowship, 2019-2020

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Introduction

UC Santa Cruz is full of extremely eclectic and genuine people who are not afraid of being seen as hippies and tree-huggers. The connection between the energy of the campus and the natural environment in which it lies is indubitable and everyone who has visited the campus senses the great influence that the beautiful environment has.

My passion for sustainability was definitely enhanced by the culture at UC Santa Cruz. Especially because I was living in the specific college on campus that was directly tied to sustainability and the environment, I often found myself taking classes pertaining to such topics. Through discussing and critically analyzing my personal relationship with nature and connecting that to the relationship between nature and society as a whole, I found that I was extremely invested in the future of our planet and my role in protecting it.

Projects:

Carbon Fund Member: The Carbon Fund is a granting body that funds student, staff and community projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It provides funding for sustainability projects on campus and in the community. Project Goals: Contribute a CNI perspective to the discussions of which projects to fund. I contributed as a voting member of their committee.

Materials and Methods: I reviewed documents of all projects that applied for a grant. I attended all meetings discussing the project proposals and voting and I voted in the spring round of the projects.

Results and Outcomes: The Carbon Fund was able to have a different and inclusive perspective, as well as more of a student voice in where the funds are allocated. Over \$100,000 was awarded to multiple projects.



Off Campus Sustainability Coordinator:

Project Goals: Create a more meaningful connection between the UCSC Sustainability Office and UCSC satellite campuses in terms of access to resources. I also wanted to generally assess the satellite campuses and see what practices could be improved at the locations, put together a presentation for each location highlighting sustainable resources they could utilize and facilitated discussions around behavior change improvements they could make. The satellite campuses I contacted were the following: Coastal Sciences Campus, Silicon Valley campus, Scotts Valley campus, Westside Research Park, and Lick Observatory.

Materials and Methods: I networked to find a representative from each of the campuses I wanted to reach and contacted them to ask if I would be able to present to their staff about sustainability practices and ways UCSC could help provide more resources to them. I then set up presentation dates for spring quarter and created a sustainability presentation that catered to the different needs of the offices. Additionally, I attended meetings with the Green Office Team, a team that works for the Sustainability Office to certify different on- and off- campus offices and encourage generally greener practices. I was able to come up with ideas and get an understanding of the resources that could be accessible to the satellite campuses through this process.

Results and Outcomes: Although some of the presentation meetings ended up being postponed, with dates TBD, the outline for the project is complete and ready to be carried out. Successful outreach and discussions were accomplished at the Scotts Valley campus and Westside Research Park.

Million LED Challenge Promotion: The Million LED Challenge was started by the UC to allow students, staff, faculty and alumni to purchase subsidized LED bulbs. Project Goals: I acted as the engagement coordinator. I aimed to identify a target audience and figure out the most effective ways to encourage students, faculty, staff and alumni to purchase from the challenge.

Materials and Methods: I used Canva to create flyers for the Million LED Challenge and distributed them digitally around campus. I also flyered with them at various parts of campus. Additionally, I created a Tuesday Newsday article for the promotion of them and a segment for the Sustainability Newsletter distributed by the Sustainability Office. I also reached out to graduate student organizations, off-campus advisors, and other groups working in the Sustainability Office to promote and research ideas on different marketing techniques.

Results and Outcomes: I wasn't able to advertise as much as planned once campus was closed, however I know that outreach was successful in that people contacted me when they had purchased from the Million LED Challenge, or when people they knew had become inspired to.



Green Map:

Project Goals: Promote green spaces and sustainable resources on campus by adding different locations to UCSC's online interactive map, providing easier access to these resources. This effort worked to highlight to the tens of thousands of annual viewers of the interactive map that UCSC prioritizes sustainability across campus and is a robust living laboratory. **Materials and Methods:** I used Google Sheets to organize all of the different information needed about the various locations including descriptions and GPS coordinates. I utilized UCSC's existing Living Lab Map to figure out which locations to include.

Results and Outcomes: All of the data has been forwarded to the individual in charge of the maps and they are currently working to add the locations on the map.



Hiring:

Project Goals: Hire new individuals for the 2020-2021 role of the Carbon Neutrality Initiative Fellowship.

Materials and Methods: I finalized a timeline for the hiring process and stored the resumes, deciding which applicants would move on to the interviewing process. I also finalized the interview questions and organized all communication with the applicants.

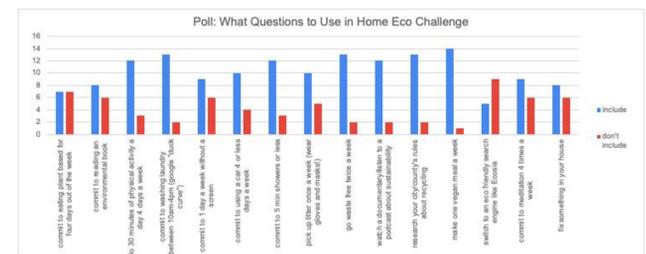
Results and Outcomes: The interviews are ready to be scheduled as soon as possible.

Home Eco Challenge (Stay Green During Quarantine):

Project Goals: Create a sustainability challenge for individuals working/studying from home during quarantine.

Materials and Methods: I collaborated with the Green Office Team on this project as they were working on an assessment for individuals working/studying from home to calculate their energy and water usage and assign a level of "certification" for themselves based on their scores. I created a Google Form with different challenges and asked employees of the Sustainability Office to fill out a survey indicating which challenges I should include and exclude. With the responses, I created a finalized list of challenges, which is included after the assessment created by the Green Office Team as a continuation and next step for individuals to continue their path in sustainability.

Results and Outcomes: The Home Eco Challenge has just been officially released, so results are currently coming in. The City of Santa Cruz Sustainability Office has committed to getting the challenge out to all of their employees and their community contacts.



Conclusion

During my time as a CNI Fellow, I have been introduced to many opportunities I would have otherwise thought impossible. I recognized the extent of the passion I have for the field and changed my major to environmental science during this year. It has truly had a profound impact in my personal search for purpose as well as a sense of creating change for good in a community and world I care deeply about.

Sustainability is the future. Amidst all of the uncertainty in our world today, the only thing that can be known for sure is that sustainable living is the only hope that we can have for a cohesive and healthy relationship with our planet.

Future Goals

Despite the many tribulations that occurred this year including power outages, strikes and a pandemic, I am increasingly optimistic about the upcoming year. My goals are to follow through with the projects that need to still be carried out, continue to play a role in the Carbon Fund, and work towards including campus-wide student engagement to lower our carbon emissions.

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