

# Carbon Neutrality Fellowship, 2021-2022

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## Introduction

UC Santa Cruz has been at the forefront of my imagination since my earliest beginnings in sustainability in high school. After taking my first courses in the Environmental Sciences, I had toured the campus and was stunned to find a university so dedicated to its preservation of nature and meticulous implementation of sustainable practices throughout all departments across campus culture. Early on, it was clear to me that UCSC would be my dream university and that I would want to become a part of the campus' and Monterey Bay's sustainability efforts in any way that I could.

Likewise, I was thrilled to become a new member of the UCSC Sustainability Office's CNI Fellowship program. Throughout this fellowship I've been able to showcase and document the campus projects included below.

## Projects

### Sustainability Office 10-Year Anniversary DocuSeries

**Goals for the Project:** Starting out in the office, I became familiar with the CNI's projects across the UC system and discussed with my supervisor the potential for a 10 Year Anniversary DocuSeries of 3-5 minute shorts of different themes of projects done here at UCSC through the Sustainability Office's Carbon Fund.



*My photography during a landscape photo shoot at College Nine.*

**Creating a Database to Start:** With the guidance of my supervisor, I was able to create a personal database and categorize the Carbon Fund projects of the past decade. This database includes details about how much funding each project received and who was involved in their creation – which was partly from our Sustainability Office's Project Clearinghouse <https://projectclearinghouse.ucsc.edu/> and internal documentation. This helped guide the planning for each of the episodes, and I was able to create a list of people to contact about each project before recording & planning the script for each video.

**Identifying Sources for Historic Photography:** The UCSC Campus Photographic archive also provided a great repository of older campus photography, even some by famous photographers like Ansel Adams. These would prove useful in the video series to showcase how UCSC's past campus culture of sustainability continues to manifest itself in more recent projects.

## Equipment and Methods

Throughout my project I mostly borrowed recording and camera equipment from the Digital Scholarship Commons. Borrowed equipment included their Canon80D DSLR Camera, GoPro Hero 5 Camera, tripods, and audio recording equipment. The Digital Scholarship Commons at the McHenry Library also offered excellent photo & video editing software and high-powered iMac computers to run them. This dramatically reduced the cost that it would've taken me to create this video series, given that all of this is offered for free to all UCSC students.



*Personal photography of an on-campus mural at the Arts.*

## Notable Interviews

Reaching out and talking to past collaborators with the Carbon Fund led me to interview various organizations, students, and departments across campus to highlight their projects in the docuseries. Some of the most notable interviews that I've conducted span the multiple video themes.

On the energy & lighting video, one of my personal favorite interviews was with Julio Harvey, the Biology Teaching Laboratories Manager, who gave a tour of the biology teaching laboratories on campus, including some scientific equipment that the facility was able to purchase with funding through the Carbon Fund. I recorded the large appliances that were used from the 70's before being retrofitted, including some incubators, dishwashers, and refrigerators, and discussed how those projects opened the door for future sustainability collaborations & retrofits across the labs.

Another video during a Slug Bike Life event for the transportation series gave the opportunity to talk to students and faculty bicyclists who mainly transport via bike across Santa Cruz, some who were heavily incentivized by the bicycle infrastructure and extra programs that have been founded with the Transportation and Parking Services department.

Other interviews with Fleet Manager Theo Diamantopoulos with Campus Fleet also gave insight to the cross-department collaboration that goes behind transportation improvements, including an vehicle electrification project spearheaded by engineering students to making EV batteries that would work uphill for small vehicles.



*My photography at Athletics & Recreation during a morning recording.*

## Conclusion

Being able to experience and meet with past project collaborators in the Carbon Fund was an eye-opening experience for me on what our Sustainability Office has accomplished in the past 10 years. I'm really looking forward to the Lunch and Learn event where my first video will be showcased and seeing my videos across our Youtube and social media channels for the Sustainability Office. These videos will continue to raise awareness of the work that the office does in future years, to attract new project collaborations.

## Future Goals

My fellowship with the UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative has opened many opportunities on working on campus at UCSC with future departments and conservation efforts across campus. Being able to see the behind-the-scenes work that happens between departments – including statistics, reporting, and financial – I feel confident working in the UC system and beyond for organizational sustainability efforts.

My goal before graduation is to continue working with the Sustainability Office during my undergraduate and start Carbon Neutrality projects of my own with the office with some of the organizations I'm a part of, and more permanently work to further UCSC Campus' sustainability efforts, and within the Santa Cruz community.

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**Sustainability**  
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SANTA CRUZ



*My photography of a banana slug at Pogonip on a rainy day.*