

THE CARBON NEUTRALITY INITIATIVE

Mariah Padilla (she/her)

2021-22 Student Engagement Fellow, UC Davis

Introduction

The University of California, a national leader in sustainability, launched the Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) in 2013 with an aim of emitting net zero greenhouse gases from its activities, buildings, and vehicle fleets by 2025. UC Davis is committed to reaching this goal and believes that educating the campus community is critical to achieving optimal sustainability levels.

Project Goal

Garner student support and awareness for campus-wide sustainability and carbon neutrality initiatives, programming, and activism. Encourage and foster not only student's individual commitment to sustainability, but their understanding of the need for large-scale systemic change to create a more just and sustainable campus and future.

Project Description

Throughout the year we have utilized several different avenues in which to engage the UC Davis and UC Davis Health student community. We have introduced a series of campus tabling events, intercampus planting events, an intersectional workshop series, and a new format for the UC Davis sustainability summit. These programs are designed to facilitate discourse on the role of intersectionality and equity in environmental organizing.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my incredible partner, Aleesa Palmer and her commitment to intersectionality, equity, and justice. I would also like to thank my supervisors Carla Fresquez, Sarah Janus, Camillie Kirk and the rest of my fellow peers for their support.

Farmers Market Tabling

Throughout the Fall and Spring Quarter, CNI student engagement fellows tabled in the center of campus at the farmers market. We encouraged students to get involved with the Office of Sustainability, sign up for the sustainability newsletter, participate in the reusable utensil survey, and partake in the Aggie Green Pledge, designed to encourage individual lifestyle shifts.

UCD x UCDH Earth Week

To reach our goal of bridging the UCD main campus and the UCD health campus we worked to host intercampus Earth week events. We worked to organize a seed planting event for the UCDH campus, a virtual movie night, and celebrated Earth Day with a UCD and UCDH tree planting event hosted in collaboration with the Sacramento Tree Foundation. We planted 4 oak trees and distributed UCD Arboretum and Public Garden seed packets.

UCD Sustainability Summit

The UCD Sustainability Summit is an annual event that highlights the contributions and commitment of the campus, faculty, staff, and students in advancing sustainability and equity. We revamped the sustainability summit by introducing a guest speaker component. We are proud to be hosting Leah Thomas, founder of Intersectional Environmentalism and author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist* at our 2022 summit. Leah's presence is part of our larger commitment to advancing social justice.

Intersectional Workshop Series

Throughout the year we have planned and laid the foundation for an Intersectional Workshop Series aimed to address topics such as ecoanxiety and community visioning. We hope to host workshops this Spring quarter and have our work this year serve as the foundation for the next iteration of workshops.



2022 Sustainability Summit

- > Date: May 20, 2022
- > Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm
- > Location: Student Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room
- > Register [now for your ticket](#)

Submit your Sustainability Champion Award nomination!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Carbon Neutrality Initiative

UCDAVIS Sustainability