



The Student Environmental Center's

**BLUEPRINT
FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
CAMPUS**

UC Santa Cruz • 2016-2017



Art credit: Webster Quoc Nguyen

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THE BLUEPRINT

What is the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus?

Year after year, student organizers assess the state of UC Santa Cruz. It's one step in the process to create positive change on campus and beyond. We know that many students, staff and faculty value sustainability and work towards its realization. But other forces, like lack of funding and conflicts of interest, drive the University in an opposite direction. The Blueprint provides student perspective to campus sustainability issues, along with students' visions—the attainable, the idealistic and the urgent—for what UC Santa Cruz should be, especially in a dynamic and changing world.

Student Environmental Center (SEC) has issued a new version of the Blueprint every year since 2004. SEC hosts events, like Blueprint Breakouts and Earth Summit, where SEC organizers and other students, staff and faculty discuss topics in sustainability and work to identify visions and actions (V&As). These V&As are then added to the Blueprint.

This Blueprint is also a resource guide. We break campus sustainability into ten sub-topics: waste; land, habitat and watershed; transportation; food systems; social and environmental justice; academics and curriculum; green building; green purchasing; energy; water.

We give history and background information in each topic, as well as references for further research. We want information to be accessible to anyone interested in a specific topic.

We mean for individuals to read this Blueprint, but we also mean to reach organized groups, especially student organizations. We believe student organizations can best drive systematic change. Therefore we introduce two kinds of V&As: personal and group. Personal V&As are meant to be achieved by an individual, like creating a backyard compost bin. Group V&As are larger and more complex, like advocating for a campus-wide composting service. Student organizations are best equipped to tackle Group V&As.

The University should be responsible for improving campus sustainability, but often that responsibility falls to students, who must advocate and press the University to make changes. Most V&As reflect this fact by focusing on what students can do.

It's important for SEC to codify students' unique visions. SEC shares its platform with the campus via the Blueprint. Even the process of creating the Blueprint helps SEC organizers focus their priorities. This document also affects other student organizations. Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) addresses Blueprint V&As through its spring class. Campus Sustainability Council (CSC), a student-led funding body, distributes funds to student organizations whose missions align with Blueprint V&As.

Why is the Blueprint important?

University staff and administrators create an array of sustainability documents and reports—complete with facts, metrics and graphics. They're useful and necessary. But this Blueprint provides something critical that's contained in no other document: honest student perspective.

Students hold valuable insights. We have first-hand experience in being a college student today, which is something different than being a student fifty or even five years ago. As students, we see and understand the issues affecting our campus.

Even so, we're prone to be underrepresented and disenfranchised. The university doesn't involve students in decisions that affect our campus. Often we're seen as "irrational actors," incapable of making good decisions.

With our voices absent from many corners of campus, we work to represent ourselves through the Blueprint. Ideas in the Blueprint are developed and vetted by students through research and focused discussions. This process validates our perspective and empowers us to prioritize and address the issues we see as important.

It's also important for students to organize without being affiliated with the University. Students who create the Blueprint can be critical and constructive in ways that staff and administrators can't be. Using this strength, we continue to create positive change on our campus and beyond.

What does "sustainability" actually mean?

"Sustainability" can mean a lot of things and it's a buzzword. In 2003, University of California developed this definition:

"Sustainability refers to the physical development and institutional operating practices that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, particularly with regard to use and waste of natural resources. Sustainable practices support ecological, human and economic health and viability. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, and should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to long-term priorities and consequences of the ways in which resources are used."

We also believe measuring sustainability is more nuanced than looking at metrics and data, inputs and outputs. We're concerned with the environment, but we're also concerned with the health of our campus community. We want democracy and justice, and those two things are one with sustainability.

As students, we have the power to make things better—so why not?

Madeleine Turner, Blueprint Co-chair, SEC

HISTORY OF STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

Student Environmental Center (SEC), Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) and Campus Sustainability Council (CSC) are considered “sister organizations.” ESLP and CSC were founded by SEC. Today they all share office space, a staff adviser, and values stated in the Blueprint.

Student Environmental Center

SEC works to advance sustainability at UC Santa Cruz through six campaigns:

- Students for Organic Solutions
promotes organic food and food accessibility
- College Eight Garden Campaign
offers a 1-unit gardening class
- Transportation Campaign
promote alternative transportation (less cars, more walking and bikes)
- Waste Prevention Campaign
rents out bamboo dishes (Slugware), waste audits
- Green Building Campaign
research, advocates for green building practices
- Drop Your Own Drip
water monitoring and audits

Campaigns are led by campaign coordinators, along with volunteers and paid organizers. Campaigns have seemingly separate goals, but organizers from different campaigns work together. Organizers practice consensus-based decision making—they collectively decide what events and programs to invest in and how to spend funds.

Institutionalizing Sustainability at UC Santa Cruz: A History

SEC was founded in 2001 when students recognized that the University of California should come to value the natural environment. The first Blueprint opens, “civilization has arrived at a crucial juncture, wherein natural systems are in rapid decline.”

A group of students researched successful models for student organizing from other schools and adopted a structure similar to CU Boulder’s Student Environmental Center. This group’s groundwork ultimately institutionalized sustainability at UC Santa Cruz.

SEC convened the first Earth Summit in 2002. They brought students, faculty, staff, administrators and community members together to discuss the state of sustainability at UC Santa Cruz. The first Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus was created in 2003 after Earth Summit, as an “action plan,” developed through conversations at Earth Summit.

Afterwards, Earth Summit participants formed working groups, along with Chancellor’s Sustainability Action Council (CSAC), which was designed to “help institutionalize and coordinate the ongoing efforts of the working groups.” Working groups and CSAC were meant to put goals from Earth Summit into action.

Eventually, SEC organizer Aurora Winslade graduated and founded UC Santa Cruz’s Sustainability Office. Working groups moved under the Sustainability Office, and some are still active today.

SEC also worked to pass Ballot Measure 9, the Campus Sustainability Programs Fee, in 2003. Under the measure, each student paid \$3 every quarter. Campus Sustainability Council (CSC) formed to distribute funds collected by the measure. Today CSC distributes funds to student organizations who create programs and events to promote “environmentally sound practices on campus.” Ballot Measure 14 raised the fee to \$6 in 2005.

Education for Sustainable Living Program

Students in ESLP provide sustainability education to their peers. In doing so, they work to legitimize students' perspectives and values within academia.

ESLP organizers offer a class every spring quarter. The class is made of two parts: a weekly speaker series and Action Research Teams (ARTs). ESLP organizers invite progressive leaders to speak at lectures. Sometimes over two hundred students and community members attend one lecture.

The speaker series is held in conjunction with ARTs, small teams of students who conduct research and work on projects. Every winter quarter a group of students develop project proposals for ARTs, with guidance from faculty sponsors. The students attend Winter Training Seminar, a section guided by ESLP student organizers. During WTS students practice skills needed to facilitate their ARTs during spring quarter.

Students who take the ESLP class can receive 2 or 5-units of credit. More students can participate in ESLP because they're able to receive credit and therefore include ESLP in their class load. ESLP is also a prerequisite for the Sustainability Minor. In these ways ESLP institutionalizes student perspective and peer-to-peer learning.

The class is offered under College Eight and current faculty sponsor is College Eight Provost Ronnie Lipschutz.

A group of student organizers work year round to produce the spring class, WTS, and other programming. They invite speakers, recruit students to facilitate and enroll in ARTs, and manage ESLP's budget. Through many hours of work, invaluable skills are developed and life-long friendships are formed.

State-Wide Organizing & ESLP: a History

In the early 2000's, students across the University of California wanted their curriculum to better address sustainability. At the same time, a group of students formed California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC) in 2002. CSSC's first work was on "UC Go Solar," a campaign to change UC policy and promote "green" buildings and energy efficiency across campuses. The campaign was successful—in June 2003 regents passed the UC Green Building Policy, which commits campuses to LEED certify all new buildings.

CSSC organizer's hard work and success continued with the creation of ESLP. In 2004 they formed the Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP). ESLP was founded at five campuses: Davis, Santa Barbara, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz.

At first, ESLP organizers across the state met over weekly conference calls to exchange ideas and coordinate plans. In early years, speakers would visit each of the five ESLPs as part of an organized lecture circuit. Organizing through phone and email was difficult, and eventually ESLPs decided to decentralize their organizing. Separate campuses worked together when they could, but weren't obligated to do so.

Over time ESLPs at each campus became more distinct. Today, ESLP at Los Angeles works to pair students with faculty mentors and research projects. ESLP at Davis has a spring lecture series and Action Research Teams, similar to Santa Cruz. Since 2004, thousands of students have participated in ESLP across California.

Campus Sustainability Council

Campus Sustainability Council (CSC) is a student-led funding body that distributes funding collected from Campus Sustainability Programs Fee. Students volunteer their time to sit on council. Funds collected from the fee go towards student organizations. CSC allots money based on whether organizations' missions are relevant to topics and priorities outlined in this Blueprint.



ACTION TOOLS

APPLY FOR FUNDING & STUDENT AGENCY MODEL

Apply for Funding

For organizations, funding is often necessary to carry out programs and forward organizations' missions. Student organizations can apply for funding through:

- Student Organization Funding Advisory Committee (SOFA)
- college senates
- Measure 43 (administered by CASFS)
- Carbon Fund (administered by Sustainability Office)
- Campus Sustainability Council (CSC)

The Blueprint is directly related to CSC (See History of Student Sustainability Organizations). The following is an abridged guide to CSC funding. See complete information at csc.enviroslug.org.

Qualifying for CSC funding

Only student organizations affiliated with SOMeCA, OPERS, UCSC college or a UCSC department, can apply for funding. Organizations need structure and processes, including regular meeting times and a constitution that identifies plans for longevity and accountability. They also need a staff member to be a sponsor and administrator of funds.

Organizations' missions also need to be aligned with this Blueprint. They can be broadly aligned or focused on a specific topic. CSC is looking for organizations who strive for a "tangible impact" on campus sustainability.

When and How to Apply

Student organizations can apply for CSC funding at the beginning of Winter or Spring quarter. First RSVP and attend a mandatory grant training session. Write and submit your organizations' grant after completing the training. CSC awards funding at the end of the quarter.

Student Agency Model

Student Organizing and Advising Resources (SOAR) is the office that supports student clubs and organizations at UC Santa Cruz. SOAR supports the Student Agency Model (SAM), a unique model for student organizations. Following SAM, students are able to produce their own events and programs, instead of having staff produce events and programs on behalf of students. Few universities embrace this model.

A passionate group of students, staff and alumni are developing the Student Agency Model Toolkit. The Toolkit is based on almost thirty years of practicing SAM at UC Santa Cruz. It contains guiding principles, practices and case studies. It's online, and we encourage student organizers to take advantage of its resources. Find the toolkit at: <http://studentswithagency.ucsc.edu/>

ACADEMICS

Tuition and the Academic Mission

We go to class, we study, we pass tests. Students have first-hand knowledge of academia. Even compared to somebody who already has a degree, students hold valuable experiences. We're subject to our professors' expectations, our majors, and the curriculum. Academics are personal.

But before we can assess the state of academics at UC Santa Cruz, we need to ask questions. Why do people come to college? What knowledge, skills and experiences are they expecting to come away with? (It's not just for getting a job, right?) What should the University be responsible for providing?

Students are also asking these questions because tuition is rising. We want to know if college is worth the cost. Under the California Master Plan for Education, higher education was meant to be free. And a UC education was free, until the 70's, when the state passed initiatives to limit property tax. Last year tuition and living expenses for on-campus students averaged at \$34,356.

Financial aid isn't enough. College graduates face significant debt and current students struggle too. Students secretly live in their cars, or they can't afford groceries. Some are forced to drop out. Topping it off, students aren't provided with a clear explanation of where their tuition dollars go.

Is UC Santa Cruz aligned with students' best interests? UC Santa Cruz brands itself as a top research university, while cutting programs like community studies and journalism. At the same time, the University is increasing enrollment without enough space or services. There aren't enough dorms, classrooms or places to study. Services like MSI and CAPs are impacted.

Many students are drawn to UC Santa Cruz because the campus embraces a counter-culture. We're proud of having a decentralized campus, no football team and an invertebrate mascot. We are, after all, "the original authority on questioning authority." In expanding enrollment and branding itself, maybe UC Santa Cruz is parting from its unique strengths as a campus.

Sustainability Education

Students call for sustainability to be part of their curriculum, and certain professors and departments are embracing sustainability. The Environmental Studies Department is well established, and College Eight launched a sustainability minor in 2014.

Students also have options for internships and projects. The Environmental Studies Internship Office connects students to many opportunities. Students complete sustainability projects under Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship (CUIP) and Provost's Sustainability Internship (PSI). Students also work on projects through Impact Designs: Engineering and Sustainability through Student Service (IDEASS).

Students also provide sustainability education to their peers. Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP), works hard to provide peer-to-peer learning. ESLP classes devote time to sustainability topics that may not be addressed in our curriculum otherwise. To learn more about ESLP, see "History of Student Sustainability Organizations," on page 5.

GROUP VISION & ACTIONS

Vision: Reject the idea that students are customers.

Action: Do research, participate in staff meetings. If something important isn't part of the curriculum, ask for it to be included.

Vision: Smaller class sizes.

Action: Campaign to use classroom space more efficiently. Possible solutions include building taller buildings, hiring more TAs.

Vision: Classes are more hands on, focus on skills instead of information.

Action: Provide more peer to peer learning, garden classes, internships. Fund these courses. Promote programs such as Experiential Leadership Program and ESLP.

Vision: Classes support people who speak English as a second language.

Action: Expand existing programs like Educational Opportunities Programs (EOP).



PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Reject the idea that students are customers.

Action: Become a stakeholder in your education. Pursue interests even if they don't count towards a GE or your major. Ask questions about why things are the way they are.

Vision: Facilitate an ESLP ART.

Action: Apply Fall quarter (eslp.enviroslug.org)

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Our Options & Carbon Neutrality

Most everyone uses electricity from the grid. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is our sole energy service provider; they hold monopoly over the grid. The electricity coming to our homes and work is from a mix of sources; much of California's energy is generated by natural gas. Other sources include coal, nuclear, and renewables—mainly solar and wind.

PG&E is the only energy service provider available for households, businesses and smaller institutions. But UC is large enough to become its own energy service provider, and in the past year UC has made steps to become its own provider. This means UC will build its own portfolio of energy sources. UC has potential to aggressively pursue renewable energy. If UC relies on renewable sources, more wind and solar plants will be built in California.

Our campus is also powered by an on-campus cogeneration plant. "Cogenerative" means it uses natural gas to produce both energy and heat. The plant was originally installed as a backup energy source in case of blackouts.

Using our cogeneration plant is technically less energy efficient than PG&E's mix of sources. But by producing energy on campus, we're allowing other off-campus plants to switch off.

UC introduced its Carbon Neutrality Initiative and plans to become carbon neutral by 2025. Becoming its own energy service provider will help achieve that goal. In 2014 UC also bought 206,000 megawatts per year of PV (photovoltaic, or solar) power in Fresno. This purchase will supply 60% of five UC campuses' energy.

At UC Santa Cruz, students and staff can apply for Carbon Fund grants. These grant provides funding for projects that directly lower greenhouse gas emissions.

This year the Sustainability Office completed a major phase of their Climate and Energy Study. They audited over fifty campus buildings. Then, using a computer model that accounts for factors such as cost and energy efficiency, they came up with a list of energy projects that will benefit campus the most.

Fossil Fuel Investments

Although UC is working towards carbon neutrality, UC still holds investments in fossil fuel companies. Even if UC was powered entirely by renewables, it'd still be supporting the fossil fuel industry through these investments.

Fossil Free UC campaigns for UC to divest, or stop investments, in fossil fuel companies. Read about investment and Fossil Free UC in the Green Purchasing Section, page 16.



GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: UC divests from fossil fuel industries, aligns investments with goal to become carbon neutral.

Action: Support and campaign with Fossil Free UC.

Vision: Produce renewable energy on campus.

Action: Build relationships with building managers, campus planners. Feasibility studies for solar panels, windmills. Campaign to prioritize funding for projects.

Vision: Use compost for heat.

Action: Build relationships with garden managers. Find funding.

Vision: Energy conservation outreach to incoming students.

Action: Information at orientation and welcome week. Competitions in on-campus housing.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Practice saving energy.

Action: Unplug powerstrips and electronics, sleep at night, walk and bike, dress light or bundle up. (Spend money on things cooler than utilities and gas.)

FOOD SYSTEMS

Five dining halls, along with twelve cafes and restaurants, serve food to thousands of students on campus. Dining halls at UC Santa Cruz have earned a reputation for valuing healthy and sustainable foods. Our campus is also recognized for its focus on organic agriculture.

In 2012, Chancellor Blumenthal signed onto the Real Food Challenge, a national campaign that challenges Universities to provide healthy and sustainable food to students while supporting local, organic and ethical agriculture. UC campuses aim to have 40% of dining hall food be Real Food by 2020.

Food Systems Working Group (FSWG) is a proponent and driver of the Real Food Challenge. The group of students and staff work with dining halls and growers. Using an analysis called the Real Food Calculator, FSWG looks for areas of improvement in sourcing food.

UC Santa Cruz founded the The Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) in 1967. Alan Chadwick created The Center's first garden, now known as Chadwick Garden. Eventually CASFS expanded to the lower meadows, creating the farm. CASFS's mission is to, "research, develop, and advance sustainable food and agricultural systems that are environmentally sound, economically viable, socially responsible, non-exploitative, and serve as a foundation for the future." Students complete internships and work at the farm. CASFS also runs an apprenticeship program which trains people to work in organic farming.

Research at CASFS has far-reaching effects on California's agriculture. For example, the Shennan Lab conducts research on how to best grow strawberries without methyl bromide, a common and toxic pesticide. For now, most strawberry growers are dependent on this pesticide.

In 2010 students voted to pass Measure 43: the Sustainable Food, Health and Wellness Initiative. CASFS is responsible for administering this fee. Measure 43 funds student-led research, events and programs that enhance students' understanding of food systems and their food choices.

Program in Community and Agriculture (PICA) also offers hands-on experience in gardening and cooking. Members of PICA live in the village together and host frequent workshops and garden work days. All students are welcome to PICA events.

It's hard to know where efforts in dining halls, CASFS and college gardens meet. Some vegetables from CASFS make it to dining hall during "Farm Fridays." Food from college gardens go elsewhere, depending on the garden.

Currently dining halls aim to reduce meat consumption by 10%. They used to offer "Meatless Mondays," which are now renamed "Healthy Mondays." Although the idea of Meatless Monday is unpopular with some students, dining halls could greatly reduce water and energy consumption by offering more (and tastier) vegetarian meals. Students who aren't vegetarian can still make an impact by eating less meat.



GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Expand on-campus composting.

Action: Build composting at college gardens. Support Grounds Services' plans to expand composting (see Waste Prevention, page 25).

Vision: More student agency in our campus food-system.

Action: Expand Kresge co-op or create other co-ops on campus.

Vision: Dining halls focus on seasonal and local foods.

Action: Support FSWG, support dining halls to build relationships with local growers.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Eat less meat.

Action: Experiment with eating vegetables, examine attitude towards eating meat.

GREEN BUILDING

Conversations about “green” building are often framed by LEED certification, an environmental rating system designed by the U.S. Green Building Council. A building becomes LEED certified by qualifying for a certain number of points. Points are awarded for many aspects such as reduced energy and water consumption, proximity to public transit, or construction materials. Depending on points received, buildings can qualify as silver, gold or platinum certified.

A first major success of the California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC) was the UC Go Solar Campaign, which resulted in the UC Green Building Policy, a policy which commits UC campuses to LEED certifying all new buildings (see page 5).

LEED also takes “Sensitive Land Protection” into account. Buildings receive points for being constructed on previously developed land, or land that at least isn’t classified as “sensitive.” Sensitive land includes wetlands, floodplains, land near bodies of water, and habitat of endangered species. This has implications for campus expansion; UC Santa Cruz may not be able to receive LEED certification for buildings constructed on sensitive land.

UC Santa Cruz has some buildings with LEED certification. The Biomedical building, Porter College House A, and the Cowell Student Health Center are all gold certified. Porter College House B and Porter Dining Hall are silver certified. The Cowell Student Health Center’s certification was made possible by Measure 35, a \$5.20 per quarter student fee. This fee runs for 15 years total and started in Fall 2009.

Although new buildings are required to be LEED certified by the UC Green Building Council, the same does not apply to renovations on existing buildings. LEED certification can be applied to existing buildings, but has not been used in most renovations so far. For example, Merrill College renovations could have been LEED certified but were not. Certification costs money, and additional funds may be needed for additional project certifications.

There are alternative certifications which may account for aspects of sustainability that LEED doesn’t cover. For example, the Living Building Challenge is an international certification which takes social justice, diversity, health, happiness, and transportation of all building materials into account. Living Building Challenge’s philosophy is that a building can help restore the environment around it. UC Santa Cruz does not currently have any Living Building projects. Regardless of any certification, UC Santa Cruz could adopt more rigorous standards for its buildings.

VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: All retrofitting and construction must result in LEED certification.

Action: Extend Green Fee, the quarterly \$5.20 student fee. Find other means to fund projects.

Vision: Hire a qualified campus ecologist. Have them be a decision-maker for campus expansion issues.

Action: Campaign, build relationships with faculty, especially from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies departments.

Vision: Update and communicate with alumni on campus expansion.

Action: Send newsletters and plan events.

Vision: Encourage a student position in Santa Cruz city government. Establish better relationships and become allies with community members.

Action: Work with alumni and professors, receive their support. Build relationships with community members.

Vision: Students are included in conversation during initial plans for construction projects.

Actions: Aggregate the student voice through student organizations.

Visions: Only expand campus upwards. Use best technology available to construct and retrofit buildings.

Action: Understand current restrictions on building upwards.

Vision: Buildings become Living Building Challenge certified.

Action: Start with smaller certifications (Living Building Challenge has partial certifications.)

Vision: Grow gardens on more campus roofs, have produce accessible to students.

Action: More student internships and projects.

Vision: Make air conditioning/heater control box more environmentally efficient.

Action: Research who to talk to about this process, create a power map and timeline to anticipate retrofitting.

GREEN PURCHASING

On Campus Purchasing

No topic is more mysterious to the student body than Green Purchasing. Purchasing, also known as procurement, refers to what the university buys. The library needs furniture. Staff need paper and books. Researchers need centrifuges and test tubes. The University needs many things—things we may never think about.

Every UC campus has an office that mediates transactions between the university and vendors. At UC Santa Cruz, this office is called Procurement Services (PS). Although their role is vital to the University, their office is located off campus on, Delaware Avenue. They manage an online procurement tool called CruzBuy. CruzBuy contains a static catalogue, meaning prices and products don't change unless staff at PS update them. CruzBuy also contains punch-out catalogues, or links to websites where goods and services are sold by vendors directly.

All faculty and staff have access to CruzBuy, and CruzBuy is where they purchase most things. Although many of them value sustainability, they don't have good options for selecting sustainable products. The only indication that a product is "sustainable" is if it's flagged as an Environmentally Preferred Product (EPP).

Having the EPP system is better than nothing. EPP, however, is not a rigorous system. To have an EPP tag, a product only needs to be more sustainable than its alternatives.

When vendors update information about items in CruzBuy, they indicate whether a product is EPP. Right now PS doesn't have the means to vet products and EPP claims—CruzBuy contains hundreds of thousands of items. Vendors are on the honor system. PS has sponsored Provost Sustainability Interns (PSI), who are able to work on projects related to engaging vendors and creating better options for making sustainable purchases.

In general, it's possible for companies to "greenwash" their products, meaning they market them as sustainable, only to lure more customers. But marketing aside, what is a sustainable product, really? Is it recyclable? How much water and fuel were used to make it? Does the company treat its workers fairly?

EPP labeling leaves room for deception. For example, you might have a choice between two pencils. They're identical, except one is wrapped in plastic and the other is wrapped in post-consumer paper. The one wrapped in paper is EPP only because of its packaging.

UC Purchasing Power & Investments

With a 20 billion dollar operating budget, UC has greater buying power than many countries. UC buys in bulk and strikes deals with vendors to lower prices. UC can use this power to raise demand for truly sustainable products.

When UC or our campus wants to make a purchase costing over \$100k, vendors must submit a bid. PS selects a vendor based on a point system. Points can be awarded for things like cost and company returns. The system awards some points for sustainability, but sustainability could be more heavily weighted.

UC also has a 81 billion dollar investment portfolio—while making returns, UC has the potential to support companies and entire industries, for better or worse.

Fossil Free UC campaigns for UC to divest, or stop investments, in fossil fuel companies. They call for UC to, "1) stop all new investments in the industry, 2) drop all remaining investments over a 5 year time period, and 3) roll out a reinvestment strategy that takes into account climate risk," also known as stop, drop and roll. In 2015, UC released plans to divest from coal.

Students fight for divestment in other movements. UC Santa Cruz's Student Union Assembly passed a resolution to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS). UC also divested \$25 million from private prison companies last year, after extreme pressure from Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC). Divestment isn't new; students protesting apartheid fought for divestment from South Africa in the 1960's.

GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Unify UCOP purchasing power, use power to buy and support sustainable products.

Action: Campaign, be conscious of UCOP's purchasing power.

Vision: Vet products and provide benchmarks for sustainability. Labels are more specific than EPP.

Action: Hire staff to focus on sustainability in purchasing. Create more student internships.

Vision: Incentivize transparency in vendors.

Action: In bids, award points for transparency.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Think about what people purchase on campus.

Action: Ask questions at your work or lab. Encourage bosses or researchers to choose sustainable products when they can.



Art credit: Irene Valencia

LAND, HABITAT, & WATERSHED

Natural space and diverse ecosystems are key characteristics of UCSC's campus. The campus features nearly 1,400 acres of undeveloped land and ecosystems such as coastal terrace prairie and redwood forests.

This land was originally in Amah Mutsun Tribal territory. Artifacts and traditional burials have been discovered on campus. Land is considered sacred to the tribe, and Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's mission is to preserve it for the generations to come.

Santa Cruz is also an internationally recognized biological hotspot. For example the Ohlone tiger beetle, an endangered species, and the California red-legged frog, a federally threatened species, both live on campus. Endemic species live in Porter cave and connecting caverns, including an unnamed amphipod and isopod.

Currently 55% of campus is designated as either Campus Nature Reserve, research area, or undevelopable through the 2005 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). Part of this land is used for campus stewardship and research internships, which provide students with experiential and field learning.

The LRDP is a plan which outlines growth for the campus, anticipating the enrollment goals of up to 19,500 students by 2020. It does not outline specific construction projects, but it sets guidelines for projects which could happen. For example, the current LRDP, created in 2005, outlines a Social Sciences Three building and Colleges 11 and 12 along with expanding the core loop road. Each LRDP is a projection for the next 15 years, meaning the 2020-2035 plan may be written soon.

A 2014-2015 Student Housing West Feasibility Study proposes developing Porter Meadows and approximately 10 acres of forest near Kresge College in order to increase housing capacity. The university approved the project last year and are set on building. The target date for this project is 2020, but building plans and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) have yet to be created. An EIR must be filed for development to occur on campus, and there also must be a 60 day public comment period after it's filed for suggestions to be submitted.

The City of Santa Cruz and UCSC have a complicated relationship in regards to campus development. A Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (CSA) reached in 2008 between the city and the university concluded that LAFCO, the Local Agency Commission in California dedicated to limiting urban sprawl, needs to approve an application from UC for water and sewer services to be extended to new areas. CSA was developed after the city and county filed lawsuits against UC Santa Cruz. UC needs water and sewer services to build in undeveloped land.

However, Article 9 Section 9 of the California State Constitution states that the University of California has "full powers of organization and government" and is subject to legislative control only for funds and endowments. It also states that the university be "entirely independent of political and sectarian influence." This means that despite the CSA, UCSC can go above LAFCO and develop without its approval. The university has yet to ignore LAFCO, likely because it would be a public relations nightmare, but retains the power to do so.

In 2011, LAFCO approved a water policy requiring applicants to show proof of an "adequate, reliable, and sustainable source of water." In December 2011, LAFCO gave approval to UCSC for 240 acres of development on North campus, including an increase in 100 million gallons of water per year to the university. In 2012 this decision overturned in court, when the group Santa Cruz Habitat and Watershed Caretakers filed a suit. The decision cited the university's EIR as not considering the significant impact on the city water supply or looking for alternative solutions. The case is still undergoing appeals processes as of February 2016.

Since these decisions, little information is available about the university's definite plans for development. Construction dates are not transparent, and it is unclear when the university will submit an EIR for new Housing West plans. Students and community members have a history of opposing development with actions including tree-sits intended to block the construction of the biomedical building in 2008. Many community members and groups, such as the Habitat and Watershed Caretakers, Forest Keepers and Santa Cruz Climate Action Network, have been active in opposing development.



GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: UC officially recognizes that this campus sat on land belonging to Amah Mutsun.

Action: Organize events and promote awareness, gather allies.

Vision: Campus growth must be sustainable for UC Santa Cruz community and the surrounding ecology.

Action: Expand housing only in areas that are already developed. Build up instead of out. Expand natural reserves and designate as undevelopable. Students—organize, connect with faculty, city community members and fellow students. Ask to be part of planning processes. Stay updated. Identify who makes final decisions.

Vision: UC Santa Cruz employs a campus ecologist. Emphasis on assessing health of upper campus and status of endangered species.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Go outside, appreciate campus.

Action: Go walking, participate in stewardship or ecological research internships with Campus Natural Reserve and Site Stewardship Program, join UC Natural History Club.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

When asked in 2014, only 19% of student respondents said environmental efforts at UC Santa Cruz addressed race and class, when surveyed for a senior thesis. As student organizers, we see intersectionality between sustainability and social movements. But we also know aspects of sustainability are deeply problematic.

The Students of Caucus, held at Earth Summit last year, puts it clearly: “white supremacy continues to validate what is considered to be sustainable, persisting realities of cultural shaming within the sustainability movement.” Mainstream ideology of sustainability is perceived as “clean” and “correct,” and does not acknowledge “class disparities and cultural histories.”

Fortunately there’s progress. The People of Color Sustainability Collective, a group under the American Indian Resource Center, aims to “showcase the efforts that people of color have made, are making and will make to advance sustainability,” They host events that address these intersections in “race, class, culture and sustainability.”

This Fall, SEC, ESLP and CSC voted to make examining intersections between sustainability and social movements a priority. This isn’t an attempt to “diversify” our organization, but to understand how our campaigns, classes and other programming can contribute to social and environmental justice while we continue work towards sustainability. What are our unique strengths as sustainability organizations? We’re still grappling with this question.

VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Organizers intentionally engage spaces with people from different backgrounds.

Action: Have more spaces for conversation and constructive dialogue.

Vision: Debunk the lack of diversity in the environmental movement.

Action: Send out a survey to see what people's opinions are in regard to Social & Environmental Justice. Work with the POC Sustainability Collective to foster diversity in environmental activism.

Vision: Get a sense of what people care about. Find ways to include students from non-sustainability organizations directly in event planning and organizing.

Action: Ask friends from different backgrounds about what issues their communities or groups are working on and care about. Identify leadership from those groups and ask if they're interested in finding common ground with your organization. Ask about what they're working on and how you can support them, if at all.

Vision: Acknowledge sites where racial tragedy occurred.

Action: Mark with signage or create awareness around historical sites such as the Camino Real bell near Hahn, expropriated Amah Mutsun/Ohlone land and sites in Upper Campus and off campus. Promote Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day, strive for a more accurate depiction of history.



Art credit: Ami Gonzelez

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation options and parking are managed by UC Santa Cruz's Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS). The California Master Plan for Education says only academic services will be state-funded, not including transportation and housing. Therefore TAPS must fund itself through parking permits and student fees. They are currently in deficit. With better funding TAPS could create more sustainable projects, reducing car use. But it's ironic that when TAPS is effective at reducing car use on campus, it shrinks its main funding sources—parking permit sales—which are used to fund alternative transportation.

The goal of most transportation initiatives is to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use (SOV), or one person driving a car to campus. SOVs produce the most fossil fuel emissions per person and creates traffic and parking problems. Carpooling, metro bus use, cycling and walking are better. TAPS estimates SOVs make up 35% of trips to campus. Counts done in 2011 and 2012 found the number of vehicle trips to campus to be the same as in 1997. This is great, considering the student body increased by more than 5,000 students between 1997 and 2011.

Loop buses, the Night Owl, and unlimited METRO ridership are funded by a student transit fee passed in 2007. Students rely on METRO buses because there's limited parking and permits are expensive. The bike shuttle encourages students to bike. The on-campus bike co-op lends bikes to students and provides tools and space for bike maintenance and Bike Library manages a bike loan program. But with steep hills, it remains a challenge to encourage biking.

Walk to Class Challenge promotes the fun and health benefits of walking, while encouraging students to opt out of taking the bus for a day. TAPS is unable to run the program again this year and is seeking a student organization to take over the event.

Electric vehicle and bus options are also being investigated by TAPS and the Santa Cruz METRO, but UC Santa Cruz does not currently have the proper infrastructure for large-scale electric vehicle charging.

Professor Ronnie Lipshutz conducted a feasibility study of electric vehicles recharged by a campus solar PV (photovoltaic) system. It concluded that switching to electric vehicles could reduce emissions by 36-44%.

Currently there are six electric vehicle charging stations in the Core West Parking Structure. These chargers were put in with help from a grant, and additional grants are needed if more will be installed.

Since both TAPS and the Santa Cruz METRO are in deficit, converting to more sustainable options will likely require outside funding support. Recently METRO has announced possible cuts to bus schedules and routes in the near future in order to control their deficit.



GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Better bus experience.

Action: Bus schedules are better synced with classes. Expand bus-tracking apps. Provide storage spaces for students on campus.

Vision: Better walking experience.

Action: More lights and campus security at night. Expand Walk to Class Challenge to a week or month, include prizes and combine with CruzFit.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Carpool.

Action: If you drive to campus, talk to friends. See if your schedules match and you can offer them a ride.

Vision: Practice bus etiquette.

Action: Take Metro only when you go off-campus. Take loop buses only when you need to and walk if possible.

Vision: Prevent bike theft.

Action: Use TAPS resources: register your bike. Use bike lockers or proper locks.

WASTE PREVENTION

Our campus didn't have a recycling program until 1989. Now, not only do we have better waste reduction services, those services are innovative compared to many university campuses. Our campus needs to be innovative, in order to reach a steep goal: Zero Waste by 2020, meaning our campus is expected to divert 95% of their waste away from landfills in four years. All UC campuses have committed to this initiative.

At UC Santa Cruz, any trash or recycle bin is emptied by Grounds Services. Trash goes to a landfill in Santa Cruz, while recyclables and composting are sent to Monterey Regional Waste Management District.

Waste management sites charge the university money to process our waste. UC Santa Cruz has an innovative program to save money and reduce waste: instead of paying for waste by volume (the norm), we weigh our trash and pay by weight. Ground Services installed scales in trash trucks in order to weigh trash. Now Ground Services can also track what parts of campus produce more waste.

Ground Services is also working to expand composting throughout campus. They're responsible for a pilot program in McHenry library and campus cafes, providing separate bins for recycling, paper waste, trash and compost. Ground Services would like to expand composting services throughout campus, but two challenges stand in their way. First, they need more staff or students to collect extra composting bins.

Secondly, Monterey Regional Waste Management District can only process small amounts of post-consumer waste (compostable cups, forks, etc.). Last year Ground Services created a plan for building and managing an on-campus composting site. The site would be able to process 6-8 tons of food waste and post-consumer waste every day. Ground Services needs more funding before they can build this composting site.

Waste services in campus housing could be refined. Most waste on campus is separated into four streams: trash, paper, cardboard, and cans/containers. Dorms only have three streams, combining paper with cans. This makes paper harder to recycle and less is recovered.

Several years ago, SEC launched a Waste Prevention Campaign. Today students perform dining hall waste audits to show peers the amount of food they waste.

UC Santa Cruz has reduced electronic waste by reselling computers and other equipment. Up to 80% of electronics are sold, although we don't know where the electronics end up at the end of their lifespan.

We've made great progress in reducing waste. But the question remains: should waste prevention be part of our culture, or should it be provided as a service? The answer is probably both. Yes, Ground Services should provide composting and recycle bins in every nook, but we should also reduce the amount of waste that ends up in those bins.

GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Expand composting services across campus.

Action: Create more student internships with Grounds Services. Campaign to increase funds for compost site.

Vision: Waste reduction is part of our culture.

Action: Recycling and composting education in dorms.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Throw away less.

Action: Buy what you need, avoid products with unnecessary packaging. Creatively reuse items.



Art credit: Elizabeth Coler

WATER CONSERVATION

Needing to Save

Our campus accounts for 6% of water used in Santa Cruz—roughly 1.1 million gallons per day. The county relies on surface water from rivers and Loch Lomond Reservoir. There is no infrastructure to import water from outside places, meaning drought could seriously deplete our water supply.

This fact led the city to devise a strict Water Shortage Contingency Plan for residents and businesses. Last year UC Santa Cruz agreed to adopt a modified plan and reduce its water use by 25%. The campus met its goal mainly by reducing irrigation in sports fields and at the arboretum.

The Sustainability Office also started a drought team comprised of five students. The students worked together to audit all fixtures (they flushed every toilet on campus), find leaks, and provide education to the campus. The Sustainability Office uses BEACON system, software for tracking how much water each building is using.

Students wonder whether greywater or rain catchment systems would save even more water. Small grey water projects, like using laundry water to spray landscape, could be beneficial. Large grey water projects, however, require extensive infrastructure that may cost more than their benefit. And as for rain catchment—it would work better with rain.

Sustainability Office staff would like to see leaks detected using sonar. Many pipes are underground, making it hard to notice leaks. But sonar systems are costly and the school has no plans to use one.

Changing Course

In 2012, SEC formed the Drop Your Own Drip (DYOD) campaign. They organized a competition between Cowell apartment buildings to see who could reduce their water use the most. Apartment residents received mock water statements, and winners enjoyed a block party.

Take Back the Tap leads another effort to reduce water and plastic waste. This group campaigns to end the sale of disposable water bottles. They're responsible for the drinking water retrofits around campus that make filling water bottles easier.



GROUP VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Fixtures that help conserve water are the norm.

Action: Student-led projects, funding.

Vision: University purchases foods that are produced using less water.

Action: Research options. Replace some meat options with high quality vegetarian food.

Vision: People have good habits about conserving water.

Action: Public outreach and events, free water bottles, stickers, pamphlets.

PERSONAL VISIONS & ACTIONS

Vision: Maintain good water conservation habits, even during rainy years.

Vision: Know it's ok to drink tap water on campus.

Action: Choose tap water over bottled water. Encourage friends to do the same.

Vision: Choose foods that were produced using less water.

Action: Eat vegetarian once a week.



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RESOURCES

General

- Enviroslug (SEC, ESLP, CSC)
<http://www.enviroslug.org/>
- University of California Mission Statement
<http://www.ucop.edu/uc-mission/index.html>
- Student Agency Model Toolkit
<http://studentswithagency.ucsc.edu/>
- Student Union Assembly
<http://sua.ucsc.edu/>
- California Student Sustainability Coalition
<http://www.sustainabilitycoalition.org/>
- United States Student Association
<http://usstudents.org/>
- How UC Santa Cruz Became Unique (video)
<https://youtu.be/QA1kWUji8B4>
- University of California Office of the President (UCOP)- Sustainability
<http://ucop.edu/sustainability/index.html>
- Campus Sustainability Plan
http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/governance/files/CSP_2013_2016.pdf
- Other Sustainability Office Plans
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/governance/plans-reports/index.html>
- “A Bird’s Eye” Budget Report
<http://planning.ucsc.edu/budget/Reports/profile2015.pdf>
- California Constitution Article 9 (Education)
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/.const/.article_9

Academics

- Education for Sustainable Living Program
eslp.enviroslug.org
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<http://senate.ucsc.edu/committees/cep-committee-on-educational-policy/>
- Impact Designs: Engineering and Sustainability Through Student Services (IDEASS)
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/get-involved/jobs-internships/ideass/index.html>
- California Master Plan (Major Features)
http://ucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/pdf/ca_masterplan_summary.pdf
- *Critical Pedagogy*, Paulo Freire
- *One Size Does Not Fit All*, Kathleen Manning

Energy

- UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative (Proposed Efforts)
<http://www.sustain.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/carbon-neutrality2025.pdf>
- UC Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/governance/plans-reports/climate-action-plan.html>

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<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/get-involved/funding/carbon-fund/index.html>
 - City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan
<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/planning-and-community-development/programs/climate-action-program/climate-action-plan>
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<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-make-large-purchase-solar-energy-partner-frontier-renewables>
 - Fossil Free UC
<http://www.fossilfreeuc.org/>
 - Partial win press release (2015)
<http://www.fossilfreeuc.org/partial-win-press-release>
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Food Systems

- Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA)
<http://pica.ucsc.edu/>
 - Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)
<http://casfs.ucsc.edu/>
 - Get Involved with CASFS
<http://casfs.ucsc.edu/farm-to-college/how-to-get-involved.html>
 - Students for Organic Solutions (SEC Campaign)
<http://sec.envirolug.org/students-for-organic-solutions.html>
 - Friends of Community Agroecology Network (FOCAN)
<http://focan.weebly.com/>
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Green Building

- Green Building Working Group (Sustainability Office)
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/topics/Buildings.html>
 - Green Building Campaign (SEC campaign)
<http://sec.envirolug.org/green-building.html>
 - Physical Planning and Construction
<http://ppc.ucsc.edu/>
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Green Purchasing

- Cruzbuy
https://financial.ucsc.edu/Pages/Launch_CruzBuy.aspx
 - Green Purchasing Guide
https://financial.ucsc.edu/Pages/Purchasing_GreenPurchasing.aspx
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Land, Habitat and Watershed

- Long Range Development Plan (LRDP)
<http://lrdp.ucsc.edu/>
- Local Wikipedia on LRDP
https://localwiki.org/santacruz/UCSC_Long-Range_Development_Plan
- Planning Studies
<http://ppc.ucsc.edu/planning/planningstudies.html>
- Student Housing West 2014-15 Study
<http://mediafiles.ucsc.edu/ppc/studies/11125Housing.pdf>

- Capital Planning (Budget for Potential Projects)
<http://www.ucop.edu/capital-planning/resources/2015-25-capital-financial-plan.html#ucsc>
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<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/topics/Land,%20Habitat,%20Watershed.html>
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<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/general-news/20131116/uc-santa-cruz-growth-plans-have-implications-for-reset-water-supply-debate>
 - UC Natural Reserves
<http://ucsantacruz.ucnrs.org/>
 - Arboretum
<http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/>

Social and Environmental Justice

- Disorientation Guide (2012)
<https://www.indybay.org/uploads/2012/10/09/disorientationguide2012-digital.pdf>
- POC Sustainability Collective
<http://airc.ucsc.edu/student-resources/POCsustainabilitycollective.html>
- Engaging Education
<http://www.engagingeducation.org/>
- Chicano Latino Resource Center
<http://elcentro.ucsc.edu/>
- African American Resource and Cultural Center
<http://aarcc.ucsc.edu/>
- Student Organizations
<http://aarcc.ucsc.edu/student-life/student-orgs.html>
- Afrikan Black Coalition
<http://afrikanblackcoalition.org/>
- Asian American/ Pacific Islander Resource Center
<http://aapirc.ucsc.edu/>
- American Indian Resource Center
<http://airc.ucsc.edu/>
- Cantú Queer Center
<http://queer.ucsc.edu/>

- Practical Activism
<http://www.practicalactivism.org/>
 - Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
<http://diversity.ucsc.edu/>
 - Press (housing)
 - UC to dramatically boost California student enrollment (2015)
<http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-dramatically-boost-california-student-enrollment>
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<http://www.dailycal.org/2016/01/22/university-slacking-on-student-housing/>
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<http://www.cityonahillpress.com/2016/02/26/building-blocks/>
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Transportation

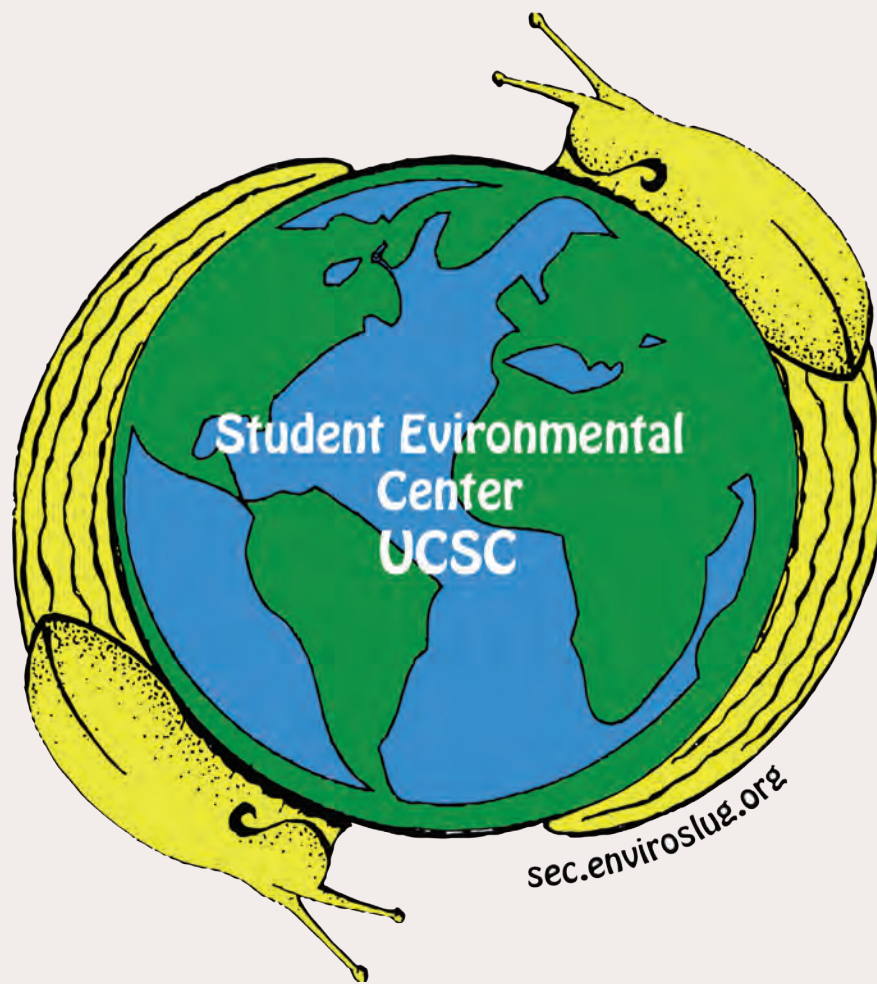
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 - UC Santa Cruz Bike Library
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Waste Prevention

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<http://sec.envirolug.org/waste-prevention.html>
 - Green Labs (Sustainability Office)
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/get-involved/student-projects/green-labs/index.html>
 - Zero Waste Team (Sustainability Office)
<http://sustainability.ucsc.edu/get-involved/student-projects/zerowaste/index.html>
 - Waste Prevention Progress Updates
<http://recycling.ucsc.edu/zero-waste-2020/index.html>
 - Recycling and disposal guide
<http://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/index.html>
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Water

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<http://sec.envirolug.org/drop-your-own-drip.html>
- City of Santa Cruz Water Restrictions
<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/city-water-commission>
- Stormwater Management
<http://cleanwater.ucsc.edu/>
- Take Back the Tap (Common Ground)
<http://kresge.ucsc.edu/commonground/activities/take-back-the-tap.html>



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