

The background of the cover features a large, textured tree trunk in the foreground, leading the eye towards a path that winds through a grassy field in the distance. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly hazy light, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

**2015-2016  
Blueprint for a  
Sustainable Campus**

University of California, Santa Cruz

# What is The Blueprint?

The Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus was created twelve years ago through the Student Environmental Center (SEC) as an outlet to document students' visions of the future of sustainable growth at UC Santa Cruz. Rewritten yearly, this living document strives to encompass the current visions of students, staff, faculty, and community members who have gathered together to compile this information intended to reach a shared goal of an environmentally sustainable campus. The purpose of the Blueprint is to serve as both a resource and a guide for the campus community, and can be utilized as a launching point for student-initiated projects. It is the desire of the Student Environmental Center that the Blueprint will encourage students to become an active member in their campus community and take part in the experiential component of sustainability work.



## *Student-Initiated, Student-Led, Student Power*

All ideas shared and recorded in this document came from student-led group discussions. This allowed for a truly democratic and collaborative effort, making sure student voice is directly empowered through creating these visions and actions available for funding. For each topic, group facilitators posed questions to initiate such a critical discussion: what is exciting? What is challenging? What are our visions for the future year of UCSC? What steps can we take to meet these visions? The compilation of the notes from these discussions, in addition to the feedback received at the Earth Summit, is presented in this document.

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Favianna Rodriguez

Kinetic Poetics Project at UCSC

Thank you to all the attendees, organizers, and contributors to our Blueprint Forums and the 14th Annual Earth Summit!

# Who We Are



SEC: The Student Environmental Center  
ESLP: Education for a Sustainable Living Program  
CSC: Campus Sustainability Council

The Student Environmental Center (SEC) formed in 2001 in collaboration with the Education for a Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) and the Campus Sustainability Council (CSC), all of which were created to further the student-initiated environmental movement at UC Santa Cruz. The Student Environmental Center operates under different campaigns ranging in sustainability topics, and facilitates the yearly formation of this document. Education for a Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) offers an accredited student-led class every spring quarter comprising of a Speaker Series, and student-led sections based on The Blueprint's sustainability topics. Both SEC and ESLP are able to implement such work through the funding provided by the Campus Sustainability Council, an all-student board whose mission is to allocate student measure fees to student organizers who wish to implement the visions and actions told in this document. Working with ESLP, SEC, or CSC will provide an opportunity for academic and social learning, along with personal growth.

# Funding for Student Projects

*Below are steps student organizations should follow if they would like to apply for funding based off of the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus:*

**Get Inspired:** If you don't have a clear project idea, refer to the Blueprint for inspiration or speak to other students or staff who are passionate about your project topic. The resources section under each Blueprint topic can help direct you to current organizations and university departments that relate to the Blueprint topic.

**Organize:** Before you begin writing your grant, make sure to have a clear vision of your project and internal structure in your organization. Having a group of more than four students, a constitution, a fiscal staff, and governing documents are required before receiving a grant from CSC.



**Check Out CSC, Our Funding Source:** You will find information on upcoming mandatory grant trainings, important grant deadlines, links to the newest version of the Blueprint, and the historical allocations for past CSC funded projects.

**Happy Writing:** After attending the mandatory grant trainings, you will be ready to write your grant! Form a group grant writing session and make sure you have a fiscal staff personnel on board with your project's budget.

**Submit and Stay Connected:** Upon turning in an electric and hard copy, council members will schedule an interview with your team. Final decisions and funding awards are notified shortly after, with next steps to receiving your funding, and funding evaluations at the end of your grant's cycle.

# Relevant Policies, Plans, and Reports



The policies, commitments, and university strategies described in this section are crucial to the UCSC sustainability movement, and are key considerations when evaluating project and campaign ideas. While the Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus reflects no commitments from University administration, the ideas and goals contained within are often shaped, strengthened, or even challenged by official university commitments.

**The Campus Sustainability Plan:** (CSP) is a comprehensive and detailed framework for advancing sustainability in nine interconnected topic areas, establishing goals, objectives, and metrics to guide and track progress. The CSP is rewritten every three years for reporting purposes, and has specific measure objectives compiled mainly by Working Group staff and students on the Committee for Sustainability and Stewardship (CSS). Refer to the CSP for baseline data, metrics, key targets, and a greater understanding of campus policies and commitments.

**Long Range Development Plan:** Provides a framework for the physical development of the UCSC Campus as student enrollment is expected to increase more in future years. The LRDP contains an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which addresses some potential impacts to the surrounding environment in water supply, ecology, traffic, housing and more. The EIR is required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Comprehensive Settlement Agreement:** Agreement between the university, city, and county that identifies policies for traffic, water use, and housing while allowing UCSC to proceed with growth.

**UC Policy on Sustainable Practices:** Outlines methods for improving environmental performance throughout the entire UC system.

**UCSC Climate Action Plan:** Outlines how UCSC will comply with climate-related target contained in the UC Policy, Climate Action Compact, and the ACUPCC.

# Academics and Curriculum



UCSC offers a breadth of academic programs and curriculums focused on sustainability. For example, the Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP) is a student-run organization which offers an accredited student-led class every spring quarter comprising of a Speaker Series, and student-led sections based on The Blueprint's sustainability topics. Engineering and Sustainability through Student Service (IDEASS), is a yearlong upper-division course, where students work together in teams with professional mentors to design and implement a project related to sustainability. Campus gardens and other student-led groups also promote innovative academics and curriculum by offering hands-on projects and experiential learning around sustainability.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Foster a collaborative relationship between teachers and students on class topics**

- Create student groups to work with faculty and other departments on campus and get involved in the academic process.
- Encourage new spaces and discussions between students about class topics and areas of interest.

## **2. Increase knowledge and confidence for student facilitation skills**

- Open workshops for skills development.
- Work with faculty and departments to share best practices and skills for facilitation and holding spaces.

## **3. Institute experiential learning on an interdisciplinary scale**

- Raise awareness of student-led classes through summer orientation, core courses, etc.
- Promote student-led 'sections' or academic-based groups to integrate hand-on projects.
- Advocate and raise awareness about class sizes and target appropriate groups for further action.

## **Resources**

**ESLP:** [eslp.enviroslug.org](http://eslp.enviroslug.org)

**Common Ground Center:** <http://bit.ly/1SWDjbm>

**Committee on Educational Policy:** <http://bit.ly/1RK38tQ>

**Office of Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports (OPERS):** <http://opers.ucsc.edu/>

**IDEASS:** <http://bit.ly/1qKMDyg>

**Path to a Greener Stevenson:** <http://bit.ly/1Mm7NyZ>

# Energy Usage



Energy efficiency overlaps with all aspects of sustainability, whether it is transportation, green building, or purchasing. Based on data from the UC Partnership for Performance, UCSC has been one of the most energy efficient UC campuses per maintained gross square foot since 1995. In 2008, UCSC contributed to the lowest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions per Gross Square Foot (GSF) of any UC. Powered by off-site electricity, natural gas, and an on-campus cogeneration plant (which provides approximately a third of all campus electrical power), UCSC has made considerable commitments to reduce its impact and move toward carbon neutrality. With the effects of climate change causing increasing concern, renewables and energy efficiency is a long-term goal our campus must continue to strive towards.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Make a collaborative effort between students and administrators to help UCSC reduce energy consumption**

- Gauge more student involvement by creating student representatives within campus working groups.
- Collaborate with departments across campus such as physical plant, housing office, and grounds to discuss ways to help students conserve.

## **2. Effectively incentivize all to conserve energy**

- Provide informational materials, such as multimedia benchmarks or monitors and other outreach tools, to help people realize the true numbers behind energy consumption.
- Provide opportunities for students to get engaged with Climate and Energy studies on campus.

## **3. Provide training and education to students about energy sourcing and conservation**

- Form student liaisons with colleges to reach students and provide trainings and tools such LED light conversions, etc.

## **Resources**

**UCSC Climate Action Plan:** <http://bit.ly/1Mm89Wn>

**City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Compact:** <http://bit.ly/1lyKyPF>

**UCSC Carbon Fund:** <http://bit.ly/Yghs7j>

**Fossil Free Campaign, UCSC:** <http://bit.ly/1M5uDKp>

# Food Systems



From the creation of the UCSC Farm in 1971, programs such as the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), the Food Systems Working Group (FSWG), the Program in Community and Agroecology (PICA), and college gardens have since sprouted and continue to thrive on campus. Students have also approved Measure 43, The Sustainable Food, Health, and Wellness Initiative, which generates over \$100,000 from student fees to support a healthy campus food system. In addition, all UCSC Dining Halls have become self-operated, focusing on campus-sourced food and composting operations, and have been awarded the Green Business certification by the City of Santa Cruz. All efforts on campus continue to promote sustainable food practices and encourage local, sustainable food consumption through a variety of opportunities and events while also striving for better food access for students in need.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Provide greater knowledge about food labeling, organic food options, and sustainable farming practices**

- Create public education materials on campus about labeling differences and resource allocations associated with different foods.
- Introduce the importance of sustainable foods systems within orientation through tours, informational workshops, educational materials and visuals, etc.
- Facilitate an outlet for students and other community members to discuss and share experiences and practices.

## **2. Create more accessible food pantries and other affordable options for students**

- Collaborate with both campus and local food sources to provide inexpensive foods available to students on campus.
- Vocalize and outreach issues of food affordability on campus to address this issue and instigate change on an even greater scale.
- Host campus garden markets throughout campus to provide affordable healthy food options and educational materials.

## **3. Institute a more direct link between campus-grown food and students' plates**

- Offer inexpensive, or work-trade access to campus sourced meals.
- Provide students the educational and outreach materials needed to navigate food available on campus.

## **Resources**

**Program in Community Agroecology (PICA):** [ucscpica.org](http://ucscpica.org)

**SEC's Students for Organic Solutions Campaign (SOS):** <http://bit.ly/1BKFooO>

**Friends of Community Agroecology Network (FOCAN):** <http://focan.weebly.com>

**Food Systems Working Group (FSWG):** <http://bit.ly/1KNdVSS>

**Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS):** [casfs.ucsc.edu](http://casfs.ucsc.edu)

# Green Building and Facilities



In the past decade UC Santa Cruz has successfully green-certified seven buildings across campus. In 2011, Cowell Student Health Center became the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building on campus receiving a Gold certification, and students are continuing to push for such high standards. Administrators have heard this demand for more sustainable buildings and responded by setting requirements for all new construction to be at least LEED Silver or equivalent. Since then, the Porter College House A and the Biomedical Building have also achieved LEED-Gold certification. Students hope UC Santa Cruz will continue to set goals towards sustaining the natural environment while successfully operating nearly six million gross square feet of housing, academic, administrative, research, and recreational space at multiple locations.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Train students to conserve and reuse resources**

- Promote reusing materials and modular design within existing hands-on student projects by collaborating with campus departments.
- Promote and educate students about reusable materials and modular design in construction through orientations and workshops.

## **2. Implement a critical re-evaluation of campus space and expansion plans**

- Increase student voice and involvement in the current UCSC building plans.
- Facilitate research-backed student stance on green building developments on campus.

## **3. Provide spaces for hands-on green building and design projects**

- Host do-it-yourself workshops and classes.
- Integrate students' curriculum with such hands-on projects using sustainable materials.

## *Resources*

**Green Building Working Group:** <http://bit.ly/1JqZrX3>

**Physical Plant:** <http://bit.ly/1GkWFn7>

**Physical Planning and Construction:** <http://ppc.ucsc.edu/>

**SEC's Green Building Campaign:** <http://bit.ly/1lhZPbz>

# Green Purchasing



Procurement has generally been viewed as a behind-the-scenes process that many students aren't directly involved with, and therefore hasn't always received appropriate attention as a key contributor to our campus sustainability initiatives. Green Purchasing refers to the procurement of products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. UCSC Procurement works with suppliers to encourage waste reduction - especially in packaging and GHG emissions by consolidating purchases to minimize truck deliveries. Procurement works to negotiate the most competitive pricing on most environmentally preferred products (EPP) for widely used items such as paper, computers and janitorial supplies. They also, in competitive bidding, grade suppliers on their sustainable business practices as well as the products. It is crucial we consider the carbon footprint and other impacts of the goods we purchase and consume and the service providers we enlist.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Pose incentives for greener packaging on campus**

- Apply for grants to subsidize possible extra cost of reusables and greenware, and work with dining halls to implement such incentives.
- Subsidize costs to provide local or campus grown food for less.

## **2. Provide spaces for reusing versus consuming**

- Implement campus swap meets, free and for sale fairs, and other programs.

## **3. Instituting broader education to students on 'green washing', modern green procurement, and long-standing sustainable practices**

- Create education spaces for students on consumption practices throughout the years and cultures through workshops, forums, and other means.
- Make such materials available to everyone on line, especially during orientation.

## **Resources**

**Green Purchasing Working Group (GPWG) & The Green Purchasing Guide:**

<http://bit.ly/1SWDhjl>

**UCSC Procurement Services- Cruzbuy:** <http://cruzbuy.ucsc.edu/>

**UCSC Green Office Certification Program (GOC):** <http://bit.ly/1ldMtdI>

**Monterey Bay Area Green Business Certification Program:**

<http://www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org/>

# Land, Habitat, Watershed



Ecologically diverse and physically spectacular, the UC Santa Cruz campus comprises over 2,000 acres with approximately 1,400 acres consisting of undeveloped natural areas. The campus supports diverse vegetation communities ranging from coastal terrace, prairie grasslands and chaparral, to mixed evergreen and redwoods forests within four distinct watersheds. 55% of the campus is designated in the 2005 Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) as Campus Natural Reserve, site research area, and other land use designations that restrict development. UCSC has successfully used an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control weeds, diseases, insects, and rodents on campus for approximately 15 years. With the campus community expanding, climate change, and endangered species posing many challenges to the future of Land, Habitat, and Watershed on our campus, student involvement and restoration projects are crucial.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Promote students' economic knowledge about development and the value of natural resources**

- Institute an interdisciplinary foundation through providing both quantitative and qualitative attributes in education material.
- Hosting events focused on this interdisciplinary nature to connect to UCSC's land history.

## **2. Increase transparency in development choices and student fee uses**

- Providing easier, more accessible access to student fees information through various means.
- Create student liaisons between funding bodies and fee advisory boards for increased transparency.

## **3. Initiate campus wide relationship with land's history and greater knowledge of upper campus**

- Create intuitive campus maps for several uses-- hiking, nature walks, etc.
- Promote intrinsic value of natural environment by hosting hikes and educational events.

## Resources

**Land, Habitat, and Watershed Working Group:** <http://bit.ly/1liogmi>

**UCSC Storm Water Management Plan:** <http://cleanwater.ucsc.edu/>

**Grounds Services:** <http://bit.ly/1G6xORU>

**UCSC Campus Natural Reserves:** <http://ucsantacruz.ucnrs.org/>

**Long Range Development Plans:** <http://lrdp.ucsc.edu/>

**City of Santa Cruz Planning and Community Development:** <http://bit.ly/1Fuvpfm>

**The Arboretum:** <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/>

**UCSC Teach the Forest:** <https://teachtheforest.wordpress.com/>

# Social and Environmental Justice



The Students of Color Environmental Caucus was created in response to the negativity students of color experienced within environmental organizations and their education. This closed space for those who identified as people of color provided an opportunity for students to come together in sharing experiences within the campus environmental movement. This safe space was held in response to a senior thesis written by a UCSC alumna, Cheslea Pack. Pack's thesis included research where students on campus expressed sentiments such as, "I feel like the lower income/minorities are a lot less interested... because their culture/background does not advocate for protecting the environment," or "I'm not sure if ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups have environmental goals on their agenda." Students shared experiences and brainstormed issues to initiate change within environmental organizations, curriculum, and it's culture. In place of usual 'Visions and Actions', here are notes generated from this space:

## Resources

**POC sustainability:** <https://www.facebook.com/pocsustainability/timeline>

**Engaging Education:** <http://www.engagingeducation.org/>

**Chicano Latino Resource Center:** <http://www2.ucsc.edu/raza/>

**African American Resource Center:** <http://aarcc.ucsc.edu/>

**Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center:** <http://aapirc.ucsc.edu/>

**American Indian Resource Center:** <http://airc.ucsc.edu/>

**Cantu Queer Center:** <http://queer.ucsc.edu/>

**Practical Activism:** <http://www.practicalactivism.org/>

**Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** <http://diversity.ucsc.edu/>

# Visions and Actions

## ***How do these excerpts resonate with you?***

- Class disparities and cultural histories have not been acknowledged, persisting an ideology that sustainability is “clean” and “correct.”
- There needs to be an understanding of sustainability issues in relation to other social issues.
- White supremacy continues to validate what is considered to be sustainable, persisting realities of cultural shaming within the sustainability movement.

## ***Have you experienced this in the environmental community?***

- Students of color are depoliticized and tokenized within the environmental community due to large generalizations that invisibilize People of Color that are in these spaces.
- Conversations regarding race and interrelating social and environmental issues feel awkward to talk about within these spaces.
- Strong ideologies of white supremacy exist in these spaces, as there is a very real reality of cultural appropriation of sustainability practices.
- Sustainability organizations attempt to “diversify” the movement in what they perceive as a fairly white student organizing space, continuing to invisibilize People of Color within the movement. This leads to the sustainability movement growing and being perceived as part of a “white agenda”

## ***How do we transform our experiences?***

- We can transform these spaces through actively talking about power and privilege within and outside of sustainability/environmental spaces and continuing this dialogue within other events to amplify more visibility.
- Create a space to share experiences and help validate them, and bring different modes of social consciousness to this space, such as comedy, art, etc.
- Demand more critical courses that include sustainable histories.
- Be more explicit about microaggressions within spaces.
- Create more platforms that focus on both the social and environmental interrelating issues and identify more intersections amongst different organizations and movements.

# Transportation



Even though student enrollment has increased, sustainable transportation initiatives at UCSC have continued through several campus measures to provide bus services and promote bike mobility. In 2007, Measure 24 was passed, which increased student transportation fees to provide students with adequate transportation services, such as the Night Owl service and continuation of unlimited ridership on Metro buses. Due to the commitment from Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) in promoting sustainable forms of transportation, there has been a significant reduction to the number of single-occupancy vehicle use. The campus bike community has also provided increasing support for beginning cyclists by introducing bike shuttles, an on-campus bike co-op, bike maintenance stations, and many more services.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Re-evaluate budget and administrative costs for transportation on campus**

- Create transparency around student fee use for buses, car usage, bike infrastructure.
- Connect with departments on campus to amplify student voice on these issues.

## **2. Increase accessibility and feasibility for more sustainable transportation**

- Advocate for more secure bike parking through connecting bike lockers and student ID's and evaluating current rack locations.
- Institute programs that educate students and provide cost effective tools such as helmets, locks, etc.

## **3. Create more incentives for more efficient transportation to campus**

- Streamline carpool processes and programs to make ride sharing to campus easier for all.
- Provide classes and workshops on the importance of efficient transportation and the skills needed such as bike classes on street sharing and safety.

## **Resources**

**The SEC's Transportation Campaign:** <http://bit.ly/1df3JEw>

**Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS):** <http://taps.ucsc.edu/>

**Office of Sustainability Transportation Advisory Committee:** <http://bit.ly/1JL7ko>

**TAPS Bike Library:** <http://bit.ly/1M5vj2v>

# Waste Prevention



The UCSC Recycling Program began in 1990 and has since evolved to include a variety of reuse, recycling, and composting systems to save energy, natural resources, and to reduce landfill waste. Campus composting programs have been increasing in support of dining services, apartments, and campus gardens. Electronic waste on campus has been reduced by reselling up to 80% of the computers, audio-visual equipment, and other electronics when upgrades occur. Green waste is chipped and reused on landscapes or hauled separately to the regional recycling facility to become mulch. Campus-wide zero waste events are becoming more prevalent due to the collaboration between many zero waste programs such as the Student Environmental Center's Waste Prevention Campaign, the Sustainability Office Zero Waste Team, the Waste Diversion Task Force, as well as considerable efforts from Dining Services.

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Create greater awareness of recycling and composting centers on campus**

- Streamline map of such areas and services on campus and identify key areas of improvement for additional receptacles.
- Integrate educational workshops through orientation and other housing programs.
- Offer student representatives in according working groups on campus

## **2. Provide more sensible packaging and waste options on campus**

- Promote swap meets, student free and for sales, dorm exchange, and other programs that reduce both consumption and waste.
- Increase compost and recycling bins around campus, especially in high-traffic and critical areas
- Promote student advocacy of waste reduction solutions that will cut consumption of plastics and other hazardous materials.

## **3. Promote education on the benefits of recycling waste diversion and its financial benefits**

- Provide spaces for students to hold educational workshops for others
- Collaborate with other areas on campus such as the campus landfill, faculty, and other departments to increase waste knowledge

## **Resources**

**SEC's Waste Prevention Campaign:** <http://bit.ly/1dJm5r>

**UCSC's Green Labs Waste Reduction Program:** <http://bit.ly/1G6vmeq>

**Sustainability Office Zero Waste Team:** <http://bit.ly/1HoVLLk>

# Water Usage



Santa Cruz is a self-contained system, sourcing all of the city's water from local sources. UCSC's water consumption represents 6% of the water demand for the City of Santa Cruz water service area, using roughly 1.1 million gallons per day. Due to drought conditions in recent years, Santa Cruz City Council has passed a resolution declaring a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency within the City of Santa Cruz water service area, and UCSC campus has responded accordingly. In 2007, UCSC created a campus-wide survey that identified 54 water efficiency retrofits, ranging from toilets fixtures, faucets, showerheads, and were all completed by 2011 across 20 different buildings. In addition, student-led groups such as Take Back the Tap has spearheaded water bottle refill retrofits on campus, and in 2014, passed their resolution to end the sale of single use plastic water bottles at UCSC. A state-of-the-art wireless meter system has allowed the campus to reduce unmetered use to less than 5% and has helped identify water leaks. UC Santa Cruz Dining Services have also made many improvements and have stopped using plastic trays, reducing water waste by 35% (1 million gallons per year).

# Visions and Actions

## **1. Make UCSC's agricultural systems less reliant on water**

- Implement innovative water efficient systems such as aquaponics systems, drought irrigation gardening, drip irrigation, etc.

## **2. Create engineering solutions to our water conservation efforts**

- Encourage and cultivate student research projects towards hands-on, engineering solutions.

## **3. Educate all students on UCSC's water conservation efforts**

- Provide researched-backed material accessible to all via media, visual displays, and other demonstrations.

- Engage on-campus housing community to get involved through R.A.-led events. etc.



## **Resources**

**SEC's Drop Your Own Drip Campaign (DYOD):** <http://bit.ly/1Mm3JPI>

**Take Back the Tap:** <http://bit.ly/1RK4HI9>

**UCSC Water Working Group:** <http://bit.ly/1lhWBF7>

**City of Santa Cruz Water Commission:** <http://bit.ly/1Furlvt>