Community-Engaged Capacity Building and Solutions

The Sustainability Initiative provides a platform for interdisciplinary scholarship on the critical climate, environment, and resource issues confronting society. The Initiative aims to infuse sustainability across the University of California, Irvine, empowering students and faculty with the rich institutional history of impactful research. The Sustainability Initiative promotes collaborations with diverse communities on and off campus in developing solutions to challenges affecting California and the globe. Community-engaged scholarship and practice are integral to UCI’s excellence as a research university and underlie how we create knowledge to serve society.

“The Sustainability Initiative inclusively cultivates the curiosity, proficiency, and leadership of society’s next generation as they build a resilient and equitable Earth future for humanity.”

Professor Travis Huxman
Sustainability Initiative

Sustainability Initiative Goals

- Transform sustainability education at UCI
- Embrace climate neutrality as an institution
- Enable skills sharing and capacity building for transformation
- Communicate the legacy of UCI’s sustainability scholarship and practice
- Facilitate connection and resource sharing on and off campus
- Incubate new projects by faculty, staff, and student leaders
- Reinforce campus efforts to inspire, enable, and evaluate public impact through interschool research, education, and engagement.

Academic Initiatives at UCI

The Sustainability Initiative is one of the initiatives sponsored by UCI’s Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor through the Office of Academic Initiatives.

Questions?
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The Green Campus Initiative has led the transformation of UCI’s physical campus towards sustainable practice and operation, while the Sustainability Initiative focuses on academic components, including research, education, engagement, and philanthropy. Combined, these efforts work with the students’ Global Sustainability Resource Center to engage our entire campus community in the University of California’s commitment to embrace sustainability and climate neutrality in all that we do, study, and teach.

Faculty Executive Committee

The Sustainability Initiative convenes an interdisciplinary Executive Committee, led by a rotating faculty director. In addition, the Initiative convenes a Task Force on Sustainability Education, with dean-appointed representation from 10 schools and programs.

Ellen Druffel
Earth System Science

David Feldman
Planning, Policy, & Design

Travis Huxman, Faculty Director
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Richard Matthew
Planning, Policy, & Design

Valerie Olson
Anthropology

Scott Samuelsen
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Sustainability and Green Campus Initiatives

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