



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

# SUSTAINABLE

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY  
NEWSLETTER

# UCR

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### OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



**WELCOME** to the UC Riverside Office of Sustainability's first newsletter of the 2016-2017 academic year. This quarterly publication will highlight sustainability efforts at and around UCR. As we kick off the new school year, we have numerous [volunteer opportunities](#) available for both undergraduate and graduate students.

### SIERRA COOL SCHOOLS

Out of 201 schools, [UCR ranks #27](#) on [Sierra's 2016 Cool Schools Ranking](#)—higher than UC Berkeley, ranked #29, and UCLA, ranked #62! Sierra Club's annual Cool Schools ranking serves as a guide for comparing colleges' commitments to environmentalism.



## SIERRA CLUB

It also serves to spur healthy competition among schools, raise environmental standards on campus, and publicly reward the institutions that work hard to protect the planet. Reaching rank #27 of 201 schools is a huge feat considering that UCR ranked #90 of 173 schools in 2014.

### STARS GOLD

[UC Riverside earned a Gold rating](#) in 2016, the second highest rating in the STARS framework! STARS, the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating

System, is a self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.



UCR was highlighted twice on the [AASHE Sustainable Campus Index](#), a publication recognizing top performing universities and best practices in 17 impact areas from academics, community engagement, campus operations, to leadership. UCR was highlighted for our Green Lab Program because we currently run one of the largest laboratory equipment metering projects in the country and are the first campus to meter our autoclave and sterilizer water usage.

We are also the fifth highest performer in terms of public engagement and tied for third in terms of investment in sustainable efforts, including sustainable forestry and clean energy. Although UCR has already made tremendous strides, we are working towards receiving a Platinum rating, which only one other university has been able to reach.



## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

**GCAP INTERNS**

The [GCAP \(Green Campus Action Plan\) interns](#) for 2016-2017 hail from all corners of academia at UC Riverside.

Amanda Sze is a 3rd year Business Administration major and the Outreach and Communications intern working to increase attention to sustainability efforts on campus.

Evelyn Hurtado-Doppenberg is a senior double majoring in Sustainability Studies and Political Science and is interested in global climate change and its political intersections; she is a Green Lab Team Leader and a LEED Intern.

Michelle Chen is a second year Environmental Science major and is a Green Lab Team Member with an interest in Environmental and Chemical Engineering.

Brenda Saldana is a third year Psychology and Gender & Sexuality Studies double major and is a Communications and Reporting Intern; she is interested in making sustainability accessible to the communities the environment most directly affects: queer and poor communities of color.

Maylee Wong is a second year pre-business major and the graphic designer for the Office of Sustainability, especially focused on marketing UCR's sustainability performance.

Ruihan Lu is currently pursuing her second Master's degree in Applied Statistics and is the data analyst intern working on data visualization for the Office of Sustainability.

Nick Mammone is a fourth year geology major and is a R'Garden Intern

who encourages sustainable practices among the community, using the R'Garden as a space of learning for issues like food insecurity.

Brayan Cruz, and fourth year Ethnic Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies double major, is a R'Garden Intern – he focuses on actively connecting sustainability politics and practices with other theoretical works.

Leaann Tran is a second year Pre-Business student with a minor in Urban and Environmental Policy and is an R'Garden Intern with a passion in environmental work and sustainability.

**SUSTAINABILITY COURSES**

There are 29 sustainability courses being offered this upcoming 16-17 Winter Quarter at UCR, including 7 graduate courses. We recommend looking through the [catalog](#) and finding other sustainability courses to incorporate into your class schedule. Of those 29, we at the Office of Sustainability would like to highlight a few:

GSST 183, Feminist Politics of Food, explores the politics of food using gender, race, class, and globalization as analytical lenses, as well as the relationships of feminist politics, food movements, and sustainable agriculture.

Another course being offered is POSC 137, Environmental Justice and Human Rights, which examines how notions of justice and human rights have been brought to bear on environmental and sustainability debates; topics include food deserts, air pollution, and global issues.

**SUSTAINABILITY STORY MAP TOUR**

The [sustainability story map](#) serves as an interactive overview of all the sustainable initiatives undertaken by the Office of Sustainability at the University of California, Riverside. With geo-located story points, one can navigate through various accomplishments in Built Environment, Water, Energy, Landscaping, Outreach, Recycling, Food, Transportation, Campus and Academics & Research efforts through a live map.



The guide illustrates our commitment to carbon neutrality and climate change mitigation in acquisitions of renewable energy sources, waste diversion practices; energy efficiency retrofits in laboratories and buildings, water conservation and sustainability literacy through outreach and education.

## R'GARDEN



### MOVIE NIGHTS

The R'Garden hosts monthly movie nights where ecologically and environmentally themed films are screened for the public in an effort to promote sustainable practices and eco-conscious thinking. The movie nights are free and open to the community and dinner is also served before the movie and can be acquired by preordering from our food provider, La Salle a Vie.

All of the events are posted on

the R'Garden Facebook page, [UC Riverside Community Garden](#), where the [film and event information](#) are provided. We hope to see you at our upcoming movie nights!

### FARMER'S MARKET

The UC Riverside Farmer's Market is finally here. Each Thursday from 4pm-8pm, local farmers and vendors come out to campus and sell their goods. Purchase some local goods to take home and enjoy!

### FALL FOOD OPEN HOUSE

The R'Garden hosted its Fall Food Open House during October to open a discussion between students, faculty, staff, and community about the Riverside food system. Discussion topics included food systems, food security, and sustainability. By discussing food-focused initiatives and goals the event was able to provide a space to promote food access, security, and literacy.

## GREEN LAB



### ULTRA-LOW TEMPERATURE FREEZER

Lab equipment uses a considerable amount of energy. A traditional [ULT, or ultra-low temperature, freezer](#) running at -80°C consumes as much as 32 kWh per day, or one American household's daily energy usage. New energy efficient freezers are available on the market and consume less than 9 kWh/day. With about 180 ULT freezers in UCR labs, the switch to energy efficient freezers will have a tremendous impact on reducing energy usage.

If your lab is interested in procuring a highly energy efficient freezer, contact the [Office of Sustainability](#) to receive additional funding to help cover the cost difference between a regular freezer and an energy efficient freezer.

### LED GROW CHAMBERS

In order to provide a modified environment for plants to grow, [plant growth chambers](#) in typical labs have lighting that is on for sixteen or more hours per day. Regular fluorescent lighting produces a considerable

amount of heat and eats up a lot of energy. LED lights are proven to be not only far more energy efficient and safe, but also produce less radiant heat and have a longer life-time.

To receive funding to offset the cost difference between fluorescent lighting and LED grow light, contact the [Office of Sustainability](#).

### UC SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES POLICY

The Green Lab Program is on its way to becoming part of the UC Sustainable Practices Policy! The Sustainable Practices Policy is the combined effort of all UC campuses working toward making the University of California a leader in sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability will be completing a strategic Green Lab Action Plan in 2017 to develop a robust Green Lab Program with other UC campuses to promote efficiencies in the lab environment. This will better allow our office to continue to certify and reward labs who are implementing green initiatives in their work environment.

### FREEZER CHALLENGE

It is easy to neglect freezers, especially when they become frost and sample hoarders! The [North American Freezer Challenge](#) is a competition that inspires labs to bring sustainable management to their cold storage units. A simple step like taking sample inventory could save labs vital freezer space and increase efficiency of research work!



We encourage labs to join the challenge by January 15th, 2017. Prizes will be given to the top campus participants!



## SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAYS

### GREEN GIFT GIVING

Holidays are about spending time with the ones you love and showing appreciation for one another. If you plan to buy gifts, here are a few [tips to get you started](#).

Make sure that your gift has a purpose for the person who will be receiving it. Not only will it help reduce excess, but it can make your gift more meaningful.

Go to your local flea market or farmer's market to not only reuse items, but also ensure that you're buying local goods. Buying local is not only good for small businesses, but their items are often made to be more durable.

Buy quality, not quantity. These gifts will last longer and the lifespan of the item will outweigh its initial cost. Used items and clothing are also a great option, as vintage and antique items are always in style. Whether you want to buy something or hand make it, remember that the best gift is one given with consideration.

### THANKSGIVING

We know Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and friends around a table full of food and reflect on what we are thankful for. To make your Thanksgiving enjoyable for your guests and environmentally friendly, please [check out these tips](#) to be mindful of what you purchase and wasteful processes that we often overlook.

A great place to start planning your Thanksgiving meal is to [find places that sell organic and local food](#). Save those yummy leftovers or share them amongst your guests, and remember to compost any leftover table scraps.

Invite people by calling them or through email and Facebook instead of a card or written invitation. You can also encourage your guests to carpool or share an Uber or Lyft to your place.

Make a fun activity of hand making decorations with friends and children to reuse in the coming years, and use reusable napkins and dinnerware.

### CHRISTMAS

If you and your loved ones celebrate Christmas or any other holiday in winter, make sure to slow down and [simplify your holidays](#); it'll reduce stress, costs, and waste.

Remember to buy local and choose sustainable materials for wrapping gifts. Hemp and newspapers are affordable and renewable materials and give off a rustic feeling. Make the gifts yourself, like knitting a sweater or teaching guitar lessons to a friend that really admires your talent.

Buy LED lights for your decorations, which conserve a lot of energy, and a light timer so they can turn off by themselves when you're too stuffed with eggnog. If you buy a tree, you can turn it into mulch for your garden or re-plant it.

If you're [traveling for the holidays](#), carpool or take the train. Stay on the lookout for certain airlines that donate to green organizations or have taken steps to offset their emissions.

### NEW YEAR'S

As we pop champagne to ring in the New Year, it can be easy to forget how much waste we produce in one night. Here are some great ideas to reduce your New Year's waste:

Avoid disposables and go for a greener aesthetic with dishes that are compostable or reusable. Uber, carpool, or take public transportation to celebrations to lower your footprint and help you get home safe at the end of the night.

For [New Year's resolutions](#), go green with your friends! Encourage each other to recycle and compost and keep each other accountable for creating change.

If you decide to go on a cleaning spree, donate unwanted items or clothes to a good cause, or even recycle or sell them. Also, when cleaning out the mess from the New Year's Eve, use earth-friendly cleaning products, which usually have a green label or a leaf on the label to distinguish them.

## HOLIDAY TIPS

For the main points of making your holidays more sustainable, look no further! Holidays are great for down time and expressing our appreciation for one another, but they can also generate a lot of waste and harm the environment.

To avoid that this year, [consider these simple steps](#):

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Buy organic and local foods

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Use reusable dinnerware and decorations

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Carpool with your friends and family

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Invest in high quality gifts

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Use LED decorations

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Go vegetarian or vegan

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Save leftover food for later or donate it to shelters and food pantries

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Remember to reuse, repurpose, and upcycle

**BUY USED  
SWAP  
MAKE  
THRIFT  
BORROW**

*use what you have.*