

## The Sustainable Environments Minor Program Professors and Projects

The Sustainable Environments core courses are team-taught by an interdisciplinary group of faculty from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design including:

Jonathan Reich, Professor, Architecture Department

Joe Ragsdale, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture Department

Paul Wack, Professor, City and Regional Planning [emeritus]

Tom diSanto, Associate Professor, Architecture Department

Adrienne Greve, Associate Professor, City and Regional Planning Department

Beverly Bass, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture Department

Chris Clark, Lecturer, City and Regional Planning Department

Margot McDonald, Professor & Architecture Department Head is the Sustainable Environments Minor Advisor.

The Sustainable Environments core courses have led to a number of initiatives, entities, practices and completed projects at Cal Poly and in the surrounding communities. Examples of projects include:

- Creation of Empower Poly (a coalition of student-led campus clubs that share goals relating to sustainability),
- Creation of the Cal Poly Bicycle Coalition
- Creation of the Cal Poly Bio-diesel Club
- Advocating for green certifications of campus projects
- Development of methods for increasing student awareness of sustainability, consumer sovereignty, etc.
- Advocacy for greener “WOW Week” practices at Cal Poly
- Increased demand for on-campus mixed-use housing
- Changes to university food service practices
- Better practices in measuring campus water consumption
- Proposed policies to improve waste management
- Completing analyses and actions with local school districts for “greening” local schools and helping them procure grants
- Working with educators to develop university and primary school curriculum on sustainability
- Design and construction of community gardens
- Design and construction of physical improvement projects for the SLO women’s shelter and foster homes
- Consultation to improve transit ridership considering routes, buses, stops, and schedule graphics
- Creation of certification program for “dry” (non-irrigated) viticulture
- Collecting and disseminating data on local food sources
- Working with local businesses, including food service and rental housing, to assess and improve sustainable practices
- Draft policy incentives for infill housing
- Consulting with San Luis Obispo Planning Department on proposal for capping a portion of 101 through the city
- Sustained and effective advocacy for reducing the use of plastic bags
- and many many more projects.

More than 1,400 students, including students from every college at Cal Poly, have graduated with the Sustainable Environments minor and many of them have become very influential in the field of sustainability in their various disciplines.

In 2005 the Sustainable Environments program won the top national award for “Ecological Literacy in Architectural Education” from the American Institute of Architects and in 2013 the program won a regional Green Award from the Central Coast Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC C4). In 2011 Professor Jonathan Reich was awarded a Senior Fulbright Scholar grant to teach a version of the Sustainable Environments core courses at the University of Camerino in Ascoli Piceno Italy.