

# Student Sustainability Summit

2017 CHESC Call for Best Practice Award Nominations (California Higher Education Sustainability Conference)  
California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC)

**⚠ This proposal has been submitted and may not be edited. If you need to make changes please contact the call administrator, Ms. Katie Maynard, at [kmaynard@geog.ucsb.edu](mailto:kmaynard@geog.ucsb.edu)**

ProposalSpace ID: 712-33255  
Status: Review Pending

## Content

### Project Title (required)

Limit: 15 words | Word count: 9

Inspiring Action Early: Cal Poly's 2016 Student Sustainability Leadership Summit

### Which category best fits your proposal? (required)

Student Sustainability Leadership

### Project Location(s) (required)

California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo

### Completion date or implementation period (required)

February 2016- September 2016

### Narrative of project goals and strategies (required)

Limit: 300 words | Word count: 294

In early 2016, the Cal Poly Green Campus student team was struggling to engage their peers active in sustainability clubs. The team continued to invite clubs and club leaders to events and activities and saw little to no participation. Additionally, many student club leaders that Green Campus had relationships with were all preparing to graduate. Inspired by the need to build relationships with new leaders and alliances with clubs, the Green Campus team decided to host an event that would unite the community and springboard sustainability efforts in the year ahead.

The Green Campus team set goals for this event to build community amongst their peers, draft workplans, brainstorm partnerships efforts for the 2016/17 school year, develop a sustainability vision, and create a leadership training template for new and incoming students annually, to ensure retention and growth. Once the event goals were set, Green Campus began to deliberate on dates, training modules, and the invite list. The team decided it would be best to host the event right before the start of school in the fall and there needed to be at least two members of every club present. It was also determined that the event needed to be two full days. Once those decision were made, the Green Campus team began securing logistics.

The final list of student leaders invited to the Student Sustainability Leadership Summit (SSLS) was a total of fifty students from various clubs, a total of 30 invitees participated in the summit. The final agenda covered topics of community organizing, team retention, time management, effective communication, campaign planning, and creating inclusive spaces. In addition to the skills trainings the participants spent hours working to set goals for their clubs and presented their plans to a group of over fifteen staff and faculty stakeholders.

### Relevancy to the Best Practice Program (required)

Limit: 200 words | Word count: 199

The Student Sustainability Leadership Summit (SSLS), is a best practice because of the simplicity and affordability as well as it's lasting impact. The main expense was staff time from Green Campus team members and Sustainability staff to plan and execute the event, the other expense was food for attendees. To avoid high cost of catering, the planning team decided to do a grocery store trip and buy local and sustainably sourced food. Since the event was hosted before the start of the academic year, there was plenty of room available on campus and the team was able to reserve space free of charge. In addition, the training modules were mostly sourced from 365.org and other environmental groups that provide free training materials online (see the attached trainer guide and agenda). Lastly, because university campuses tend to have a variety of activist minded employees, Green Campus was able to recruit trainers from various offices on campus. This event has made lasting impacts on Cal Poly student sustainability leaders (read more here: <http://www.danhedden.com/>). The event inspired the groups represented to get a head start on planning for their year rather than waiting until half the quarter passed for their first meeting.

### Collaborative design and implementation (required)

Limit: 200 words | Word count: 194

The Student Sustainability Leadership Summit was collaborative in nature because it was planned by the Green Campus team and Facilities Sustainability staff. Additionally, the event brought together over ten clubs representing various interest of the student body. When Green Campus began to recruit presenters and trainers for the summit, they looked no further than their own campus community. They invited staff from the Office of Unity, Diversity, and Inclusivity to host a training on creating inclusive spaces. They invited staff from the CAFES Center for Sustainability to talk about local and sustainable food systems. Additionally, Energy, Utilities, and Sustainability staff provided a variety of trainings on community organizing, negotiating, and time management. Attendees were also expected to spend a certain amount of time with their respective groups planning for the year ahead and once they had a plan crafted they presented to staff from campus partner organizations such as University Housing, Campus Dining, Facilities, Colleges of Ag, Architecture, Business and Engineering. The final summit presentations allowed collaboration in advance of project implementation, the presentation allowed campus staff stakeholder to gather insight on where student were planning to focus their energy in the year ahead.

### Education and Outreach

Limit: 200 words | Word count: 0

no answer

**Total project cost (required)**

1461.19

**Total Incentives Received (If applicable)**

no answer

## Quantitative Savings and Benefits

Strong proposals will have quantitative savings in at least one of the following areas, but it is unlikely that any proposal will have savings in all of the below areas.

**Number of people reached by your program**

- 30 student club leaders participated
- 15 staff and faculty attended presentations
- Over 300 students positively affected by the early planning process of their club leaders

**Measured annual energy savings in kWh (If measured savings are unavailable, estimated savings will be accepted provided an explanation is included as to how savings were calculated.)**

no answer

**Measured annual energy savings in therms (If measured savings are unavailable, estimated savings will be accepted provided an explanation is included as to how savings were calculated.)**

no answer

**Estimated greenhouse gas emission reductions in metric tons CO2e**

no answer

**Measured annual water savings in gallons (If measured savings are unavailable, estimated savings will be accepted provided an explanation is included as to how savings were calculated.)**

no answer

**Estimated annual waste reduction in pounds**

no answer

**Actual or estimated annual cost savings**

no answer

**For the Energy Efficiency in HVAC Design/Retrofit and Commissioning and Lighting Design/Retrofit as well as Overall Sustainable Design categories, provide estimated annual energy savings as compared to Title 24 Energy Code in percent better than baseline.**

no answer

**Percentage of total food and beverage purchases that is local (under 250 miles) in origin and/or meets one or more third party-certified sustainability criteria (e.g. USDA certified organic). List the third party-certified sustainability criteria included**

no answer

**List any green business or green restaurant certifications that this project achieved**

no answer

**Additional environmental, social, and/or economic sustainability benefits**

Limit: 300 words | Word count: 294

**Results of the 2016 SSLS:**


**Empower Poly Coalition-** Thanks in large part to the Sustainability Leadership Summit Conference, Empower Poly Coalition(EPC) has had an incredible rebound from being a fading campus presence to becoming an again dominate student collective voice. EPC membership represents over 600 student club members. Already they have encouraged President Armstrong to include sustainability as a centerpiece in his University Strategic Plan. They are also spearheading creation of a Responsible Voters guide in partnership with the Multicultural Students Coalition (representing over 1000 student club members) to ensure students elected for student government in the coming year prioritize diversity and sustainability efforts. Their long term vision is to bring a Green Initiative Fund to Cal Poly. <http://www.danhedden.com/>

**Green Campus-** Because of the 2016 SSLS, Green Campus was able to get a head start on planning for a fall energy and water reduction competition in which they saw the biggest reductions by residents since 2012. Additionally, they used time at the summit to finalize details on two new programs that have proven incredibly successful over the last few months, Cal Poly Eco Reps and the ACDC waste competition.


**Zero Waste Club-** The club crafted a plans for a rummage sale with hopes to reduce waste to landfill during Cal Poly's annual dorm move out activities. This event has been something the club has aspired to do for the past three years and the SSLS motivated to write down ideas and solicit feedback from campus stakeholders.

**Real Food Collaborative-** Thanks to the collaboratives opportunity to present to stakeholders, the group found out from the University Housing staff member that a permanent space may be available for the collaborative to create a permanent business location on campus. They have since spent there work as a group directed towards this goal.

**Supporting document**

[2016\\_summit\\_training\\_guide.pdf](#) 

**Second supporting document**

[summit\\_photos.pdf](#) 

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## Persons

### Primary Contact

Your proposal must include 1 primary contact.



**Molly Barker**

**Name** (required)

Molly Barker

**Organization**

Cal Poly Green Campus

**Department** (required)

Facilities Management and Development

**Job Title** (required)

Team Manager

**Phone** (required)

8057573061

**Email** (required)

[mobarker@calpoly.edu](mailto:mobarker@calpoly.edu)

### Speakers

Your proposal must include at least 1 but not more than 2 speakers.



**Molly Barker**

**Name** (required)

Molly Barker

**Organization**

no answer

**Department** (required)

Facilities Management and Development

**Job Title** (required)

Green Campus Team Manager

**Post-nominal titles**

no answer

**Biography** (required)

Limit: 150 words | Word count: 79

Molly is the Green Campus Team Manager. Molly is majoring in Agricultural Systems Management and will be graduating in 2018. She sees the Green Campus program as an opportunity to shape the Cal Poly Campus and encourage positive change towards a climate wise community. Following graduation, she hopes to work towards greater sustainability in agricultural systems, as well as continuing work on changing attitudes and behaviors around sustainability. In her free time, Molly enjoys camping, gardening, and learning about wine.

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