



The Sustainability Academy

The Sustainability Academy provides experience-based education to accelerate mainstream practice of innovative solutions for economic success, ecological health and community benefit.

Purpose

The Sustainability Academy has a three-fold purpose:

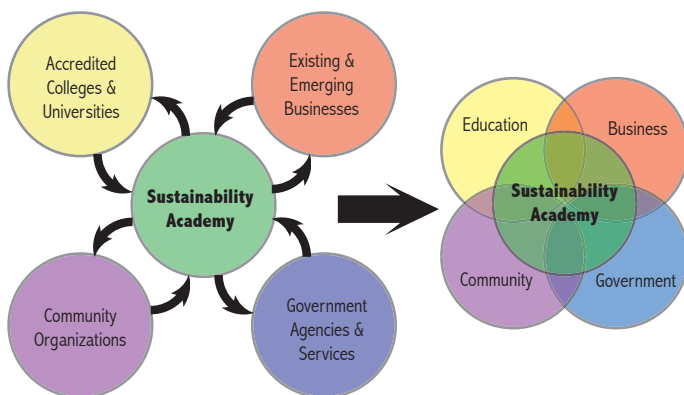
Teach—deliver quality, experience-based education utilizing relevant curriculum and engaging pedagogy.

Do—collaborate with others to bring sustainable solutions to community problems.

Think—sponsor and promote research projects that transform the region into a model of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Strategic Alignment

The Sustainability Academy is strategically situated to interface with existing established domains, fostering greater integration.

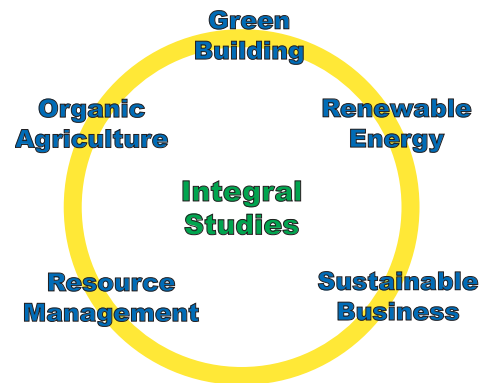


Educational Format

The curriculum is organized into five programs:

- Green building
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable business
- Organic agriculture
- Resource management

In addition to the 5 core areas of study, an interdisciplinary area will provide a systems view of the whole.



Students choose their level of engagement:

- Introductory courses and a speaker series open to the general public.
- Six month apprenticeship programs granting certificates and/or extension units upon completion.
- Customized advanced short-courses for selected professionals.
- Integrated systems tier of courses which link issues.

Curricular Design Pillars

Action Learning—Learning through “hands-on” projects and work, cases, simulations, exercises and applied research.

Policy Context—Understanding the legal, political, economic, cultural and geographical contexts: How do these frameworks affect a particular sustainability sector?

Human Networks—Building solid connections with the organizations and companies which work on diverse facets of sustainability. This collaborative circle can provide student employment in addition to teaching and research opportunities for practitioners.

Students

- Focused on post-secondary education at all levels.
- Apprentices can be enrolled in or recently graduated from college, mid-career professionals, international visitors, or retirees.
- Customized workshops are designed for groups, companies or institutions.

Research and New Technologies

The Sustainability Academy supports and facilitates a wide range of research and development:

- Faculty and professional staff engage in active intellectual inquiry, writing, teaching and networking in their area of primary expertise.
- Students and faculty explore and evaluate new technologies and software invented to further ecologically sound practices.
- The Academy hosts conferences and guest speaker series.
- In partnership with related institutions, the Academy maintains an extensive library and website information available to the public.

Affiliation

The Sustainability Academy is building partnerships with a variety of community and educational institutions.

Areas of partnership include:

- Land and facility sharing
- Administrative details such as student registration
- Academic credits for selected programs through extension programs or degree programs
- Resource sharing in libraries, intellectual property or other areas

These arrangements will be collaborative ventures while the Academy retains independent status as a public benefit corporation.

Location

The program runs in a variety of appropriate locations in California.

In the future, the Academy intends to build or retrofit at least one green building:

- Classrooms and offices
- Adjacent outdoor teaching labs and organic farm
- Green dormitories

Our facilities and grounds will serve as demonstration projects, especially of green building design and materials, and also of agricultural and water technologies, waste management practices and conservation methods.

Scale

While the concept of the Academy is intended to be scalable to any reasonable size, the initial scope is as follows:

- Approximately 125 apprentice students per year (25 in each program).
- Additional 100-400 students attending either overview courses or advanced short-courses.
- 10-12 full-time staff/faculty members.
- Several adjunct professors and part-time assistants.

Governance

We intend that our governance structures, human organization, and networking exchanges will serve as a professional model of sustainable organizations.

- Incorporated as a Public Benefit Corporation in California
- Core Management Team
 - Executive Director
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Program Heads
 - This leadership team will work together, retaining jurisdiction over curriculum, human resources, budget, and external relations.
- Board of Directors
- Council of Advisors
 - Comprised of experts in the field of sustainability.
 - Will advise and inform the Board and Core Management Team on substantive matters of curriculum and partnerships.
- Friends of The Sustainability Academy
 - Our wide circle of like-minded friends, contacts and affiliates

For more information contact:

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