

The Benefits of an Environmental Sustainability Group (ESG)

Aligning Our Shared Values



GROWING GREEN TOGETHER



BENEFITS OF INSTITUTIONAL STATUS

- ◆ Dedicated work time for ESG
- ◆ Authority to propose and enact plans
- ◆ Access to funds
- ◆ Visibility as a resource for environmental initiatives from the staff, the campus, and the library administration

BENEFITS TO THE INSTITUTION

- ◆ Furthers the green goals of the campus, community, and/or school district
- ◆ Offers a built-in resource when the library is contacted to be involved in sustainability projects by community leaders
- ◆ Builds campus, community, and student partnerships
- ◆ Educates library users and the community
- ◆ Promotes library resources
- ◆ Boosts morale and engages staff
- ◆ Saves money



We all believe in sustainability and work to be green as individuals, but there's power in sharing our knowledge and values and working together. Official status within your institution will support your work.

"Sustainability is part of our institutional DNA, imparted to us by UC San Diego's early scientists like Roger Revelle, one of the university's founders and a pioneer of climate change research. We have built upon their legacy to become a living laboratory of sustainable solutions that benefit our local and global communities."

—Chancellor Pradeep Khosla

UC San Diego has placed environmental sustainability at the heart of its educational and institutional mission and made substantial commitments to far-reaching environmental goals such as Carbon Neutrality by 2025 and Trash Free by 2020.

The library, too, showed its commitment to green when ESG was formed in 2009 as an advisory, education, and outreach group. In 2015, in alignment with the campus's green vision, the library made environmental sustainability an explicit part of its Strategic Plan with the commitment to "continue efforts to ensure that the Library remains an agile, responsive, and financially and environmentally sustainable organization that acts strategically and supports creative problem solving and innovative thinking."



While value can be measured in the number of bottles recycled, lights turned off, and the amount of office equipment reused, the value of collective practice fostering institutional transformation and individual change is immeasurable.



The Library
UC SAN DIEGO

THE UC SAN DIEGO LIBRARY
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

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Sustainability & Campus Collaborations

Read More . . .

“Greening the Mothership”

Annelise Sklar & Kim Kane

“Using the University of California (UC) San Diego Library’s Environmental Sustainability Group as a case study, this chapter walks readers through establishing a need for sustainability efforts within an academic library, communicating that need to the library’s administration and other stakeholders, and launching an official library group to work on those issues. It also describes sustainability activities an academic library can undertake, and the resources needed—or not—to accomplish them and measure their success. This chapter is aimed at libraries just starting to plan environmental sustainability activities, or those who want to formalize their current endeavors into their library.”



UC San Diego Library’s Environmental Sustainability Group (ESG) started out in 2009 as a little group with big plans.

By forging connections with other sustainability groups on campus, ESG has been able to strengthen our vision, share knowledge and resources, bring green infrastructure to the Library, and share green events with the entire campus. Each year, we continue to build on past successes and work toward new goals.

“By networking with the various sustainability groups on campus, the ESG members have expanded their support system and increase their awareness of practical resources that can benefit the Library. The group also continues to make allies both on campus and off when it comes to sustainability issues.” —Sklar & Kane

In 2015, when the Library included environmental sustainability as an explicit part of its Strategic Plan and granted ESG a permanent budget, we knew we had arrived. As the missions of the campus, the library, and that of ESG have coalesced ESG continues its work with the support that comes from growing green together.

Creating an Environmental Sustainability Group

GATHER A DEDICATED TEAM

of co-workers/volunteers/students who want to be involved in this initiative and will help to work on the creation and goals of the group

STRATEGIZE HOW BEST TO GAIN SUPPORT

from the library administration

ASSESS INTERESTS,

skills, and talents of group members

DEVELOP GOALS

and prioritize projects

DELEGATE TASKS

for both long-range studies and immediate projects

WORK ON LONG-TERM GOALS

(for example LEED-EB certification)

KEEP MOVING!

Implement projects regularly (Earth Day Celebration, employee newsletter, recycling initiatives)

BE INCLUSIVE!

Solicit ideas from fellow staff members on a regular basis

COLLABORATE!

Work with allies on campus & beyond

BE VISIBLE!

Publicize events and accomplishments, share knowledge and information