

Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

March 2023 – Project Rethink Climate

Email:

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Project Manager Name:

who is submitting this project?

Hunter Gibbs

Project Name:

Project Rethink Climate

Project Subaccount Number:

23.01

Project Summary Snapshot:

Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application.

Response

To demonstrate the importance of sustainability and the need to continue fighting for our environment by facilitating a field trip open to all students to Biosphere 2. This is an optional and free service for students provided by the U of A advertised campus-wide, particularly general education classes to capture as many students as possible. This served the dual purpose of demonstrating the U of A's ongoing research efforts in climate efforts, with the hope of helping students realize that climate mitigation is not only still feasible, but that they can be the next generation of changemakers.

Requested Metrics:

Please report your project's metrics and their most recent number or response in a list format.

Response

The Monday after each tour, students were sent a feedback form with metrics rating their overall experiences (out of 10) on the Biosphere 2 tour itself and discussion, as well as how their outlook on climate change evolved from before to after the tour. Out of the 63 students who have attended thus far, 20 filled out the form. You will find those results below:

9.75/10 for Biosphere 2 (B2) tour itself

8.20/10 for discussions on bus

4.85/10 for outlook on climate change BEFORE the discussion/tour

6.30/10 for outlook on climate change AFTER the discussion/tour

Project Accomplishments :

Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Examples of accomplishments could include: Held 4 public meetings totaling 130 attendees; Transitioned 300 square feet of dirt into usable garden space and signed on 14 community garden volunteers. Other examples of accomplishments could include sharing a confirmed schedule of events, the connections/contacts that have been established, etc.

Response

Upon sending out our poster initially advertising the project, we immediately garnered high interest. To date, we have 130 RSVP's with 66 showing up for the first three out of four tours thus far. Our waitlisting mechanism for when people inevitably canceled maximized turnout, with 19, 24, and 23 showing up on the first, second, and third tours, respectively. The kind comments (some of which are below) we have received have been incredibly validating and are a testament of how something as simple as a tour and discussion can improve outlook on a crisis that most consider to be a lost cause. Showing students that things are better than they seem and that meaningful progress towards climate mitigation IS happening is crucial in tamping their negativity instinct. Our highly-polarized, divisive society yields exaggerated and sometimes false realities of highly complex topic areas like the climate crisis, which is profoundly demoralizing to the next generations who will soon pick up the baton from current leaders to promote future advances. Our metrics showing a 1.5 point average increase in climate outlook elucidates the seed that we have planted in students of hope, of how they can get involved in climate efforts, and how sharing your worries with others is integral in healing from mental health.

"It was an amazing tour. I loved it!!!! Best place in Tucson so far. Will definitely would wanna work there once."

"Hey Hunter, thanks for being an amazing guide for the tour. I really enjoyed it. It was the best experience I've had in a long time. Apart from the beauty, the efforts that were made to build that place really bewildered me. Thanks to the committees who sponsored this free trip for us. I was planning to go there since last semester but never got any opportunity to go. So thanks for starting this program. It was a lifetime experience." ***I share a couple of more comments in the "

Next Steps:

Response

" section (word limit exceeded).***

Challenges Faced:

Please identify and describe any obstacles/roadblocks you or your team have experienced, and detail how you've managed them/ will manage them. Should your project already be completed, please note what challenges you faced and what you would do differently.

Response:

Setting up the project yielded no specific logistical challenges, as the Co-Directors and E&C Chairs served as a resource for my myriad of questions navigating my first grant-funded project. Perhaps the biggest challenge I faced was leading the discussion on the first tour. As an introvert, I have historically and continue to struggle speaking in front of large groups of people, a fact that has continued to bother me for years. While I appreciate how introspective being an introvert has made me, I have struggled making friends my entire life due to having a difficult time socializing. So in that sense, this project served as a learning experience for me as well —the importance of speaking on your convictions and being equipped with confidence in my values and who I am. I hope this project sets precedent for the future — acknowledging that I can either be the biggest supporter or enemy of my own action based on mindset, and that it is up to me what role I ultimately take.

Project Support:

Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project?

Response:

Because the project is wrapping up, there is nothing more that CSF needs to do at this time. I cannot thank you all enough for not only the grant itself, but your ongoing support and advice in meetings and emails. I was quite nervous coming into this project, but you all along with SFS leadership have made this as smooth and enjoyable a process as it could have been. I appreciate all that you do and the profound impact that CSF grants have on the UA community. I hope you enjoy(ed) your Spring breaks and I look forward to hopefully working with you soon.

Photo Upload:

Please upload or provide links (below) to relevant photos.

Response:

{Empty} Photo Link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nmfl1MvFxV5_ZyHeESr8D3SRkt91MbQW/view?usp=drive_web Note: I believe I shared this with Emily and Prarthanaa, but let me know if you cannot access it.

Photo Link:

Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos.

Response:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Nmfl1MvFxV5_ZyHeESr8D3SRkt91MbQW/view?usp=drive_web Note: I believe I shared this with Emily and Prarthanaa, but let me know if you cannot access it.

Media/Links:

Please include links to any media coverage or events information (e.g. news, social media, websites, interviews, etc.)

Response:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Co5RnW5PeSO/?hl=en>