

# Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

May 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**

These metrics are the same as the last report but now reflect our final tour, March 18th.

- 9.80/10 for Biosphere 2 (B2) tour itself (up from 9.75/10 last progress check)
- 8.33/10 for discussions on bus (up from 8.20/10)
- 4.70/10 for outlook on climate change BEFORE the discussion/tour (down from 4.85)
- 6.50/10 for outlook on climate change AFTER the discussion/tour (up from 6.30)

**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**

The project accomplishments remain the same. Below you will find the same copied response with updated numbers: Upon sending out our poster initially advertising the project, we immediately garnered high interest. To date, we have 134 RSVPs 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, and 14 showing up on the first, second, third, and fourth tours. Keeping tour dates close together may maximize turnout. The kind comments we have received have been incredibly validating, a testament to how something as simple as a tour and discussion can improve the 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 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 1.8-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."

#### **Next Steps:**

#### **Response**

As of now, the project is complete. I plan on reapplying for this grant next academic year and implementing some student suggestions, such as working with Biosphere 2 to curate tours towards project schools, providing more opportunities/internships for students to get involved in sustainability (especially The Office of Sustainability and SFS), and making a multimedia discussion format to be more accommodating to people who aren't comfortable speaking in front of larger groups.

More Student Comments :) :

- "Hello Hunter, I hope you are well. I just wanted to thank you again for organizing today's tour. It's been about five months since I moved to Tucson, and I haven't really been able to explore much so I was really excited about today. This was an amazing experience and I just want to tell you how much I appreciate what you are doing for U of A students. I also want to thank you for your questions and for all you do. I wish you all the best with your future studies and I hope that there will be more opportunities in the future for similar events."

More student feedback :) :

- Haikus: "Beautiful world, live and let live." "Bare hands on wet rail Safely underground reclaims The water for all"

#### **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:**

I have no additional challenges to present since I submitted my last progress support, so you will find my previous response copied below. "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:**

I do not need any more assistance at this time, unless you have suggestions for how my project can be reformed. Thanks for all of your hard work once again and the opportunity to obtain these funds, it really has initialized my activist career here at the UA.

## **Photo Upload:**

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

### **Response:**

{Empty} Photo Link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-JEr6TggzRB77VvyrCQHqHZohM8Z6SNy> This is the photo drive link for the 3/18 tour.

## **Photo Link:**

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

### **Response:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-JEr6TggzRB77VvyrCQHqHZohM8Z6SNy> This is the photo drive link for the 3/18 tour.

## **Media/Links:**

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

### **Response:**

As far as I know, there isn't any new media. The Daily Wildcat did interview me a couple of weeks ago regarding my project, and I will let you know when the article is published.