

Sustainability Summit - Progress Report

Email

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

1.) # of organizations partnered with – and list of who they were:

15 different organizations:

Office of Sustainability

Compost Cats

UAZ Divest

Arizona Youth Climate Coalition

Biosphere 2

Environmental Justice Task Force

AIR Education Initiatives

Native American Student Affairs

Epsilon Eta

Cooper Center for Environmental Learning

Physicians for Social Responsibility, table #1

Cero

VeggieCats

Tucson Citizens Climate Lobby

Students for Sustainability

2.) # of speakers and # of attendees at each talk:

2 speakers -

Linda Robles from the Environmental Justice Task Force; 12 attendees

Moises Gomez from Local First AZ; 12 attendees

3.) # of volunteers throughout duration of the project:

7 Day of Volunteers; always at least 3 volunteers at any time during the event up to 6 for clean up.

4.) # of people reached through the event/ number of attendees throughout the duration of the events

150+ total attendees to the event.

5.) # of people in the core project team involved in planning and execution of the project (students, faculty/staff, etc.)

Students in core project team - 4

Advisors for project - 3

6.) # of hours spent on this project (broken up by students/ staff)

Done by students - about 70 hours

Done by advisors - about 15 hours

Own metrics:

7.) survey: 6 different colleges attended

scale 1-10, how informative the event was: average 8.8

scale 1-10, how they felt about the event: average 9.3

Project Accomplishments

The Sustainability Summit 2024 was held on April 22nd, 2024 and was a success! During this event, we reached 150+ students over 4 hours. The tabling part of the Summit held 15 organizations from around Tucson. We also had 2 incredible speakers talking about various aspects of the sustainability space.

The event's tabling segment was a success, with 68.4% of recorded students going to at least 8 tables, 15.8% of students going to at least 5 tables, and the rest going to at least 2 tables. Tabling organizations reported a good level of engagement from students, and were able to connect with students of various majors, from Business Management to Mechanical Engineering.

The speaker series was also a success, with two incredible sessions with Linda Robles from Environmental Justice Task Force and Moises Gomez from Local First AZ. Each session had 12 participants. Ms. Robles discussed the effects of PFAs on health as well as how to get involved in environmental advocacy. Mr. Gomez introduced listeners to Local First AZ, and how start-ups and nonprofits can become green.

Other partnerships for the Summit were also effective. Churro Inzunza brought in a large number of students for food. Cero tabled at the event, and provided three great eco-friendly home supplies as giveaways, encouraging higher participation in the Summit. With the CSF, the event had two large tents that kept participants and tabling groups out of the heat, as well as chairs and a table.

Lastly, marketing was put out a week before the event with tabling groups reposting the post on their social media. This proved to be effective, as around 20% of recorded participants came from the instagram posts. The outside location also drew in about 50% of the participants.

Overall, the Summit was a success in reaching the student body and informing them about the various organizations in Tucson and UA in the sustainability space and providing educational opportunities through two speakers.

Next Steps

With the Sustainability Summit over, there are very few last steps to take. One of the last steps is to process and give the honorariums to the speakers at the event. This will be done over the summer depending on the fiscal year for the university. The last step is to fully reflect on the Sustainability Summit, and identify areas of improvement as well as success. Ideas for how to execute the Summit next year can be discussed after the school semester or at the beginning of next semester.

Challenges Faced

There were a few challenges that the team faced when developing the Sustainability Summit. Foremost was the lack of speakers for the event. We only had one confirmed speaker until the Friday before the Summit, when another one graciously stepped up. If we were to do this again, we would have reached out to more speakers sooner once the initial ones did not respond to follow up emails. Another factor to this problem was a lack of connections to people in the sustainability spaces we wanted. If we had more conversations with advisors or other people, we would have a greater pool of people to contact.

Another challenge was the logistical timing of everything. Our first speaker had a hard time finding parking and came around 30 minutes late. The speaker also had a table that required time to set up, resulting in her talk starting around 11:30. Luckily, the second speaker was flexible enough to go during the last hour of the event. If done over, we would have clearer instructions on where to find the event, as well as a more concrete expectation on when they should arrive. If there were more speakers, a moderator would be necessary to move the event along on time.

There were also some gaps in communication between tabling groups. Next time, the team will ensure that the tabling groups know about the speaker series, the stamp cards, and a reminder about the hot weather.

Finally, there was also no defined beginning and end of the event. This can be improved for next time by having introductions to the event by the Summit Leads. This can be followed by introductions of the speakers to define the start of each speaker session.

To end, the Summit Leads can also give a departing remark thanking the participants. These challenges can be learned from in the next iteration of the Sustainability Summit, helping it run smoother with a more streamlined process.

Project Support

No other support needed! Thank you for all your help for this event.

Photo Link

https://emilizarizona.sharepoint.com/:i:/r/sites/BASS-CentralOfficeofSustainability/Shared%20Documents/Communications/Photos/Sustainability%20Summit%202024/IMG_0463.JPG?csf=1&web=1&e=qdVcLO

Should be shared with Office of Sustainability, let me know if you can't access it.

Media/Links