

## Project Certified to Sustain - Progress Report

### Email

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### Project Manager Name

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### Requested Metrics

Project-specific:

# of students who showed interested to the program by filling out a form  
51

# of students who applied to the program  
67

# of students accepted to the program  
46

Sub-Categories

Men: 24, Women: 22 - Engineering Majors: 23 - Non-Engineering Majors: 23

Class Standing: Freshmen: 8 - Sophomore: 6 - Junior: 17 - Senior: 8 - Graduate 7

Names of certificates:

LEED

Envision Sustainability Professional

Green Globes Emerging Professionals

# of certifications assigned/accepted out to each (three different types)

LEED: 16

ENV SP: 14

Green Globes: 11

# of certifications if assigned to non-accepted students

LEED:14

ENV SP: 6

Green Globes: 3

# of students certifications paid for  
25

# of certifications passed by students (broken into the three different types)  
21 students

ENV SP: 10

Green Globes: 6  
LEED: 5  
# of students paid for who have not completed certifications  
4  
# of cumulative hours of training provided  
175 hours  
# of attendees/ participants at the informational sessions  
CAPLA Meeting: 30  
First informational session: 46  
Onboarding meeting: 26  
# Study sessions: 3  
# of presentations or workshops held: 3  
# of guest speakers involved in events  
Guest speakers: 2  
# of individuals emailed for marketing purposes to be distributed to wider audiences  
23  
# of marketing channels used to promote events  
3 Channels  
Instagram  
Email  
Flyers  
Total budget:  
\$4100  
Remaining funds:  
\$1,358.53

## **Project Accomplishments**

For the Winter 2024 semester, 51 students expressed interest in environmental sustainability certifications by filling out a form sent via cold email. After the Campus Sustainability Fund approved our proposal, we expanded outreach through a programmed learning activity by Professor Sandra Bernal, reaching 30 CAPLA students. Marketing included a one-slide introduction and a QR code for applications. Key connections were established with USGBC Senior Fellow Mark Ginsburg, linking us to LEED professionals Emmery Ledin and Anitra Pickett. This led to the launch of a winter cohort of seven students five from the Sustainable Solutions team and two project managers all pursuing at least one certification over winter break and into the Spring Semester. By the end of January, five students had earned certifications. At the start of Spring 2025, marketing efforts intensified. We contacted 23 key figures including organization leads, department heads, and University of Arizona affiliates via email with a pre-written message promoting the program. A short video explaining the initiative was posted on @azengineering and @uarizonasustainability Instagram pages, amassing 7600 views and 175 likes. This campaign culminated in an info session attended by 46 individuals, featuring guest speakers GBI Kate Callahan and Kevin Thorton. One week later, applications closed with 67 submissions. To ensure fairness, project managers developed a grading system based on three application questions. Applications were scored, selecting 46 students. Participants underwent onboarding and worked on certifications by semester's end. Three study sessions helped students

through the process. Students also attended the USGBC AZ Tucson quarterly in person gathering. A final celebration session overviewed accomplishments and outlined further involvement through CSF and more. In total, 21 students completed certifications amassing 175 hours of training.

## **Next Steps**

At this time, the project timeline has concluded, and we have successfully accomplished our goal of certifying students. Therefore, the project is complete.

## **Challenges Faced**

Throughout the development of the Certified to Sustain initiative, we have encountered several challenges that require adaptability and problem-solving. One of the biggest obstacles is student engagement and participation. While there is strong interest in sustainability certifications, maintaining consistent involvement is difficult due to students' demanding schedules and competing academic priorities. Specifically, 3 students did not sign up for the program after being accepted, and one student dropped out of the program due to external conflicts. To address this, we are implementing structured study sessions with clear scheduling and accountability measures to keep participants on track. Additionally, we are increasing outreach efforts to emphasize the benefits of these certifications for career development, by inviting industry partners to help students see their long-term value. We are also managing logistical challenges in organizing study resources and exam preparation materials. Since each certification has different requirements, structuring a unified study plan has been difficult. To address this, we have gathered official study materials, exam prep guides, and practice questions, ensuring that students have access to reliable resources. We are also exploring opportunities to bring in guest speakers or mentors who have already earned these certifications to provide firsthand insights and guidance. Moving forward, we are working to improve early engagement and structured support by encouraging students to start their preparation earlier in the semester. Additionally, we are seeking more faculty involvement to strengthen institutional support and integration with coursework. In alignment with these efforts, final participation reminders were issued at the end of May. Unfortunately, four students did not respond and were unable to complete the program requirements.

## **Project Support**

The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) has been invaluable in supporting our process through various challenges. Their consistent communication and involvement in meetings allowed them to closely follow our progress. Toward the end of the project, they helped us develop a plan to support the final students in completing their certifications. Thanks to this collaboration, we successfully achieved our goal of certifying students.

## **Photo Link**

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## Media/Links

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