



A Student Growing Plants at the Greenhouse at Rock Creek

Portland Community College Sustainability Educational Resources

Career & Educational Pathways

There are a number of career and educational pathways at PCC including the Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS), Associate of Arts Transfer Degree (AAOT), the Associate of General Studies (AGS), the Associate of Science (AS) degree and the Associate of Science Oregon Transfer in Business (ASOT-BUS). Each is a two year program. Here are a few of the sustainability career and education pathways and degrees you could pursue at PCC.

- [Bioscience Technology](#) (career pathways in sustainable energy production, bioremediation, biomanufacturing, and more.)
- [Electronics Engineering program in Renewable Energy Systems](#)
- [Environmental Landscape Management Technology](#)
- [Geomatics](#): (In addition to the associates degree in geomatics, PCC offers a shorter (less than 1-year) certificate program in [Geographic Information Systems](#) and as a [Geospatial UAS Specialist](#))
- [Microelectronics Technology: Solar Voltaic Manufacturing](#) (PCC also offers a [career pathway certificate in solar voltaic manufacturing technology](#).)

PCC is also at work on developing a program to provide training and support and to coordinate the work of the other community colleges in the region in the mass timber construction industry.

Areas of Study

Environmental Studies and Resources

The PCC Environmental Studies and Resources program has been designed to align with the Environmental Science and Management program at Portland State University. Students have also successfully transferred to other programs in Oregon such as Oregon State University and Pacific University. All ESR classes will [transfer to a four-year school](#). If you plan to transfer to a university and major in environmental sciences or environmental studies, you can complete your first two years of required coursework at PCC.

In addition to courses in Environmental Studies and Resources, PCC offers a large variety of [sustainability related courses](#) in over 20 disciplines including in Architecture Design & Drafting, Business Administration, Health, Politics and Sociology. In addition, many STEM fields such as Biology, Chemistry and Geology offer courses that are great for students excited about studying climate change and other sustainability issues.

Focus Awards



Students Receiving Their Focus Awards with SPARC Council Members

Focus awards are a non transcribed recognition of courses taken to deepen your knowledge and experience in this subject. Focus awards may be earned in combination with a certificate and/or degree. Here are just a few of the focus awards you might be interested in.

- [Sustainability](#)
- [Earth Science](#)
- [Social Justice](#)

Student Life and Leadership

Student life and leadership organizes campus clubs and organizations, legislative activities, and programs, student representation on college committees, social justice programs, social events and activities, history/heritage celebrations, [voter registration](#), and much more. These opportunities provide students with many opportunities to build their resumes. Some even pay!

[Basic Needs, Sustainability & Leadership](#) is a program for student leaders that focuses on building student leadership skills through meeting the basic needs of students (e.g. hunger) and other sustainability work.

College Clubs

There are a variety of clubs available for students to join across the district. Once a club is a formally recognized club you'll have access to leadership opportunities, club funds, event planning resources and professional advising. Students who participate in clubs have a closer connection to the campus community. All clubs and organizations are housed in [PCC's online community, PantherHUB](#).

College Committees

There are always opportunities for our students to join college committees such as the [Sustainability Leadership Council](#) or one of the special focus area committees, like the [Sustainable Practices for Academics and Resources Council](#), [Bee Campus USA](#), [Tree Campus Higher Education](#), or PCC's [Green Team](#).

EcoSocial Justice Grant

The EcoSocial Justice Grant was created by Associated Students of Portland Community College (ASPPC) District Student Council so that students, staff, and faculty can participate in our culture of innovation and contribute meaningful advances to sustainable practices. Past projects have involved the construction of new learning gardens, adding bee hives to campus, electrifying grounds equipment, creating bike rental programs, developing workshops on climate anxiety and environmental justice for the PCC community and so much more. The grant is funded by the student activity fee.

Events

PCC's Sustainability Department collaborates with Student Life and Leadership and various college committees to host events like our annual Ecochallenge, Earthweek, Ecosocial Justice events, Pollinator Week and more throughout the year. We host speakers and workshops on a variety of topics including environmental justice, climate grief and ecoanxiety. workshops. Check out the [Student Sustainability Hub](#) to learn more or follow the [Sustainability Department on Instagram @pccsustain](#).



A Student Hanging Artwork, by Local Artist Thea Coleman, at the Ecoartivism Event

Additional Campus Resources

PCC has many other physical resources that support students learning sustainability outside of the classroom including [Learning Gardens](#), the [Environmental Center](#), the [Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center](#), and virtual resources such as the [Student Sustainability Hub](#) and library guides on [Climate Change](#). [Maps of Sustainability and our learning gardens](#) are also available on our website.

The [Student Sustainability Hub](#) is a digital resource for students who want to learn more about specific course offerings, events as well as volunteer and job opportunities.

Furthermore, PCC Sustainability has frequent opportunities through [Cooperative Education](#) and [Community Based-Learning](#). Cooperative Education allows students to get course credit for learning done on the job, while community based-learning offers ways for students to get more engaged with the community. PCC uses [Give Pulse](#) to help students identify new volunteer opportunities.

PCC also hosts [Learning Gardens](#) on each of its four main campuses, Sylvania, Rock Creek, Cascade and Southeast as well as at the Newberg Center. Learning gardens allow students to explore horticulture, biology, botany and other related fields. Learning gardens also provide hands-on learning opportunities for students, while simultaneously providing food to the college's food pantries. Paid casual, work study positions and volunteer opportunities in the learning gardens give students an opportunity to develop their sustainability skills while earning real world work experience.

The [PCC Library](#) provides books (print and electronic) and streaming videos on a wide range of sustainability topics. The library website includes research guides to support exploration of topics including [climate change](#), [ecoanxiety](#) and [climate change fiction](#).



**A Work Party at the Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center
Hosted by the Nature for All Club**

PCC's [Environmental Center](#) is located on the Sylvania Campus. The E-center is an active meeting place for committees organized around sustainability issues and student-led organizations. It offers updated resources on climate change, alternative transportation, energy conservation, and campus sustainability. The center also offers counseling for students interested in environmental careers.

The [Rock Creek Environmental Studies Center](#) (RCESC) is a natural area within Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus that serves as wildlife habitat, provides ecosystem services, and is used as a living lab for PCC students and the community. It is located on the traditional lands of the Kalapuyan people.



A Work Party at the Cascade Learning Garden

LEARN MORE: <https://linktr.ee/pccsustain>



PCC SUSTAINABILITY

Portland Community College is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Institution