Community Based Learning Guide

About CBL

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a teaching method that integrates reciprocal partnerships, community engagement, and critical reflection to meet institutional and course outcomes while developing individual, civic, and social responsibility. At PCC, the CBL program provides support across all disciplines through assisting faculty with community-based learning course implementation, professional development and resources.

About PCC's District Sustainability Office

Sustainability at PCC acts as a hub to institutionalize sustainability across three major areas: Education & Outreach, Operationalizing Sustainability, and Community Impact. We work to:

- Fulfill PCC's sustainability promises to our students, staff, faculty, and the community through policy, programs, outreach, and education;
- Serve as a connector for faculty, staff, and students interested in sustainability;
- Advance equity and center those most impacted by the sustainability challenges we face today;
- Work across silos on complex issues that create systemic change;
- Use our campus as a living laboratory to engage students in crafting collaborative solutions that have an impact on their day to day surroundings;
- Develop programs that align our operational and educational practices with our mission; and,
- Collaborate with the greater Portland sustainability community to ensure climate resilience and work towards an equitable future for the Pacific Northwest.

District Office Employees

District Sustainability Manager, District Sustainability Coordinator, Recycling Coordinator, Sustainability Analyst, and Sustainability Assistant.

Approach

We approach sustainability holistically, employing multiple practices, developing programs, and creating infrastructure to tackle challenging issues. Our sustainability challenges require working across PCC's operations and within academic areas. We use our campus as a living laboratory and take opportunities to engage students in crafting collaborative solutions that have an impact on their day to day surroundings. Recurring major themes are education, climate equity, habitat restoration, air and water quality, active transportation, social justice, environmental racism, energy conservation, food justice and materials management.

Reporting

We collect operations and instruction data related to sustainability in the following areas: energy management, greenhouse gas emissions (energy use, renewable energy production, fuel consumption,college purchases, solid waste, business travel, air travel and transportation) and instruction (sustainability courses) .

Getting Started

We are really excited to support faculty and collaborate with you to create positive learning experiences for students at PCC around sustainability challenges. In order for us to best help you, please follow the steps below.

How to get started?

1. Visit the PCC CBL website and click on "Faculty: Teach with CBL." Please fill out the form and express interest in working with Sustainability for your CBL project. If you are new to CBL, please look through the Steps for New Faculty Guide. The CBL program has lots of resources to guide you. It will take approximately one hour to meet with the CBL program or Sustainability Office to learn more and get started with a project. Additionally, the CBL program periodically offers a more thorough introduction to CBL (entitled CBL 101) that takes about 90 minutes to complete.
2. Read through this **Sustainability Community Based Learning Guide**.
3. Fill out Sustainability CBL Project Form and submit to **sustainability@pcc.edu**
4. Our team will be in touch with you to set up a meeting in order to:
    a. brainstorm project ideas and details;
    b. follow up on questions; and
    c. provide information that you need from us.
5. Create a project description and submit your request four-eight weeks prior to your need for materials from the Sustainability Office. (The time frame will vary depending upon request.)

Working with Give Pulse

GivePulse as a resource for hands-on individual and student group volunteering throughout the greater Portland region. GivePulse is PCC's volunteer management platform. GivePulse helps students to find volunteer opportunities across Portland and helps students engage with our community. PCC Sustainability also uses GivePulse as a recruitment tool for outreach and education events like Earth Day. Using GivePulse to track student work helps our office track and report the college's sustainability performance. GivePulse also creates a transcript for student work and volunteer hours that they can take with them if they transfer elsewhere, e.g. Portland State University. It will take approximately one hour to complete GivePulse training.

Outreach & Engagement

The PCC Sustainability Office hosts recurring events throughout the year, which are great to tie into. Our fall event is the Ecochallenge and in the spring, we collaborate with students, faculty, and staff for Earth Week. Faculty often set assignments around the fall Ecochallenge event and/or the Spring PCC Earth Week Challenge (formerly Earth Week Bingo). We also support many other programs and initiatives across the college, including Bee Campus USA, Tree Campus Higher Education, learning gardens at each campus, the Environmental Center, the Rock Creek

[Environmental Studies Center](#), pollinator habitat, the apiary, [Sustainability Leadership Council](#) and [Sustainable Practices for Academics and Resources Council (SPARC)](#). We also work with student leadership to support social justice events and training and the [Ecosocial Justice Grant](#). In addition, we use our [PCC Sustainability website](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) to share sustainability events across the college and communicate sustainability tips.

Past Work

Examples of CBL, Cooperative Education and Curriculum Projects

- Waste audits to support our waste reduction goals and materials management program
- Displayed student artwork as part of our Earth Week educational programming
- Developed signage and outreach materials posted on campus
- Class tours for students to learn more about the sustainable practices on campus
- Water sampling on campus
- Tree survey of the RC Environmental Resources Center
- Sustainable Purchasing Research
- Sustainable Event Guide
- Mapped out our utility meters and waste receptacles
- Updated our sustainability maps online
- Natural building projects across the district
- Students learn about local climate impacts as well as regional planning efforts and then make recommendations to the college to help mitigate those impacts
- Engagement with the college's learning gardens, whether that be a tour, a work party or a larger project

Internships

- Business student provided administrative support during the Climate Action Plan for the Resiliency Committee
- GIS student created several maps
- Strategic Energy Management Associate (paid)

Data

PCC's environmental data can be shared with a variety of courses and includes:
- PCC's Tree Survey data
- Renewable energy purchases
- Energy consumption
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Sustainability Tracking and Rating System report information

Earth Week Bingo and Earth Week EcoChallenge Cards beginning in the Spring of 2020 may be found at www.pcc.edu/earthweek in the archives for each year. These cards contain multiple learning activities and sustainability challenges ranging from 5-60 minutes and are themed around climate change, social justice, recycling and waste reduction, environmental health and wellness and natural resources.

Sustainability Office Resources for Teaching Climate Change

Climate Action Plan

- Raw energy data and building square footage information by campus
- Raw greenhouse gas data sheet by scope for Scopes I & II
- Greenhouse gas information by type (e.g. direct fuel purchases, natural gas consumption, electric consumption, water consumption, purchases, & commuting)
- Renewable energy production
- Greenhouse Gas emissions data as reported to Second Nature
- Greenhouse Gas Inventories
  - 2019
  - 2018
  - 2017
  - 2016

Library guides

- Teaching Climate Change resources includes climate justice and climate grief.
- Climate Fiction guide

Curriculum Resources

- Climate Change Curriculum
- Climate Change (student research guide)
- Community Based Learning
- PCC 2021 Climate Action Plan
- Sustainable Practices for Academics and Resources Council SPARC
- PCC Student Sustainability HUB