

Inland Empire Climate Stewards

Course Overview

The UC Climate Stewards seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteers ready to effectively engage in transformative local solutions to promote community and ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. The UC Climate Stewards course will introduce you to social-emotional resilience and trauma-aware practices, climate change communication, climate science, and community resilience planning. The course will combine communication, engagement, and science curricula with guest presenters, field trips, and project-based learning to immerse you in the dynamics of your local community, the Santa Ana River Watershed in southern California. This UC Climate Stewards Course will empower individuals to take action to reduce impacts of climate change personally and for their communities.

Instructors

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Course Start &

End 10/05/2022 to
11/19/2022

UC Climate Stewards

Website

<http://calnat.ucanr.edu/cs>

Learning Outcomes

- Increase access to up-to-date and locally relevant climate science to improve climate literacy
- Improve participants' self-efficacy and agency by fostering climate change communications skills development, civic engagement, and local conservation and community action
- Establish an inclusive community of practice focused on stewardship, communication, and community solutions to advance resiliency
- Build statewide support and capacity to effectively advance state and local climate goals
- Meet all of the course requirements

Registration

<https://www.rcrcd.org/california-climate-steward-course>

Course Fee

\$275
Due by Oct. 1, 2022

Course Location

-Hybrid- CANVAS online and zoom.
-RCRCD
4500 Glenwood Dr.
Riverside, CA 92501 Bldg. F
-local field trip locations

Course Requirements

Contact Time: Each UC Climate Stewards course consists of a minimum of 43 educational hours (online, classroom, and field time), which includes a minimum of 12 hours in the field.

Required Reading and Online Work: Read the entire UC Climate Stewards Handbook, complete six (6) online course modules, and complete assigned homework.

Class Attendance and Field Trips: Participants must attend all classes and field trips. If any are missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor.

Capstone Project: Participants are required to complete a Capstone Project in one of six areas: Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and

-Various field trip locations

Course Schedule

Wednesdays 6-8 PM
and two Saturday field trips

Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, or Program Support. The Capstone Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project done in conjunction with a community organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Capstone Projects in the first two weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver an individual or group capstone presentation (5 minutes long per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the capstone project and will add hours spent on the Capstone Project into the volunteer portal.

Class Community Science Project: Each participant must contribute to the class community science project, **Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper**
<https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>

Evaluation: Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is critical for the ongoing success and improvement of the course. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

Required Text

Climate Stewardship: Taking Collective Action to Protect California by *Brendan Buhler and Adina Merenlender*. (Provided online once enrolled.) Available in Fall, 2021: <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520378940/climate-stewardship>

Recommended Supplemental Reading

The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change, *Robert Henson*.

Course Materials

Required: Access to an internet connected computer or phone and an email account for communication and Volunteer Portal access.

Recommended Resources

CalNat YouTube Channel: View videos from UC Climate Stewards conferences, meetings, and more.

Url: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg>

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for academic credits through UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education for an additional nominal fee. Graduates who express interest in this opportunity with their instructor will receive a communication from the UC Climate Stewards Program post-course with information on how to obtain the optional credits.

Volunteering and Volunteer Portal (VMS): Participants will be provided with an online account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Capstone Project. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove need and impact of the UC Climate Stewards Initiative. Participants are encouraged to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pin designs differ from year to year.

- Volunteer activities must relate to climate communication, education, interpretation, mitigation, adaptation, or community or ecosystem resilience, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be unpaid or part of a subsidized workforce development program (e.g., CCC, NFF, Americorps).
- Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the [UC Volunteer Portal](#). A welcome e-mail will be sent to you after instructors add your information to the system. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that e-mail. You will be provided with a user name and password in the introductory e-mail after the start of the class.
- The portal website is <https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr>.
- There are resources available to help you familiarize with the UC CalNat/Climate Stewards volunteer portal and commonly used features. Check out our help guides and videos geared toward users and program administrators. *Url:* http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/

Attendance Policy

Participants must complete [minimum of 43] hours of instruction during the class. Only two class sessions (4-hours) can be missed and participants can request a make-up session or assignment from their instructor. Because of the unique aspects of field trips, participants need to attend all field trips. In the case of an emergency and the field trip is missed, participants may be able to arrange an alternative option at the discretion of the instructor.

Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee. Registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that experience a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, between the two weeks of class before and after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund."

Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including online modules, presentations, peer-to-peer discussion, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry-based activities, experiential learning. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting the instructors.

Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations to program participants with disabilities. If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations for this class, you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least two weeks before the first day of instruction if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us time to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats upon request.

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees, purchasing books, and transportation for the field trips. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals, and equipment.

The Riverside- Corona Resource Conservation District wants to enable all interested persons to participate in the Climate Stewards Program, regardless of financial considerations. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. Scholarship applications must be received by Sept. 27, 2022. Follow-up interviews may be required. Applicants will be notified of their scholarship status by Sept. 29, 2022. <https://www.rcrcd.org/california-climate-steward-course>

Class Schedule

Meeting #	DATE	TOPIC - SUBJECT Pre-reading recommended: <i>Climate Stewardship: Taking Action to Protect California</i>	ASSIGNMENT
1	10-5-2022	Introductory Meeting (Welcome, Introductory Activity) 4500 Glenwood Dr. Riverside, CA 92501 1 hr. field trip onsite	Pre-read: Welcome to UC Online & UC Climate Stewards-Getting Started
2	10-12-2022	Unit I – Community Connections Online Component	Complete Unit I reading prior to class
3	10-19-2022	Unit II – Interpretation/Communication/Education Online Component	Capstone Proposal due. Complete Unit II reading prior to class
4	10-26-2022	Unit III – Climate in Context, Part 1 Online Component	Complete Unit III Capstone Project outline due
5	11-2-2022	Unit IV – Climate in Context, Part 2 Online Component	Complete Unit IV reading prior to class
6	11-9-2022	Unit V – Community Resilience Online Component	Complete Unit V reading prior to class
7	11-16-2022	Unit VI – Community Engagement Online Component	Complete Unit VI reading prior to class
8	11-19-2022 Saturday	Capstone Presentation In-person at RCRC	Complete Course Evaluation link

Field Trip Schedule (Detailed schedules provided the week prior to each field trip.)

Wk	Date	Subject/Topic	Mtg. Location/Time	Site
1	10-8-2022 9 AM-3 PM	Onsite field trip: Sustainability	4500 Glenwood Dr. Riverside 92501	LandUse Learning Center Santa Ana River
2	10-22-2022 9 AM-3 PM	Tentative field trip	TBD	UCR Sustainability, R-Garden, Air Quality Lab, CE-CERT, and CARB