

## CSU Green Campus Network

Green Campus is a growing network of CSU programs, across the state, that are leveraging student work and innovation in each campus' quest to conserve resources, deliver cost savings, and support student success via applied, hands-on opportunities.

### What is the Green Campus model?

The Green Campus model is an innovative, student leadership program that empowers student interns to implement sustainability projects on campus. While every Green Campus chapter is uniquely adapted to the campus it supports, there are some common characteristics across programs, which include:

- Campus department offers support and/or staff supervision and involvement (e.g. Facilities Services, ASI, Academic Affairs, etc.)
- Focus on projects that generate resource savings and/or further sustainability for the campus
- Offer multiple paid student internship positions as part of an intern team of 2-8 interns that report directly to a campus lead/staff member.
- Internships are designed to encourage student leadership in initiating and implementing campus projects related to sustainability. Projects are designed to address several major program pillars:
  - Generate utility savings and/or efficiency for the campus
  - Support peer-peer outreach and engagement related to sustainability
  - Promote the academic infusion of sustainability concepts into curriculum
  - Support programming that encourages green workforce development

### What Does The Green Campus Network Provide?

If your campus has a sustainability internship or employment programs that are characterized by the above and/or could easily be adapted to do so, consider joining the Green Campus Network. The Network is a coalition of the existing Green Campus programs across the CSU system, and is designed to foster collaboration and support on a statewide level. Joining provides the following benefits:

- Green Campus interns will be invited to participate in statewide conferences with other Green Campus students from across the CSU system to network, collaborate, and exchange best practices in-person.
- Campuses that are part of the Green Campus Network will also receive access to the Green Campus Google Drive folder which serves as a database to provide archives and records on best practices.



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

*What is the criteria for my campus to join the Green Campus Network?*

Identify a staff “campus lead” (e.g. Sustainability Officer, Facilities staff, Sustainability Coordinator, etc.) who supervises the student intern(s). Also identify at least one student intern who is actively working on sustainability projects under that campus lead’s supervision. Register their contact information via the [Green Campus Network Registration Survey \(https://goo.gl/forms/peIVB5dubhJfcifg1\)](https://goo.gl/forms/peIVB5dubhJfcifg1) and you will be added to future Green Campus Network communications and given access to the Green Campus Network Google Drive database. Share the database with the campus lead (if not you) as well as the student intern(s) so you all have access to the archives and communications contained there. Have the student intern periodically add their own resources and Project Evaluation Forms based on work that they do on an ongoing basis to share this knowledge out with other student interns looking to replicate best practices on their respective campuses.

*What if my student interns aren’t paid, I only have one or two, or otherwise have a student internship program that doesn’t meet this criteria exactly?*

These guidelines and characteristics are modeled on the historical best practices of the Green Campus Program, and have been found to yield particularly good results. Obviously your own campus can adapt this model to your own needs, though we encourage adoption of all these characteristics for optimal outcomes.

For example, student interns who are paid have been found to be more invested in projects, are more likely to stick around for the long term, and have the opportunity to develop greater leadership skills. Also keeping students in a team setting where they work collaboratively with more than one other intern builds interpersonal skills, allows for more advanced projects, and enables greater student leadership on projects.

*What if I have “student assistants,” or “student workers,” not interns?*

Campuses vary in their definitions of what constitutes an intern vs. a student worker vs. a student assistant. In this case, “intern” is used as a general definition to describe any student who is actively working on campus sustainability projects in a formal capacity.

*What if I have multiple groups from my campus that fit this model and all of them want to participate in the network and utilize Green Campus resources?*

Campuses should defer to their Sustainability Officer to determine where and how to divide the provided resources so they can yield the best value for their students and campus needs. Resources may be limited (Chancellor’s office travel or internship support) so campuses will have to take care to involve students and student groups in the way that makes the most sense to their campus and the model as outlined above, knowing that there may not be enough funding to support every relevant student group on their campus.