

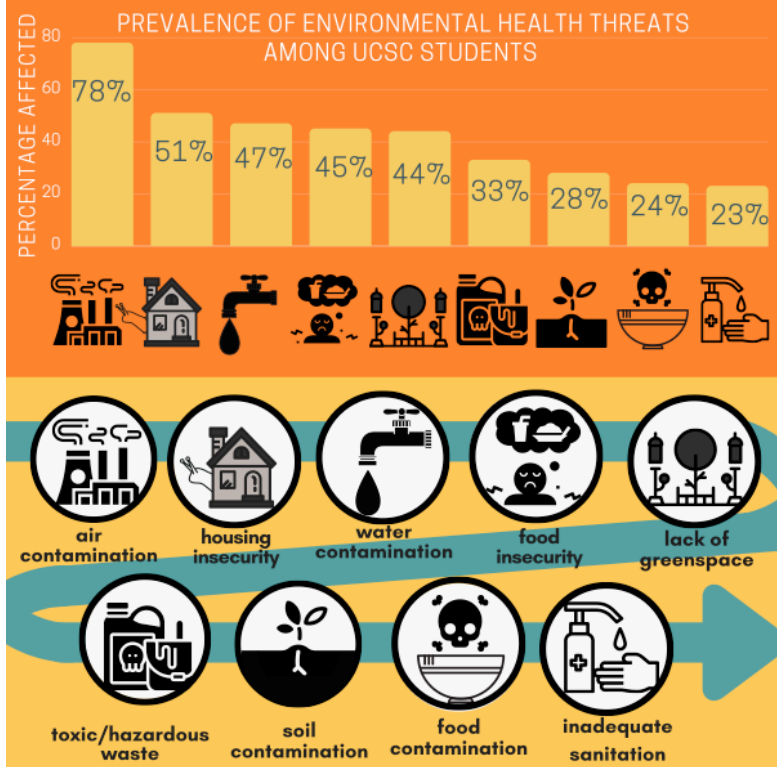
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THREATS



INFOGRAPHIC BY CASSANDRA WOOD | DATA ANALYSIS PROVIDED BY IRAPS

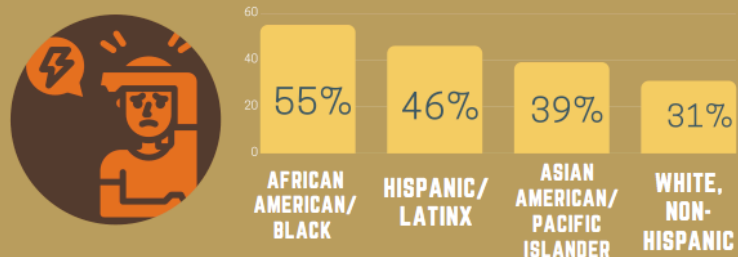
The People of Color Sustainability Collective (PoCSC) is an award-winning campus initiative based on a partnership between the Ethnic Resource Centers, Colleges Nine and Ten, and the Sustainability Office. The findings showcased below are from a survey administered in the Spring of 2019 to UCSC undergraduates (n = 2,546).

WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THREATS IMPACT YOUR HOME COMMUNITY?



DO YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY SUFFER FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY CAUSED HEALTH PROBLEMS?

Percentages of undergraduates answering affirmatively, by race/ethnicity



RACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT UCSC



INFOGRAPHIC CREATED BY CASSANDRA WOOD | DATA ANALYSIS PROVIDED BY IRAPS

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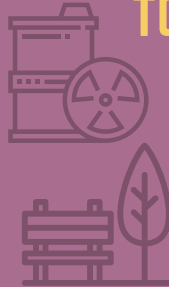
HOUSING INSECURITY

Housing can be insecure due to unsafe conditions, inadequate supply, and displacement due to lack of affordability (e.g. gentrification).



LACK OF GREENSPACE

Areas such as forests, parks, and hiking trails, among other outdoor spaces, provide access to nature and recreation. Many urban areas don't have easy access to these spaces, which impacts mental and physical health.



FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity is often found in food deserts: urban areas with a lack of access to affordable, healthy food.

Many marginalized neighborhoods are deprived of healthy food sources, only having liquor stores and fast food chains.

TOXIC WASTE

Factories, waste facilities, ports and refineries release toxic contamination that affects the health and wellbeing of nearby communities.

Which environmental health threats impact your home community?



AFRICAN AMERICAN, BLACK, CARRIBEAN



HISPANIC/LATINX



ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER



WHITE, NON-HISPANIC

	ABC	HL	AAPI	WNH
HOUSING INSECURITY	41%	60%	46%	47%
FOOD INSECURITY	44%	56%	43%	35%
LACK OF GREENSPACE	47%	51%	41%	38%
TOXIC WASTE	27%	38%	37%	26%

THE GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF UCSC UNDERGRADUATES



INFOGRAPHIC BY
CASSANDRA WOOD
DATA ANALYSIS
PROVIDED BY IRAPS

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The findings below are from comparing surveys administered in 2016 (n=3,266) and 2019 (n=2,546), where UCSC undergraduates identified varying environmental issues as either "important" or "very important" to them.

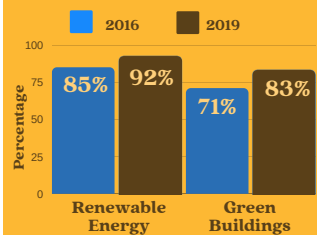
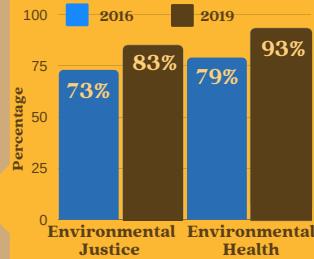
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Environmental Justice

addresses the intersections of race, class and power in environmental policy making and distribution of burdens of environmental degradation

Environmental Health

addresses chemical and toxic exposures in air, water, soil and food in the natural and built environment



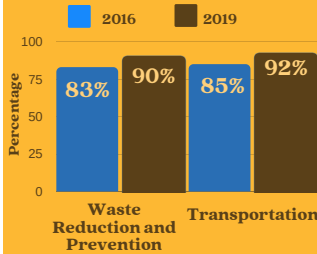
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Renewable Energy

transitions away from fossil fuel energy sources causing climate change

Green Buildings

promotes the use of building design that is environmentally responsible and resource-efficient



Waste Reduction and Prevention

encompasses efforts to divert materials going to landfills through recycling, repurposing, use of biodegradable materials and reduction in packaging

Transportation

entails shared, accessible, and low-emission forms of transit

LAND AND RESOURCE USE

Conservation

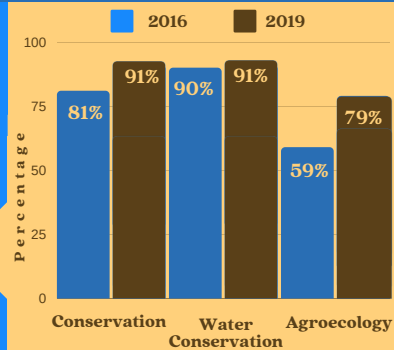
entails the stewardship of natural resources and protection of biodiversity and habitats

Water Conservation

encourages protection of this vital resource through policy, practices and infrastructure

Agroecology

promotes productivity, stability, and equitability of agroecosystems through mimicking natural processes



FINDINGS

- Averaging the two years, students deemed **water conservation** the most important, followed by **renewable energy** and **waste reduction** tied for second.
- The environmental concerns that increased the most in importance between 2016 and 2019 were **agroecology** (+20%) and **environmental health** (+14%).
- The top three environmental concerns were in descending order:
 - In 2016, **water conservation, renewable energy/waste reduction** (tied), and **transportation**.
 - In 2019, they were **environmental health, renewable energy/waste reduction** (tied), and **conservation/water conservation** (tied).
- Levels of environmental concern expressed by undergraduates at UCSC increased across the board from 2016 to 2019, all of which were statistically significant. Whereas only one issue was deemed "important" or "very important" by 90% or more students in 2016, by 2019, six issues reached this threshold.

UCSC UNDERGRADUATES & THE ENVIRONMENTAL BELIEF PARADOX

INFOGRAPHIC BY CASSANDRA WOOD
DATA ANALYSIS PROVIDED BY IRAPS

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The findings below are from a survey administered in Spring 2019 (n= 2,546). UCSC undergraduates identified various environmental concerns on a scale of "not important" to "very important". Below, we report the combined percentages of those labeled "important" or "very important".

Pearson et al. (2018) found that the stereotype of an "environmentalist" as white and wealthy is widely held by people across race and class.

Yet **people of color reported significantly higher levels of environmental concern than whites in a nationally representative survey**, even when controlling for gender, education, income and political ideology.

They labeled this prevalent and dismissive misrepresentation the "environmental belief paradox."

Pearson, A.R. et al. 2018. Diverse segments of the US public underestimate the environmental concerns of minority and low-income Americans. /PAAS 11:5(49): 12429-12434.

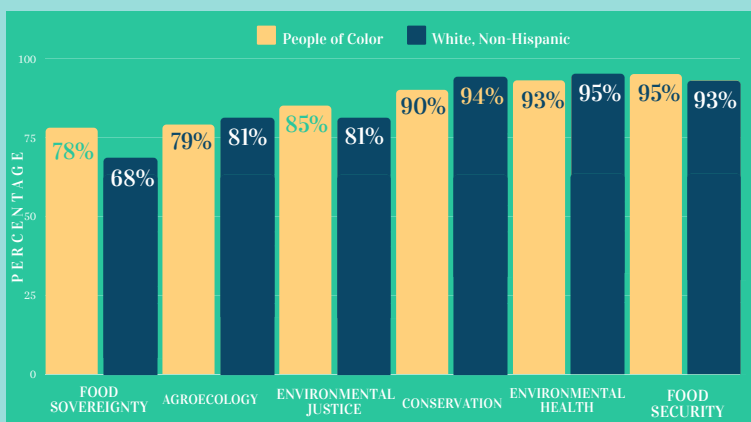
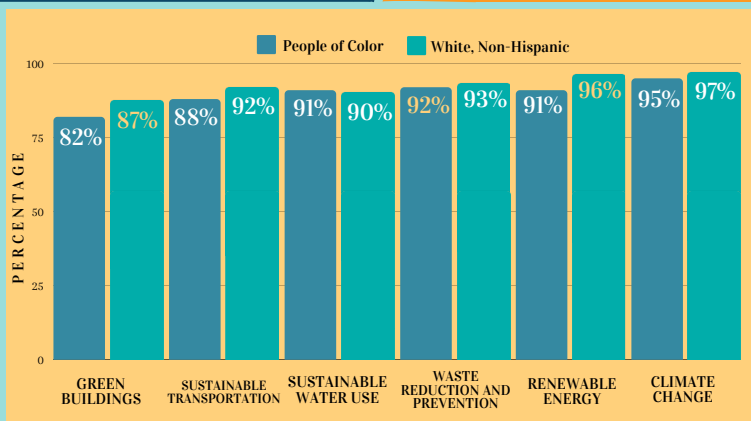
The data speaks to how important environmental issues are to students as a whole at UCSC, with many issues exhibiting similar results across racial categories.

White students ascribed slightly higher levels of importance to some mainstream environmental concerns such as **renewable energy, green buildings, sustainable transportation, and conservation**, while **students of color** valued **food sovereignty and environmental justice** more.



The goal of the People of Color Sustainability Collective is to foster a more inclusive environmental movement, where the concerns, expertise and accomplishments of people of color are recognized.

PoCSC starts from the tenet that environmental sustainability is inextricable from social, economic and racial justice and must value different cultures, places and knowledge.



Ranking of Sustainability Definitions at UCSC

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THE FINDINGS BELOW ARE FROM A CAMPUS-WIDE SURVEY ADMINISTERED IN SPRING 2019, WHERE UCSC UNDERGRADUATES RANKED EACH DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, WITH 1 BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT AND 5 THE LEAST IMPORTANT.

Overall Campus Rankings

		RANK
■ USING	SUSTAINABILITY IS USING NATURAL RESOURCES WISELY	1 ST
■ CHALLENGING	SUSTAINABILITY IS CHALLENGING SOCIETAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURES THAT OVEREXPLOIT THE ENVIRONMENT	2 ND
■ WORKING	SUSTAINABILITY IS WORKING TOWARD SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY	3 RD
■ BUILDING	SUSTAINABILITY IS BUILDING GREEN FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE	4 TH
■ PROMOTING	SUSTAINABILITY IS PROMOTING CULTURALLY DIVERSE KNOWLEDGES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT	5 TH

"WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO USE THE LEAST RESOURCES AS POSSIBLE TO GET THE MOST BENEFIT FOR US WHILE DOING THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DAMAGE TO THE PLANET."

USING ■

"EQUITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABILITY, BECAUSE EFFORTS AREN'T SUSTAINABLE UNLESS THEY ARE SUSTAINABLE FOR EVERYONE IN ALL DEMOGRAPHICS...NOT JUST WEALTHY WHITE PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS"

CHALLENGING ■

"THE ENVIRONMENT'S BIGGEST THREAT IS BIG BUSINESS AND POLITICIANS WHO WIELD A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF POWER, AND INHERENTLY BENEFIT FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. NOTHING LARGE-SCALE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED UNLESS THOSE IN POWER ARE PRO SUSTAINABILITY."

WORKING ■

"WE NEED TO BUILD MORE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WON'T ADD HARMFUL THINGS TO THE ENVIRONMENT."

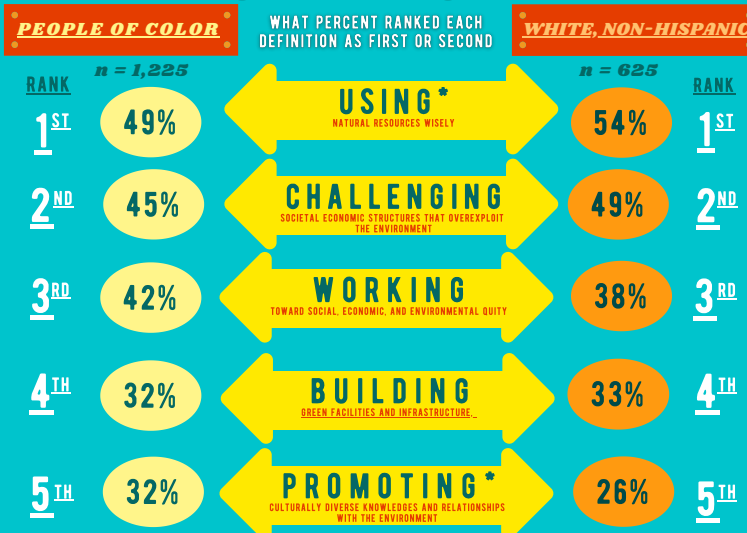
BUILDING ■

"LEARNING FROM PEOPLE'S PRACTICES TO STEWARD THE EARTH."

"THE WORLD IS DIVERSE AND WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF IT WITH DIVERSITY."

PROMOTING ■

Comparing Rankings



Findings

- THE RANK ORDER OF SUSTAINABILITY DEFINITIONS WAS THE SAME BETWEEN POC AND WHITE STUDENTS.
- THERE IS A PLURALITY, NOT A MAJORITY, OF PREFERENCES AMONG SUSTAINABILITY DEFINITIONS. EACH DEFINITION RESONATES WITH MANY STUDENTS.
- *THE DIFFERENCE IN PERCENTAGES BETWEEN POC AND WHITE STUDENTS FOR THE FIRST AND LAST DEFINITIONS (I.E., "USING" AND "PROMOTING") WAS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT (P<0.05).