

# NEWSLETTER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Read about UC Merced's latest sustainability initiatives, research and news:

"The Greenest College Campus In The United States University Of California – Merced"  
<https://bit.ly/greenestschool>

"Solar Projects Yielding Exciting Potential for Dairies, Other Industries"  
<https://bit.ly/ucmsolar>

"Mineral dust aerosol impacts on global climate and climate change"  
<https://bit.ly/ucmdust>

"Farmworkers face smoke, pesticides, roaches, rats"  
<https://bit.ly/farmworksstudy>

"Hackathon aims to solve agriculture challenges"  
<https://bit.ly/aghackathon>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Ask Me Anything Featuring Sophie Egan on Monday, 3/6 at 3 pm PT  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/AMASophie>

Ask Me Anything Featuring Richard Munson on Monday, 4/3 at 3 pm PT  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/amarichard>

Ask Me Anything Featuring Nicoletta Batini on Monday, 5/8 at 3 pm PT  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/amanicoletta>

Ask Me Anything Featuring Steve Buchmann on Tuesday, 6/20 at 3 pm PT  
Register here: <https://bit.ly/amasteve>

## GET INVOLVED

- Nominate someone as a Sustainability Champion:  
<https://bit.ly/SustainableChamp>
- Read our "Sustainability Annual Report 2022"  
<https://bit.ly/ucopreport>
- Planning an event with catered food? Make it a "No Food Left Behind" event by opting in on the CaterTrax or America to Go form. More details here:  
<http://bit.ly/nflbucm>

**Ask Me Anything Featuring Sophie Egan**  
Monday, March 6th  
3-4 PM PT

Register at  
<https://bit.ly/AMASophie>  
(Note- Link is case sensitive)

This virtual event is free and open to the public.

Can't attend, but have a question for them?  
Email [emeyer4@ucmerced.edu](mailto:emeyer4@ucmerced.edu) the question.

**Biography:** Sophie Egan, MPH is Director of the Stanford Food Institute and Sustainable Food Systems at R&DE Stanford Dining, where she is Co-Director of the Menus of Change University Research Collaborative. An internationally recognized leader at the intersection of food, health, and climate, Sophie is also the founder of Full Table Solutions, a consulting practice that's a catalyst for food systems transformation; Director of Strategy for Food for Climate League; a contributor to The New York Times Health section; and an author, most recently of the book *How to Be a Conscious Eater* (Workman, 2020)—named one of Bon Appétit's "Favorite New Books for Climate-Friendly Cooking and Life." For over five years, Sophie served as the Director of Health and Sustainability Leadership/Editorial Director for The Culinary Institute of America's Strategic Initiatives Group. Sophie's writing has been featured in The Washington Post, TIME, Parents, The Wall Street Journal, Bon Appétit, WIRED, EatingWell, Edible San Francisco, FoodTank, and Sunset.

**M UC MERCED SUSTAINABILITY**



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## SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

Congratulations and great work to our Sustainability Champions from this quarter:

### December

The Physics Department was recognized as a Sustainable Department.

### January

Guillermo Ortiz was awarded as a "Sustainability Advocate" at UC Merced.

### February

We awarded Suzanne King for being a Sustainable Food Advocate.

## SUSTAINABILITY JOKE

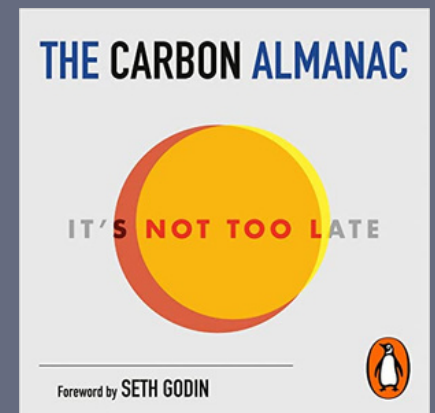
*I don't have a Carbon Footprint...Because I drive everywhere.*

PS we hope you don't drive everywhere. Check your footprint [here](https://bit.ly/calccarbon) :  
<https://bit.ly/calccarbon>

Source: <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/best-environmental-jokes.php>

## READING CORNER

This quarter's book recommendation is "The Carbon Almanac: It's Not Too Late" by The Carbon Almanac Network and edited by Seth Godin. Send sustainability related book recommendations to [emeyer4@ucmerced.edu](mailto:emeyer4@ucmerced.edu).



## NOTES FROM A "SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMS INTERN"

We asked what Sib Cante, former student staff in the Office of Sustainability, if they had any tips to live more sustainably. Here is what they said: "I believe getting informed on the current policies we have for reducing waste and always repurposing what we can."

Another former student staff, Mireya's tip was, "Do what you can and it will go a long way. Don't listen to the "it's no use" comments. Everyone can take part to live in their own type of sustainable environment."

Wise words!



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## 5 QUESTIONS WITH AUSTIN ESCOBAR

### 1.) Tell us about your work and how it relates to sustainability.

I work with the Sustainability Department as their Climate Corp Fellow where I support our interns through their sustainability projects and provide guidance in their professional lives. Although my work is not hands-on, I do appreciate my role as I am able to support folks' sustainability work and organize our system of communication and management.

### 2.) What does sustainability mean to you?

Sustainability is a lifestyle. It is more than buying produce from your local market, sustainability also includes our mindset about our environment, our food, our things, and in many ways how we care for ourselves and each other.

### 3.) What are three tips to live more sustainably?

Get what you need. Get things that offer a lot of flexibility in it's usage--this applies to food, clothing, etc. Lastly, don't forget to compost!

### 4.) What got you interested in sustainability?

My upbringing with my family nurtured my love for the environment and my love for our community. And so so so many stories of community members putting effort to support the environment, sharing their love of the land, of food, of efficiency. My interest in sustainability goes back before I even knew the word.

### 5.) Rapid fire:

Background or Education: UC Merced 2022 alumni

Sustainability hero: Tyrone Hayes, Martha Groom

Favorite sustainable item: A water bottle

Next vacation place: The Philippines

A sustainability related project you would like to work on: Encouraging clubs and orgs to use our community garden and our orchard!

Recent book, podcast or article you have loved: I like to read articles on highway greening, or at least the history of it.

Next movie or show on your Netflix Queue: The Last of Us, episode 6 (HBO Max)

One random fact about yourself few people know: I love to garden (many people know xD)

Creamy or crunchy peanut butter? Definitely crunchy!