

Sustainability Research at Chico State

December 2020 Survey Results Report

Sustainability Research Subcommittee
Campus Sustainability Committee

Background

The Sustainability Research Subcommittee of the Campus Sustainability Committee conducted a **campus survey in Nov-Dec 2020** to generate a snapshot of sustainability research efforts on campus and gather information for the 2021 [STARS](#) report.

The following **definition** of sustainability research was used in survey:

“Sustainability research, scholarship, and creative activities are defined broadly as activities that encompass human and ecological health, social justice, economic security, and creating a better world for current and future generations. Major sustainability challenges include (but are not limited to) climate change and resiliency, global poverty and inequality, natural resource management, and environmental protection. Refer to the UN sustainable development goals for more sustainability challenges:

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>”

This report **summarizes key survey findings** about sustainability research at CSU Chico.

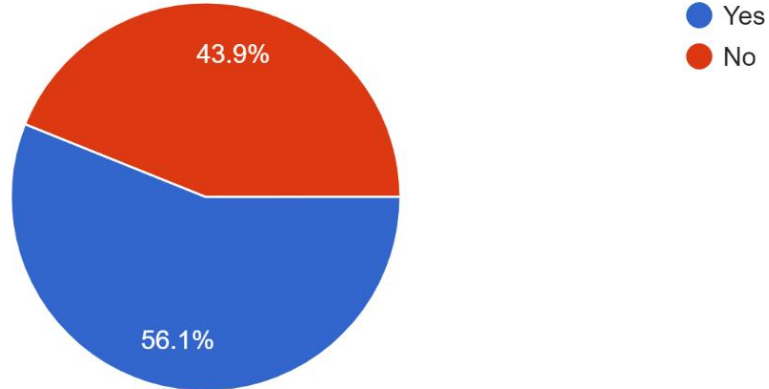
Engagement in Sustainability Research at CSU Chico

147 staff, lecturers, faculty, Department Chairs, College Deans, and Center directors participated in the survey as of Jan. 4, 2021.

56% of respondents involved in research (69 of 123) were **engaged in research, scholarship, and creative activities focused on sustainability.**

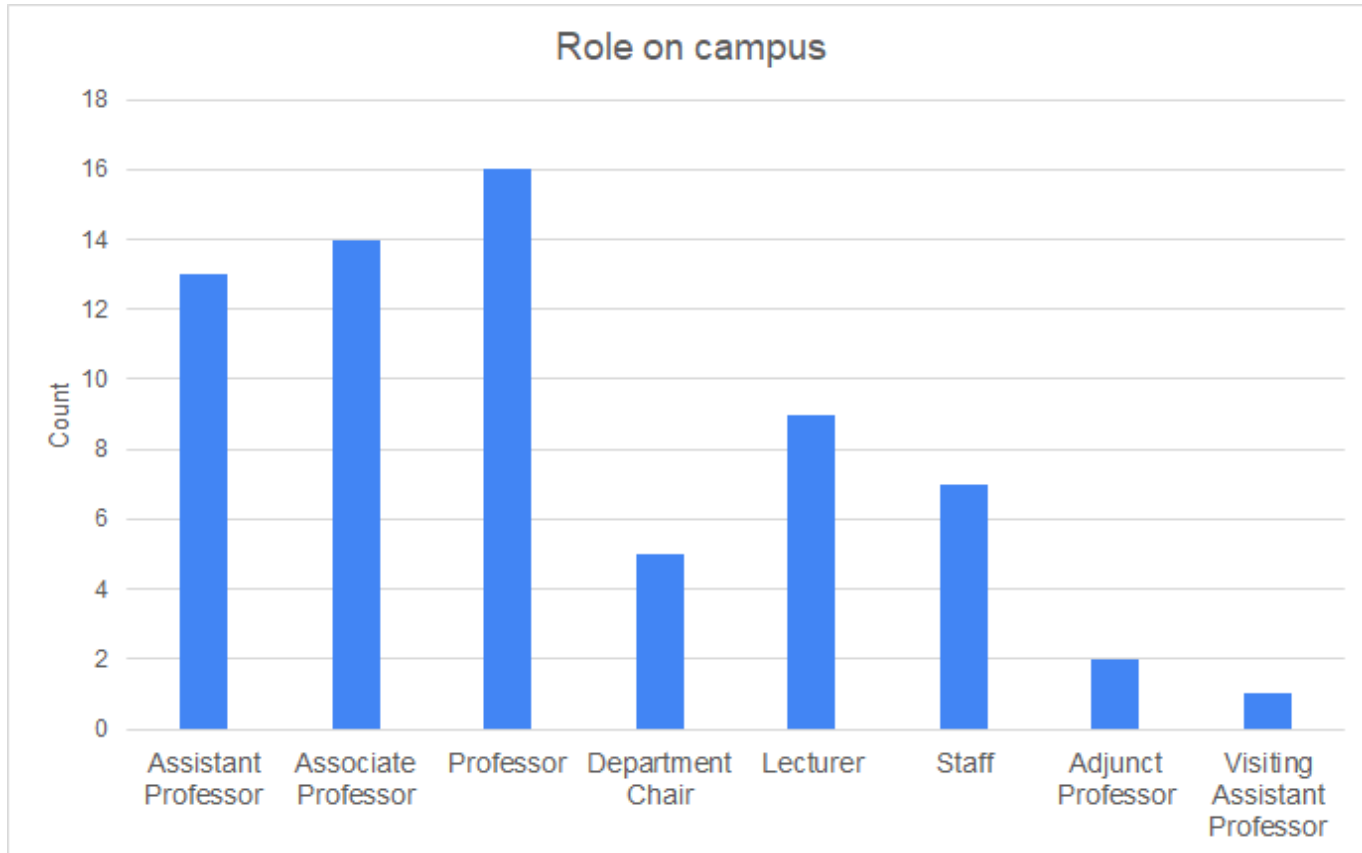
Are you engaged in research, scholarship, and creative activities that focus on sustainability?

123 responses



Snapshot of Google Form survey responses
(Google Drive)

Who does Sustainability Research on campus?

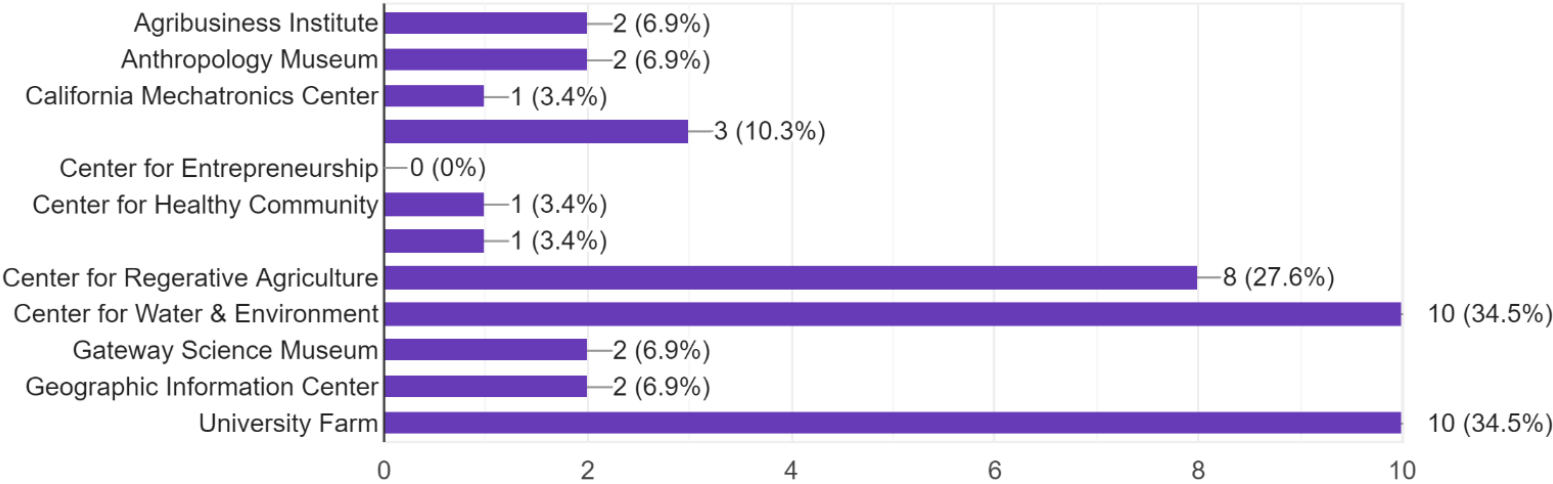


Campus Centers Involved in Sustainability Research

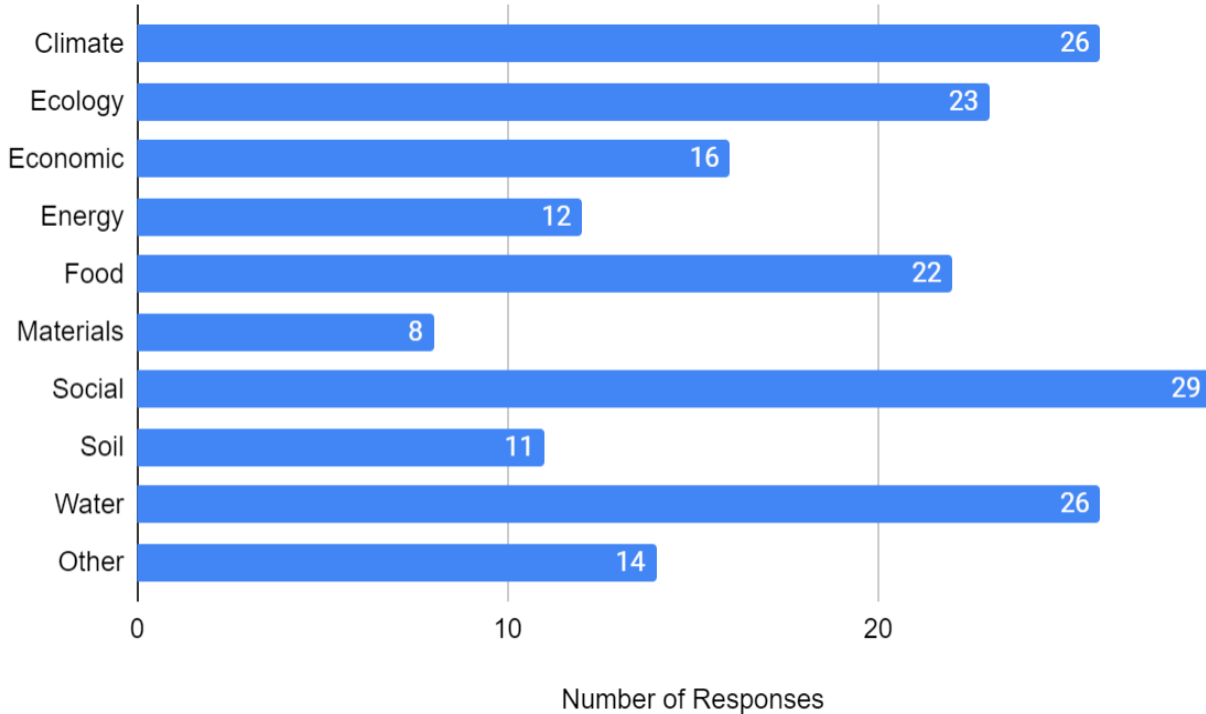
24% of sustainability research is **part of a Complementary Unit** (Center, Institute, Museum, Farm, etc) on campus (29 of 123 researchers).

Is your sustainability research part one or more campus center(s)?

29 responses



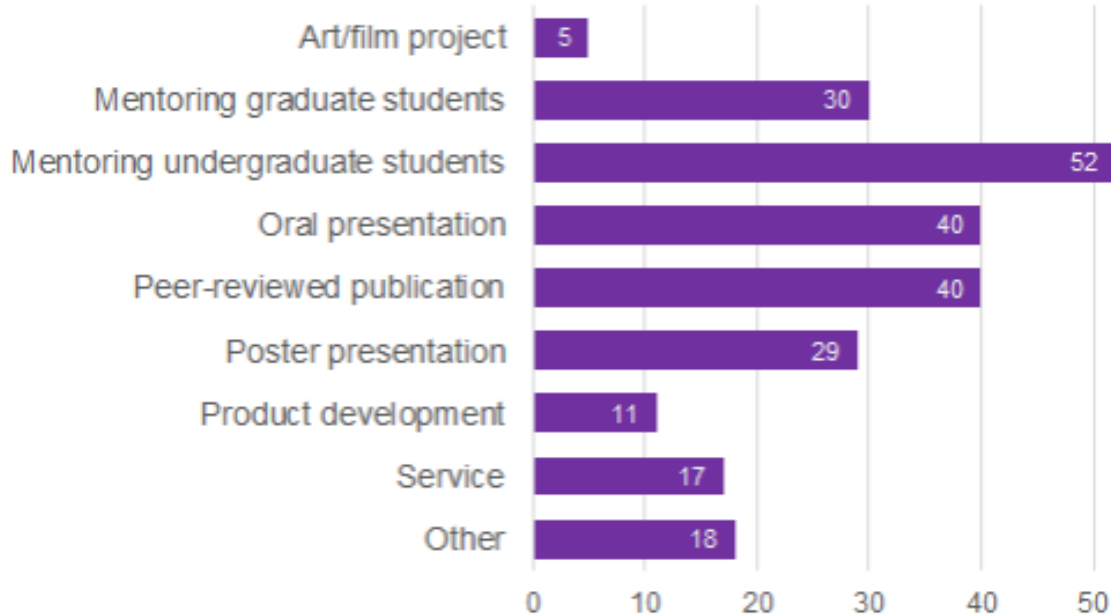
Sustainability Research Areas



“Other” includes:

- education/teaching pedagogy
- waste management
- human health
- policy/law
- public awareness
- population genetics of rare species
- endangered language revitalization
- sustainable planning
- corporate social responsibility
- environmental social governance

Sustainability Research Activities



“Other” includes:

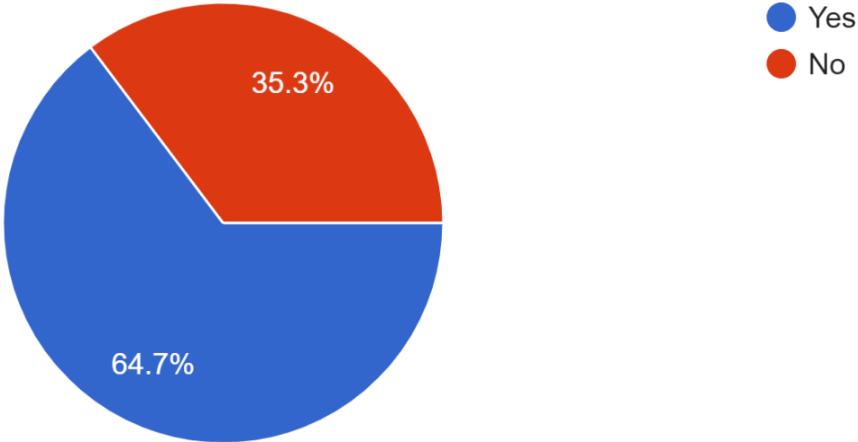
- writing (book, grant)
- consulting
- hosting workshops or speaker series
- eco-labeling
- scientific committee for conferences
- developing service learning components in classes
- public outreach/education
- developing teaching materials and videos
- data collection on student environmental literacy
- exhibits, public programs, and demonstration garden

Sustainability Research Funding

65% of campus members engaged in sustainability research **received funding** for their activities

Have you received funding (internal, external, gift) for these activities?

68 responses



Summary

More than 50% of respondents involved in research were **engaged in research, scholarship, and creative activities focused on sustainability**. Sustainability researchers encompass a broad range of campus roles. **24%** of sustainability research is **part of a Complementary Unit** (e.g., Center, Institute, Museum, Farm).

Sustainability research areas are **diverse** and encompass human and ecological health, social justice, and economic security. Research **activities** include mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, presentations, writing, and consulting. **65%** of these activities were **funded**.

Next Steps

Efforts to create a sustainability research inventory or database are underway and would develop a network of sustainability researchers on campus, directly contributing to our [Strategic Priorities](#)