



Engaged Interdisciplinary Learning in Sustainability @ San José State University

Rick Kos & Hilary Nixon (Urban & Regional Planning)

Dustin Mulvaney (Environmental Studies)

EILS-related Courses:

- ENVS 116 Solar Energy Applications
- ENVS 119 Energy & the Environment
- ENVS 133 Sustainable Energy Strategies
- ENVS 181 Green Wave
- URBP 101 The City
- URBP 142/240 Environmental Planning
- URBP 179/278 Urban Geographic Information Systems
- URBP 201 Community Assessment

Course Modules Developed/In Progress:

- Assessing Environmental Impacts: An Intro to CEQA and the Initial Study Process
- Climate Stabilization Wedges
- Energy & the Environment Unit Conversions Lab
- Evaluating Growth Management Plans
- Exploring Urban Sustainability with ArcGIS.com
- Flood Hazard Analysis: Flood Insurance Rate Maps 101
- General/Comprehensive Plans and the Natural Environment: How Well Are They Working
- Measuring Carbon Footprints (UCSC module implemented in ENVS 119)
- Mental Mapping Your Neighborhood: Assessing Urban Sustainability
- Surf Your Watershed

Assessment Data (Exploring Urban Sustainability with ArcGIS.com)

- Summer 2011 (URBP 101, The City -- G.E. course)
 - Post-lab survey results
 - 58% never taken a sustainability-related course
 - 58% rated prior sust. knowledge as “poor” or “fair”
 - 91% learned something new about urban sustainability
 - 66% said they were “likely” or “extremely likely” to engage in an action/behavior to increase urban sustainability as a result of this class
 - 50% said that the mapping laboratory provided a “strong foundation” for understanding aspects of urban sustainability
- Spring 2012 (URBP 179/278, Urban GIS -- upper-division elective)
 - Post-lab survey results
 - 58% never taken a sustainability-related course
 - 25% rated prior sust. knowledge as “poor” or “fair”
 - 95% learned something new about urban sustainability
 - 65% said they were “likely” or “extremely likely” to engage in an action/behavior to increase urban sustainability as a result of this class
 - 90% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the mapping laboratory was helpful for learning about urban sustainability
 - 30% said that the mapping laboratory provided a “strong foundation” for understanding aspects of urban sustainability