UC Climate Stewards

Instructor
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Course Start & End
January 9 – March 27, 2027

Climate Stewards Website
http://calnat.ucanr.edu/cs

Registration
https://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/get-involved/classes-events/

Course Fee
$450

Course Location
5 in-person classes at Pepperwood Preserve, 4 field trips within Sonoma County and 1 online Orientation via Zoom

Course Schedule
10 Saturdays: 9 in-person, 1 virtual

Course Overview

The UC Climate Stewards seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteers ready to effectively engage in transformative local solutions to promote community and ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. The UC Climate Stewards course will introduce you to climate change communication, social-emotional learning, trauma-aware practices, climate science and community resilience planning. The course curriculum will combine themes of communication, community engagement and climate science with guest lecturers, field trips, and project-based learning to immerse you in the dynamics of your local community.

This UC Climate Stewards Course will integrate locally relevant themes of fire, water and stewardship. Through guest speakers, field trips and activities we will learn about and discuss principles and practices towards increasing community and ecosystem resilience.

Learning Outcomes

- Increase access to up-to-date and locally relevant climate science to improve climate literacy
- Improve participants' self-efficacy and agency by fostering climate change communications skills development, civic engagement, and local conservation and community action
- Establish an inclusive community of practice focused on stewardship, communication, and community solutions to advance resiliency
- Build statewide support and capacity to effectively advance state and local climate goals

Course Requirements

- **Class Attendance and Participation**: Participants are expected to attend all 10 class meetings, independently maintain progress with online Canvas modules and be prepared to participate in discussions on course content. If one class meeting is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. Each UC Climate Stewards course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (online, classroom, and field time), which includes a minimum of 12 hours in the field.
- **Required Reading and Online Work**: Read the entire UC Climate Stewards Handbook, complete six (6) online Canvas course modules, and complete all assigned homework.
- **Stewardship Project**: Participants are required to complete a Stewardship Project. The Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied project done in collaboration with a community organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Projects in the first three weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams, no more than 4 people per team. Participants will deliver an individual or group Project presentation (5 minutes per person) on graduation day. Each participant is expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the Project and will add hours spent on the Project into the volunteer portal.
- **Class Participatory Science Project**: Each participant must contribute to the participatory science project adopted by the class. Our class participatory science project is ISeeChange.org. Each student is required to post at least 5 observations and comment on at least 5 posts within any of the Investigation categories.
- **Evaluation**: Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is critical for the ongoing success and improvement of the course. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.
- **Volunteer Portal:** Participants will be emailed an invitation to create an online account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Stewardship Project. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove the need and impact of the UC Climate Stewards Initiative. (See page 3 for more details on Volunteering)

Course Materials

- **Required:** Internet connected computer to fully participate in Canvas (online platform with all course material) and Zoom (video camera and microphone)
- Reliable transportation to Pepperwood and other field trip locations, or willingness to carpool with fellow class participants.

Required Text: Climate Stewardship: Collective Action Across California, *Brendan Buhler and Adina Merenlender.* University of California Press. 2021.

Recommended supplemental reading

- The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change, 2nd edition. *Robert Henson*. 2019.
- Made to Stick, *Chip and Dan Heath.* 2008.

Additional Resources

- **UC Environmental Stewards YouTube Channel:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg
- **UC Mapping Tool:** GIS-based map-producing tool you can use for both content delivery and logistics. http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/

Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

All participants completing this course will receive a Climate Stewards pin. After completion, participants are encouraged to continue performing at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year to earn annual service pins. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal; each yearly pin features a unique California native organism.

- Volunteer activities must relate to Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, or Program Support, be sponsored by an organization, and be UNPAID.
- Interested in developing a long-term relationship with Pepperwood? Become a Pepperwood Steward! Pepperwood Stewards are the cornerstone of Pepperwood's volunteer community. In addition to receiving unique access to the Reserve and special events, these dedicated volunteers have the opportunity to contribute to research and restoration projects while working collaboratively with Pepperwood's network of scientists. Stewards receive discounts on classes and events and are part of a vibrant community of passionate nature enthusiasts. For more information on becoming a Pepperwood Steward and how to get started, contact Holland at HGistelli@PepperwoodPreserve.org
- Your 8-hour Project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You (not your instructor) will log these hours into the UC Volunteer Portal. By the 2nd class meeting, you will receive a welcome email from the Volunteer Portal; this will be sent to the email you used to register for this course. Notify your instructor if you have not received that e-mail by the 2nd class meeting *(check your spam folder!).*

- Volunteer portal login page: https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr
- There are resources available to help familiarize yourself with the UC CalNat/Climate Stewards volunteer portal and commonly used features. Review help guides and videos here: https://ucanr.edu/program/uc-environmental-stewards/volunteer-portal-help

Homework Policy

All homework assignments are due according to the date posted in Canvas, the online platform with all course material. Each homework unit is due prior to the start of our class discussion for that unit (by midnight the night before our Saturday class). All homework to be submitted through Canvas. It is the participant's responsibility to complete all assignments on time. If there are extenuating circumstances, it is the participant's responsibility to contact the instructor to make individual arrangements. If participants have difficulty using the Canvas portal or submitting homework, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

Participants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of course work comprised of asynchronous study in Canvas, class meetings in-person and virtually, and a Stewardship Project. Only 2 class sessions can be missed, and participants will need to request a make-up assignment from their instructor for the missed class(es). Participants that miss more than 2 classes are not eligible for the UC Climate Stewards certificate.

Cancellation Policy

A full refund will be given for cancellations 21 days (3 weeks) or more before the start of this course. For cancellations within 20 to 8 days before the course begins, a 50% refund will be given. Refunds will not be given for cancellations within 7 days of this course start date. However, registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that must cancel due to a verifiable medical emergency, personally or in their family, within 20 days before the course begins or before the third class meeting, will receive a full refund. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund**.**

Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including online modules, presentations, peer-to-peer discussions, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry-based activities, experiential learning and field-based activities. This course requires extended time

reading and interacting with online material. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting your instructor.

Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodation in this class, you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify us at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodation. This will allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodations. We provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats upon request.

Pace of movement during in-person meetings will be moderate and include walking on steep inclines on uneven terrain, stairs, plus a variety of hands-on activities with frequent opportunities for breaks built in. Pace of online Canvas material will increase until Unit 4 (see schedule below, note built-in review meetings).

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Participants are responsible for course fees and the purchase of required and suggested books. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals and equipment. Scholarships to reduce the cost of course program fees may be available on a limited basis depending upon need.

2027 UC Climate Stewards Course Schedule

Meeting #	Date, Time	Topic	Speaker & Location
1	**Jan 9, 9:30am-12:30pm**	**Welcome & Orientation to Climate Stewards!** *Review: course schedule, Canvas, Class Participatory Science Project, Stewardship Project*	Summer Swallow **Online via zoom**
2a		**Canvas Online Unit I – Community Connections** **each Canvas unit is self-paced, complete units before class meeting**	
2b	**Jan 16, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit I – Community Connections** *Check in: Stewardship Project*	Summer **Pepperwood Preserve**
3a		**Canvas Online Unit II – Interpretation/Communication/Education**	
3b	**Jan 23, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit II – Interpretation/Communication/Education** *Due: Stewardship Project Proposal*	Summer **Pepperwood Preserve**
4	**Jan 30, 1:30pm-4:30pm**	**Review Unit 1 and 2**	Summer **Recology Materials Recovery Facility** **Santa Rosa**
5a		**Canvas Online Unit III – Climate in Context, Part 1**	
5b	**Feb 13, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit III – Climate in Context, Part 1** *Check in: Stewardship Project, Class Participatory Science Project*	Ryan Ferrell, Sentinel Site Manager, Pepperwood **Pepperwood Preserve**

Meeting # Date, Time		Topic	Speaker & Location
6	**Feb 20, 1:30pm-4:30pm**	**Review Unit 3**	Summer **TBD**
7a		**Canvas Online Unit IV – Climate in Context, Part 2**	
7b	**Feb 27, 10:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit IV – Climate in Context, Part 2** *Check in: Stewardship Project*	**TBD**
8a		**Canvas Online Unit V – Community Resilience**	
8b	**March 13, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit V – Community Resilience** *Check in: Class Participatory Science Project*	**TBD**
9a		**Canvas Online Unit VI – Community Engagement** *Due: Course Evaluation*	
9b	**March 20, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Class Discussion Unit VI – Community Engagement**	Clint McKay, Indigenous Education Coordinator Devyn Friedfel, Assistant Preserve Manager **Pepperwood Preserve**
10	**March 27, 9:30am-2:30pm**	**Graduation and Celebration!** *Stewardship Project presentations*	Pepperwood's UC Climate Stewards class of 2027 ! **Pepperwood Preserve**