

ASSU Environmental Justice & Sustainability Committee

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Overview of issue/work:

The Environmental Justice & Sustainability Committee aims to highlight the stories of people affected by issues related to environmental justice (EJ) by bringing together student groups on campus from both the social justice and environmental realms. The next step of this outreach is collaboration on a campus Environmental Justice Speaker Series, which will bring attention to the intersectionality of EJ issues by featuring voices and topics spanning disciplines and communities. We also want to connect with organizations working on campaigns related to environmental justice in the Bay Area, invite them to share their work and ideas on campus, and find ways to leverage student capacity and university resources to help them with their work. Finally, we are pushing the university to expand its commitment to a strong sustainability narrative by being inclusive of EJ in its curriculum. To this end, we are working with students, faculty, and administrators to encourage the university to commit to environmental justice education.

Group background:

In previous years, ASSU Environmental leads have formed committees to work on their goals, so there is some continuity and communication with students involved in the past, although the focus this year has been shifted to center more directly on environmental justice. We currently have ten undergraduate members in our core committee.