



Leadership Certificate in Sustainability

The leadership certificate in sustainability is a partnership program between CU Denver's office of Student Life & Campus Community and the Auraria Sustainable Campus Project (ASCP).

Who is ASCP?

The ASCP is a campus-wide program with the explicit mission of reducing the Auraria Campus' ecological impact and dependence on fossil fuels. They work to accomplish this through projects, events, and programs addressing the 7 pillars below. ASCP serves all three institutions on campus: MSU Denver, the Community College of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver. ASCP focuses on the following areas:

1. Alternative Transportation
2. Education & Outreach
3. Energy Efficiency
4. Food and Gardens
5. Renewable Energy
6. Water Conservation
7. Waste Diversion

Why do a leadership certificate program?

A leadership certificate serves as an additional "co-curricular" (out of class) learning experience on your journey as a CU Denver student. These programs include a set of focused experiences (workshops, service, and reflection) that enhances your knowledge about a topic(s) and yourself. Once completed, you can list your certificate on your resume. When speaking with an employer you will be able to not only share what you have learned in the classroom, but can additionally speak about what you learned in the area of your certificate.

What will you learn in this program?

1. Students will develop critical thinking / problem solving skills, leadership skills and oral & written communication skills in relation to sustainability on the campus of the Auraria Higher Education Center.
2. Students will have the opportunity to practice teamwork and collaboration throughout this program by participating in experiential learning activities.
3. Students will also be knowledgeable in the primary areas of sustainability and be able to create a proposal to address sustainability within their community and work place(s).

Requirements:

You have your entire career as a student at CU Denver to complete these requirements.

- Submit an leadership certificate registration form in MyLynx
- Complete 10 workshops (6 on sustainability topics, 4 on leadership topics)
- Complete 20 hours of community service in the area of sustainability
- Write a reflection paper
- Participate in an exit interview

Sustainability Learning:

Sustainability 101

This is the “Entry” workshop and will be offered 2xs a semester (in person or live on Zoom) and is also available on demand through the [Student Life YouTube Channel](#)). **Take this workshop first** in the series of 6 sustainability workshops. You may then take the remaining 5 in any order.

The Basics of Sustainability: What is it? How do sustainability efforts affect our campus? What can you do as a CU Denver student? Participants will be exposed to 1) each of the resources we work to conserve (energy, water, waste, and food), 2) learn why it matters, and 3) how future workshops in this leadership certificate program will build your knowledge on the social/economic reasons to engage in sustainability work personally and professionally in your current and future workplace.

The Triple Bottom Line

Offered 1x a semester

This workshop will focus on what many sustainability professionals are charged with addressing: sustainability from an environmental, economic, and social perspective. It’s not enough to look at one of these factors as we often need to justify projects via all of these topics. Participants will learn about the Auraria Sustainable Campus Project (ASCP) and how it addresses these issues via our 7 pillars and how that translates to projects on the Auraria Campus. Students will have an opportunity to fill out a carbon footprint calculator to determine the impact they have via their daily choices, which we will then tie to larger societal impacts.

The State of Waste and the Impact of our Campus

Offered 1x a semester

This workshop will explore the status of recycling and composting in the US, Colorado, and on the Auraria Campus. We will look at the costs and benefits of expanding these programs and clarify misconceptions. As part of this workshop students will participate in creating a behavior change campaign to experience applying critical thinking skills concerning messaging, intended outcomes, etc.

ROI and the Pitch: How to Get Things Done

Offered 1x a semester

This workshop provides participants with an overview of how to justify projects via “Return On Investment” (ROI) and will include Auraria Sustainable Campus Project (ASCP) real-world examples. Presenters will demonstrate how decisions are made, why certain projects are pursued over others and how to communicate this to constituents. Students will experience a flow mapping activity that demonstrates a realistic timeline and methods for having a project approved and implemented.

Water: Planning for the Future

Offered 1x a semester

This workshop will explore water conservation through the lens of the Auraria Sustainable Campus Project’s (ASCP) water action planning efforts. Beginning with a high level overview of global water concerns, participants will take a close look at how Auraria uses water, how we can be better water stewards, and the steps we have prioritized to attempt a 10% reduction in water consumption by 2022.

Food Waste: An Issue of Social and Environmental Sustainability

Offered 1x a semester

Approximately one third (or 1.3 billion tons) of the world food supply is lost or wasted – enough to feed 2 billion people each year. This workshop will look at the issue of food waste on a global, national and local (campus) scale, applying both a social and environmental lens. We will discuss the factors contributing to food waste, the EPA’s food recovery hierarchy, and local organizations and efforts working to address the issue.

Leadership Learning:

You may take the following 4 workshops in any order. These workshops are part of the Lunch & LEAD series offered by the office of Student Life & Campus Community. Please register at least 2 days in advance so that we can order your lunch. Attendance, before registering for this leadership certificate, does count. Just alert us to the dates of your previous attendance so we can verify it in MyLynx.

True Colors Personality Type

Offered 1x a semester

Ever wonder why people respond to you the way they do? Whether you're at your best or just plain stressed, learn about how your true colors shine, and how to best navigate your strengths. You will practice strategies for working with others with different leadership styles, and how to lead a strong, productive team.

Collaboration & Group Development

Offered 1x a semester

Learning to collaborate with others is a cornerstone of leadership development. In this workshop, we will discuss the ups and downs of collaborating with others in teams, in class, and student organizations. We will also explore the stages that groups tend to experience over time, and engage in activities where you have the opportunity to practice team leadership skills.

Conflict Management

Offered 1x a semester

Conflict is an inevitable part of working in groups and how you manage, it impacts your teams success. This workshop gives you an opportunity to learn about your default conflict management style, and learn how to manage controversy with civility as a leader. Find out if you are classified as a teddy bear, shark, turtle, owl or a fox. Participants will engage in activities that will help you focus on how to handle your next conflict.

Change Management

Offered 1x a semester

How exactly do you create change and lead a group through the change process? Students participating in this workshop will learn about Kotter's 8 Step Process for Leading Change. You will learn what is at the heart of successful change including creating a climate for change, engaging and enabling your peers or teammates, and lastly how to implement and sustain change.

Experiential Learning:

Choose 1 of the following:

- 20 volunteer hours with the Auraria Sustainable Campus Project's (ASCP) **Eco-Rep** program, helping facilitate programs on the Auraria Campus.
- 20 hours of community service with a **non-profit agency** addressing water, food recovery, or waste. Location should be approved, in advance, by [Chris Herr](#) or [Jackie Slocombe](#).
- Document your volunteer hours in MyLynx (Form: [Community Service Documentation](#)). Note you will submit a form each time you volunteer.

Meaning Making:

Reflection Paper: To complete the "Leadership Certificate in Sustainability" students will submit a written reflection paper (3-5 pages in length) covering:

- a. Learning: Discuss the impact of what you learned.
 - What did you learn in each workshop? How does this learning help you be a leader in the area of sustainability now that you've completed this certificate program?
- b. Experiential Learning: Discuss the impact of volunteering within the area of sustainability.
 - What did you learn with the Eco-Reps serving your campus or through your service to a non-profit addressing sustainability?
 - What might you propose, to CU Denver's SGA or to SACAB (Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board) as a change to how sustainability is executed?
- c. Meaning Making: Reflect on what you have learned through the workshops and service together.
 - How will you apply your learning on sustainability in your future career and personal life?

Submit your paper: When you have completed your paper, please email your paper to Tierza Watts, Director of Student Life (tierza.watts@ucdenver.edu). Tierza will route your paper for review and you will be contacted by a staff member to complete an exit interview.

Exit Interview: To finish the certificate program you will participate in an exit interview with an Auraria Sustainable Campus Project staff member. Once you have completed your exit interview Student Life & Campus Community will generate your completion certificate.

Things to Keep In Mind & Do

Register for this Program: Fill out the registration form in MyLynx

- MyLynx: <https://ucdenver.mylynx>
- Form Name: [Registration – Leadership Certificate in Sustainability](#)

When are the workshops?

- Workshop dates, times and locations will be posted [HERE](#) by the first day of classes each semester.

Attendance Verification for Workshops: *You are checked in with your student ID number – please have it available.*

- YouTube Video Workshops: Complete the quiz / reflection form for credit. The link will be under the video in the video description box.
- Zoom Live Workshops: Attendance will be taken at the end of the workshop (Chat or Google Link)
- In Person Workshops: Always check-in at the workshop registration table as you will be checked in with your student ID. Attendance is then tracked in MyLynx.
- *We are continuing to create ways for students to track participating within MyLynx. We will email all students registered in the program as we make updates or add features.*

Service Verification:

- Document your volunteer hours in MyLynx - Note that you will submit a form each time you volunteer.
- Form Name: [Community Service Verification for Leadership Certificate Participants](#)

When & Where is the Leadership Certificate in Sustainability awarded?

Students finishing during a fall semester may pick up their certificate from the Student Life office (303 Tivoli) or receive it at the last Student Government Association (SGA) Senate meeting of the fall semester. Students who complete the certificate in the spring will receive it at the Milo Student Leadership Awards Program (typically hosted in late April).