

Leading High-Functioning and Resilient Sustainability Office: Making a Real Difference via Practical and Effective Leadership

Fahmida Ahmed Bangert, Stanford University and Chris Jones, University of California Berkeley

Sunday November 17

8:30 am – Noon

Offered at \$75 (includes 1 break)

This workshop will focus on one of the key leadership and professional development skills – building/leading the most effective and resilient sustainability organization possible. This workshop will cover the best management practices for bringing an office of sustainability up to the caliber of higher education and industry. Topics will include project and program management tools, coalition building, managing up for budget and approval, and managing teams for results. Organizational effectiveness and resiliency are essential tools in the leadership toolbox of every sustainability officer/administrator.

This workshop will equip attendees with the information, understanding, tools and vocabulary for these essential skillsets in the times of change to supplement knowledge of sustainability science and program implementation. This workshop was offered at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) in 2015 and Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in 2017 and received an average score of 4.2 out of 5 with 70 total respondents.

The presentation will be delivered via PPT with video clips as the main presentation tool. The workshop will follow a structured outline, with planned time for inter-group discussion, individual and group presentation, and some journaling. Each attendee will be able to choose and follow a particular challenge they are facing in their role to 'test out' the learnings shared in the workshop. Each participant will walk-out with at least 3 action items they can implement soon after the BECC assembly.

Outline:

1. INTRODUCTION: management and leadership, risks and opportunities, coalition, organizational resiliency.
2. MANAGING UP: motivations and preparation, business case, budget approval, relationship management.
3. MANAGING PROGRAMS - project & program management, business plan, goals, metrics, sharing success.
4. MANAGING PEOPLE: motivations & strength, delegation, coaching, celebration.
5. RESILIENCY: growth of risks and responsibilities, budget, partnership.

Workshop format: Lecture, discussion, and case studies

Who should attend: Intermediate learners (1-2 years of experience)

About the instructors:



Fahmida Ahmed Bangert, Director of Sustainability, Stanford University
Fahmida Ahmed directs Stanford University's Sustainability and SEM Business Services initiatives and the campus program Sustainable Stanford (sustainable.stanford.edu). She supports the department's long-term energy infrastructure planning; designs, implements, and directs assessment and outreach for sustainability programs; oversees business systems and analytics initiatives; chairs the university Sustainability Working Group and co-chairs Provost's Committee on Sustainability; and steers academic integration to aid program implementation. Chair of the Board of Directors for Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in 2015 and 2016, and a regular instructor in sustainability courses and presenter for national conferences, Fahmida received a 2012 Sustainability Champion Award by the California Higher Education Sustainability Consortium for her leadership in the sustainability arena.

Before joining Stanford in 2008, she was the Sustainability Specialist at UC Berkeley, where she architected and managed its climate program (climateaction.berkeley.edu). Prior to her career in sustainability, Fahmida worked in financial services and the high-tech industry. As product manager at Siebel Systems (Now Oracle Inc.) and project manager in Provident Financial (now Washington Mutual), her initiatives focused on cross-functional program design and implementation to increase member value. Fahmida earned a B.A. in Economics from Smith College in Northampton, MA and a Master's in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her academic apprenticeships include positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.



Chris Jones, Cool Climate, University of California Berkeley

Chris Jones is Director of the CoolClimate Network, a university-government-industry partnership at the University of California, Berkeley. His primary research interests are carbon footprint analysis, community-scale greenhouse gas mitigation, environmental psychology and environmental policy.

Jones lead the development of the first carbon footprint calculators to account for the greenhouse gas emissions of all transportation, energy, food, goods and services purchased by households and businesses. This comprehensive method, called "consumption-based greenhouse gas accounting," powers a suite of online tools that allow households, businesses and communities to estimate their complete carbon footprints, compare their results to similar users, and develop personalized climate action plans to reduce their contribution to climate change. Versions of these tools have been adopted by governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations throughout the United States and internationally. CoolClimate also develops and evaluates programs to engage, educate, motivate and empower individuals to take climate action. Examples include the Cool Campus Challenge and the CoolCalifornia Challenge. He also serves as Program Chair (8th year) of the Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference.