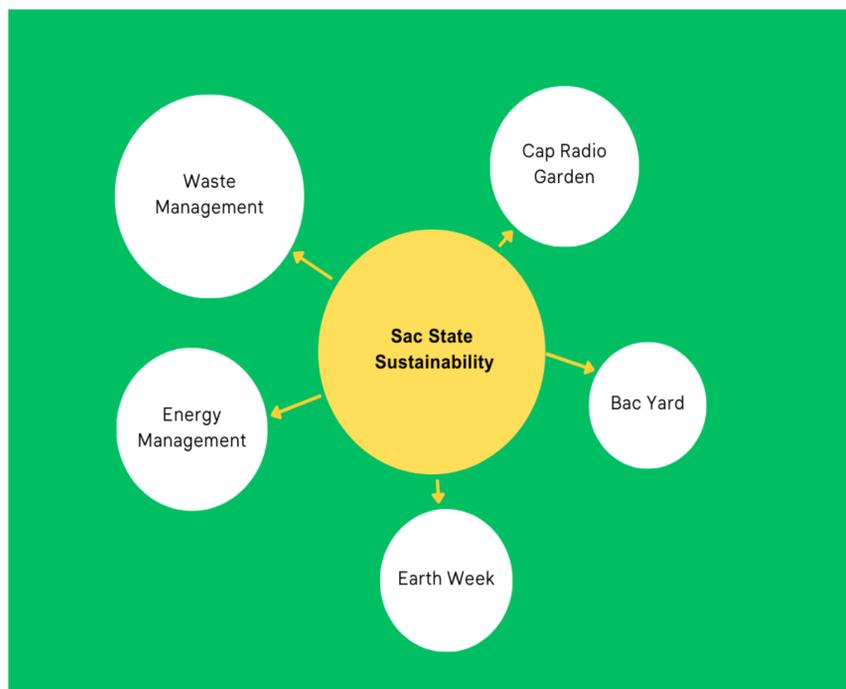


Assessing Volunteer Impact: Contributions to Sac State's Sustainability Initiatives

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The project's objective is to assess the benefits of volunteering, including cost and staff time savings, as well as to boost student participation in volunteering at Sac State Sustainability. The project aims to facilitate student access to volunteer opportunities and support Sac State Sustainability's initiatives.



OBJECTIVES

- Examine how volunteers provide cost-saving service to the organization and quantify the result to a dollar amount.
 - Measure how volunteers would save staff time.
 - Use data to boost volunteer rate.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & PRELIMINARY PROGRESS

Measure volunteer value. For example, each hour provided by a volunteer saves Sac State Sustainability money. The cost savings that volunteers provide can help the organization grow. By measuring volunteer value Sac State Sustainability will better understand the intrinsic value of the volunteer workforce and why retention is important.

Measure how volunteers can save staff time. Volunteers can alleviate the pressure on staff and contribute valuable skills that advance Sac State Sustainability's initiatives. How much time do volunteer save your staff? What would your organization be like without volunteers?

Project Scope:

Connect students with volunteer opportunities to contribute to Sac State Sustainability's initiatives, and help the organization grow as volunteers help save staff time and provide cost-saving.

Deliverables:

1. Report how many volunteer hours per semester would equate to in dollars.
2. Report how staff time can be saved with a volunteer workforce.
3. Advertise active campus projects to the campus community.

Project Resources:

For this project to move forward, I would need to work with trained researchers and learn how to collect data about volunteers to examine if these volunteers save money and staff time.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

This project would **make the campus more sustainable** because it would connect volunteers to projects that focus on energy management, water, waste management, and gardening. Students will have a chance to learn about these topics through a service-learning approach. Working on a project like this would get students thinking about sustainability to where it becomes second nature.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

- **Indirect Savings:** Calculating the exact amount saved in staff time and resources due to volunteers can be difficult. In addition to labor costs, indirect costs such as administrative support for volunteers must also be considered.
- **Opportunity Cost:** The time that staff spend managing and training volunteers could potentially be used for other tasks, creating an opportunity cost that is hard to measure.
- **Comprehensive Metrics:** Developing comprehensive metrics that capture both qualitative and quantitative benefits is complex and requires careful planning.
- **Feedback Loop:** Regularly report on the impact of volunteering efforts and provide feedback to volunteers on the outcomes of their work.



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