

The Roberts Environmental Center (REC) aims to make an impact in solving pressing environmental challenges through research and engagement with the private, public, and non-profit sectors. The main goal of the center is to involve students in real-world environmental issues and to train them to analyze the issues from as broad a perspective as possible, taking science, economics, and policy into consideration.

Inaugural Eastern Sierra Summer Fellowship



The newest program from the Roberts Environmental Center (REC) at Claremont McKenna College took students off the grid for an immersive field experience this summer.

The 2023 Eastern Sierra Research Station Summer Fellows lived in a remote cabin in the Lee Vining/Mono Lake/Mammoth area for a month, engaging in environmental field research and learning to integrate their findings into sustainable policy development.

“The REC creates field-based opportunities for students to learn by doing,” said REC Director Branwen Williams, who is the George Roberts Professor of Environmental Biology in CMC’s new Kravis Department of Integrated Sciences. “The goals of the Sierra trip are to connect our students with the environment, through an immersive field experience,” she continued. “They learn from local experts about the people that live in the Eastern Sierra and the pressures that their environment is facing. They apply this learning through independent research projects with data collection and analysis.”

[Read More](#)

REC Teams

Marine Science and Conservation



L to R: Lilly Chertock ('25), Claire Brady ('24, manager), Alexa Potter ('25), Jiyeon Kim ('26); Missing: Cahal Connolly ('26)

The Marine Science and Conservation team is working with Ocean Rainforest, a kelp aquaculture startup in Southern California that recently secured the largest permit for seaweed aquaculture in the continental US. The team is researching competitors, regulations, and partners to support the company’s market entry.

Policy and Outreach



L to R: Aidan O'Connell ('27), Ashley Park ('25), Alyssa Wong ('26), and Sonja Woolley ('24, manager).

The Policy and Outreach team is working on two projects related to extreme heat and education. Firstly, they are working with SoCal Edison to find ways to help local communities adapt to extreme heat. In addition, they are designing curriculum for a Prison Education Project sustainability class that they will be teaching to incarcerated students in the Spring semester.

Green Consulting

Sustainable Business Practices



L to R: Caleb Young ('24), Maya Forgas ('25), Rachel Supnik ('26), Kate Roney ('24), Diana Alimzhan ('26), and Mateo Thacher ('24, manager)

The Green Consulting team is working on two projects with community partners. The first is a collaboration with Olivia Jacobs, CMC’ 14, Principal of Xyla Land & Resource Advisors, to write a blog post focused on carbon offsets. Second, they are are building a 7th grade educational curriculum for Lompoc School District in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and the Jack & Laura Dangermond Preserve.

The Sustainable Business Practices Team is helping stakeholders navigate the impact investment and voluntary carbon markets. First, they are working with Alacrity Cleantech to research trends among limited partners, sectors, geographies, and technologies in the US-based impact investment market. Second, they are working with the cleantech startup, Symbrosia, to offer best practice recommendations for carbon insetting and offsetting.

10th Annual Green Careers Conference

February 9, 2024

Each year the REC hosts the Green Careers Conference to energize students around the breadth of environmental career possibilities and to foster discussions on key environmental issues and solutions. Panel presentations will highlight the opportunities facing green jobs today in environmental law, policy, tech, finance, media, and more. If you are interested in participating, please email Kristin @ kjmiller@cmc.edu. For a peek at the 2022 conference, [click here](#).

2023-24 REC Internships

Climate Education Interns

Jessica Gallegos, CMC ‘24



Rena Mukherjee, CMC ‘26

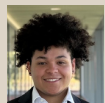


Communication Interns

Annabel Fiero, SCR ‘26



Sidney Smith, CMC ‘25



Fieldwork Protocol Intern

Natalie Owen, SCR ‘24



Student Oversight Manager

Spencer Nicholas, PIT ‘23



REC Staff

Branwen Williams, Director
Kristin Miller, Associate Director

DID YOU KNOW?

The REC does a ton of cool things on campus, all of which incorporate the 5Cs regularly. These include...

Student Sustainability Fund

Summer Fellowships

ReRoom

Campus Internships

CMC Bike Shop

Reusable Green Boxes

Climate Action Integration Plan