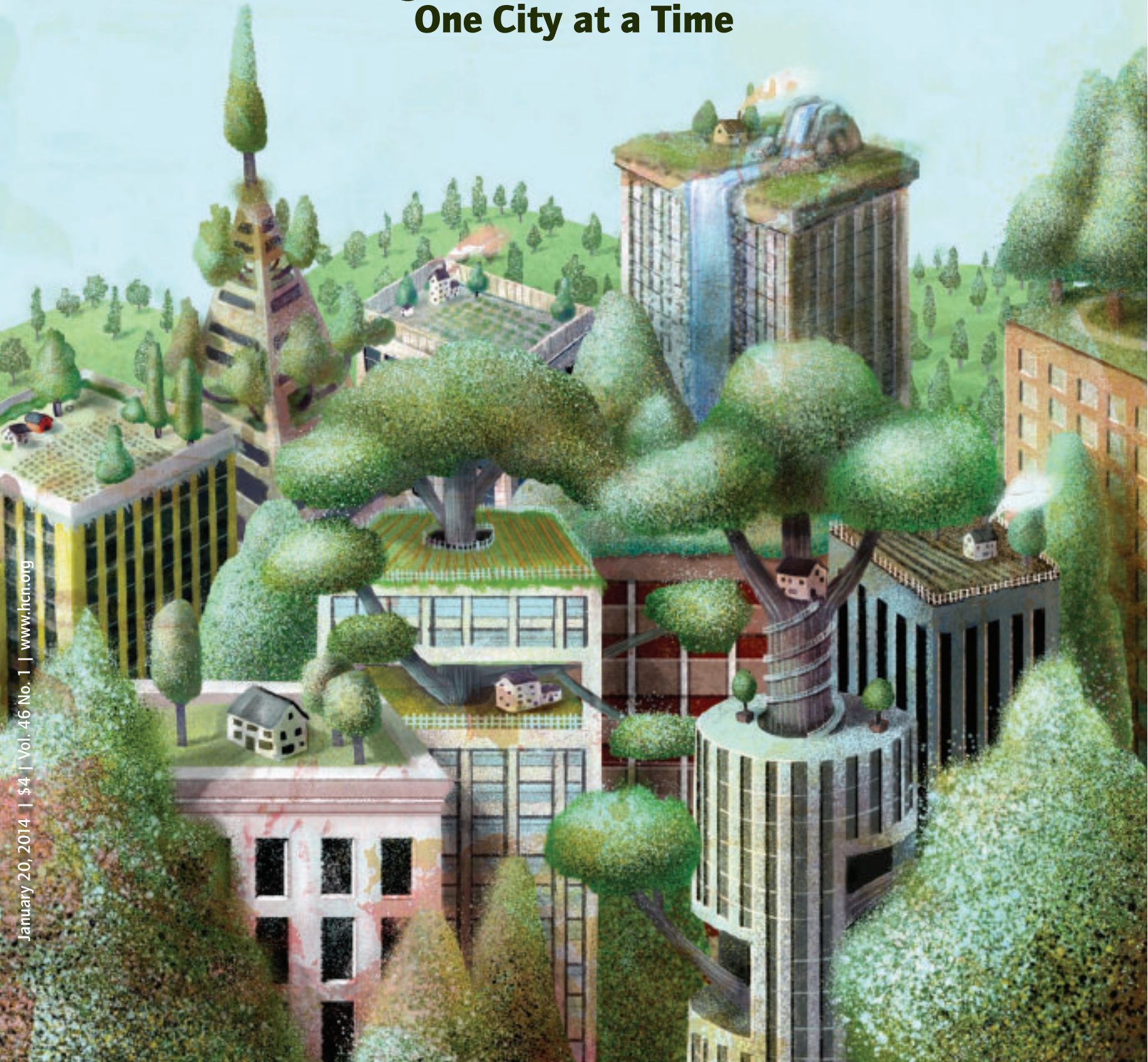


HCN'S SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE FUTURE

High Country News

For people who care about the West

**Building a More Sustainable West,
One City at a Time**





HCN's Annual Issue on the Future

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES GUIDE



Pictured clockwise from center: Portland State University Food For Thought Cafe; University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy; Prescott College's Ecosa Institute; Evergreen State College's Sustainability in Prisons/Benj Drummond; Rainwater harvesting project at Lane College; University of Colorado's Sustainable Practices Program, Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado; University of Utah's Edible Campus Gardens

SUSTAINABILITY

Higher education's new field of study

At a time when human and natural systems are colliding with increasingly disastrous results, thousands of students, from Bellingham to Albuquerque, Los Angeles to Missoula, are turning to academic programs focused on building communities that protect — rather than degrade — the planet, while encouraging prosperity and social justice. They are cutting waste, producing healthy local food, designing energy-generating buildings and reducing consumption of fuels and other resources. Between study and class time, many also participate in clubs, organize educational and local events, and work to green their campuses. Here, we've collected some of the West's most innovative programs. Our list is far from comprehensive, but it shows the range of opportunities for scholars hoping to reshape society for the sake of future generations.

EMILENE OSTLIND

CANADA

University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design (evds.ucalgary.ca) — we would call it "School of Environmental Design" in the U.S. — offers several advanced degrees in sustainability. The Master of Architecture follows an "ecological approach" that integrates built environments with their natural surroundings. The Master of Environmental Design allows students to focus on ecological, urban, technological or human and cultural systems design. Master of Planning students model and create sustainable solutions to planning challenges at the scale of landscapes, cities or structures. And candidates for the Ph.D. in environmental design research ways humans can live better in relation to the surrounding world.

ARIZONA

Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability (sustainability.asu.edu) is housed in one (recycled) building in Tempe, Ariz., but implements ideas and programs throughout the world. It focuses on urban areas and includes long-term research on urban ecology in Phoenix. The Institute emphasizes interdisciplinary research, supporting "Sustainability Scholars" throughout ASU's faculty who combine everything from natural and social sciences, medicine, engineering and math to

planning, business, public policy, law, design, humanities and the arts. Researchers have unfettered access to colleagues and information from other departments and colleges. Meanwhile, the Institute's School of Sustainability offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and concentrations in sustainability as well as an international Peace Corps master's degree and a U.S. Army and Army National Guard certificate in sustainability leadership.



Prospective sustainability graduate students might also consider heading to Flagstaff, Ariz., to pursue a master of arts in sustainable communities from **Northern**

Arizona University (nau.edu/sbs/sus). The two-year program pairs participants with first-year undergraduates to work on projects on and off campus. They also write a thesis that explores an element of community sustainability. Recent projects included examining food production, developing curricula for sustainability education and exploring ways art can help the public understand science.

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OLD TO NEW Arizona State University's reclaimed paint program collects old paint to use around campus. (GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY/ASU)



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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Sustainability in higher ed continued from page 9

business, political science, environmental science and ethics. They complete a service-learning project of their own invention that applies their major's skills and ideas in the real world.

NEW MEXICO

The undergraduate minor in sustainability at the **University of New Mexico** (sust.unm.edu) in Albuquerque requires students to tackle projects to make both the campus and the greater community more sustainable. One course teaches the history of farmers markets and explores the nutritional, economic and social benefits they provide. The students design, organize and run a local food market on campus. UNM's sustainability studies program is also seeking space for a student-run farm that will grow food and contribute to a seed collective. And UNM offers sustainability field courses in New Mexico, Nicaragua, Nepal and elsewhere.

OREGON

Sustainability is a core value of the strategic plan at **Lane Community College** (lanecc.edu/sustainability) in Eugene, Ore. The college's Institute for Sustainable Practices administers two-year degrees in fields like energy management and water conservation technology. And the college has ambitious campus sustainability initiatives, including LEED gold or platinum certification for new buildings, low-water landscaping certified as wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, and a program that gives prizes to campus administrative and academic offices that meet waste-reduction and energy-saving goals. Lane Community College also has a student-run Learning



WATERWORKS Students collect crawdads in Lake Tahoe, part of an undergraduate sustainability program. (SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE)

Garden that supplies produce for the campus and hosts an annual apple cider-pressing party.



At **Portland State University** (pdx.edu/sustainability), there's no distinction between sustainability students and their peers — every Portland State student finds ideas and practices for sustainability woven into classes and campus life. The Institute for Sustainable Solutions focuses on building better cities, working on ecosystem services like water filtration and improving quality of life by giving people equal access to health care, nutritious

food and community development. The entire 50-acre campus is a laboratory for researching and implementing sustainability ideas that can then be transferred off campus. And PSU recently joined the Sustainable Endowments Institute's Billion Dollar Green Challenge, which helps universities set up revolving funds to pay for energy-saving and greenhouse-gas-cutting improvements, reinvesting the savings into future upgrades.

UTAH

At the **University of Utah** (sustainability.utah.edu) in Salt Lake City, undergraduates can major or minor in environmental and sustainability studies and may study abroad in Costa Rica for credit. Graduate students can apply for fellowships and research funding from the school's Global Change and Sustainability Center. The center also supports post docs conducting research on interdisciplinary sustainability projects, and provides four-year scholarships for financially challenged undergraduates studying sustainability science, technology, engineering and math. The campus's Office of Sustainability supports student-driven projects, including the rapidly expanding Edible Campus Gardens and the University of Utah Farmers Market, open from August through October.

WASHINGTON

Evergreen State College and the Washington State Department of Corrections run sustainability in prisons projects (sustainabilityinprisons.org) at 12 correctional facilities in the state. They provide daily activity, leadership

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