

# Integrative Capstone Workshop in Sustainability Management

The capstone workshop sharpens the students' management and analytical skills by allowing them to apply their knowledge gained from the program and their professional experience to real-world sustainability issues.

## WHAT IS THE CAPSTONE WORKSHOP?

In the Capstone Workshop, teams of 6-12 students integrate and hone their sustainability management skills by working pro bono on a client-based consulting project. The workshop is specially designed to integrate the program's distinct curriculum areas: economics and quantitative analysis; environmental sciences, engineering, and planning; and general financial management. A faculty member guides each team and oversees the project.



## WHO ARE THE CLIENTS?

Our workshop clients are organizations in the public and the nonprofit sectors, or partnerships among government agencies, NGO's and private firms. Clients have included:

- The municipal governments of Albany, Buenos Aires, New York City, Philadelphia, and Tel-Aviv
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- World Wildlife Fund
- OECD
- Sustainable Westchester

## WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD PROJECT?

We select projects that promise to provide students with experience in conducting original sustainability-focused research and substantive analysis over the course of a semester. We also undertake projects that make meaningful contributions to the clients. Guidance from the client is important in developing the project scope and in shaping the project outputs.

“As a conservation organization with the will, but not necessarily the knowledge to transform our beautiful, historic but somewhat inefficient buildings to a sustainable, green preserve headquarters, the Columbia project was invaluable to us. They proposed a variety of high and low tech ideas and suggested both conventional and novel actions while keeping the well-being of the surrounding landscape at the forefront of their thinking.”

– Cindy Belt, The Nature Conservancy, NY

## HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION BECOME A CLIENT?

Please submit a brief project proposal that describes your organization; the purpose of the project; its importance; and the project outcomes. Please include a primary point of contact for the project. You may submit the proposal using the contact information below.

## WHERE CAN I SEE EXAMPLES OF THE STUDENTS' WORK?

Watch video of the students' final briefings and peruse their presentations on the Earth Institute's website:

[earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2640](http://earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2640)

“The capstone workshop really was the culmination of the Sustainability Management program. Collaborating with fellow students to produce meaningful work for our client’s sustainability-focused project was a challenging, indispensable experience.” – Julia Ragrario



For more information, or if you are interested in submitting a project proposal, please contact:

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