

A. Center/Institute/Program

Center Name: Global Institute of Sustainability

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Director/Chairperson: Robert Melnick, Executive Dean

Representative to AERC: Nancy Grimm

B. Major objectives of the Center/Institute/Program

Objectives of the Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Project (CAP LTER):

- To advance ecological understanding through development of ecological theory.
- To understand the structure and functioning of the urban ecosystem.
- To develop ecological scenarios that can be used to guide future development of urban environments while sustaining ecological and societal values and to engage decisionmakers in this process through deliberate knowledge exchange.
- To involve the public in the research effort through dissemination of information via the media, public outreach, and educational initiatives.

C. Major ecosystem research emphases

- Urban ecosystems
- Desert ecosystems.

D. Staff

The following are staff and graduate students funded through CAP LTER during the current fiscal year

Permanent scientific staff: PhD: 3, MS: 1

Scientific support Staff: Postdocs: 4, Technicians: 8

Other support staff: Clerical: 1, Administrative: 1

Graduate students: PhD: 16 MS: 5

Summer undergraduates: 2 per summer

Affiliates

Faculty: 101 since 2004

Postdoctoral fellows and senior staff: Several in leveraged projects

Graduate students: Includes 41 fellows in the IGERT in Urban Ecology program

Technicians: Several in associated labs

Undergraduates: Several in associated labs

E. Approximate annual funding (recent year)

Core funding: \$820,000

Sources: NSF

Endowment:

Grants: Total leveraged funding from CAP since 1997 is \$38.6 million dollars

Other:

F. Areas and facilities for ecosystem research studies

- Goldwater Environmental Lab <http://www.asu.edu/clas/gel/>
- W.M. Keck Foundation Laboratory for Environmental Biogeochemistry <http://kflieb.asu.edu/Analytical/qIRMS/IRMS.html>
- GeoDa Center for Geospatial Analysis and Computation <http://geodacenter.asu.edu/>
- ASU Vascular Plant Herbarium <http://collections.asu.edu/herbarium/index.html>
- ASU Lichen Herbarium <http://nhc.asu.edu/lichens/>
- Other facilities include three 10-m weather towers instrumented to monitor wind speed/direction, temperature, relative humidity, insolation, and precipitation at locations upwind, within, and downwind of metropolitan Phoenix and current and historic remotely-sensed data incorporating a variety of sensor technologies.

G. Research staff directly involved in ecosystem research (names and specialty areas)

- Corinna Gries, Ph.D.; ecoinformatics
- Stevan Earl, Ph.D.; aquatic ecology and biogeochemistry
- Marcia Nation, Ph.D.; urban geography

H. Long-term data sets (code name, number of years of data, computer accessibility)

<http://caplter.asu.edu/home/products/datasetCAPCoreMonitoring.jsp>