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, New York City and Philadelphia
- The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- The King Abdullah II Award for Excellence
- GreenBlue
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sustainable NYCT

**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

“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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