SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT
2019/2020

PREPARED BY
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS
INTRODUCTION

Cal Poly Pomona has a rich history in sustainability, starting with the creation of the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies to being a charter Signatory of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. Since then, we have made significant progress toward reducing our campus carbon footprint and a broad range of sustainable initiatives across campus. In an effort to strengthen sustainability efforts, the Office of Sustainability was moved to the Department of Strategic Initiatives. The Office of Sustainability is dedicated to integrating the learn-by-doing polytechnic experience to help prepare students for greener careers. We know that our efforts are not being spent on fleeting issues and that we are in this movement for the long haul. Our goals will not be easy to accomplish, but we must do what is right rather than what is easy. We hope that the information shared here will inspire you to joins us and add your voice to a growing call for a greener and cleaner future.

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As part of our Carbon Commitment through Second Nature, the reporting agency formally known as the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is completed annually to compare our current carbon emissions to 2006 baseline emissions.

Scope 1 covers emissions from sources owned by the campus such as fleet vehicles, equipment, and building use. Scope 2 covers emissions generated from electricity, heat, or steam. Scope 3 covers emissions from sources not owned or controlled by the university such as commuting and air travel. When calculated with emissions per full-time enrollment, the campus is currently at a 36.56% reduction of emissions from the 2006 baseline with the goal of reaching our campus target of 50% by 2020.
The Office of Sustainability works closely with Facilities Planning & Management in an effort to support and encourage measured environmental conservation and impactful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We are supportive of integrating sustainable building practices into small renovations and large construction projects, and are extremely proud that the new Student Services Building was awarded the first LEED Platinum certification in the history of the university. We worked closely with ASI to complete audits of waste and recycling receptacles throughout the campus. We were able to assist in right-sizing the existing program with an astonishing 96% increase in recycling through the addition of additional exterior recycling containers. In addition, signage was posted to educate the campus community about reducing waste contamination. Incorporation of new clean technology is of exceeding importance. We became the first CSU to use renewable diesel to fuel campus fleet vehicles. The availability of a fuel that is cleaner than biodiesel is good for emissions and human health.
Over the past six years, we have compiled inventories of academic course curriculum that focus on sustainability related topics. More than 200 sustainability focused courses are offered on campus. In previous years, the Chancellor's Office solicits proposals for the Campus as a Living Lab (CALL) program. The program provides funds of up to $8,000 for each campus to support a learning community that ties elements of sustainability into opportunities for learning using the campus physical plant.

We have been awarded Living Lab grants for the following programs:

- **Project Blue: Control and Educational Use of Flow from Natural Springs** - Awarded $22,200
- **Enhancement of Mechanical Engineering Senior Capstone Courses by Implementing Energy and Environmental Sustainability Related Design** - Awarded $10,000
- **Improve Campus Sustainability through the Enhancement of Its Transportation System** - Awarded $12,000

Campus as a Living Lab - Learn by Doing
Our office created the Sustainability Student Coalition to bring together sustainability clubs in an effort to collaborate and strengthen their efforts. The umbrella group holds clubs focused on a variety of areas, ranging from renewable energy to social justice. We also work closely with the ASI. The interest in sustainability involvement from students has rapidly increased. We have two student assistants who focus on campus outreach with programs that cover the spectrum of sustainability. They are currently working on Fair Trade and Tree Campus USA certification work.

As part of outreach events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the office planned a Climate Change Escape Room and Diversity Discussion prior to the campus shutdown due to COVID-19. With the uncertainty surrounding the fall semester, we are regrouping to focus on the launch of four working groups, including one that will target campus engagement initiatives. We want to take our activities to the next level with this new working group.
CPP has been recognized as a leader in sustainability by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

There will be four working groups to match each section of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report. These areas are: Academics, Engagement, Operations and Planning & Policy.

Cal Poly Pomona incorporates sustainable building practices into small renovations and large construction projects. The most recent project was the first on campus to be certified Platinum.

The coalition promotes unified action, involvement, and coordination of sustainability-related activities by student clubs and organizations.
We're in this together!

Connect with us

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