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California State University Sustainability Policy

I. Policy

This policy is intended to position the nation's largest university system as a leader in the teaching and use of applied research to educate climate literate students equipped to solve the complex challenges of the world and prepare them for an evolving workforce. In addition, the policy encompasses the tenets of human and ecological health, social justice, economic vitality, and promotes the environmental sustainability of CSU's operations for our built environment.

A. University Sustainability

1. The CSU will seek to further integrate sustainability and climate literacy into the academic curriculum working within the normal campus consultative process. Activities can include but will not be limited to supporting multi-disciplinary course development, utilizing the campus as a living laboratory model, connecting sustainability with social justice, strengthening community partnerships, and creating appropriate learning outcomes. Progress shall be measured through the use of the AASHE STARS¹ platform. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. The CSU shall promote environmental and social justice through new and existing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DE&I) programs such as the CSU Basic Needs Initiative. **(22-New)**
3. The CSU will develop employee and student workforce skills in the green jobs industry, climate-related industry, promote the development of sustainable products and services, and foster economic development. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
4. The CSU will pursue sustainable practices, using AASHE STARS for guidance and reporting, in all areas of the university, including:
 - a. business operations such as procurement; information technology; student and employee services; food services; events, habitat and land-use management, facilities operations; design and construction; and
 - b. self-funded entities such as student housing, student unions, parking and

transportation, children's centers, and auxiliary operations. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**

5. Each CSU will designate a sustainability officer/staff member responsible for planning and/or coordinating campus sustainability program efforts. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**

B. Climate Action Plan

1. CSU will strive to reduce systemwide facility carbon emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels consistent with SB 32, California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (HSC §38566, effective January 1, 2017). Emissions will include both state and auxiliary organization purchases of electricity and natural gas; fleet, marine vessel usage; and other emissions the university or self-support entity has direct control over. The Chancellor's Office staff will provide the baseline 1990 facility emission levels (for purchased electricity and natural gas) for the campuses that existed at that time and assist campuses added to the CSU after 1990 to determine their appropriate baseline. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. The CSU will strive to reduce facility carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2040 in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 in accordance with Statewide mandates. Metrics will include GHG emissions per FTE. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**

C. Energy Resilience and Procurement

1. The CSU will pursue energy procurement and production to reduce energy capacity requirements from fossil fuels, enhance electrical demand flexibility, and promote energy resilience using available economically feasible technology for on-site renewable generation, microgrids, and other fossil fuel-free energy storage solutions. The CSU shall endeavor to increase its self-generated renewable energy and battery capacity from 32 to 80 megawatts (MW) by 2030. **(05-New; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
2. The CSU will consider cost effective opportunities to exceed the State of California and California Public Utilities Commission Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) sooner than the established goal of procuring 60 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030 consistent with SB 100 (PUC§399.11). **(05-New; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
3. To minimize use of natural gas, campuses will transition from fossil-fuel sourced equipment to electric equipment as replacements or renovations are needed. Any in-kind fossil-fuel sourced equipment will be justified through an analysis which demonstrates why that solution represents the most cost-effective option and what alternatives were analyzed for comparative purposes. The intention of this item shall be limited to no new investment in, or renewal of, natural gas assets or infrastructure as part of campus projects starting July 1, 2035, with the exception of critical academic program needs. **(22-New)**

D. Energy Conservation, Carbon Reduction and Utility Management

1. All CSU buildings and facilities, regardless of the source of funding for their operation, will be operated in the most energy efficient manner and transition to a low carbon strategy without endangering public health and safety and without diminishing the quality of education and the academic program. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-Revise;**

22-Revise)

2. All CSU campuses shall continue to identify energy efficiency and carbon reduction improvement measures to the greatest extent possible, undertake steps to seek funding for their implementation and, upon securing available funds, expeditiously implement the measures. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
3. The CSU will cooperate with federal, state, and local governments and other appropriate organizations in accomplishing energy conservation, and carbon reduction, and utilities management objectives throughout the state; and inform students, faculty, staff and the general public of the need for and methods of energy conservation, and carbon reduction, and utilities management. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-No Change; 22-Revise)**
4. Each CSU campus shall designate an energy/utilities staff with the responsibility and the authority for carrying out energy conservation and utilities management programs. The Chancellor's Office will have the responsibility to coordinate the individual campus programs into a systemwide program. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-No Change; 22-Revise)**
5. The CSU will monitor monthly energy and utility usage on all campuses and the Chancellor's Office and will prepare a systemwide annual report on energy utilization and greenhouse gas emissions. The Chancellor's Office will maintain a systemwide energy database in which monthly campus data will be compiled to produce systemwide energy reporting. Campuses will provide the Chancellor's Office the necessary energy and utility data, such as electricity and natural gas consumption; water and sewer usage; fuel consumed by fleet vehicles, boats, and ships; waste disposal for the systemwide database in a timely manner. **(78-; 88- Adopt; 01-Revise; 04-No Change; 14-Revise; 22-No Change)**
6. Each CSU campus shall develop and maintain a campus-wide utility master plan which includes an integrated strategic energy resource plan, with tactical recommendations in the areas of new construction, decarbonization, deferred maintenance, climate resilience, facility renewal, energy projects, water conservation, solid waste management, and an energy management plan. This plan will be updated every 10 years and guide the overall energy and climate action program at each campus. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-Revise; 04-Revise; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**

E. Water Conservation

1. All CSU campuses shall pursue cost effective water resource conservation to reduce consumption by ten percent by 2030, as compared to a 2019 baseline, consistent with AB 1668 (California Water Code § 10609) including steps to develop sustainable, drought tolerant or native landscaping, reduce turf, install controls to optimize irrigation water use, reduce water usage in restrooms, showers, fountains and decorative water features, and promote the use of reclaimed/recycled water. In the event of a declaration of drought, the CSU will cooperate with the state, city, and county governments to the greatest extent possible to reduce water use. **(78-; 88-Adopt; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**

F. Sustainable Procurement

1. Campuses shall promote use of suppliers and/or vendors who reduce waste, re-purpose recycled material, or support other environmentally friendly practices in the provision of goods or services to the CSU under contract. This may include additional evaluation points in solicitation evaluations for suppliers integrating sustainable and socially responsible practices. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. To move to zero waste, campus practices should: (1) encourage use of products that minimize the volume of trash sent to landfill or incinerators; (2) participate in the CalRecycle Buy-Recycled program or equivalent; and (3) increase recycled content purchases in all Buy-Recycled program product categories. **(14-New; 22-No Change)**
3. Campuses shall continue to report on all recycled content product categories, consistent with PCC § 12153-12217 and shall implement improved tracking and reporting procedures for their recycled content purchases. **(14-New; 22-No change)**
4. Campuses shall align procedures with state initiatives to report environmental product declarations for select construction materials, consistent with PCC §3500-3505 and state mandates. **(22-New)**
5. Campuses shall promote circular economies² by seeking to reduce waste when considering materials purchases, including but not limited to, office supplies, equipment, classroom supplies, and promotional and giveaway items by minimizing purchase of items that have a short useful life, are unable to be recycled, and/or are made of unsustainable or carbon intensive materials. **(22-New)**

G. Waste Management

1. Campuses shall seek to reduce landfill bound waste to 50 percent of total campus waste by 2030, divert at least 80 percent from landfill by 2040, and move toward zero waste. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. Campuses shall identify and implement cost effective opportunities for organics diversion, collection, and disposal and shall designate zero waste responsibilities for coordinating campus waste prevention, reduction and diversion efforts. Campuses will continue to report on all disposal activities using the CalRecycle State Agency Reporting Center (SARC) and are encouraged to coordinate and maintain a solid waste management plan as it is a requirement in the utility master plan. **(22-New)**
3. The CSU will continue to reduce hazardous waste disposal while supporting the academic program. **(14-New; 22-No change)**

H. Sustainable Food Service

1. All campus food service organizations should track and increase/improve their sustainable food purchases. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. Campuses and food service organizations shall collaborate to provide information and/or training to staff and patrons on the benefits of, and how to successfully participate in sustainable food service operations. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**

I. Sustainable Building & Lands Practices

1. All future CSU new construction, remodeling, renovation, and repair projects, regardless of funding source, will be designed with consideration of optimum energy utilization, decarbonization, and low life-cycle operating costs and shall exceed all applicable energy codes and regulations (Building Energy Efficiency Standards, Tit. 24 CCR § 6) by ten percent. In the areas of specialized construction that are not regulated through the current energy standards, such as historical buildings, museums, and auditoriums, the CSU will ensure that these facilities are designed to maximize energy efficiency. Energy efficient and sustainable design features in the project plans and specifications will be considered in balance with the academic program needs of the project within the available project budget. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-Revise; 04-Revise; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
2. Capital planning for state, non-state facilities and infrastructure shall consider features of a sustainable and durable design to achieve a low life cycle cost. Campuses shall design, construct, operate, and maintain green building certified high performing buildings, regardless of funding source, that improve occupant productivity and wellness, optimize life-cycle costs, and minimize carbon impact. Principles and best practices established by leading industry standards or professional organizations shall be implemented to the greatest extent possible. **(04-Adopt; 14-Move; 22-Return & Revise)**
3. Existing building energy performance will be optimized through improved operation, maintenance and repair, and capital improvement, enabling campuses to meet carbon reduction goals. Sustainable design for capital projects is a process of balancing long-term institutional needs for academic and related programs with environmental concerns. In the context of designing to provide for university and academic needs, the following attributes will be considered "sustainable:"
 - a. Siting and design considerations that optimize local geographic features to improve sustainability of the project, such as proximity to public transportation and maximizing use of vistas, microclimate, and prevailing winds;
 - b. Durable systems and finishes with long life cycles that minimize maintenance and replacement.
 - c. Optimization of layouts and designing spaces that can be reconfigured with the expectation that the facility will be renovated and re-used (versus demolished);
 - d. Systems designed for optimization of energy, water, and other natural resources;
 - e. Optimization of indoor environmental quality for occupants;
 - f. Utilization of environmentally preferable products and processes, such as long life-cycle materials and components, recycled-content and recyclable materials;
 - g. Procedures that monitor, trend, and report operational performance as compared to the optimal design and operating parameters.
 - h. Cost-effective design features which align with CSU Basic Needs Initiative and support campus diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. **(04-Adopt; 14-Move, 22-Return & Revise)**
4. In order to implement the sustainable building goal in a cost-effective manner, the process will:

identify economic and environmental performance measures; determine cost savings; use extended life cycle costing; and adopt an integrated systems approach. Such an approach treats the entire building as one system and recognizes that individual building features, such as lighting, windows, heating and cooling systems, or control systems are not stand-alone systems. **(04-Adopt; 14-Move' 22-Return)**

5. Capital Planning, Design and Construction in the Chancellor's Office shall monitor building sustainability/energy performance and maintain information on design best practices to support the energy efficiency goals and guidelines of this policy. The sustainability performance shall be based on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles with consideration to the physical diversity and microclimates within the CSU. **(05-New; 14-Revise; 22-No Change)**
6. The CSU shall design and build all new buildings and major renovations to meet or exceed the minimum requirements equivalent to LEED Silver. Each campus shall strive to achieve a higher standard equivalent to LEED Gold or Platinum within project budget constraints. Each campus may pursue external certification through the LEED process or alternative sustainable building rating systems. If the project is not registered through U.S. Green Building Council, then a qualified campus staff member shall evaluate the documentation necessary to determine LEED equivalence and shall attest that equivalence has been achieved. **(05-New; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
7. In informal or unlandscaped areas, and where appropriate, campuses will work to support a naturally functioning habitat, promote biodiversity, and preserve native landscapes. **(22-New)**

J. Physical Plant Management

1. Each campus shall operate and maintain a comprehensive energy management system that will provide centralized reporting and control of the campus energy and carbon reduction related activities. **(78-Adopt; 88-Revise; 01-Revise; 04-No Change; 14-Revise; 22-Revise)**
2. Campus energy/utilities managers will make the necessary arrangements to achieve optimum efficiency in the use of natural gas, electricity, or any other purchased energy resources to meet the heating, cooling, and lighting needs of the buildings and/or facilities. Campuses shall strive to adhere to Statewide energy efficiency guidance regarding appropriate indoor temperature setpoints during heating and cooling periods (State Administrative Manual, Section: 1805.3). Except for areas requiring special operating conditions, such as electronic data processing facilities, or other scientifically critical areas, where rigid temperature controls are required, building and/or facility temperatures will be allowed to fluctuate between the limits stated above. Simultaneous heating and cooling operations to maintain a specific temperature in work areas will not be allowed unless special operating conditions dictate such a scheme to be implemented. **(78-; 88-Adopt; 01-No Change; 04-No Change, 14-Revise; 22-Return & Revise)**
3. To the extent possible, academic and non-academic programs will be consolidated in a manner to achieve the highest building utilization. **(78-; 88-Adopt; 01-No Change; 04-No Change; 14-Revise; 22-No Change)**
4. All CSU campuses shall implement a utilities chargeback system to recover direct and indirect costs of utilities provided to self-supporting and external organizations pursuant to procedures in the CSU Policy Library. **(78-; 88-Adopt; 01-No Change; 04-No Change;**

14-Revise;22-Revise)

K. Transportation

1. The CSU will encourage and promote the use of alternative transportation and/or alternative fuels to reduce GHG emissions related to university associated transportation, including commuter and business travel. The Chancellor's Office will establish a baseline for carbon emissions from student, faculty and staff commuting and establish a systemwide reduction target. **(14-New; 22-Revise)**
2. All CSU campuses shall develop and maintain a transportation demand management (TDM) plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and carbon emissions. This plan will be updated every five years and guide the overall transportation and parking program at each campus. **(22-New)**
3. Campuses shall strive to increase Electric Vehicle (EV), electric bicycle, and other electric mobility and transportation device charging infrastructure and incentive programs to further support campus carbon reduction strategies. **(22-New)**
4. Campuses shall strive to develop and maintain a long-range plan for transitioning fleet, and grounds equipment to zero emissions, excluding public safety patrol vehicles if necessary. 50 percent of all light duty vehicle purchases will be ZEV by 2035, with no addition of gas-powered light duty vehicles to the fleet after 2035. All small off-road engine (SORE) equipment used for campus grounds will be all-electric by 2035. All buses and heavy-duty vehicles will be ZEV by 2045 in alignment with State regulations. **(22-New)**

L. Footnotes

1. [^] Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking and Reporting System (STARS). For more information and to access the reporting platform, please visit: <https://stars.aashe.org/>
2. [^] Circular economies promote reduced use of resources and generation of waste in products/ services, recycling and reuse of materials and products and improved re-generation of waste to promote natural resources.

II. Authority

This policy is issued pursuant to [Section II of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University](#) as further delegated by the [Standing Delegations of Administrative Authority](#). The president may delegate authority and responsibility described in this policy to other campus officials pursuant to [Section VI of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University](#).

All Revision Dates

5/12/2022, 2/5/2020, 9/24/2019

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
EVC	Steven Relyea: Executive Vice Chan & CFO	5/12/2022
Area Manager/Owner	Bradley Wells: Assoc VC, Business & Finance	5/11/2022
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