



**Rancho Santiago Community College District
Sustainable RSCCD Committee**

November 19, 2025

Zoom Meeting: <https://rscdd-edu.zoom.us/j/88178228587>

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Meeting Notes of September 17, 2025 – Matsumoto
3. Approve Biennial Report Covering FY23-25 – Matsumoto
4. Sustainability Plan 2025 – Matsumoto
5. Sustainable RSCCD Committee Field Trips – Alcala
6. Communication Updates – Alcala
7. Earth Day Planning – Matsumoto
8. College Updates
 - Santiago Canyon College – Satele
 - Santa Ana College – Hoffman
9. Other

Next Meeting:

March 18, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Zoom or TBD

Mission Statement

The Rancho Santiago Community College District aspires to provide equitable, exemplary educational programs and services in safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments that empower our diverse students and communities to achieve their personal, professional, and academic goals.

Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners.

Santiago Canyon College is an innovative learning community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth. Our purpose is to foster student success and to help students achieve these core outcomes: to learn, to act, to communicate and to think critically. We are committed to maintaining standards of excellence and providing the following to our diverse community: courses, certificates and degrees that are accessible, applicable, and engaging.



Rancho Santiago Community College District
Sustainable RSCCD Committee

Meeting Notes

September 17, 2025

Members:	Carri Matsumoto	Present
	Bart Hoffman	Present
	Arleen Satele	Present
	Linda Melendez	Present
	Joanne Armstrong	Absent
	Jim Kennedy	Absent
	Tae Kim	Present
	Kelvin Leeds	Present
	Craig Ursuy	Absent
	Vanessa Engstrom	Present
	Daniel Oase	Present
	Alejandro Alcala	Present
	Ambar Nakagami	Present
	Simone Wolfe	Present
	Connor Tsai	Present
	Yolanda Moran	Absent
Guests:	Hugo Curiel	Present
	Joe Melendez	Present
	David Nakagami	Present
	Lisa Imai	Present
	Conor McKenzie	Present
	Francisco Gonzalez	Present

Assistant Vice Chancellor, Carri Matsumoto convened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

1. Introductions

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Sustainable RSCCD Committee Membership

Ms. Matsumoto shared the proposed Sustainable RSCCD Committee Membership as of 2025 and noted we had to make an edit to correct the membership and add Alejandro Alcala. She asked the committee if they had any questions, comments or edits. There were no changes.

3. Sustainable RSCCD Committee Purpose and Responsibilities

Ms. Matsumoto shared the Sustainable RSCCD Committee Purpose and Responsibilities and asked the committee if they had any questions, comments or edits. There were no changes.

4. Meeting Notes of May 21, 2025

Ms. Matsumoto noted the meeting notes from the May 21, 2025 meeting were attached to the agenda for today's meeting and asked the committee if they had any questions, comments or edits. There were no changes.

5. Biennial Report Covering FY23-25

Ms. Matsumoto shared and noted the draft report was attached to the agenda for today's meeting and anything highlighted in yellow needs to be updated. The report will be approved by the committee at the next meeting in November.

6. Sustainability Plan 2025

Ms. Matsumoto noted the plan was presented at the Board Facilities Committee meeting on May 20, 2025 and one of the Trustees requested additional information. The additional information will be presented at Board Facilities Committee meeting in October and the plan will be placed on a future Board meeting agenda for approval.

7. Sustainable RSCCD Committee Field Trips

Mr. Alcala noted an invitation was sent for the OC Sanitation Wastewater Facility field trip on October 24, 2025 and is open to anyone interested in attending.

8. Communication Updates

Mr. Alcala noted a poll will be sent out to the committee to get feedback about how sustainability updates can be communicated either via a monthly newsletter, posting on the committee website or posting on a dashboard.

9. Sustainability Dashboard Demo

Mr. Alcala shared the dashboard and noted it is a work in progress and the platform is Power BI. Some of the sections include utility usage summary, detailed usage information, EV charging overview and districtwide sustainability data compared to the average energy usage intensity across all California community college districts.

10. College Updates

Ms. Satele thanked the committee for providing field trips and noted the college will start planning for the next Earth Day event in November.

Mr. Hoffman did not have any other updates to share.

11. Other

Ms. Matsumoto asked the committee if they had any other items for discussion, questions or comments. There were none.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting Adjournment: 3:49 p.m.



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



Period Covering July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025

Approved by the Sustainable RSCCD Committee

November 19, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

On March 3, 2015, the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Board of Trustees approved a District Sustainability Plan ("Plan"). The Plan outlined eight (8) goals in areas of sustainability: Campus & Community Engagement, Curriculum Development, Energy, Facilities Design & Operation, Solid Waste Management, Sustainable Procurement, Transportation and Water Management. **The Board of Trustees approved the 2025 Sustainability Plan on November 10, 2025.** The Plan was updated to better track performance in alignment with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Climate Action and Sustainability Goals, updated in 2025. The Goals have benchmarking and reduction milestones for 2026, 2030, and 2035, which the District will use to measure performance and guide its path to more sustainable awareness and practices. The SRC published revised goals in the 2025 Sustainability Plan, which will guide future reporting; however, this report encompasses data, events, and projects which took place from 2023 through 2025, and therefore progress in this report is measured in alignment with the 2015 goals.

This report was compiled on behalf of the Sustainable RSCCD Committee (SRC) by the Facility Planning, District Construction and Support Services Department and covers approximately a two-year fiscal period. The previous report covered March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023; therefore, this report covers the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025. The information was compiled through a collaborative effort between the colleges, District, and members of the SRC. The report highlights the achievements, projects, programs, and plans completed as well as the work currently in progress in various phases of planning and implementation.

A major goal for SRC over the last several years has been focusing on reducing plastic and paper consumption. It was an objective of the committee to see that a new waste hauling service provider be contracted to assist the District in allowing for more sorting options in collection of waste, and by providing more detailed recycling data for the various sites.

Many sustainable activities are on-going, and several projects have been completed to meet the goals of the plan. The reporting method organizes the activities, programs, and projects to align the report outcomes with the identified eight (8) goals of the Plan. The organization of the reporting format allows for efficient collection of information by members of the SRC and is easily conveyed to interested parties. The SRC will continue to focus on implementing programs and projects outlined in Section 4 of the Plan: Sustainable Programs and Projects for Implementation.

The SRC continues to strive towards implementing the goals of the Sustainability Plan and is glad to present the report covering the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Campus & Community Engagement

- Expanded districtwide sustainability programming with the growth of Santiago Canyon College's Earth Fest from 40 to 60 booths and Santa Ana College's 11th annual Sustain-a-Palooza engaging approximately 86 students and 11 participating organizations.
- Launched educational outreach initiatives including quarterly field trips to industry facilities, specialized recycling events for hard-to-process materials, and hands-on activities.
- Integrated student government leadership into sustainability advocacy and awareness, with student-led water station installations and ASG-coordinated programming in alignment with District sustainability goals.

Curriculum Development

- Santiago Canyon College approved four new solar technology courses and two certificates for Solar Installation Technician and Solar Sales Representative programs.
- Santa Ana College is developing new sustainability courses, including Environmental Geology Lab, Introduction to Climate Science, and Environmental Impacts of Industrial Development, while expanding hands-on learning through interdisciplinary field courses across ecosystems.

Energy and Water

- The District has demonstrated significant progress in water and energy conservation since establishing the 2012-13 baseline year with a 5% annual reduction target for both utilities. For this reporting period, the District introduced enhanced measurement methodologies with both Water Use Intensity and Energy Use Intensity metrics, which have advantages over the previous raw consumption tracking methods. These intensity-based metrics are clear performance indicators that normalize consumption relative to facility size, allowing for accurate assessments of conservation efforts regardless of the growth or reduction of campus square footage.
- In the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the District achieved 49.9% reduction in Water Use Intensity from baseline, using 40.1 gallons per square foot compared to the baseline 80.0 gallons per square foot in 2012-13.
- In the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the District achieved a 36.6% reduction in Energy Use Intensity (electricity and natural gas combined) from baseline, using 56.6 kBtu per square foot compared to the baseline 89.3 kBtu per square foot in 2012-13.

Facilities Design & Operation

- All major construction projects will continue to achieve LEED Silver equivalence or higher and meet California's CalGreen Building Standards, including over 400,000 square feet of planned facilities across both campuses incorporating advanced energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, and optimized water usage.

Solid Waste Management

- Achieved districtwide waste diversion rate of 38% through new partnership with CR&R, with Santa Ana College leading at 45% diversion and continued expansion of hydration stations to reduce single-use plastic waste across both campuses.

Sustainable Procurement

- Enhanced sustainable purchasing practices through vendor engagement strategies, prioritizing locally stocked products for electric vehicle deliveries, utilizing recycled content materials including 30% recycled paper and 100% recycled paper towels, and implementing comprehensive toner cartridge recycling programs.

Transportation

- Expanded electric vehicle infrastructure supporting 21,557 total charging sessions since 2014, delivering 125,394 kWh in 2024-25 and saving approximately 209,584 kg of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 37,464 gallons of gasoline.
- Santa Ana College demonstrated a positive shift toward sustainable transportation with increased OCTA bus pass participation from 2,476 to 2,864 students and decreased parking permit purchases from 10,305 to 8,390.

Goals established by the Committee for the past Sustainability Reports are to minimize environmental impacts through:

- Implementing best practices for conserving resources and reducing waste
 - “Reuse for Better Use” initiative for plastic reduction
 - Paper reduction
- Implementing energy reduction and alternative energy generation strategies
- Constructing efficient buildings
- Developing partnerships that will further these activities

SUSTAINABLE RSCCD COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2023-2025

Santa Ana College

Bart Hoffman, Vice President, Administrative Services (2018-Current)
James Kennedy, Vice President of Continuing Education (2014-2020, 2022-Current)

Kelvin Leeds, Faculty (2023-Current)
Craig Ursuy, Faculty (2024-Current)
Tanisha Burrus, Classified Staff (2021-2024)

Gio Mondragon, Student (2023-2024)
Genesis Garcia, Student (2023-2025)
Han Nguyen, Student (2024-2025)

Santiago Canyon College

Arleen Satele, Ed. D., Vice President of Administrative Services (2016-Current)
Jose Vargas, Vice President of Continuing Education Orange Education Center (2016-2024)
Joanne Armstrong, Dean, Student Services (2024-Current)

Vanessa Engstrom, Faculty (2021-Current)
Daniel Oase, Faculty (2023-Current)
Ambar Nakagami, Classified Staff (2018-Current)

Gabriel Lopez, Student (2023-2024)
Arriana Flores, Student (2023-2024)
Valerie Lopez, Student (2024-2025)
Giovanna Ortiz, Student (2024-2025)

District Office

Carri Matsumoto, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facility Planning, District Construction & Support Services (2016-Current)
Linda Melendez, Director, Purchasing Services (2021-Current)
Tae Kim, Director of Facility Planning (2022-Current)
Hugo Curiel, Facilities Project Manager (2022-2025)
Alejandro Alcala, Energy and Sustainability Manager (2025-Current)
Simone Wolfe, Classified Staff (2019-Current)

GOALS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In 2015, the Sustainable RSCCD Committee (SRC) identified the following sustainability goals and priorities. The goals and priorities for the Sustainability Plan reflect campus needs, interests, and available resources.

Goal 1- Campus & Community Engagement

Encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement. Integrate sustainability into all facets of student life, including student government, clubs, and organizations.

Goal 2- Curriculum Development

Facilitate the inclusion of environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum and develop new curricula and career-oriented certificate and training courses with an emphasis on sustainability.

Goal 3- Energy

Utilize 2012-2013 benchmark study to establish annual energy use and demand reduction goals (target 5% reduction). Plan appropriate energy efficiency, demand reduction, or clean self-generation measures by mid-2015 to meet reduction goals.

Goal 4- Facilities Design & Operation

Design and construct all major capital projects and renovations to meet LEED Silver “equivalent” standard and operate facilities to meet solid waste, energy, and water use reduction goals. Employ sustainable landscaping practices.

Goal 5- Solid Waste Management

Continue to implement the landfill diversion program, expand it to include all sectors of recycling and waste reduction to landfills, and strive to meet the statewide landfill recycling goal of 75% by 2020.

Goal 6-Sustainable Procurement

Implement efforts to source campus food, materials, supplies, information technology, equipment, and resources from organizations committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Goal 7- Transportation

Reduce the reliance of students, faculty, and staff on single occupancy vehicle commutes by 5% within the next five years, and encourage the use of low and zero emissions vehicles.

Goal 8- Water Management

Perform water use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand usage as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual water use reduction goals and plan appropriate measures to achieve goals.

The goals described above apply to both Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, the education centers, and the District Office. The goals are listed in numerical order and are not necessarily listed by priority.

Vision Statement

The Rancho Santiago Community College District holds sustainability to be a foundational principle in its current and future development.

As a responsible steward of natural resources and the environment, the District will endeavor to minimize its impact on the environment by implementing best practices for conserving resources, reducing waste, implementing energy reduction and alternative energy generation strategies, constructing efficient buildings, and by developing partnerships that will further these activities.

GOAL 1: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Goal Description

Encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement. Integrate sustainability into all facets of student life, including student government, clubs, and organizations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Created a Sub-Committee in the Associated Student Government Devoted to Sustainability

Santa Ana College



Mission Statement: The Associated Student Government of Santa Ana College is committed to empowering students: by celebrating diversity; by supporting programs and activities that develop mutual understanding; by developing leadership qualities of honesty, advocacy, and integrity; by assisting the student in discovering success and happiness; and by endeavoring to build a future in which students are vitally involved in all academic and decision-making processes of the college.

The Associated Student Government (ASG) has created a Sustainability Commissioner position and this position serves on the Sustainable RSCCD Committee and promotes sustainability efforts within ASG as well as provides a student voice for sustainability advocacy for the students. The position leads the student effort for the annual Earth Day event. The Sustainability Commissioner brings together a group of interested students to help promote sustainability named the Sustainability Committee. Their mission, similar to the Commissioner's responsibilities, is to promote sustainability efforts within ASG as well as provide a space for sustainability advocacy. In helping to bring awareness to the student body, the committee is currently working on a project that promotes recycling, composting, and renewing.

Santiago Canyon College



Mission Statement: To promote and engage in student representation and involvement by safeguarding collegial governance and representative democracy, to influence institutional policy affecting student affairs, to facilitate campus-wide activities for the improvement of student life, and to provide a platform for the fundamental development of a cohesive and accountable group of student leaders at Santiago Canyon College.

The Associated Student Government of Santiago Canyon College established a "Green Operations Committee" and the committee continues to be active.

The position of Sustainability Commissioner is an appointed position. The Sustainability Commissioner is obligated to hold a minimum of one (1) event related to environmental sustainability and/or service in the fall and spring semesters. The Sustainability Commissioner is responsible for chairing the

Sustainability Committee. The Sustainability Commissioner is mandated to, but not limited to, attend the following required meetings: ASG Sustainability Committee meetings, ASG Activities Committee meetings, and ASG Executive Branch meetings. The Sustainability Commissioner shall present a report from their respective meetings to their governing bodies.

The responsibilities of the Commissioner of Sustainability shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Serves as a member of the Activities Committee
- Coordinates and assists with the planning of all sustainability-related events, including but not limited to Earth Day and at least one environmental service activity per semester
- Advises all ASGSCC entities and individuals on sustainable, eco-friendly practices
- Provides a calendar of planned events and activities within their purview to the Director of Outreach Operations
- Serves as the liaison for all ASGSCC-sponsored events and activities hosted in collaboration with college clubs and organizations that are within their purview

The senator description no longer specifically references the Sustainable RSCCD committee (or any other committee) to prevent ASGSCC from needing to amend the bylaws any time the committee names or information change.

The responsibilities of all Senate officers shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Attending meetings of the Senate
- Presenting frequent reports to the Senate of all relevant actions and duties carried out within the officer's respective role and within any attended meetings
- Assists with any events and activities coordinated by the Senate

Each Senator shall be responsible for the following:

- Attends participatory governance meetings as assigned by the Vice President to provide an active student voice
- Assists with any ASGSCC events coordinated by the Senate and Vice President
- Organizes and hosts at least one event, activity, or survey per academic school year related to their assigned participatory governance committees
- Serves as a member of at least one ASGSCC standing committee

B. Sustainability Events

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee attended Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College's respective annual Earth Day events. SRC ran a booth where students and community members could test their knowledge of recycling various materials and to learn about the District's goals to promote recycling, reduce waste, and support sustainable habits on campus. The SRC gave away various sustainable focused prizes, including reusable bags, bamboo utensil sets, reusable straws and gift cards to the campus bookstore. The following sustainability infographics were also on display in front of the booth:

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Reduce Your Use!

Before throwing something away, ask

- Is this something I can reuse? Reuse it!
- Is this something someone else could use? Donate or gift it!
- Are there any parts that can be upcycled? Make something new out of it!
- How do I responsibly throw this away? A quick web search can tell you if something should be sent to compost, recycle, e-waste, or landfill.

Before buying something new, ask

- Do I already have something else that will get the job done? Use that!
- Can I thrift/shop used? Give a product a second life!
- Am I buying something that will last?
- Can I buy from a company that uses less packaging or doesn't have to ship as far?

Learn more about RSCCD Sustainability:

<https://rsccd.edu/departments/businessservices/sustainable-rsccd-committee/pages/default.aspx>

Sustainable Swaps

Keep these reusable items with you to reduce your use of single-use paper and plastic products:

- Bags**
- Food/Drink Containers**
- Reusable Straw**
- Utensil Set**

Tip: Reusing what you already have
—even if it's plastic—is better than buying a new item, no matter how sustainable the new item is. There's no need to spend money on a bamboo utensil set if you already have perfectly good silverware in your kitchen drawer!

More zero waste sustainable swaps:

RECYCLE

CLEAN AND DRY!

- HARD PLASTICS**
- METAL**
- GLASS**
- PAPER, CARDBOARD, CARTONS**

LANDFILL

- SOFT PLASTICS**
- FOOD & FOOD-SOILED PAPER**
- STYROFOAM**
- MIXED MATERIALS**

Reducing Plastic and Paper use at RSCCD

in 3 easy steps!

- 1. Refuse**
unnecessary plastic and paper products.
See our infographic on Sustainable Swaps to make this step a breeze!
- 2. Reuse**
the paper and plastic you do end up with.
Make the most of the products before recycling/disposing of them.
Save paper that has only been used on one side.
Repair items when possible before replacing.
- 3. Shop Sustainably**
to minimize future plastic and paper use.
Invest in products meant to last. Borrow, trade, thrift, and support local businesses and sustainable brands when possible. Buy in bulk to avoid excess packaging.

The following events represent a comprehensive approach to achieving the Campus & Community Engagement goal of the RSCCD Sustainability Plan, which aims to encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement while integrating sustainability into all facets of student life. While primarily focused on engagement and awareness, many of these events additionally advance other sustainability goals, connecting education, behavior change, and practical environmental action.

Santiago Canyon College

- **October 31, 2023 – Save your Wrappers!**
 - A Halloween recycling event where collection bins were placed around campus to gather candy wrappers that are typically difficult to recycle. The collected wrappers were sent to Rubicon through their "Trash or Treasure" program, which specializes in recycling hard-to-process materials. This event supported Solid Waste Management by expanding recycling efforts to include hard-to-process materials and increasing landfill diversion rates. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by making sustainability fun and accessible through a Halloween-themed approach.
- **November 15, 2023 – "Go Green" Trivia**
 - An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by raising awareness of sustainability issues through interactive education and encouraging broader participation in environmental topics.
- **February 21, 2024 – Start your Garden**
 - Students received free gardening starter kits to encourage home growing and connect them with sustainable food practices. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on sustainability experiences that students could continue at home.
- **March 13, 2024 – "Go Green" Trivia**
 - An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by maintaining ongoing awareness and education about sustainability throughout the academic year.
- **April 22-25, 2024 – Earth Fest**
 - A four-day campus celebration focused on recycling education, environmental awareness, and sustainability practices to commemorate Earth Day. Santiago Canyon College continued their tradition of celebrating Earth Day all week long with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Monday kicked off with a rummage sale, Tuesday brought a bioswale tour, and Wednesday explored green careers. The week ended on Thursday, April 25th with Earth Fest featuring 40 participating tables with information booths, demonstrations, and giveaways. Highlights included Home Depot's Craft Clinic for the Child Development Center, MOTAL's "Your Baby's Amazing Brain" exhibit, and CR&R's informational booth on waste management. The event was well attended and enjoyed by students, faculty, and staff. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement

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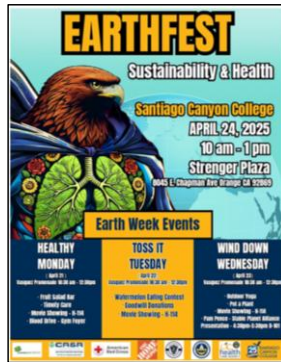
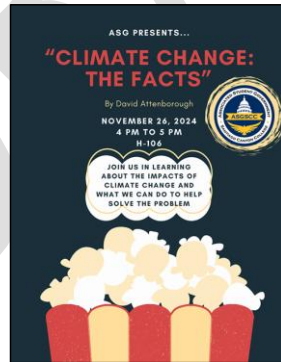
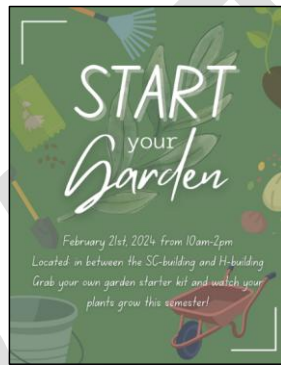
goal through broad participation and education, the Curriculum Development goal by exploring green careers and the Solid Waste Management goal through recycling education and the rummage sale promoting reuse.

- **May 15, 2024 – "Go Green" Trivia**
 - An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal as an opportunity for students to further engage in sustainability education.
- **May 23, 2024 – Start your Garden**
 - Students received free gardening starter kits to encourage home growing and connect them with sustainable food practices. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on sustainability experiences that students could continue at home.
- **November 26, 2024 - Climate Change Movie Viewing**
 - This event featured a screening of "Climate Change: The Facts" with David Attenborough, and offered viewers a powerful and informative look at the causes, consequences, and urgency of addressing climate change. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by raising awareness about environmental issues and climate science.
- **April 2025 – Earth Fest**
 - Santiago Canyon College expanded its Earth Day celebrations by incorporating a health component through a new partnership with the OC Health Care Agency. This year's theme, "Sustainability and Health," was reflected in a week of engaging and meaningful activities. Festivities began on Monday with a blood drive organized by the American Red Cross. On Tuesday, students and staff took part in a campus-wide clothing donation drive led by Goodwill. Wednesday focused on mindfulness and wellness with a relaxing outdoor yoga session, showing how personal well-being connects to caring for the environment. The week culminated on Thursday, April 24, with Earth Fest, featuring 60 booths offering informational displays, demonstrations, and giveaways. Highlights included Home Depot's Craft Clinic for the Child Development Center, an exhibit from NextMod showcasing a modular sustainable building, and a guided bioswale tour. The event was well attended and enjoyed by students, faculty and staff. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal through increased participation and community partnerships, the Facilities Design & Operation goal through the sustainable building exhibit and bioswale tours, and the Solid Waste Management goal through the clothing donation drive promoting reuse and waste diversion.
- **April 24, 2025 – ASG Water Station Inauguration**
 - An inauguration ceremony was held on 4/24 at 12pm to acknowledge the ASGSCC's significant advocacy and contributions towards the establishment of water bottle refilling stations at SCC. In order to ensure access to sustainable hydration, the ASGSCC has supported the installation and expansion of stations used to fill personal water bottles on campus. VPSS Christopher Sweeten and ASGSCC President Flo Cudal shared remarks acknowledging the program and the importance of the continued partnership between the ASGSCC and the Administrative Services Division to ensure the campus continues to meet the needs of students. This event supported the Solid Waste Management goal by

decreasing plastic waste generation and the Campus & Community Engagement goal by recognizing student leadership in sustainability advocacy.

- **May 7, 2025 Mother Earth Seed Distribution**
 - In celebration of Mother's Day and our planet, the ASG invited SCC participate in the Mother Earth Seed Distribution event. Students received free seeds and small pots to paint and personalize to begin their own gardens. This event supported the Sustainable Procurement goal by promoting local food production and the Campus & Community Engagement goal by combining sustainability education with artistic expression and personal connection to environmental stewardship.

Examples of SCC's event flyers are shown below.



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The following images were taken during SCC's events.





Santa Ana College 2024 Earth Day - Sustain-a-Palooza

- Santa Ana College hosted its 10th annual Sustain-a-Palooza event on Monday April 22. The event kicked off with an informational presentation from the RSCCD Sustainability Committee on statewide and district goals. Students were offered sustainable products, among them reusable utensils and supplies such as pens, notepads, and more made from reusable materials. There was also a great turnout for the campus-wide clean up, where students were split into groups and assigned different areas of the campus to clear of waste. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal through district-wide goal sharing and broad student participation, the Sustainable Procurement goal by providing eco-friendly alternatives to

conventional products, and the Solid Waste Management goal through the comprehensive campus cleanup that directly reduced waste and beautified the learning environment.

2025 Earth Day - Sustain-a-Palooza

- SAC's 2025 Spring sustainability event also known as Sustain-a-Palooza was planned and led by SAC's Associated Student Government (ASG) Sustainability Commissioner with support from an ASG Advisor. The event was promoted through different methods such as campus flyers, emails, social media posts, and Re-Group. The event was held on April 22, 2025, and it was estimated that approximately 86 students were involved in its preparation.
- The annual Sustain-a-Palooza event took place on Tuesday April 22. The Sustain-a-Palooza event had three SAC/RSCCD organizations attend: RSCCD Sustainability, the Thrive Center, and the Transfer Center. The event also featured eight outside organizations: Orange County Transport Authority, Second Harvest Food Bank, OC Environmental Health, Latino Health Access, Bicycle Tree, Orange County Coastkeeper, Orange County Environmental Justice, and OC Habitats.
- The Associated Student Government hosted a resource fair where organizations such as OC Environmental Health, Orange County Coastkeeper, OC Habitats, and many more held informational booths and led students in activities. The invited organizations provided educational materials and engagement opportunities on environmental protection, resource conservation, community well-being, public health, transportation, food security, and ecological preservation all of which helped students learn how to contribute to building a more sustainable and equitable future.
- Students also had the opportunity to build and take home their own structure to provide shelter for insects as well as pot their own plants. ASG also hosted an interactive table where students built their own flowerpots and received sustainable, refillable water bottles.
- On Friday April 25 students partook in a park clean up at Mile Square Park. In addition to the on-campus event, the ASG Sustainability Commissioner organized a community park clean-up on April 25, 2025, bringing together student volunteers to help maintain and beautify our local green spaces. The event empowered students with hands-on activities and meaningful resources that supported both environmental and community well-being.
- This comprehensive multi-day event exemplified the Campus & Community Engagement goal by integrating sustainability into student government operations and connecting students with regional resources, while also supporting the Transportation, Curriculum Development, Water Management, Facilities Design & Operation, and Solid Waste Management goals through its diverse activities and community partnerships.

Example of SAC's event flyers is shown below.



The following images were taken during SAC's events.





Sustainable RSCCD Committee Field Trips

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee began quarterly field trips, open to all members and interested students, staff, and faculty. The first trip was to the CR&R Commercial Recycling Transfer and Material Recovery Facility in spring 2025, and a second trip was to the SoCalGas [H2] Innovation Experience in summer 2025. These educational field trips primarily supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on learning opportunities and demonstrations of real-world sustainability practices in action. The trips also supported the Curriculum Development goal by equipping faculty with experiential knowledge and industry insights that they can integrate into their courses, while the visit to the recycling facility specifically reinforced the Solid Waste Management goal by showing participants

Commented [AA5]: [Similar 1/6](#) Similar to previous section and add verbiage that talks about how these field trips are focused on the sustainability areas such as waste, energy. These field trips are to bring education and plan for potential projects/initiatives we would like to bring to our district/campuses.

Commented [AA6R5]: Also add some description for the images, for the hydrogen microgrid, talk about the components that turn water into energy and how it is able to power several homes and be reliant from any power losses.

Commented [LI7R5]: added

the complete waste stream and recovery processes that support the district's landfill diversion efforts. The hydrogen microgrid facility visit supported the Energy goal by demonstrating innovative clean energy generation technology, where participants observed the electrolysis components that convert water into hydrogen fuel, which is then used in fuel cells to generate electricity capable of powering several homes while remaining completely independent from traditional power grid disruptions.

Below are images from the field trip to the SoCalGas [H2] Innovation Experience hydrogen microgrid facility.





GOAL 2: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Goal Description

Facilitate the inclusion of environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum and develop new curricula and career-oriented certificate and training courses with an emphasis on sustainability.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Utilize Different Pathways to Integrate Sustainability in the Curriculum

Santiago Canyon College

Four new courses and two new certificates in solar technology have been approved at Santiago Canyon College. These noncredit courses provide students with comprehensive training for careers in solar installation and sales. Together, these programs prepare individuals for in-demand careers as solar photovoltaic installation technicians and solar energy sales professionals.

- [Solar Installation Technician](#)
 - VECU-010, Solar Installation I
 - VECU-011, Solar Installation II
- [Solar Sales Representative](#)
 - VECU 020 - Solar Sales
 - VECU 021 - Solar Sales

Santa Ana College

The following curriculum development initiatives directly support the Curriculum Development goal by facilitating the inclusion of environmental sustainability into existing programs and developing new sustainability-focused degree pathways. Significant progress has been made in developing new environmental science curriculum, including the following future course offerings:

- **Environmental Geology Lab**, designed to accompany Environmental Geology, is awaiting CalGETC approval for transferring students, to be offered Fall 2027.
- **Introduction to Climate Science (Earth Science 125)** is awaiting CalGETC approval for transferring students, to be offered Fall 2027.
- **Environmental Impacts of Industrial Development (ENVR 370)**, an upper-division course for the approved Bachelor's degree to be offered Fall 2027.
- **AI, Climate, and Sustainability** is being explored for a proposed bachelor's degree in AI in Business.

While cross-listing of courses has not yet occurred due to resource constraints, the District continues to evaluate opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The Associate for Transfer Degree in Environmental Science and the accompanying Introduction to Environmental Science course have been temporarily suspended pending further review. The state-approved curriculum for this degree is heavily biology-focused and may require interdisciplinary development to meet institutional goals. The District

has engaged with state officials to express concerns that the current degree requirements do not include sufficient earth science and geology components for optimal transfer preparation.

Other efforts to include environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum have been on-going. The biology department at Santa Ana College has shared its courses with environmental themes or topics about water, marine and coastal environments, ecosystems and ecology, pollution and waste, climate and air, food and agriculture, economics and policy, energy and resources, history and activism, and ethics and philosophy. This integration of sustainability topics supports the Curriculum Development goal by embedding environmental content across multiple disciplines while also advancing other district goals, including the Water Management goal through water-focused coursework, the Solid Waste Management goal through pollution and waste studies, the Energy goal through energy and resources curriculum, and the Sustainable Procurement goal through food and agriculture education. In addition to the course themes listed above, the department offers a series of field courses that allow students to get hands-on learning experiences in the environments that they are learning about in the classroom. These field courses allow students to observe firsthand how climate change affects local ecosystems, study sustainable practices in real-world environments, and understand the interconnections between human activities and environmental health.

Santa Ana College offers field courses for the biology and geology departments that provide direct experiential learning in natural systems and sustainable resource management, creating innovative, career-oriented educational experiences with an emphasis on sustainability in support of the Curriculum Development goal. The field courses are 1-unit and typically are weekend courses that are typically between a one- and five-day trip where students get a learning experience with on-site engagement in diverse ecosystems including coastal environments, desert habitats, mountain forests, and urban green spaces. These trips are group travel trips with a schedule, guided exploration of environmental processes, and hands-on learning activities focused on ecosystem function, biodiversity conservation, and environmental stewardship. The field courses are not specific to certain majors and are open to anyone interested in environmental science and sustainability, making sustainability curriculum accessible across all academic programs. The courses could have some light readings for beforehand information about local ecosystems and environmental challenges, written observations or journals documenting ecological interactions and sustainability practices while on the trip, and possibly discussions after the trip connecting field observations to broader sustainability principles and campus initiatives.

B. Enhance Student Distance Learning

Both colleges have resumed in-person classes while continuing to offer remote learning classes. The district has incorporated multiple new course styles during the Pandemic, which include:

- Online (O): Online with no scheduled meeting
- Fully online live (OL): Live Zoom meetings
- Virtual hybrid (VH): Live Zoom meetings, Online with no scheduled meeting
- Hybrid (H): Classes meet in-person, Online with no scheduled meeting
- On-campus with virtual (CV): Classes meet in-person, Live Zoom meetings
- Hyflex (HF): Classes meet in-person, Live Zoom meetings
- On-campus (C): Classes meet in-person

This wide variety of class styles continues to serve students districtwide even beyond the Pandemic. More online class formats have the added bonus of reducing emissions from transportation, as students and instructors alike can participate in class remotely.

Both colleges each have a dedicated Distance Education department to best oversee their online courses and offer all the course formats listed above.

Both colleges also encourage an Online Teaching Certificate for all faculty, which is available through Canvas. There is also a Remote Instruction Certificate, which is a series of self-paced online workshops that focuses on the technology available to help faculty succeed as online instructors.

For students, there is an Online Degree Pathway, which allows students to get a 2-year degree completely online. This eliminates any potential emissions from transportation and is particularly helpful for students who are working full-time jobs or internships while getting their degree.

GOAL 3: ENERGY

Goal Description

Perform energy use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand District energy use as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual energy use and demand reduction goals and plan appropriate energy efficiency, demand reduction, or clean self-generation measures to achieve goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Energy Consumption Goal (Electricity and Gas)

The District performed an energy benchmark study in 2012-13 using the Chancellor's Office Energy Calculator. This became the baseline year for establishing the annual energy use reduction goals and targeting an overall annual reduction of 5%.

- **Energy Use Intensity (EUI):** This report introduces Energy Use Intensity, expressed in thousands of British Thermal Units per square foot (kBtu/SF), as an improved method for measuring energy conservation progress. Moving beyond separate raw electricity and natural gas consumption data, this standardized metric combines both energy sources into a single measurement that enables direct comparisons between facilities of different sizes and provides clearer insight into actual efficiency improvements regardless of building expansions or other facility changes.

- 2012-13 Baseline Districtwide EUI: 85.5 kBtu/SF
- 2023-24 Districtwide EUI: 55.9 kBtu/SF
 - 35% reduction from baseline
 - 16% reduction from previous year
- 2024-25 Districtwide EUI: 56.6 kBtu/SF
 - 34% reduction from baseline
 - 1% increase from previous year

34%

Reduction in Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/SF) since 2012-13

- **Note on OEC:** The Orange Education Center facility on Batavia (OEC-BAT) was demolished several years ago. Current electricity usage at this site (670,830 kWh in 2024-25) is exclusively for environmental remediation equipment and is excluded from district performance calculations to maintain consistency with active educational facilities. OEC is a leased facility that had no energy consumption data in the 2012-13 baseline year. For these reasons OEC and OEC-BAT are excluded from the energy use intensity calculations above.

Electricity

Districtwide electricity usage has shown consistent efficiency improvements, with 2024-25 achieving a 35% reduction in electricity consumption since 2012-13 (35.7 kBtu/SF vs 54.9 kBtu/SF baseline) despite facility growth and increased campus activities post-pandemic.

Gas

Natural gas usage has fluctuated more significantly, with 2024-25 showing a 32% reduction from baseline (20.9 kBtu/SF vs 30.6 kBtu/SF in 2012-13).

B. Conduct Comprehensive Facility Energy Audits

- The District prepared a report of energy and gas consumption for all sites, using fiscal year 2012-2013 as a baseline year of measurement can be seen in Exhibit A (Electricity, Gas, and Water Consumption History FY 2012-2025).
- The District conducts an annual review of electricity and gas use from a detailed billing summary generated by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas).
- District compares the summary to the actual billing statements.
- District reviews the trends with the campus to discuss use and changes.

C. Summary of Current Accounts

Electricity Table of Summary Accounts

Site	Number of Accounts, and Number of Meters	Service Period
District Operations Center	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Santa Ana College	2 accounts; 2 meters	Mid-month
Santiago Canyon College	5 accounts; 5 meters	Mid-month
Orange Education Center	2 accounts; 2 meters	Mid-month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Digital Media Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Centennial Education Center	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month

The electricity consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 13 active accounts, as well as 1 de-activated account that is no longer in use since September of 2017 (SAC site).

Gas Table of Summary Accounts

Site	Number of Accounts, And number of meters	Service Period
District Operations Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Santa Ana College	2 accounts; 2 meters	Beginning of the month
Santiago Canyon College	2 accounts; 2 meters	End of the month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Digital Media Center	1 account; 1 meter	End of the month
Centennial Education Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month

The gas consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 8 active accounts, as well as 2 de-activated accounts that are no longer in use: OEC site since March of 2018 and one account from SAC since July 2022.

D. Methodology for Maintaining and Monitoring Electricity and Gas Consumption

The District tracks consumption/use history from 2010 to current for each site and accounts for both electricity and gas. The District continues to collect the data consumption history to generate trending reports and summarize the overall total use of each account.

The District obtains copies of the electricity and gas billing statements for comparisons and verification of the reports. SoCalGas provides up to 25 months of past billing statement online. SCE billing statements were not available online. Therefore, copies of the billing statements were obtained from the Accounts Payable Department, and these were only available from 2015 to current.

E. Electricity and Gas Consumption Trends (See Exhibit A - Electricity, Gas, and Water Consumption History FY 2012-2025)

The District has collected utility sites as noted in attached Exhibit A and can now be evaluated for trends on a monthly, quarterly, annually and seasonal basis.

Electricity

Typically, for all the sites, the electricity consumption begins to increase in June and gradually increases through October. Summer months demand more kilowatts due to an increased use in cooling for buildings.

Gas

Gas use typically begins to increase around September through March. These winter months will demand more therms for the use of the heating system.

F. Recommendations to Improve Consumption Management

To improve and enhance the management of utility consumption at sites, the District and the Colleges continue to review utility bills on a regular basis (i.e., monthly, quarterly, annually) to monitor consumption and any anomalies in billing.

- Once a billing statement has been received by the Accounts Payable Department at the District office, it is very important that the department reaches out to the campus and inquires if there was a reason for an increase of the service.
- A note to the actual billing statement shall be annotated for future reference.
- The District summarizes the usage history on an annual basis and reviews this with the colleges. The District is currently in the process of updating usage tracking and developing reporting tools to improve usage and cost monitoring, visualization, and budgeting.

G. Energy Efficiency Improvements

Santa Ana College

Commented [AA8]: **Alma, Lia** We should talk about developing a database or tracking system. Then next report we can talk about the system we generated and implemented. I wouldn't list it as an achievement yet since we are still finalizing and need to start utilizing the tools to track performance regularly.

Commented [AA9]: **Alma, Lia** Shouldn't this be apart of the next section under Facilities? Maybe we place a general section here that focuses on looking for ongoing energy ana sustainable projects and efforts. And then refer them to the next section for upcoming energy projects.

Commented [LI10R9]: Only design and construction is reported in the facilities design and operation section, particularly LEED features and construction updates. We put facilities projects in the associated section where they have the most impact (water, energy, waste, etc)

Santiago Canyon College completed two important energy-saving projects during 2024–2025 to reduce electricity costs and environmental impact:

- **Building D Heating and Air Conditioning Upgrades:** Replaced old, inefficient heating and cooling systems with modern, energy-saving equipment that uses less electricity while keeping buildings more comfortable.
- **Building G Pipe Insulation Improvements:** Added new insulation around water pipes in the heating and cooling system to prevent energy waste and help equipment run more efficiently.

Upcoming Projects

Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College has three energy-saving projects planned for completion by the next report:

- **Pool Equipment Upgrades:** Installing new energy-efficient pool pumps, heaters, and filtration systems to reduce electricity costs for pool operations.
- **Building Heating, Cooling, and Roof Improvements:** Upgrading heating and air conditioning systems in multiple buildings and installing special "cool" roofs that reflect heat to keep buildings naturally cooler.
- **Building G Heating and Cooling Replacement:** Installing a completely new, energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system.

District Office

The District Office has two energy-saving projects planned:

- **Air Flow Control Upgrades:** Installing new energy-efficient valves that better control air temperature and flow throughout the building, reducing wasted energy.
- **DOC Window Replacement:** Replacing all windows to improve solar heat load management and prevent heat losses through upgraded gaskets and seals.

Commented [AA11]: Add the DOC window replacement project to the list. Previously we were unsure if this was going to occur but now it is moving forward. We are replacing all the windows so we will be improving the solar heat load and preventing heat losses with replacing the gasket and seals.

Commented [LI12R11]: added

GOAL 4: FACILITIES DESIGN & OPERATION

Goal Description

Design and construct all major capital projects and renovations to meet LEED Silver “equivalent” standard and operate facilities to meet solid waste, energy, and water use reduction goals. Employ sustainable landscaping practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Facilities Design

There have been no new major construction projects to report during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years. The potential projects outlined below represent the District's ongoing commitment to sustainable infrastructure development with construction planned in the coming years, contingent on bond funding. For more detailed information and the full Facilities Master Plan, visit:

<https://rsccd.edu/Departments/Construction-Services/Pages/2022-Facilities-Master-Plan-Updates.aspx>

All projects will be constructed to meet California's CalGreen Building Standards Code (CALGreen), which mandates sustainable design and construction practices including water efficiency, energy performance, material conservation, and indoor environmental quality. New construction projects will achieve LEED Silver equivalence or higher, meaning buildings will incorporate advanced energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, optimized water usage, enhanced indoor air quality, and reduced environmental impact throughout their lifecycle.

Future Projects

Districtwide

- Fire Protection Improvements - Updated fire safety systems with modern, efficient technologies
- Safety and Technology Improvements – Modern electronic system upgrades
- ADA Transition Plan Corrections - Accessibility improvements
- Sustainability & Stormwater Improvements - Environmental compliance and green infrastructure projects addressing water management and sustainable practices

Santa Ana College

- Continuing Education Center Renovation/Redevelopment - Complete renovation of facility
- Applied Technology Center - New 60,000 sq ft building for welding, auto diesel, and manufacturing labs
- Bristol & 17th Street Development - New 14,615 sq ft facility for culinary programs
- Arts and Workforce Building - New 72,142 sq ft building with 300-400 seat theater for performing arts, fashion, visual arts, and digital media programs

Santiago Canyon College

- Middle College High School Partnership with Orange Unified School District - New 80,000 sq ft facility for 1,000 students

- Career & Technical Education Building - New 67,700 sq ft building focused on health sciences and medical careers
- Veterans and Student Life Center - New 57,000 sq ft facility with student services, health, dining, and campus store
- Building E Reconfiguration/Modernization - Optimize 37,034 sq ft for student services
- Science Center Reconfiguration/Modernization - Convert classrooms to labs for biology, chemistry, and water sciences programs, potentially BioTechnology program
- Building D Reconfiguration/Modernization/Potential Expansion for Performing Arts - Modernize existing performing arts spaces

District Office

- HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection system upgrades
- Exterior enclosure, window replacement, and seismic upgrades - Enhanced building envelope performance for improved safety and energy efficiency

Commented [AA13]: [Primal, Lisa](#) Are these the previous report updates?

Commented [LI14R13]: These are future projects from 2024 FMP

GOAL 5: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Goal Description

Continue to implement the landfill diversion program, expand it to include all sectors of recycling and waste reduction to landfills, and strive to meet the statewide landfill-recycling goal of 75% by 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Districtwide

- CR&R began providing disposal services for the District in 2024, supplying monthly and annual diversion reports so that the District can monitor the amount of waste generated for trash, recycling, and organics. Waste diversion is the practice of redirecting materials away from landfills through recycling, composting, and reuse programs. This reduces the environmental impact of waste disposal, conserves natural resources, and supports circular economy principles by keeping materials in productive use. Common diverted items include paper products, cardboard, plastic containers, glass bottles, aluminum cans, organic materials like food scraps and yard trimmings, electronics, batteries, and various recyclable materials that can be processed into new products rather than becoming landfill waste. The table below shows the 2024 diversion report for the areas that serve the campuses.

2024 Districtwide Waste Diversion Report

Location	Tons Collected	Tons Diverted	% Waste Diverted from Landfill
Centennial Education Center	82.29	33.42	41%
Digital Media Center	20.28	9.40	46%
Santa Ana College	596.70	270.17	45%
Operations Center	50.70	23.49	46%
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	48.36	11.65	24%
Santiago Canyon College	332.67	80.69	24%
Total	1131.00	428.82	38%

- The District provides Hydration Stations map for both campuses, encouraging the campus community to bring reusable water bottles to refill on campus and reduce single-use plastic waste.

Commented [AA15]: Add a sentence or two this this section to explain what waste diversion consists of.

Commented [AA16R15]: Perhaps add a visual pie chart or list of what items are diverted

Commented [LI17R15]: Added. Need to add pie chart

Santa Ana College

- The Centennial Education Center replaced the existing drinking fountains with two new drinking fountains featuring high and low height options for accessibility and integrated bottle filling stations to encourage reusable water bottle use and reduce single-use plastic waste.

Commented [AA18]: The CEC is part of Santa Ana College

Image of the new bottle filling station below.



Commented [AA19]: Added a photo of the water bottle station

GOAL 6: SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Goal Description

Implement efforts to source campus food, materials, supplies, information technology, equipment, and resources from organizations committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

A. Green Purchasing

Districtwide

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) has initiated engagement with vendors to explore strategies for promoting and procuring sustainable products across the district. A number of vendors currently serving the district have expanded their offerings of environmentally preferable products, and RSCCD has actively capitalized on these developments. The district has begun requesting detailed reports from vendors outlining the metrics and number of sustainable products purchased. RSCCD continues to utilize services that refurbish and recycle toner cartridges to help reduce plastic waste by the district. The district is also prioritizing the procurement of locally stocked products, which enables deliveries to be made using electric vehicles and reduce our carbon footprint. In addition to prioritizing local procurement the district has also started requesting that products be packaged in a more sustainable material so that excess waste can be eliminated reducing the total carbon emissions from the packaging and transportation of the orders.

- Purchased less toxic cleaning solutions.
- LED lighting has reduced hazardous waste and the need to replace lamps.
- Continue to ensure paper products specified contain more recycled product.
- Continue to replace equipment with more energy efficient equipment such as copy machines, refrigerators, computers, etc.
- Paper used throughout the District contains at least 30% recycled content.
- Paper towels are Green Seal GS-1 Certified, 100% recycled content, 65% post-consumer recycled content
- The District Purchasing Services Department encourages all departments to consider sustainable goods when feasible. Purchasing Services share brochures and fliers from District vendors advertising sustainable products for consideration.
- Purchasing Services works closely with the Publications department when purchasing printing supplies and paper.
- All used printer cartridges are sent to a recycling program which gives back to the District in points for purchasing printers and cartridges.

Commented [L120]: @Alcala, Alejandra to review

Commented [AA21R20]: Reviewed and made minor edits. This section looks good. Only suggestion would be to update photos with different products or show sustainable packing products and refurbished products like the ink toner.

Below are examples of some of the products and sustainable delivery options utilized Districtwide:



GOAL 7: TRANSPORTATION

Goal Description

Reduce the reliance of students, faculty, and staff on single occupancy vehicle commutes by 5 percent within the next five years and encourage the use of low and zero emissions vehicles.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Improve Campus Fleet & Travel

Electric and Hybrid Vehicles

District Operations Center

- One Toyota Prius (2013)

Santa Ana College

- One Honda Hybrid (2007)
- One Toyota Prius (2013)
- Two Toyota Prius (2016)
- Two Hyundai EVs (2021)
- One Ford Escape Hybrids (2022)

Santiago Canyon College

- One Toyota Prius (2014)
- One Toyota Prius (2017)
- Two new electric utility carts to replace failed carts



B. Encourage Low and Zero Emissions Vehicles for Commuters

Districtwide

- Districtwide EV charging stations have played a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting clean transportation. Since 2015, EV charging stations have saved approximately 209,584 kg of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions from consuming 37,464

gallons of gas. Usage of the EV charging stations has grown significantly with 21,557 total charging sessions since 2014 and expanding from a single station to nine stations. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, charging stations delivered 85,059 kWh of energy and increased to 125,394 kWh in 2024-25, supporting the District's commitment to sustainability.

- The District publishes Bicycle Rack and EV Charging Station locations map for both campuses, encouraging the campus community to ride their bikes or drive EVs to campus and reduce single-occupancy, emissions-producing vehicles on the roads.

Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College provides students with a variety of transportation options, including on-campus parking permits and discounted Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus passes. During the current biennial reporting period, the College observed a significant shift in student transportation choices. Parking permit purchases declined from 10,305 in the 2023-24 academic year to 8,390 in 2024-25, reflecting a notable reduction in demand for on-campus parking. Conversely, student participation in the OCTA bus pass program increased from 2,476 students in 2023-24 to 2,864 students in 2024-25. This trend reflects a positive shift, with more students embracing sustainable and flexible transportation options such as the OCTA bus pass program, walking, carpooling, biking, and the convenience of hybrid or fully online classes that reduce the need for on-campus transportation.

Commented [AA22]: write out number and just round

GOAL 8: WATER MANAGEMENT

Goal Description

Perform water use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand usage as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual water use reduction goals and plan appropriate measures to achieve goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Establish Water Conservation Goals

- 2012-13 was used as a baseline year for comparison and the District established a 5% annual water reduction use.
- Water Use Intensity (WUI):** This report introduces Water Use Intensity, expressed in gallons per square foot (Gallons/SF), as an improved method for measuring water conservation progress. Moving beyond raw consumption data, this standardized metric enables direct comparisons between facilities of different sizes and provides clearer insight into actual efficiency improvements regardless of building expansions or other facility changes.

- 2012-13 Baseline Districtwide WUI: 80.0 Gallons/SF
- 2023-24 Districtwide WUI: 38.1 Gallons/SF
 - 52% reduction from baseline
 - 2% increase from previous year
- 2024-25 Districtwide WUI: 40.8 Gallons/SF
 - 49% reduction from baseline
 - 7% increase from previous year

49%

Reduction in Water Use
Intensity (Gallons/SF)
since 2012-13

- Note on OEC:** The Orange Education Center facility on Batavia (OEC-BAT) was demolished several years ago and has no current water usage. OEC is a leased facility that had no water consumption data in the 2012-13 baseline year. For these reasons OEC and OEC-BAT are excluded from the water use intensity calculations above.

B. Conduct a Comprehensive Facility Water Audits

- Completed benchmark studies for all District sites.
- Established the fiscal year 2012-13 as the baseline year for water use consumption analysis, consistent with the electricity and gas baseline year (See Exhibit A).
- The District conducts an annual review of water utility bills and reviews the trends with the campus to discuss use and changes.

C. Summary of Accounts

Table of Summary Accounts:

Site	Water Utility Agency	Number of Accounts, and number of meters	2 Month Service Period *exception; monthly
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District Operations Center	City of Santa Ana	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Santa Ana College	City of Santa Ana	10 accounts; 10 meters	Mid-month (4) End of Month (6)
Santiago Canyon College	City of Orange	3 accounts; 5 meters	End of Month
Orange County Education Center	City of Orange	2 accounts; 3 meters	End of Month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	Irvine Ranch Water District	5 accounts; 5 meters	Mid-month *
Digital Media Center	City of Santa Ana	2 accounts; 2 meters	End of Month
Centennial Education Center	City of Santa Ana	2 accounts; 2 meters	Beginning of the Month

- The water consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 25 active accounts.
- The District's sites are within three water utility agencies: City of Santa Ana, City of Orange, and Irvine Water Ranch Water District.
- The billing cycles are either at the beginning of the month, mid-month, or at the end of the month, and services are being billed either monthly or bi-monthly.

D. Water Summary Details

City of Santa Ana

- Services to District Operations Center, Santa Ana College, Centennial Education Center, and Digital Media Center
- Bills are available online up to 6 months.
- Bills from 2015 to 2020 were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

Irvine Ranch Water District

- Services to Orange County Regional Sheriff's Regional Training Academy
- Bills from 2015 to current were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

City of Orange

- Services to Santiago Canyon College and Orange Education Center
- Bills are available online for 24 months.
- Bills from 2015 to 2020 were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

Note, all three water utility agencies do not offer the capability to export the water usage history, and therefore all collected data is tracked manually by the District.

E. Maintaining a Master File

Water utility data is entered from the billing statements which includes the following:

- Date of Services; beginning date and end date
- Number of days of services
- Meter Read Date; beginning date and end date
- Total CCF (this is the difference between the two meter read dates)
- Total Gallons (the total CCF multiply by 748)
- Daily Average by Gallons
- Charges; various from water agencies, but all the rates and charges were entered.
- Billing Date (the date the billing statement was issued)

F. Water Trends

For each site it appears that spikes in water usage occur seasonally and when there are irrigation leaks and or other types of plumbing line breaks and repairs occur.

G. Recommendations to Improve Reporting of the Usage History

Open communication with the campus and District is very important. In order to understand the usage and consumption patterns, all respective parties from the campuses to the District, must communicate with one another to proactively monitor utilities.

- Campus or other building operators should notify the District when a leak occurs and note the duration.
- The District office can inform the Colleges of spikes in the water billing statement, which may lead to investigation of unknown irrigation leaks.
- District logs and tracks events for future reference and provides water use history data.

H. Implement Water Conservation Strategies

Several water conservation measures have been implemented throughout the District and are included in the Facility Design Standard Guidelines.

I. Reduce Storm Water, Sewer Discharges, and Water Pollution

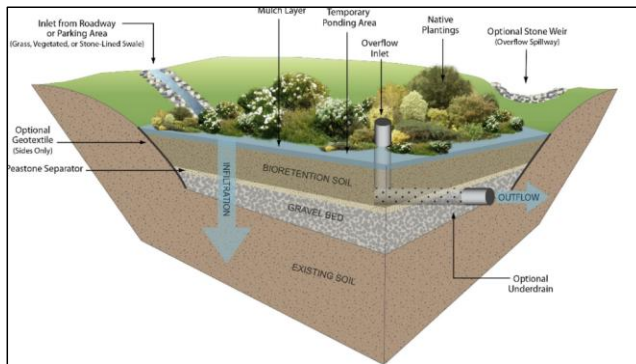
Santiago Canyon College

Santiago Canyon College installed a new bioswale (vegetated water channel) and filtration system at the campus entrance to naturally manage stormwater runoff. This shallow, plant-filled channel captures and filters rainwater before it enters storm drains, removing pollutants like sediment, oils, and excess nutrients, allowing clean water to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies. The bioswale also reduces flooding by slowing down stormwater flow, creates habitat for pollinators and wildlife, helps cool the surrounding area, enhances the college's climate resilience, and improves the campus appearance with attractive native vegetation. Below is a diagram indicating the features of a bioswale.

Commented [AA23]: Add a visual of what an example bioswale looks like.

Commented [LI24R23]: Check with Hugo's h drive

Commented [AA25R23]: Added visual



J. Adopt Sustainable Landscaping Practices

Districtwide

- The District adheres to landscape material design standards updated in 2020 which includes California native plants, drought resistant, and water-wise landscaping practices.
- All new buildings incorporate the Facility Designs Standards which require low water use plants and irrigation systems with controllers to reduce and monitor water use.
- All new construction will comply with California Green Building Code.

Commented [AA26]: Information is still accurate. This section looks okay.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rancho Santiago Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and all access to institutional programs and activities.

The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The Chancellor shall establish administrative procedures that ensure all members of the college community can present complaints regarding alleged violations of this policy and have their complaints heard in accordance with the Title 5 regulations and those of other agencies that administer state and federal laws regarding nondiscrimination.

No District funds shall ever be used for membership, or for any participation involving financial payment or contribution on behalf of the District or any individual employed by or associated with it, to any private organization whose membership practices are discriminatory on the basis of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or because of his or her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to District's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator. RSCCD Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Jean Estevez, 2323 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706, 714-480-7404.

**EXHIBIT A: ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND WATER CONSUMPTION
HISTORY FY 2012-2025**

DRAFT

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



Period Covering July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025

Approved by the Sustainable RSCCD Committee

November 19, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

On March 3, 2015, the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Board of Trustees approved a District Sustainability Plan (“Plan”). The Plan outlined eight (8) goals in areas of sustainability: Campus & Community Engagement, Curriculum Development, Energy, Facilities Design & Operation, Solid Waste Management, Sustainable Procurement, Transportation and Water Management. The Board of Trustees approved the 2025 Sustainability Plan on November 10, 2025. The Plan was updated to better track performance in alignment with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Climate Action and Sustainability Goals, updated in 2025. The Goals have benchmarking and reduction milestones for 2026, 2030, and 2035, which the District will use to measure performance and guide its path to more sustainable awareness and practices. The SRC published revised goals in the 2025 Sustainability Plan, which will guide future reporting; however, this report encompasses data, events, and projects which took place from 2023 through 2025, and therefore progress in this report is measured in alignment with the 2015 goals.

This report was compiled on behalf of the Sustainable RSCCD Committee (SRC) by the Facility Planning, District Construction and Support Services Department and covers approximately a two-year fiscal period. The previous report covered March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023; therefore, this report covers the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025. The information was compiled through a collaborative effort between the colleges, District, and members of the SRC. The report highlights the achievements, projects, programs, and plans completed as well as the work currently in progress in various phases of planning and implementation.

A major goal for SRC over the last several years has been focusing on reducing plastic and paper consumption. It was an objective of the committee to see that a new waste hauling service provider be contracted to assist the District in allowing for more sorting options in collection of waste, and by providing more detailed recycling data for the various sites.

Many sustainable activities are on-going, and several projects have been completed to meet the goals of the plan. The reporting method organizes the activities, programs, and projects to align the report outcomes with the identified eight (8) goals of the Plan. The organization of the reporting format allows for efficient collection of information by members of the SRC and is easily conveyed to interested parties. The SRC will continue to focus on implementing programs and projects outlined in Section 4 of the Plan: Sustainable Programs and Projects for Implementation.

The SRC continues to strive towards implementing the goals of the Sustainability Plan and is glad to present the report covering the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Campus & Community Engagement

- Expanded districtwide sustainability programming with the growth of Santiago Canyon College's Earth Fest from 40 to 60 booths and Santa Ana College's 11th annual Sustain-a-Palooza engaging approximately 86 students and 11 participating organizations.
- Launched educational outreach initiatives including quarterly field trips to industry facilities, specialized recycling events for hard-to-process materials, and hands-on activities.
- Integrated student government leadership into sustainability advocacy and awareness, with student-led water station installations and ASG-coordinated programming in alignment with District sustainability goals.

Curriculum Development

- Santiago Canyon College approved four new solar technology courses and two certificates for Solar Installation Technician and Solar Sales Representative programs.
- Santa Ana College is developing new sustainability courses, including Environmental Geology Lab, Introduction to Climate Science, and Environmental Impacts of Industrial Development, while expanding hands-on learning through interdisciplinary field courses across ecosystems.

Energy and Water

- The District has demonstrated significant progress in water and energy conservation since establishing the 2012-13 baseline year with a 5% annual reduction target for both utilities. For this reporting period, the District introduced enhanced measurement methodologies with both Water Use Intensity and Energy Use Intensity metrics, which have advantages over the previous raw consumption tracking methods. These intensity-based metrics are clear performance indicators that normalize consumption relative to facility size, allowing for accurate assessments of conservation efforts regardless of the growth or reduction of campus square footage.
- In the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the District achieved 49.9% reduction in Water Use Intensity from baseline, using 40.1 gallons per square foot compared to the baseline 80.0 gallons per square foot in 2012-13.
- In the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, the District achieved a 36.6% reduction in Energy Use Intensity (electricity and natural gas combined) from baseline, using 56.6 kBTU per square foot compared to the baseline 89.3 kBTU per square foot in 2012-13.

Facilities Design & Operation

- All major construction projects will continue to achieve LEED Silver equivalence or higher and meet California's CalGreen Building Standards, including over 400,000 square feet of planned facilities across both campuses incorporating advanced energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, and optimized water usage.

Solid Waste Management

- Achieved districtwide waste diversion rate of 38% through new partnership with CR&R, with Santa Ana College leading at 45% diversion and continued expansion of hydration stations to reduce single-use plastic waste across both campuses.

Sustainable Procurement

- Enhanced sustainable purchasing practices through vendor engagement strategies, prioritizing locally stocked products for electric vehicle deliveries, utilizing recycled content materials including 30% recycled paper and 100% recycled paper towels, and implementing comprehensive toner cartridge recycling programs.

Transportation

- Expanded electric vehicle infrastructure supporting 21,557 total charging sessions since 2014, delivering 125,394 kWh in 2024-25 and saving approximately 209,584 kg of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 37,464 gallons of gasoline.
- Santa Ana College demonstrated a positive shift toward sustainable transportation with increased OCTA bus pass participation from 2,476 to 2,864 students and decreased parking permit purchases from 10,305 to 8,390.

Goals established by the Committee for the past Sustainability Reports are to minimize environmental impacts through:

- Implementing best practices for conserving resources and reducing waste
 - “Reuse for Better Use” initiative for plastic reduction
 - Paper reduction
- Implementing energy reduction and alternative energy generation strategies
- Constructing efficient buildings
- Developing partnerships that will further these activities

SUSTAINABLE RSCCD COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2023-2025

Santa Ana College

Bart Hoffman, Vice President, Administrative Services (2018-Current)
James Kennedy, Vice President of Continuing Education (2014-2020, 2022-Current)

Kelvin Leeds, Faculty (2023-Current)
Craig Ursuy, Faculty (2024-Current)
Tanisha Burrus, Classified Staff (2021-2024)

Gio Mondragon, Student (2023-2024)
Genesis Garcia, Student (2023-2025)
Han Nguyen, Student (2024-2025)

Santiago Canyon College

Arleen Satele, Ed. D., Vice President of Administrative Services (2016-Current)
Jose Vargas, Vice President of Continuing Education Orange Education Center (2016-2024)
Joanne Armstrong, Dean, Student Services (2024-Current)

Vanessa Engstrom, Faculty (2021-Current)
Daniel Oase, Faculty (2023-Current)
Ambar Nakagami, Classified Staff (2018-Current)

Gabriel Lopez, Student (2023-2024)
Arriana Flores, Student (2023-2024)
Valerie Lopez, Student (2024-2025)
Giovanna Ortiz, Student (2024-2025)

District Office

Carri Matsumoto, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facility Planning, District Construction & Support Services (2016-Current)
Linda Melendez, Director, Purchasing Services (2021-Current)
Tae Kim, Director of Facility Planning (2022-Current)
Hugo Curiel, Facilities Project Manager (2022-2025)
Alejandro Alcala, Energy and Sustainability Manager (2025-Current)
Simone Wolfe, Classified Staff (2019-Current)

GOALS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In 2015, the Sustainable RSCCD Committee (SRC) identified the following sustainability goals and priorities. The goals and priorities for the Sustainability Plan reflect campus needs, interests, and available resources.

Goal 1- Campus & Community Engagement

Encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement. Integrate sustainability into all facets of student life, including student government, clubs, and organizations.

Goal 2- Curriculum Development

Facilitate the inclusion of environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum and develop new curricula and career-oriented certificate and training courses with an emphasis on sustainability.

Goal 3- Energy

Utilize 2012-2013 benchmark study to establish annual energy use and demand reduction goals (target 5% reduction). Plan appropriate energy efficiency, demand reduction, or clean self-generation measures by mid-2015 to meet reduction goals.

Goal 4- Facilities Design & Operation

Design and construct all major capital projects and renovations to meet LEED Silver “equivalent” standard and operate facilities to meet solid waste, energy, and water use reduction goals. Employ sustainable landscaping practices.

Goal 5- Solid Waste Management

Continue to implement the landfill diversion program, expand it to include all sectors of recycling and waste reduction to landfills, and strive to meet the statewide landfill recycling goal of 75% by 2020.

Goal 6-Sustainable Procurement

Implement efforts to source campus food, materials, supplies, information technology, equipment, and resources from organizations committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Goal 7- Transportation

Reduce the reliance of students, faculty, and staff on single occupancy vehicle commutes by 5% within the next five years, and encourage the use of low and zero emissions vehicles.

Goal 8- Water Management

Perform water use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand usage as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual water use reduction goals and plan appropriate measures to achieve goals.

The goals described above apply to both Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, the education centers, and the District Office. The goals are listed in numerical order and are not necessarily listed by priority.

Vision Statement

The Rancho Santiago Community College District holds sustainability to be a foundational principle in its current and future development.

As a responsible steward of natural resources and the environment, the District will endeavor to minimize its impact on the environment by implementing best practices for conserving resources, reducing waste, implementing energy reduction and alternative energy generation strategies, constructing efficient buildings, and by developing partnerships that will further these activities.

GOAL 1: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Goal Description

Encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement. Integrate sustainability into all facets of student life, including student government, clubs, and organizations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Created a Sub-Committee in the Associated Student Government Devoted to Sustainability

Santa Ana College



Mission Statement: The Associated Student Government of Santa Ana College is committed to empowering students: by celebrating diversity; by supporting programs and activities that develop mutual understanding; by developing leadership qualities of honesty, advocacy, and integrity; by assisting the student in discovering success and happiness; and by endeavoring to build a future in which students are vitally involved in all academic and decision-making processes of the college.

The Associated Student Government (ASG) has created a Sustainability Commissioner position and this position serves on the Sustainable RSCCD Committee and promotes sustainability efforts within ASG as well as provides a student voice for sustainability advocacy for the students. The position leads the student effort for the annual Earth Day event. The Sustainability Commissioner brings together a group of interested students to help promote sustainability named the Sustainability Committee. Their mission, similar to the Commissioner's responsibilities, is to promote sustainability efforts within ASG as well as provide a space for sustainability advocacy. In helping to bring awareness to the student body, the committee is currently working on a project that promotes recycling, composting, and renewing.

Santiago Canyon College



Mission Statement: To promote and engage in student representation and involvement by safeguarding collegial governance and representative democracy, to influence institutional policy affecting student affairs, to facilitate campus-wide activities for the improvement of student life, and to provide a platform for the fundamental development of a cohesive and accountable group of student leaders at Santiago Canyon College.

The Associated Student Government of Santiago Canyon College established a "Green Operations Committee" and the committee continues to be active.

The position of Sustainability Commissioner is an appointed position. The Sustainability Commissioner is obligated to hold a minimum of one (1) event related to environmental sustainability and/or service in the fall and spring semesters. The Sustainability Commissioner is responsible for chairing the

Sustainability Committee. The Sustainability Commissioner is mandated to, but not limited to, attend the following required meetings: ASG Sustainability Committee meetings, ASG Activities Committee meetings, and ASG Executive Branch meetings. The Sustainability Commissioner shall present a report from their respective meetings to their governing bodies.

The responsibilities of the Commissioner of Sustainability shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Serves as a member of the Activities Committee
- Coordinates and assists with the planning of all sustainability-related events, including but not limited to Earth Day and at least one environmental service activity per semester
- Advises all ASGSCC entities and individuals on sustainable, eco-friendly practices
- Provides a calendar of planned events and activities within their purview to the Director of Outreach Operations
- Serves as the liaison for all ASGSCC-sponsored events and activities hosted in collaboration with college clubs and organizations that are within their purview

The senator description no longer specifically references the Sustainable RSCCD committee (or any other committee) to prevent ASGSCC from needing to amend the bylaws any time the committee names or information change.

The responsibilities of all Senate officers shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Attending meetings of the Senate
- Presenting frequent reports to the Senate of all relevant actions and duties carried out within the officer's respective role and within any attended meetings
- Assists with any events and activities coordinated by the Senate

Each Senator shall be responsible for the following:

- Attends participatory governance meetings as assigned by the Vice President to provide an active student voice
- Assists with any ASGSCC events coordinated by the Senate and Vice President
- Organizes and hosts at least one event, activity, or survey per academic school year related to their assigned participatory governance committees
- Serves as a member of at least one ASGSCC standing committee

B. Sustainability Events

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee attended Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College's respective annual Earth Day events. SRC ran a booth where students and community members could test their knowledge of recycling various materials and to learn about the District's goals to promote recycling, reduce waste, and support sustainable habits on campus. The SRC gave away various sustainable focused prizes, including reusable bags, bamboo utensil sets, reusable straws and gift cards to the campus bookstore. The following sustainability infographics were also on display in front of the booth:

Reduce Your Use!

Before throwing something away, ask



- Is this something I can reuse? Reuse it!
- Is this something someone else could use? Donate or gift it!
- Are there any parts that can be upcycled? Make something new out of it!
- How do I responsibly throw this away? A quick web search can tell you if something should be sent to compost, recycle, e-waste, or landfill.

Before buying something new, ask

- Do I already have something else that will get the job done? Use that!
- Can I thrift/shop used? Give a product a second life!
- Am I buying something that will last?
- Can I buy from a company that uses less packaging or doesn't have to ship as far?



Learn more about RSCCD Sustainability:



<https://rsccd.edu/Departments/BusinessServices/sustainable-rsccd-committee/Pages/default.aspx>



Sustainable Swaps



Keep these reusable items with you to reduce your use of single-use paper and plastic products:

Bags



Food/Drink Containers



Reusable Straw



Utensil Set



USE WHAT YOU HAVE

Tip: Reusing what you already have

—even if it's plastic—is better than buying a new item, no matter how sustainable the new item is. There's no need to spend money on a bamboo utensil set if you already have perfectly good silverware in your kitchen drawer!

More zero waste sustainable swaps:



RECYCLE

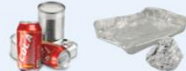
Live life greener by making the earth cleaner
Recycle 100% of your waste

CLEAN AND DRY!

HARD PLASTICS



METAL



GLASS



PAPER, CARDBOARD, CARTONS



LANDFILL

SOFT PLASTICS



FOOD & FOOD-SOILED PAPER



STYROFOAM



MIXED MATERIALS



Reducing Plastic and Paper use at RSCCD

in 3 easy steps!

1. Refuse

unnecessary plastic and paper products.

See our infographic on Sustainable Swaps to make this step a breeze!



2. Reuse

the paper and plastic you do end up with.

Make the most of the products before recycling/disposing of them.
Save paper that has only been used on one side.
Repair items when possible before replacing.



3. Shop Sustainably

to minimize future plastic and paper use.

Invest in products meant to last. Borrow, trade, thrift, and support local businesses and sustainable brands when possible. Buy in bulk to avoid excess packaging.



The following events represent a comprehensive approach to achieving the Campus & Community Engagement goal of the RSCCD Sustainability Plan, which aims to encourage participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement while integrating sustainability into all facets of student life. While primarily focused on engagement and awareness, many of these events additionally advance other sustainability goals, connecting education, behavior change, and practical environmental action.

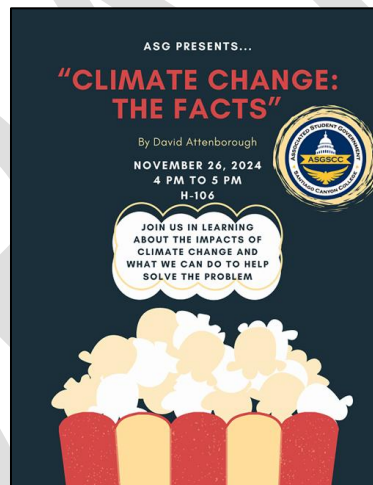
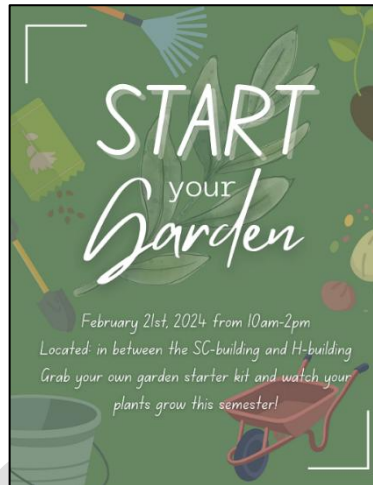
Santiago Canyon College

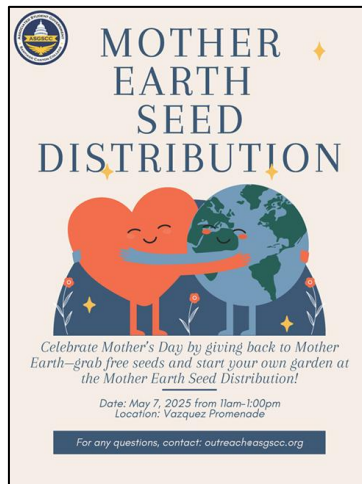
- October 31, 2023 – Save your Wrappers!
- A Halloween recycling event where collection bins were placed around campus to gather candy wrappers that are typically difficult to recycle. The collected wrappers were sent to Rubicon through their "Trash or Treasure" program, which specializes in recycling hard-to-process materials. This event supported Solid Waste Management by expanding recycling efforts to include hard-to-process materials and increasing landfill diversion rates. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by making sustainability fun and accessible through a Halloween-themed approach.
- November 15, 2023 – "Go Green" Trivia
- An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by raising awareness of sustainability issues through interactive education and encouraging broader participation in environmental topics.
- February 21, 2024 – Start your Garden
- Students received free gardening starter kits to encourage home growing and connect them with sustainable food practices. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on sustainability experiences that students could continue at home.
- March 13, 2024 – "Go Green" Trivia
- An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by maintaining ongoing awareness and education about sustainability throughout the academic year.
- April 22-25, 2024 – Earth Fest
- A four-day campus celebration focused on recycling education, environmental awareness, and sustainability practices to commemorate Earth Day. Santiago Canyon College continued their tradition of celebrating Earth Day all week long with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Monday kicked off with a rummage sale, Tuesday brought a bioswale tour, and Wednesday explored green careers. The week ended on Thursday, April 25th with Earth Fest featuring 40 participating tables with information booths, demonstrations, and giveaways. Highlights included Home Depot's Craft Clinic for the Child Development Center, MOTAL's "Your Baby's Amazing Brain" exhibit, and CR&R's informational booth on waste management. The event was well attended and enjoyed by students, faculty, and staff. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal through broad participation and education, the Curriculum Development goal by exploring green careers and the Solid Waste Management goal through recycling education and the rummage sale promoting reuse.

- May 15, 2024 – "Go Green" Trivia
- An educational event where students learned about environmental topics and sustainability practices through a fun trivia format, with prizes awarded for correct answers. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal as an opportunity for students to further engage in sustainability education.
- May 23, 2024 – Start your Garden
- Students received free gardening starter kits to encourage home growing and connect them with sustainable food practices. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on sustainability experiences that students could continue at home.
- November 26, 2024 - Climate Change Movie Viewing
- This event featured a screening of "Climate Change: The Facts" with David Attenborough, and offered viewers a powerful and informative look at the causes, consequences, and urgency of addressing climate change. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by raising awareness about environmental issues and climate science.
- April 2025 – Earth Fest
- Santiago Canyon College expanded its Earth Day celebrations by incorporating a health component through a new partnership with the OC Health Care Agency. This year's theme, "Sustainability and Health," was reflected in a week of engaging and meaningful activities. Festivities began on Monday with a blood drive organized by the American Red Cross. On Tuesday, students and staff took part in a campus-wide clothing donation drive led by Goodwill. Wednesday focused on mindfulness and wellness with a relaxing outdoor yoga session, showing how personal well-being connects to caring for the environment. The week culminated on Thursday, April 24, with Earth Fest, featuring 60 booths offering informational displays, demonstrations, and giveaways. Highlights included Home Depot's Craft Clinic for the Child Development Center, an exhibit from NextMod showcasing a modular sustainable building, and a guided bioswale tour. The event was well attended and enjoyed by students, faculty and staff. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal through increased participation and community partnerships, the Facilities Design & Operation goal through the sustainable building exhibit and bioswale tours, and the Solid Waste Management goal through the clothing donation drive promoting reuse and waste diversion.
- April 24, 2025 – ASG Water Station Inauguration
- An inauguration ceremony was held on 4/24 at 12pm to acknowledge the ASGSCC's significant advocacy and contributions towards the establishment of water bottle refilling stations at SCC. In order to ensure access to sustainable hydration, the ASGSCC has supported the installation and expansion of stations used to fill personal water bottles on campus. VPSS Christopher Sweeten and ASGSCC President Flo Cudal shared remarks acknowledging the program and the importance of the continued partnership between the ASGSCC and the Administrative Services Division to ensure the campus continues to meet the needs of students. This event supported the Solid Waste Management goal by decreasing plastic waste generation and the Campus & Community Engagement goal by recognizing student leadership in sustainability advocacy.
- May 7, 2025 Mother Earth Seed Distribution
- In celebration of Mother's Day and our planet, the ASG invited SCC participate in the Mother Earth Seed Distribution event. Students received free seeds and small pots to paint and personalize to begin their own gardens. This event supported the Sustainable Procurement goal

by promoting local food production and the Campus & Community Engagement goal by combining sustainability education with artistic expression and personal connection to environmental stewardship.

Examples of SCC's event flyers are shown below.





The following images were taken during SCC's events.





Santa Ana College 2024 Earth Day - Sustain-a-Palooza

- Santa Ana College hosted its 10th annual Sustain-a-Palooza event on Monday April 22. The event kicked off with an informational presentation from the RSCCD Sustainability Committee on statewide and district goals. Students were offered sustainable products, among them reusable utensils and supplies such as pens, notepads, and more made from reusable materials. There was also a great turnout for the campus-wide clean up, where students were split into groups and assigned different areas of the campus to clear of waste. This event supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal through district-wide goal sharing and broad student participation, the Sustainable Procurement goal by providing eco-friendly alternatives to

conventional products, and the Solid Waste Management goal through the comprehensive campus cleanup that directly reduced waste and beautified the learning environment.

2025 Earth Day - Sustain-a-Palooza

- SAC's 2025 Spring sustainability event also known as Sustain-a-Palooza was planned and led by SAC's Associated Student Government (ASG) Sustainability Commissioner with support from an ASG Advisor. The event was promoted through different methods such as campus flyers, emails, social media posts, and Re-Group. The event was held on April 22, 2025, and it was estimated that approximately 86 students were involved in its preparation.
- The annual Sustain-a-Palooza event took place on Tuesday April 22. The Sustain-a-Palooza event had three SAC/RSCCD organizations attend: RSCCD Sustainability, the Thrive Center, and the Transfer Center. The event also featured eight outside organizations: Orange County Transport Authority, Second Harvest Food Bank, OC Environmental Health, Latino Health Access, Bicycle Tree, Orange County Coastkeeper, Orange County Environmental Justice, and OC Habitats.
- The Associated Student Government hosted a resource fair where organizations such as OC Environmental Health, Orange County Coastkeeper, OC Habitats, and many more held informational booths and led students in activities. The invited organizations provided educational materials and engagement opportunities on environmental protection, resource conservation, community well-being, public health, transportation, food security, and ecological preservation all of which helped students learn how to contribute to building a more sustainable and equitable future.
- Students also had the opportunity to build and take home their own structure to provide shelter for insects as well as pot their own plants. ASG also hosted an interactive table where students built their own flowerpots and received sustainable, refillable water bottles.
- On Friday April 25 students partook in a park clean up at Mile Square Park. In addition to the on-campus event, the ASG Sustainability Commissioner organized a community park clean-up on April 25, 2025, bringing together student volunteers to help maintain and beautify our local green spaces. The event empowered students with hands-on activities and meaningful resources that supported both environmental and community well-being.
- This comprehensive multi-day event exemplified the Campus & Community Engagement goal by integrating sustainability into student government operations and connecting students with regional resources, while also supporting the Transportation, Curriculum Development, Water Management, Facilities Design & Operation, and Solid Waste Management goals through its diverse activities and community partnerships.

Example of SAC's event flyers is shown below.



The following images were taken during SAC's events.





Sustainable RSCCD Committee Field Trips

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee began quarterly field trips, open to all members and interested students, staff, and faculty. The first trip was to the CR&R Commercial Recycling Transfer and Material Recovery Facility in spring 2025, and a second trip was to the SoCalGas [H2] Innovation Experience in summer 2025. These educational field trips primarily supported the Campus & Community Engagement goal by providing hands-on learning opportunities and demonstrations of real-world sustainability practices in action. The trips also supported the Curriculum Development goal by equipping faculty with experiential knowledge and industry insights that they can integrate into their courses, while the visit to the recycling facility specifically reinforced the Solid Waste Management goal by showing participants

the complete waste stream and recovery processes that support the district's landfill diversion efforts. The hydrogen microgrid facility visit supported the Energy goal by demonstrating innovative clean energy generation technology, where participants observed the electrolysis components that convert water into hydrogen fuel, which is then used in fuel cells to generate electricity capable of powering several homes while remaining completely independent from traditional power grid disruptions.

Below are images from the field trip to the SoCalGas [H₂] Innovation Experience hydrogen microgrid facility.





DRAFT

GOAL 2: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Goal Description

Facilitate the inclusion of environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum and develop new curricula and career-oriented certificate and training courses with an emphasis on sustainability.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Utilize Different Pathways to Integrate Sustainability in the Curriculum

Santiago Canyon College

Four new courses and two new certificates in solar technology have been approved at Santiago Canyon College. These noncredit courses provide students with comprehensive training for careers in solar installation and sales. Together, these programs prepare individuals for in-demand careers as solar photovoltaic installation technicians and solar energy sales professionals.

- [Solar Installation Technician](#)
 - VECU-010, Solar Installation I
 - VECU-011, Solar Installation II
- [Solar Sales Representative](#)
 - VECU 020 - Solar Sales
 - VECU 021 - Solar Sales

Santa Ana College

The following curriculum development initiatives directly support the Curriculum Development goal by facilitating the inclusion of environmental sustainability into existing programs and developing new sustainability-focused degree pathways. Significant progress has been made in developing new environmental science curriculum, including the following future course offerings:

- **Environmental Geology Lab**, designed to accompany Environmental Geology, is awaiting CalGETC approval for transferring students, to be offered Fall 2027.
- **Introduction to Climate Science (Earth Science 125)** is awaiting CalGETC approval for transferring students, to be offered Fall 2027.
- **Environmental Impacts of Industrial Development (ENVR 370)**, an upper-division course for the approved Bachelor's degree to be offered Fall 2027.
- **AI, Climate, and Sustainability** is being explored for a proposed bachelor's degree in AI in Business.

While cross-listing of courses has not yet occurred due to resource constraints, the District continues to evaluate opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The Associate for Transfer Degree in Environmental Science and the accompanying Introduction to Environmental Science course have been temporarily suspended pending further review. The state-approved curriculum for this degree is heavily biology-focused and may require interdisciplinary development to meet institutional goals. The District

has engaged with state officials to express concerns that the current degree requirements do not include sufficient earth science and geology components for optimal transfer preparation.

Other efforts to include environmental sustainability and social responsibility into existing curriculum have been on-going. The biology department at Santa Ana College has shared its courses with environmental themes or topics about water, marine and coastal environments, ecosystems and ecology, pollution and waste, climate and air, food and agriculture, economics and policy, energy and resources, history and activism, and ethics and philosophy. This integration of sustainability topics supports the Curriculum Development goal by embedding environmental content across multiple disciplines while also advancing other district goals, including the Water Management goal through water-focused coursework, the Solid Waste Management goal through pollution and waste studies, the Energy goal through energy and resources curriculum, and the Sustainable Procurement goal through food and agriculture education. In addition to the course themes listed above, the department offers a series of field courses that allow students to get hands-on learning experiences in the environments that they are learning about in the classroom. These field courses allow students to observe firsthand how climate change affects local ecosystems, study sustainable practices in real-world environments, and understand the interconnections between human activities and environmental health.

Santa Ana College offers field courses for the biology and geology departments that provide direct experiential learning in natural systems and sustainable resource management, creating innovative, career-oriented educational experiences with an emphasis on sustainability in support of the Curriculum Development goal. The field courses are 1-unit and typically are weekend courses that are typically between a one- and five-day trip where students get a learning experience with on-site engagement in diverse ecosystems including coastal environments, desert habitats, mountain forests, and urban green spaces. These trips are group travel trips with a schedule, guided exploration of environmental processes, and hands-on learning activities focused on ecosystem function, biodiversity conservation, and environmental stewardship. The field courses are not specific to certain majors and are open to anyone interested in environmental science and sustainability, making sustainability curriculum accessible across all academic programs. The courses could have some light readings for beforehand information about local ecosystems and environmental challenges, written observations or journals documenting ecological interactions and sustainability practices while on the trip, and possibly discussions after the trip connecting field observations to broader sustainability principles and campus initiatives.

B. Enhance Student Distance Learning

Both colleges have resumed in-person classes while continuing to offer remote learning classes. The district has incorporated multiple new course styles during the Pandemic, which include:

- Online (O): Online with no scheduled meeting
- Fully online live (OL): Live Zoom meetings
- Virtual hybrid (VH): Live Zoom meetings, Online with no scheduled meeting
- Hybrid (H): Classes meet in-person, Online with no scheduled meeting
- On-campus with virtual (CV): Classes meet in-person, Live Zoom meetings
- Hyflex (HF): Classes meet in-person, Live Zoom meetings
- On-campus (C): Classes meet in-person

This wide variety of class styles continues to serve students districtwide even beyond the Pandemic. More online class formats have the added bonus of reducing emissions from transportation, as students and instructors alike can participate in class remotely.

Both colleges each have a dedicated Distance Education department to best oversee their online courses and offer all the course formats listed above.

Both colleges also encourage an Online Teaching Certificate for all faculty, which is available through Canvas. There is also a Remote Instruction Certificate, which is a series of self-paced online workshops that focuses on the technology available to help faculty succeed as online instructors.

For students, there is an Online Degree Pathway, which allows students to get a 2-year degree completely online. This eliminates any potential emissions from transportation and is particularly helpful for students who are working full-time jobs or internships while getting their degree.

DRAFT

GOAL 3: ENERGY

Goal Description

Perform energy use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand District energy use as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual energy use and demand reduction goals and plan appropriate energy efficiency, demand reduction, or clean self-generation measures to achieve goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Energy Consumption Goal (Electricity and Gas)

The District performed an energy benchmark study in 2012-13 using the Chancellor's Office Energy Calculator. This became the baseline year for establishing the annual energy use reduction goals and targeting an overall annual reduction of 5%.

- **Energy Use Intensity (EUI):** This report introduces Energy Use Intensity, expressed in thousands of British Thermal Units per square foot (kBTU/SF), as an improved method for measuring energy conservation progress. Moving beyond separate raw electricity and natural gas consumption data, this standardized metric combines both energy sources into a single measurement that enables direct comparisons between facilities of different sizes and provides clearer insight into actual efficiency improvements regardless of building expansions or other facility changes.
- 2012-13 Baseline Districtwide EUI: 85.5 kBTU/SF
- 2023-24 Districtwide EUI: 55.9 kBTU/SF
- 35% reduction from baseline
- 16% reduction from previous year
- 2024-25 Districtwide EUI: 56.6 kBTU/SF
- 34% reduction from baseline
- 1% increase from previous year
- **Note on OEC:** The Orange Education Center facility on Batavia (OEC-BAT) was demolished several years ago. Current electricity usage at this site (670,830 kWh in 2024-25) is exclusively for environmental remediation equipment and is excluded from district performance calculations to maintain consistency with active educational facilities. OEC is a leased facility that had no energy consumption data in the 2012-13 baseline year. For these reasons OEC and OEC-BAT are excluded from the energy use intensity calculations above.

34%

Reduction in Energy Use
Intensity (kBTU/SF) since
2012-13

Electricity

Districtwide electricity usage has shown consistent efficiency improvements, with 2024-25 achieving a 35% reduction in electricity consumption since 2012-13 (35.7 kBTU/SF vs 54.9 kBTU/SF baseline) despite facility growth and increased campus activities post-pandemic.

Gas

Natural gas usage has fluctuated more significantly, with 2024-25 showing a 32% reduction from baseline (20.9 kBTU/SF vs 30.6 kBTU/SF in 2012-13).

B. Conduct Comprehensive Facility Energy Audits

- The District prepared a report of energy and gas consumption for all sites, using fiscal year 2012-2013 as a baseline year of measurement can be seen in Exhibit A (Electricity, Gas, and Water Consumption History FY 2012-2025).
- The District conducts an annual review of electricity and gas use from a detailed billing summary generated by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas).
- District compares the summary to the actual billing statements.
- District reviews the trends with the campus to discuss use and changes.

C. Summary of Current Accounts

Electricity Table of Summary Accounts

Site	Number of Accounts, and Number of Meters	Service Period
District Operations Center	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Santa Ana College	2 accounts; 2 meters	Mid-month
Santiago Canyon College	5 accounts; 5 meters	Mid-month
Orange Education Center	2 accounts; 2 meters	Mid-month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Digital Media Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Centennial Education Center	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month

The electricity consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 13 active accounts, as well as 1 de-activated account that is no longer in use since September of 2017 (SAC site).

Gas Table of Summary Accounts

Site	Number of Accounts, And number of meters	Service Period
District Operations Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Santa Ana College	2 accounts; 2 meters	Beginning of the month
Santiago Canyon College	2 accounts; 2 meters	End of the month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
Digital Media Center	1 account; 1 meter	End of the month

Centennial Education Center	1 account; 1 meter	Beginning of the month
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The gas consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 8 active accounts, as well as 2 de-activated accounts that are no longer in use: OEC site since March of 2018 and one account from SAC since July 2022.

D. Methodology for Maintaining and Monitoring Electricity and Gas Consumption

The District tracks consumption/use history from 2010 to current for each site and accounts for both electricity and gas. The District continues to collect the data consumption history to generate trending reports and summarize the overall total use of each account.

The District obtains copies of the electricity and gas billing statements for comparisons and verification of the reports. SoCalGas provides up to 25 months of past billing statement online.

SCE billing statements were not available online. Therefore, copies of the billing statements were obtained from the Accounts Payable Department, and these were only available from 2015 to current.

E. Electricity and Gas Consumption Trends (See Exhibit A - Electricity, Gas, and Water Consumption History FY 2012-2025)

The District has collected utility sites as noted in attached Exhibit A and can now be evaluated for trends on a monthly, quarterly, annually and seasonal basis.

Electricity

Typically, for all the sites, the electricity consumption begins to increase in June and gradually increases through October. Summer months demand more kilowatts due to an increased use in cooling for buildings.

Gas

Gas use typically begins to increase around September through March. These winter months will demand more therms for the use of the heating system.

F. Recommendations to Improve Consumption Management

To improve and enhance the management of utility consumption at sites, the District and the Colleges continue to review utility bills on a regular basis (i.e., monthly, quarterly, annually) to monitor consumption and any anomalies in billing.

- Once a billing statement has been received by the Accounts Payable Department at the District office, it is very important that the department reaches out to the campus and inquires if there was a reason for an increase of the service.
- A note to the actual billing statement shall be annotated for future reference.
- The District summarizes the usage history on an annual basis and reviews this with the colleges. The District is currently in the process of updating usage tracking and developing reporting tools to improve usage and cost monitoring, visualization, and budgeting.

G. Energy Efficiency Improvements

Santa Ana College

Santiago Canyon College completed two important energy-saving projects during 2024–2025 to reduce electricity costs and environmental impact:

- **Building D Heating and Air Conditioning Upgrades:** Replaced old, inefficient heating and cooling systems with modern, energy-saving equipment that uses less electricity while keeping buildings more comfortable.
- **Building G Pipe Insulation Improvements:** Added new insulation around water pipes in the heating and cooling system to prevent energy waste and help equipment run more efficiently.

Upcoming Projects

Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College has three energy-saving projects planned for completion by the next report:

- **Pool Equipment Upgrades:** Installing new energy-efficient pool pumps, heaters, and filtration systems to reduce electricity costs for pool operations.
- **Building Heating, Cooling, and Roof Improvements:** Upgrading heating and air conditioning systems in multiple buildings and installing special "cool" roofs that reflect heat to keep buildings naturally cooler.
- **Building G Heating and Cooling Replacement:** Installing a completely new, energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system.

District Office

The District Office has two energy-saving projects planned:

- **Air Flow Control Upgrades:** Installing new energy-efficient valves that better control air temperature and flow throughout the building, reducing wasted energy.
- **DOC Window Replacement:** Replacing all windows to improve solar heat load management and prevent heat losses through upgraded gaskets and seals.

GOAL 4: FACILITIES DESIGN & OPERATION

Goal Description

Design and construct all major capital projects and renovations to meet LEED Silver “equivalent” standard and operate facilities to meet solid waste, energy, and water use reduction goals. Employ sustainable landscaping practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Facilities Design

There have been no new major construction projects to report during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years. The potential projects outlined below represent the District's ongoing commitment to sustainable infrastructure development with construction planned in the coming years, contingent on bond funding. For more detailed information and the full Facilities Master Plan, visit:

<https://rsccd.edu/Departments/Construction-Services/Pages/2022-Facilities-Master-Plan-Updates.aspx>

All projects will be constructed to meet California's CalGreen Building Standards Code (CALGreen), which mandates sustainable design and construction practices including water efficiency, energy performance, material conservation, and indoor environmental quality. New construction projects will achieve LEED Silver equivalence or higher, meaning buildings will incorporate advanced energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, optimized water usage, enhanced indoor air quality, and reduced environmental impact throughout their lifecycle.

Future Projects

Districtwide

- Fire Protection Improvements - Updated fire safety systems with modern, efficient technologies
- Safety and Technology Improvements – Modern electronic system upgrades
- ADA Transition Plan Corrections - Accessibility improvements
- Sustainability & Stormwater Improvements - Environmental compliance and green infrastructure projects addressing water management and sustainable practices

Santa Ana College

- Continuing Education Center Renovation/Redevelopment - Complete renovation of facility
- Applied Technology Center - New 60,000 sq ft building for welding, auto diesel, and manufacturing labs
- Bristol & 17th Street Development - New 14,615 sq ft facility for culinary programs
- Arts and Workforce Building - New 72,142 sq ft building with 300-400 seat theater for performing arts, fashion, visual arts, and digital media programs

Santiago Canyon College

- Middle College High School Partnership with Orange Unified School District - New 80,000 sq ft facility for 1,000 students

- Career & Technical Education Building - New 67,700 sq ft building focused on health sciences and medical careers
- Veterans and Student Life Center - New 57,000 sq ft facility with student services, health, dining, and campus store
- Building E Reconfiguration/Modernization - Optimize 37,034 sq ft for student services
- Science Center Reconfiguration/Modernization - Convert classrooms to labs for biology, chemistry, and water sciences programs, potentially BioTechnology program
- Building D Reconfiguration/Modernization/Potential Expansion for Performing Arts - Modernize existing performing arts spaces

District Office

- HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection system upgrades
- Exterior enclosure, window replacement, and seismic upgrades - Enhanced building envelope performance for improved safety and energy efficiency

GOAL 5: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Goal Description

Continue to implement the landfill diversion program, expand it to include all sectors of recycling and waste reduction to landfills, and strive to meet the statewide landfill-recycling goal of 75% by 2020.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Districtwide

- CR&R began providing disposal services for the District in 2024, supplying monthly and annual diversion reports so that the District can monitor the amount of waste generated for trash, recycling, and organics. Waste diversion is the practice of redirecting materials away from landfills through recycling, composting, and reuse programs. This reduces the environmental impact of waste disposal, conserves natural resources, and supports circular economy principles by keeping materials in productive use. Common diverted items include paper products, cardboard, plastic containers, glass bottles, aluminum cans, organic materials like food scraps and yard trimmings, electronics, batteries, and various recyclable materials that can be processed into new products rather than becoming landfill waste. The table below shows the 2024 diversion report for the areas that serve the campuses.

2024 Districtwide Waste Diversion Report

Location	Tons Collected	Tons Diverted	% Waste Diverted from Landfill
Centennial Education Center	82.29	33.42	41%
Digital Media Center	20.28	9.40	46%
Santa Ana College	596.70	270.17	45%
Operations Center	50.70	23.49	46%
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	48.36	11.65	24%
Santiago Canyon College	332.67	80.69	24%
Total	1131.00	428.82	38%

- The District provides Hydration Stations map for both campuses, encouraging the campus community to bring reusable water bottles to refill on campus and reduce single-use plastic waste.

Santa Ana College

- The Centennial Education Center replaced the existing drinking fountains with two new drinking fountains featuring high and low height options for accessibility and integrated bottle filling stations to encourage reusable water bottle use and reduce single-use plastic waste.

Image of the new bottle filling station below.



GOAL 6: SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Goal Description

Implement efforts to source campus food, materials, supplies, information technology, equipment, and resources from organizations committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

A. Green Purchasing

Districtwide

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) has initiated engagement with vendors to explore strategies for promoting and procuring sustainable products across the district. A number of vendors currently serving the district have expanded their offerings of environmentally preferable products, and RSCCD has actively capitalized on these developments. The district has begun requesting detailed reports from vendors outlining the metrics and number of sustainable products purchased. RSCCD continues to utilize services that refurbish and recycle toner cartridges to help reduce plastic waste by the district. The district is also prioritizing the procurement of locally stocked products, which enables deliveries to be made using electric vehicles and reduce our carbon footprint. In addition to prioritizing local procurement the district has also started requesting that products be packaged in a more sustainable material so that excess waste can be eliminated reducing the total carbon emissions from the packaging and transportation of the orders.

- Purchased less toxic cleaning solutions.
- LED lighting has reduced hazardous waste and the need to replace lamps.
- Continue to ensure paper products specified contain more recycled product.
- Continue to replace equipment with more energy efficient equipment such as copy machines, refrigerators, computers, etc.
- Paper used throughout the District contains at least 30% recycled content.
- Paper towels are Green Seal GS-1 Certified, 100% recycled content, 65% post-consumer recycled content
- The District Purchasing Services Department encourages all departments to consider sustainable goods when feasible. Purchasing Services share brochures and fliers from District vendors advertising sustainable products for consideration.
- Purchasing Services works closely with the Publications department when purchasing printing supplies and paper.
- All used printer cartridges are sent to a recycling program which gives back to the District in points for purchasing printers and cartridges.

Below are examples of some of the products and sustainable delivery options utilized Districtwide:



GOAL 7: TRANSPORTATION

Goal Description

Reduce the reliance of students, faculty, and staff on single occupancy vehicle commutes by 5 percent within the next five years and encourage the use of low and zero emissions vehicles.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Improve Campus Fleet & Travel

Electric and Hybrid Vehicles

District Operations Center

- One Toyota Prius (2013)

Santa Ana College

- One Honda Hybrid (2007)
- One Toyota Prius (2013)
- Two Toyota Prius (2016)
- Two Hyundai EVs (2021)
- One Ford Escape Hybrids (2022)

Santiago Canyon College

- One Toyota Prius (2014)
- One Toyota Prius (2017)
- Two new electric utility carts to replace failed carts



B. Encourage Low and Zero Emissions Vehicles for Commuters

Districtwide

- Districtwide EV charging stations have played a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting clean transportation. Since 2015, EV charging stations have saved approximately 209,584 kg of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the emissions from consuming 37,464

gallons of gas. Usage of the EV charging stations has grown significantly with 21,557 total charging sessions since 2014 and expanding from a single station to nine stations. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, charging stations delivered 85,059 kWh of energy and increased to 125,394 kWh in 2024-25, supporting the District's commitment to sustainability.

- The District publishes Bicycle Rack and EV Charging Station locations map for both campuses, encouraging the campus community to ride their bikes or drive EVs to campus and reduce single-occupancy, emissions-producing vehicles on the roads.

Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College provides students with a variety of transportation options, including on-campus parking permits and discounted Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) bus passes. During the current biennial reporting period, the College observed a significant shift in student transportation choices. Parking permit purchases declined from 10,305 in the 2023-24 academic year to 8,390 in 2024-25, reflecting a notable reduction in demand for on-campus parking. Conversely, student participation in the OCTA bus pass program increased from 2,476 students in 2023-24 to 2,864 students in 2024-25. This trend reflects a positive shift, with more students embracing sustainable and flexible transportation options such as the OCTA bus pass program, walking, carpooling, biking, and the convenience of hybrid or fully online classes that reduce the need for on-campus transportation.

GOAL 8: WATER MANAGEMENT

Goal Description

Perform water use benchmarking studies at both campuses and the District Office to better understand usage as compared to similar facilities and community college peers. Based on the results, establish annual water use reduction goals and plan appropriate measures to achieve goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Establish Water Conservation Goals

- 2012-13 was used as a baseline year for comparison and the District established a 5% annual water reduction use.
- **Water Use Intensity (WUI):** This report introduces Water Use Intensity, expressed in gallons per square foot (Gallons/SF), as an improved method for measuring water conservation progress. Moving beyond raw consumption data, this standardized metric enables direct comparisons between facilities of different sizes and provides clearer insight into actual efficiency improvements regardless of building expansions or other facility changes.
- 2012-13 Baseline Districtwide WUI: 80.0 Gallons/SF
- 2023-24 Districtwide WUI: 38.1 Gallons/SF
- 52% reduction from baseline
- 2% increase from previous year
- 2024-25 Districtwide WUI: 40.8 Gallons/SF
- 49% reduction from baseline
- 7% increase from previous year
- **Note on OEC:** The Orange Education Center facility on Batavia (OEC-BAT) was demolished several years ago and has no current water usage. OEC is a leased facility that had no water consumption data in the 2012-13 baseline year. For these reasons OEC and OEC-BAT are excluded from the water use intensity calculations above.

49%

Reduction in Water Use
Intensity (Gallons/SF)
since 2012-13

B. Conduct a Comprehensive Facility Water Audits

- Completed benchmark studies for all District sites.
- Established the fiscal year 2012-13 as the baseline year for water use consumption analysis, consistent with the electricity and gas baseline year (See Exhibit A).
- The District conducts an annual review of water utility bills and reviews the trends with the campus to discuss use and changes.

C. Summary of Accounts

Table of Summary Accounts:

Site	Water Utility Agency	Number of Accounts, and number of meters	2 Month Service Period *exception; monthly
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District Operations Center	City of Santa Ana	1 account; 1 meter	Mid-month
Santa Ana College	City of Santa Ana	10 accounts; 10 meters	Mid-month (4) End of Month (6)
Santiago Canyon College	City of Orange	3 accounts; 5 meters	End of Month
Orange County Education Center	City of Orange	2 accounts; 3 meters	End of Month
Criminal Justice Academies (formerly Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy)	Irvine Ranch Water District	5 accounts; 5 meters	Mid-month *
Digital Media Center	City of Santa Ana	2 accounts; 2 meters	End of Month
Centennial Education Center	City of Santa Ana	2 accounts; 2 meters	Beginning of the Month

- The water consumption summary 2012 to 2025 (Exhibit A) includes 25 active accounts.
- The District's sites are within three water utility agencies: City of Santa Ana, City of Orange, and Irvine Water Ranch Water District.
- The billing cycles are either at the beginning of the month, mid-month, or at the end of the month, and services are being billed either monthly or bi-monthly.

D. Water Summary Details

City of Santa Ana

- Services to District Operations Center, Santa Ana College, Centennial Education Center, and Digital Media Center
- Bills are available online up to 6 months.
- Bills from 2015 to 2020 were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

Irvine Ranch Water District

- Services to Orange County Regional Sheriff's Regional Training Academy
- Bills from 2015 to current were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

City of Orange

- Services to Santiago Canyon College and Orange Education Center
- Bills are available online for 24 months.
- Bills from 2015 to 2020 were downloaded. Bills from 2021 to current were received from accounting.

Note, all three water utility agencies do not offer the capability to export the water usage history, and therefore all collected data is tracked manually by the District.

E. Maintaining a Master File

Water utility data is entered from the billing statements which includes the following:

- Date of Services; beginning date and end date
- Number of days of services
- Meter Read Date; beginning date and end date
- Total CCF (this is the difference between the two meter read dates)
- Total Gallons (the total CCF multiply by 748)
- Daily Average by Gallons
- Charges; various from water agencies, but all the rates and charges were entered.
- Billing Date (the date the billing statement was issued)

F. Water Trends

For each site it appears that spikes in water usage occur seasonally and when there are irrigation leaks and or other types of plumbing line breaks and repairs occur.

G. Recommendations to Improve Reporting of the Usage History

Open communication with the campus and District is very important. In order to understand the usage and consumption patterns, all respective parties from the campuses to the District, must communicate with one another to proactively monitor utilities.

- Campus or other building operators should notify the District when a leak occurs and note the duration.
- The District office can inform the Colleges of spikes in the water billing statement, which may lead to investigation of unknown irrigation leaks.
- District logs and tracks events for future reference and provides water use history data.

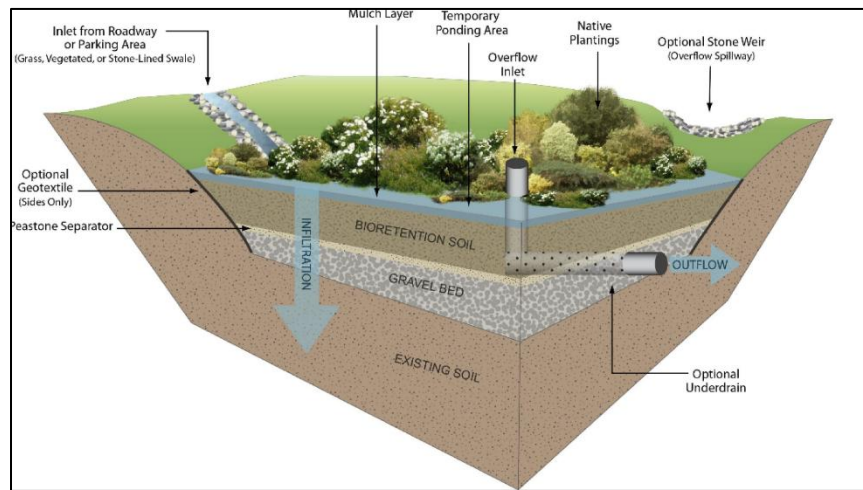
H. Implement Water Conservation Strategies

Several water conservation measures have been implemented throughout the District and are included in the Facility Design Standard Guidelines.

I. Reduce Storm Water, Sewer Discharges, and Water Pollution

Santiago Canyon College

Santiago Canyon College installed a new bioswale (vegetated water channel) and filtration system at the campus entrance to naturally manage stormwater runoff. This shallow, plant-filled channel captures and filters rainwater before it enters storm drains, removing pollutants like sediment, oils, and excess nutrients, allowing clean water to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies. The bioswale also reduces flooding by slowing down stormwater flow, creates habitat for pollinators and wildlife, helps cool the surrounding area, enhances the college's climate resilience, and improves the campus appearance with attractive native vegetation. Below is a diagram indicating the features of a bioswale.



J. Adopt Sustainable Landscaping Practices

Districtwide

- The District adheres to landscape material design standards updated in 2020 which includes California native plants, drought resistant, and water-wise landscaping practices.
- All new buildings incorporate the Facility Designs Standards which require low water use plants and irrigation systems with controllers to reduce and monitor water use.
- All new construction will comply with California Green Building Code.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rancho Santiago Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and all access to institutional programs and activities.

The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

The Chancellor shall establish administrative procedures that ensure all members of the college community can present complaints regarding alleged violations of this policy and have their complaints heard in accordance with the Title 5 regulations and those of other agencies that administer state and federal laws regarding nondiscrimination.

No District funds shall ever be used for membership, or for any participation involving financial payment or contribution on behalf of the District or any individual employed by or associated with it, to any private organization whose membership practices are discriminatory on the basis of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or because of his or her association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to District's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator. RSCCD Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Jean Estevez, 2323 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706, 714-480-7404.

**EXHIBIT A: ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND WATER CONSUMPTION
HISTORY FY 2012-2025**

DRAFT