RANCHO SANTIAGO
Community College District

2025 Sustainability Plan

Rancho Santiago Community College District

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Executive Summary

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) is one of the largest community college districts in California, comprised of two colleges: Santa Ana College (SAC) and Santiago Canyon College (SCC), two centers: Centennial Education Center (CEC) and Orange Education Center (OEC), and additional sites: Digital Media Center (DMC), Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy (OCSRTA), and District Operations Center (DOC). These locations make up 1.4 million gross square feet of building space, not including landscaped areas, paved areas and parking lots. The Sustainable RSCCD Committee (SRC) has prepared the Sustainability Plan (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan") to cover the priorities, goals, and activities across RSCCD.

Sustainability is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

RSCCD recognizes the environmental, economic, and social benefits of resource efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, the State of California has been on the forefront of efforts in establishing aggressive policies and standards for environmental protection and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. The effects of climate change of the present and near future make it imperative for community colleges to develop an organized, comprehensive plan that incorporates sustainability, state regulations, available resources and complimentary programs, and best practices.

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 Plan 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.

The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to prepare RSCCD for the anticipated environmental and regulatory challenges brought about by pollution and climate change, to guide RSCCD and community towards becoming more sustainable. The Plan articulates the vision, goals, and objectives established by the SRC for various areas of sustainability, as well as the strategies to meet these goals. The SRC has developed the Plan in coordination with RSCCD stakeholders, including students, faculty, and staff, to ensure that the Plan meets the different needs of RSCCD. The SRC will update the Plan as necessary to align with the districtwide planning cycle.

Background

History of Sustainability Efforts to Date

RSCCD has been increasingly proactive in the area of sustainability since the implementation of the first RSCCD Sustainability Plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in 2015. In 2013, the Board of Trustees established a Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) for Sustainable Practices (BP 6012, AR 6012), updated in 2021, and a Board Policy for Energy and Water Conservation (BP 6013). These practices are incorporated in both RSCCD's Educational Master Plan and Facilities Master Plan.

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee, which consists of faculty, staff and students representing the different campus stakeholders, collaborated and developed the 2025 Sustainability Plan. The Committee is responsible for developing and implementing sustainability programs and projects described in the Plan to achieve RSCCD's sustainability goals.

California Community Colleges Board of Governors' Climate Action and Sustainability Policy

The California Community Colleges has been a bold proponent of climate actions, energy conservation and other sustainability measures. In 2019, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges adopted the Climate Change and Sustainability Policy, which provided systemwide goals and guidance to align with the key climate change strategy pillars of conservation, sustainability and reducing energy consumption.

Building on this important work, the updated Climate Action and Sustainability Framework provides eight revised goals and recommendations for the 73 California community college districts to track progress towards the goals for 2025, 2030 and 2035, the target year for the state of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 100% below the baseline.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors' Climate Action and Sustainability Goals have been included in Appendix A. The Plan utilized the categories outlined in the Board of Governors' Goals (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, Green Buildings, Energy, Water, Waste, Purchasing and Procurement, Transportation, and Food Systems) to guide the development of 7 districtwide categories and respective goals, presented under the section titled, "Vision Statement and Goals". See Appendix B for Related State of California Policies which work in tandem with the Board of Governors' Goals to further encourage sustainable progress.

Development of the 2025 Sustainability Plan

The development of this 2025 Sustainability Plan builds upon the foundation established by the 2015 Sustainability Plan, which had set ambitious goals but faced challenges in defining clear mechanisms for tracking and reporting progress in its implementation. A matrix was created to align the 2025 Plan's goals and initiatives with evolving state regulations and institutional policies, ensuring feasibility and compliance. These included the BP 6012, AR 6012 and the 2021 California Community Colleges Board of Governors' Climate Action and Sustainability Framework and other state regulations (see Appendices A and B). A Sustainability Plan Workgroup was formed within the Sustainable RSCCD Committee, and the matrix was used by the Workgroup to approach the development and refinement of the Plan. The working draft was further reviewed and revised through feedback from several key groups, including the Sustainable RSCCD Committee, SAC & SCC Facilities & Safety Committees, the RSCCD Physical Resources Committee, and a Districtwide Town Hall. This collaborative process led to a well-aligned, updated plan that received final approval from the Sustainable RSCCD Committee and the RSCCD Board of Trustees.

Vision Statement and Goals

The Sustainable RSCCD Committee has defined the following areas of sustainability and goals led by the Plan's 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.*

Area of Sustainability	Established Goal
Academics	Support college faculty to incorporate environmental issues and sustainable practices into curriculum and developing academic programs with an emphasis on sustainability.
Engagement	Support participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement for students, staff, and community members.
Energy	Support projects and operations which improve the sustainability of campus energy management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage intensity, and supply energy from renewable sources or onsite generation.
Water	Support projects and operations which reduce water use intensity and improve water quality.
Facilities Planning, Design, & Construction	Incorporate sustainable design and practices for renovations and construction.
Transportation	Support sustainable transportation and telecommuting options for students, faculty, and staff. Promote alternative energy vehicle fleet.
Procurement & Waste	Support efforts to procure socially and environmentally responsible products. Support waste minimization and diversion from landfill.

Measurable Outcomes

RSCCD actively pursues projects and progress in various areas of sustainability. Every two years, the Sustainable RSCCD Committee develops and publishes a Sustainability Report, in which they will track and report the following measurable outcomes.

Area of Sustainability	Measurable Outcome
Academics	Report the new and ongoing sustainability-focused and inclusive course offerings, programs, and projects.
Engagement	Report the number of sustainability focused student organizations and events, outreach materials, professional development, and community partnerships.
Energy	Monitor energy use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions. Report projects which improve energy efficiency, reduce natural gas usage, and/or provide clean energy.
Water	Monitor water use intensity. Report projects and practices which improve water use intensity and water quality.
Facilities Planning, Design, & Construction	Report construction and renovation projects and their sustainable practices and features.
Transportation	Report projects supporting sustainable transportation and number of hybrid or remote course offerings. Track campus fleet inventory by fuel type.
Procurement & Waste	Monitor use of sustainable products and efforts to increase sustainable procurement practices. Monitor the amount of waste diverted from landfill and efforts to reduce waste.

Academics

The primary purpose of the California Community College system is to educate students and foster their success by preparing them for the careers of tomorrow. The mission of Rancho Santiago CCD is to deliver high quality instruction to students both within and beyond traditional geographical boundaries and to provide an open and welcoming culture that supports student completion and success. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and RSCCD has a responsibility to advance current and future generations toward a sustainable future.

Goal

Support college faculty to incorporate environmental issues and sustainable practices into curriculum and develop academic programs with an emphasis on sustainability.

Actions

Academic Courses – Increase the number of courses which are focused on or inclusive of sustainability concepts.

Undergraduate Programs – Continue to provide and increase the number of sustainability-focused major, degree, certificate, concentration, and/or minor programs. Develop a sustainability-focused bachelor's degree program.

Living Laboratory Projects – Continue to provide and increase the number of living laboratory projects.

Measurable Outcomes

Report the new and ongoing sustainability-focused and inclusive course offerings, programs, and projects.

Actions

Academic Courses

To better prepare its students to pursue a career path and become responsible stewards of the environment, RSCCD will strive to integrate sustainability into existing course curricula and promote new and existing courses with emphasis on sustainability. See the Sustainability Reports for the current list of sustainability-focused and -inclusive courses, and refer to the course catalog for current offerings.

Undergraduate Programs

RSCCD offers several sustainability-related degree and certificate programs that incorporate principles of sustainability through the course curriculum, projects, and assignments. The faculty at Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College continue to develop and propose additional career-oriented certificate and degree programs inclusive of environmental sustainability.

Living Laboratory Projects

In addition, as RSCCD moves forward with redesigning and retrofitting its campuses and facilities in more sustainable ways, it will strive to utilize these projects as hands-on learning opportunities for students. These living laboratory projects merge academics and campus facilities management to provide students with real-world skills and, for RSCCD, a path to meet its sustainability goals. Through sustainability initiatives, faculty, staff, administrators, and students will have opportunities to collaborate, participate, and serve as effective agents for positive change.

Engagement

The sustainability of a college is highly dependent on the actions of individual students, faculty, administration, and staff. Fostering a campus culture centered on environmental sustainability and positively influencing behavior are crucial to the overall success of these programs. It is important to inform the campus and local community of RSCCD's progress, as well as to recognize its achievements and contributions to sustainability.

Goal

Support participation in and awareness of sustainability issues through effective education and engagement for students, staff, and community members.

Actions

Student Life – Support the colleges to involve student groups in sustainability events and expand other projects and events that promote sustainable practices.

Professional Development and Training – Foster environmental awareness by incorporating environmental and sustainability issues into professional development workshops and materials for faculty and staff.

Partnerships and Outreach – Support sustainability events and outreach with the community. Support partnerships that are focused on sustainability with community organizations.

Measurable Outcomes

Report the number of sustainability focused student organizations and events, outreach materials, professional development, and community partnerships.

Actions

Student Life

RSCCD will engage student organizations and clubs as well as support student activities designed to improve the sustainability of the campus. The Plan will support and report on activities which promote environmental sustainability and social responsibility, including but not limited to: meetings, events, hosting speakers, volunteer clean ups, clothing swaps, and collection drives. The Associated Student Governments (ASGs) of Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College have each established student leadership positions dedicated to sustainability efforts. These students serve on the Sustainable RSCCD Committee as sustainability advocates for their student body, promote sustainability efforts within their ASG, and promote and gain involvement of students in environmental issues and sustainability initiatives on campus.

Professional Development and Training

The Plan will support events and opportunities for staff and faculty to continuously learn about sustainable practices, policies, and technologies which can contribute to personal and professional development. Potential opportunities include e-waste events, compost pickup events, and clothing drives which educate and engage staff and faculty on sustainable processes. Educational field trips are also encouraged, such as tours of the local landfill, waste sorting at the materials recovery facility, wastewater "Toilet to Tap" processes at water districts, waterwise gardens, and water management at the metropolitan water district.

Partnerships and Outreach

The Plan supports the Colleges in fostering partnerships with local organizations to build community support for sustainable initiatives. The Colleges can also advocate for more support from state and federal funding or apply for engagement opportunities provided by the state and local governments in service of sustainability education and engagement.

Energy

Improving energy efficiency and conservation is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce a campus's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Electrifying energy use can reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution without compromising comfort.

Goal

Support projects and operations which improve sustainable energy management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage intensity, and supply energy from renewable sources or onsite generation.

Actions

Energy Use – Strive to continuously improve energy conservation efficiency.

Clean and Renewable Energy – Explore and implement, when feasible, campus electrification, onsite renewable energy generation and storage technology, and clean energy procurement from the electric grid.

Measurable Outcomes

Benchmark and monitor energy use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions. Report projects which improve energy efficiency, reduce natural gas usage, and/or provide clean energy.

Actions

Energy Use

In alignment with the California Community Colleges Climate Action and Sustainability, the Plan will attempt to decrease districtwide energy use intensity compared to the 2012-13 baseline established in the 2015 Sustainability Plan and reevaluate benchmark in context of major campus expansions. Energy use intensity is calculated as the energy, both electricity and natural gas, used per area of building space.

These reduction goals will be achieved through the implementation of energy conservation and efficiency programs and projects, including but not limited to:

- Benchmark energy use intensity for each building.
- Conduct comprehensive facility energy audits.
- Install and upgrade to energy-efficient equipment:
  - Efficient Lighting and Lighting Controls
  - Energy Efficient HVAC Systems
- Optimize building and equipment operating schedules and temperature set points using computerized Energy Management Systems (EMS), which provide centralized reporting and control of use of natural gas, electricity, or other energy resources to meet the heating, cooling, and lighting needs of the buildings.
- Pursue commissioning and continuous optimization for all buildings.
- Evaluate load-shifting technologies.
- Train maintenance and operations staff on evolving best practices related to equipment, systems, and operational improvements.

Clean and Renewable Energy

The Plan supports the exploration and implementation, when feasible, of cleaner energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to strive toward the California Community Colleges Climate Action and Sustainability Goals to:

- Attempt to electrify buildings and equipment to reduce the use of natural gas in buildings.
  - For example, electrify HVAC systems and pool heaters.
- Attempt to achieve Net Zero Energy Campus status.
  - Explore onsite renewable energy generation and storage technology and procure clean energy from the grid.

Water

Water conservation is an important component of sustainability and is pursued by RSCCD. Long-term concerns for drought conditions in California make water conservation imperative. RSCCD strives to reduce potable water use as well as wastewater discharges to both the sewer and storm water systems. In addition, the Plan strives to reduce discharge and improve quality of water runoff through various landscaping practices and green infrastructure projects.

Goal

Support projects and operations which reduce water use intensity and improve water quality.

Actions

Water Use – Strive to reduce water consumption through sustainable practices, such as low flow water fixtures and landscape irrigation design and operations.

Water Quality – Manage grounds organically, and explore alternative methods for managing insect populations, weed control, and plant nutrition when feasible to reduce water pollution. Promote sustainable storm water management projects.

Measurable Outcomes

Benchmark and monitor water use intensity. Report projects and practices which improve water use intensity and water quality.

Actions

Water Use

In alignment with the California Community Colleges Climate Action and Sustainability Goals, the Plan attempts to continuously reduce water use intensity, relative to development and growth. This can be achieved through a variety of water conservation efforts, such as the implementation of:

- Low-flow fixtures and water efficient equipment
- Native and drought-tolerant landscaping
- Potential non-potable water resources
- A landscape zoning map and irrigation metering strategy

Water Quality

Organic Groundskeeping – In order to reduce water runoff pollution, campus grounds will be managed organically when feasible, by minimizing chemical fertilizers and pesticide use. Support the use of alternative methods for managing insect populations, weed control, and plant nutrition when feasible.

Stormwater Management – Drought and long dry seasons followed by frequent, sometimes heavy rains contribute to the flushing of pollutants into the Santa Ana River and the Pacific Ocean. The Plan supports the incorporation of best management practices and natural processes to filter and retain the flow of storm water, such as:

- Implement green infrastructure and low impact development such as bioswales and rain gardens to collect and percolate water on campuses. Such practices also improve the quality and quantity of recharged groundwater and reduce the amount of runoff from large, paved areas.
- Explore best practices recommended by the California Community Colleges Climate Action and Sustainability Goals, such as the California Community College Model Stormwater Management Program.
- Implement best practices and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements.

Facilities Planning, Design, & Construction

Construction and renovation of new and existing facilities provides a significant opportunity to reduce environmental impacts through sustainable building practices. RSCCD will incorporate energy and resource efficient Green Building practices in the design and construction of new and renovated facilities.

Goal

Incorporate sustainable design and construction practices for new and renovated facilities.

Actions

Design and Construction – New buildings shall be designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Building Design and Construction (LEED BD+C) Silver Equivalent. Major capital projects, whether new construction or renovation projects, shall meet the California Code of Regulations Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen).

Innovation – Continue to explore innovative ways to incorporate sustainable practices beyond LEED or CALGreen Code.

Measurable Outcomes

Report sustainable practices and features of new and renovated facilities.

Actions

Design and Construction

Currently, RSCCD requires that all major capital projects and renovations meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver equivalent standard and utilize Southern California Edison's "Savings by Design" program. RSCCD follows these and other mandated and voluntary sustainable standards, such as CALGreen Code, and incorporates features such as efficient landscaping, erosion control systems, low-flow plumbing fixtures, efficient HVAC equipment, Energy Management Systems, efficient building envelope, low VOC (volatile organic compound) painting and coating, low wattage LED lighting, lighting controls, and daylight harvesting strategies.

All new construction projects contain construction waste management specifications requiring that contractors separate recyclable material from the construction waste. Waste is separated on-site in three categories: re-use or recycle on-site, transport to approved recyclers, and transport to legally designated landfills.

Innovation

RSCCD will explore innovative ways to incorporate sustainable practices beyond LEED Silver practices or CALGreen Code, such as pursuing goals outlined in the California Community College Chancellor's Office's Climate Action and Sustainability Goals:

- Encourage new buildings to be built in accordance with LEED or WELL Gold principles.
- Encourage construction of new buildings and major renovations as Zero Net Energy (ZNE).
- Encourage construction of new buildings as Zero Carbon.

Transportation

In California, transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. For this reason, Rancho Santiago CCD strives to purchase more efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels and support sustainable transportation options for students, faculty, and staff commuting to the campuses. The Plan supports the use of low and zero emissions vehicles, public transportation, carpooling, walking, cycling, and telecommuting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air quality, and minimize the infrastructure costs related to parking.

Goal

Support sustainable transportation and telecommuting options for students, faculty, and staff. Promote alternative energy vehicle fleet.

Actions

Support for Sustainable Transportation – Continue to promote the use of sustainable transportation, including public transit, walking, biking, carpooling, EV/hybrid vehicles, and telecommuting options among students, faculty, and staff.

Campus Fleet – Develop districtwide plan to allocate resources and infrastructure to increase alternative energy and zero emissions vehicles in campus fleet.

Measurable Outcomes

Report projects supporting sustainable transportation and number of hybrid or remote course offerings. Track campus fleet inventory by fuel type.

Actions

Support for Sustainable Transportation

Public transportation and ride sharing options – The RSCCD Sustainability Committee will continue to work with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to improve bus service to both District campuses and offer discounted transit passes for RSCCD students and employees. Currently, the colleges are served by several OCTA bus routes with services to surrounding metropolitan areas. In addition, several routes provide transit connections with major bus and train services. The Plan will explore supporting carpooling through providing parking spaces in preferably located areas for carpools.

Bicycle use – Support measures such as bike racks, bike lockers or other secure storage, and updated campus maps of bike racks.

EV charging stations – Promote the use of low and zero emissions vehicles for commutes to campus. In accordance with the California Green Building Code, all capital improvement projects must include infrastructure for electric vehicle charging. Through the funding of new capital projects, the Plan will increase the availability of electric vehicle charging stations for commuters with plug-in electric and hybrid vehicles.

Telecommuting – The Plan will continue to support the availability of distance learning course offerings. The Plan supports workplace flexibilities to better support employees, students, and District operations. RSCCD recognizes the benefits of flexible work options for employees when both program and employee personal needs can be met. Management, confidential, and classified staff are eligible to request remote work assignments, with a maximum of up to two full workdays per work week.

Campus Fleet

RSCCD continues to upgrade its campus fleet with more fuel-efficient vehicles as they are replaced and promotes the use of low and zero emissions vehicles for commutes to campus. RSCCD will develop a plan to allocate resources and infrastructure to pursue the California Community Colleges statewide goals of owning and purchasing zero emissions vehicles.

Procurement & Waste

The Plan promotes green purchasing practices to meet the goals of environmental, economic, and social sustainability and to use its market power to influence suppliers to be more sustainable. The Plan strives to minimize solid waste to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and landfill deposits. If designed and implemented effectively, minimizing solid waste can save RSCCD money and create revenue streams that can be reinvested in the campus. The Plan will employ the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" in its solid waste reduction program.

Goal

Support efforts to procure socially and environmentally responsible products. Support waste minimization and diversion from landfill.

Actions

Sustainable Purchasing – Implement efforts to source products from organizations committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Waste Minimization and Diversion – Conduct annual audits of solid waste to monitor the reduction and diversion of waste sent to the landfill.

Measurable Outcomes

Monitor use of sustainable products and efforts to increase sustainable procurement practices. Monitor the amount of waste diverted from landfill and efforts to reduce waste.

Actions

Sustainable Purchasing

The Plan supports taking advantage of sustainable options provided by vendors, as well as acknowledge and prioritize doing business with vendors which reduce waste, re-purpose recycled material, or support other environmentally friendly practices in the provision of goods or services. The Plan supports the pursuit of a systemwide impact on sustainable purchasing in encouraging the California Community Colleges Foundation and Statewide Department of General Services to pursue cooperative RFPs including sustainability. The Plan supports the adoption of a sustainable procurement policy and administrative regulation, including the following:

Recycled Content and Packaging – Purchase products manufactured with post-consumer recycled materials when financially viable.

Electronics Purchasing – Purchase EPEAT and/or Energy Star certified appliances, machines, and computers whenever available.

Paper Purchasing – Reduce paper consumption and purchase paper and janitorial paper products with the highest recycled content whenever possible.

Cleaning Products – Purchase custodial chemical products certified green with ecolabels such as GreenSeal.

Food Products – Explore healthier cafeteria food options, including vegan, vegetarian, organic, and locally produced items. The Plan also supports the purchase of food products which use reduced plastic or eliminate unnecessary packaging.

Waste Minimization and Diversion

The Plan will monitor progress aligned with statewide waste reduction efforts by utilizing the diversion reports provided by CR&R, RSCCD's contracted waste hauler since 2024. CR&R supports sorting, education and engagement of campus users, and continuing meetings with RSCCD for improvement.

Waste Sorting – Support education, engagement, and opportunities for sorting waste between recycling, organics recycling (yard and food waste), and landfill waste receptacles among campus users. Promote practices to dispose of all hazardous waste safely and properly and minimize the presence of these materials on campus; and recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste.

Reduce Paper Use – Support the use of electronic media in place of paper, double-sided printing, and reuse of single-sided paper as scratch paper when feasible.

Reduce Plastic Use – Employ and promote strategies of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Support the selection of environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic, such as paper, metal, or glass.

Food Recovery – Collect edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute it to people in need, when feasible.

Appendix A

California Community Colleges Board of Governors' 2025 Climate Action and Sustainability Goals

Note: The RSCCD 2025 Sustainability Plan was developed in alignment with the 2021 Climate Action and Sustainability Goals. Those 2021 goals differed slightly from the updated goals below, which were approved by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors in early 2025.

CATEGORY	2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD AND INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE AND REASSESS
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction	Conduct emissions inventory baselines and create climate action plan	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 75% below baseline	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 100% below baseline
Green Buildings and Grounds	Benchmark % of Buildings and Landscapes that meet LEED (SITES for Landscapes) Living Building Challenge LBC Certification, or Nationally Recognized Greenbuilding certification (New Construction & Major Renovation) Benchmark % of Existing Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED Operation & Maintenance standards	All new Buildings and Landscapes will meet LEED Gold (SITES for Landscapes) or higher, Living Building Challenge LBC Certification, or Nationally recognized Greenbuilding certification (New Construction & Major Renovation) 25% of Existing Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED O & M certification	All new Buildings and Landscapes will meet LEED Platinum (SITES for Landscapes), Living Building Challenge LBC Certification or Nationally Recognized Greenbuilding certification (New Construction & Major Renovation) 50% of Existing Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED O & M certification
Energy	Benchmark Energy Usage Intensity (EUI) Benchmark % of energy that comes from Natural Gas Benchmark % of energy that comes from Renewable Energy	Decrease EUI by 25% from benchmark Reduce Natural Gas usage in buildings by 30% from benchmark 50% of energy comes from Renewable Energy	Decrease EUI by 50% from benchmark Reduce Natural Gas usage in buildings by 75% from benchmark 100% of energy comes from Renewable Energy

CATEGORY	2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD AND INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE AND REASSESS
Water	Benchmark potable water usage Benchmark Water Use Profile across the District (landscape use, cooling towers, specialty use) Benchmark amount Stormwater Infiltrated/Captured on site	Reduce potable water usage by 25% Increase use of non-potable water use for applicable uses by 25% Increase Stormwater Infiltration/Capture on site by 10% from benchmark	Reduce potable water usage by 50% Increase use of non-potable water use for applicable uses by 50% Increase Stormwater Infiltration/Capture on site by 20% from benchmark
Waste	Benchmark and comply with state regulations Benchmark Waste Profile for total Waste produced Benchmark % diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations	Divert 50% of all Construction & Demolition Waste from landfill Reduce total waste generated by 20% per combined FTES & FTE (On-site & hybrid) 75% diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations	Divert 75% of all Construction & Demolition Waste from landfill Reduce total waste generated by 40% per combined FTES & FTE (On-site & hybrid) 90% diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations

CATEGORY	2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD AND INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE AND REASSESS
Purchasing and Procurement and Food Systems	Benchmark % of dollars spent of products and services that have sustainability characteristics and meet third party sustainability certification. Create Sustainable Purchasing Policy Benchmark % of dollars spent on products and services that are local, as defined by the area the district serves Benchmark & track food purchases, products, and meals served across District Benchmark % of locally sourced-ingredients and food products	Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 25% Increase percentage of dollars spent on local products and services by 25% Increase sustainable food purchases to 20% of total food budget Increase percentage of dollars spent on locally sourced-ingredients and food products by 25%	Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 50% Increase percentage of dollars spent on local products and services by 50% Increase sustainable food purchases to 80% of total food budget Increase percentage of dollars spent on locally sourced-ingredients, and food products by 50%
Transportation	Conduct accounting/ assessment of fleet vehicles; develop EV charging infrastructure. Benchmark Student Staff Faculty Commuting Mode to and from campus or campuses Benchmark District Vehicles Mile Traveled (VMT)	50% of vehicles that are zero emission vehicles 25% increase of commuters that use alternative transport from benchmark 25% reduction in VMT from benchmark	100% of new fleet vehicles that are zero emissions 50% increase of commuters that use alternative transport from benchmark 50% reduction in VMT from benchmark
General Sustainability University & College Performance		Each District will submit a STARS report to AASHE and achieve a STARS reporter Benchmark	Each District will achieve Gold STARS Certification

Appendix B

Related State of California Policies

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Emissions Limit (SB 32)

- By 2030, the state must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below the 1990 levels.

Net-Zero Emissions of Greenhouse Gases: State Agency Operations (SB 1203)

- By 2035, all state agencies must achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases from their operations.

The California Climate Crisis Act (AB 1279)

- By 2045, the state must achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, then achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter.
- By 2045, the state must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 85% below the 1990 levels.

Energy

100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 (SB 100) and Clean Energy, Jobs, and Affordability Act of 2022 (SB 1020)

- By 2030, 60% of the state's electricity must be renewable.
- By 2035, 90% of all retail electricity sold in California must come from renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.
- By 2035, 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies must come from renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.
- By 2040, 95% of all retail electricity sold in California must come from renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.
- By 2045, 100% of all retail electricity sold in California must come from renewable energy and zero-carbon resources.

2022 Building Energy Code: Photovoltaic, Community Shared Solar, Battery Storage, and Solar-Ready Buildings

- Solar Panels (PV) and companion Battery Storage are required for newly constructed buildings.

Water

Potable Water: Nonfunctional Turf (AB1572)

- Prohibits use of potable water for irrigation of nonfunctional turf beginning January 1, 2028.

- Defines nonfunctional turf as: Any turf that is not functional turf, and includes turf located within street rights of way and parking lots.
- Defines functional turf as: Ground cover surface of turf located in a recreational use area or community space. Turf enclosed by fencing or other barriers to permanently preclude human access for recreation or assembly is not functional turf.
- Defines recreational use area as: An area designated by a governmental agency to accommodate foot traffic for recreation, either formal or informal, such as sports fields and playgrounds.

Facilities Planning, Design, & Construction

Embodied Carbon Emissions: Construction Materials (AB 2446 and 43)

- By 2035, reduce greenhouse gas emissions of building materials by 40% of a baseline determined by a 2026 CARB report, with an interim target of 20% reduction by 2030.

California Energy Commission Building Energy Efficiency Standards

- The Building Energy Efficiency Standards serve to reduce wasteful, uneconomical, and unnecessary uses of energy for the state. They include requirements in the Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6) and voluntary energy efficiency provisions in CALGreen (Title 24, Part 11).

California's Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code

- The CALGreen Code includes mandatory measures to support the goals of the State's greenhouse gas reduction program. The CALGreen Code also promotes healthful indoor and outdoor air quality.
- Carbon Reduction Regulations for 50,000 sf aggregate and greater for K-12 schools and community colleges:
    - Building Reuse: When reusing a building, maintain 45% of the existing structure and enclosure.
    - WBLCA Performance Path: Conduct a cradle-to-grave whole building life cycle assessment (WBLCA) demonstrating a 10% reduction in global warming potential (GWP).
    - Prescriptive Path: For new buildings, comply with product GWP values, and include environmental product declaration (EPD) on the construction documents.

CEQA: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (SB 97)

- As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process (in which public agencies must inform government decisionmakers and the public about the potential environmental effects of proposed activities and prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage), all project documentation must include an analysis of the project's greenhouse gas emissions and effect on climate change.

Transportation

Advanced Clean Cars II Regulations

- By 2035, 100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars, trucks, and SUVs sold in California will be zero-emission vehicles.

- By 2045, all operations of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles shall be 100 percent zero emission by 2045 where feasible, with the mandate going into effect by 2035 for drayage trucks.

Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375)

- By 2035, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) must reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles by 19 percent per capita in the region relative to 2005 levels.

CALGreen Code: EV Charging

- New Parking Facilities: Requires Level 1, Low Power Level 2 or Level 2, or any combination thereof, providing a minimum total power based on number of parking spaces in a facility.
- For Existing Facilities: Required if installing new light fixtures in existing parking, adding to parking facilities, or installing solar PVs over parking.

Waste

Mandatory Commercial Recycling (AB 341 and SB 1018) and Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (AB 1826), and California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Law (SB 1383)

- Divert 75% of all waste produced from landfill statewide.
- By 2025, reduce organic waste disposal to 75% of 2014 levels.
- Non-local entities, including community colleges, are currently required to:
    - Maintain mandatory commercial recycling and organic recycling programs, including ensuring that properly labeled and colored recycling containers are available to collect bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, food waste, and other recyclable materials in all areas where disposal containers are provided, except in restrooms and areas where that type of material is not generated (e.g., food waste in a classroom or office).
    - Educate employees about organic waste prevention and ensure employees properly sort their organic waste into the correct containers.
    - Provide containers to collect organic waste and recyclables.
- 20% of edible food that is currently disposed of must be recovered for human consumption.
    - If the non-local entity includes a commercial edible food generator, such as a restaurant that has 250 or more seats or is over 5,000 square feet or an event or venue that serves an average of more than 2,000 individuals per day of operation, then they must arrange to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills. Non-local entities on college campuses may donate to the college's food pantry if there is one on site.
    - Food recovery organizations and services that participate in SB 1383 must maintain records.

Appendix C

Sustainability Survey Results

Purpose

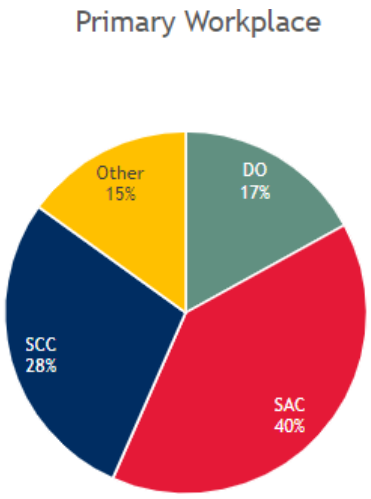
The purpose of the 2024 Sustainability Survey is to guide and inform the RSCCD Sustainability Plan, which shapes the goals and projects pursued by RSCCD.

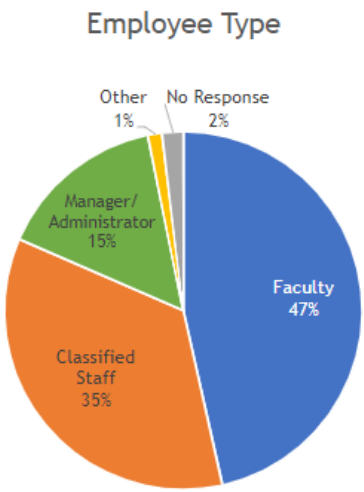
RSCCD's Sustainability Plan endeavors to minimize its impact on the environment through stewardship of natural resources and the environment.

In August 2024, the Sustainable RSCCD Committee invited employees via email to take the 2024 Sustainability Survey. This appendix provides a preliminary overview of 160 responses.

Where Do You Primarily Work (Districtwide)

The survey results reflect the views of employees from different District sites from both classified and academic staff.



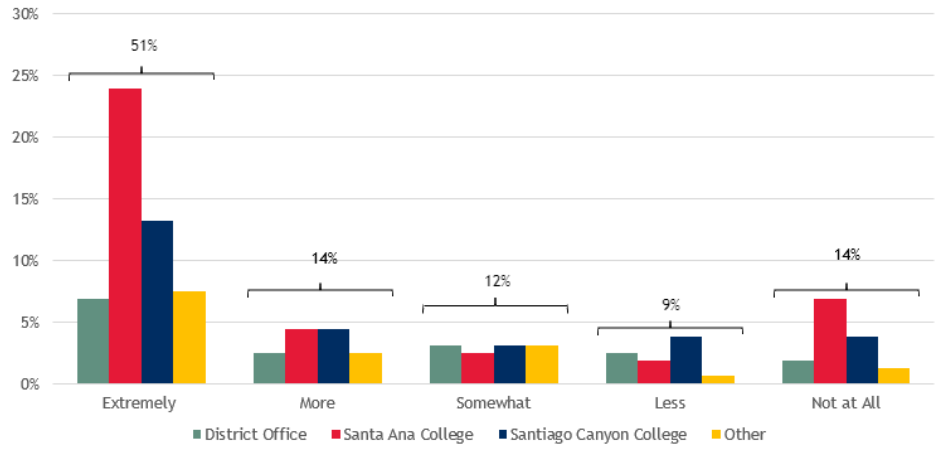


Primary Workplace	Total Counts
District Operations Center	27
Santa Ana College	64
Santiago Canyon College	45
Other	24
Total	160

How Important is Sustainability?

Over half of all respondents considered sustainability to be Extremely Important, which supports the District's decision to continue to integrate sustainability into its planning and operations.

There may be a bias in these responses because people who are more interested in the District's sustainability are more likely to participate, which may skew these responses to be more favorable.

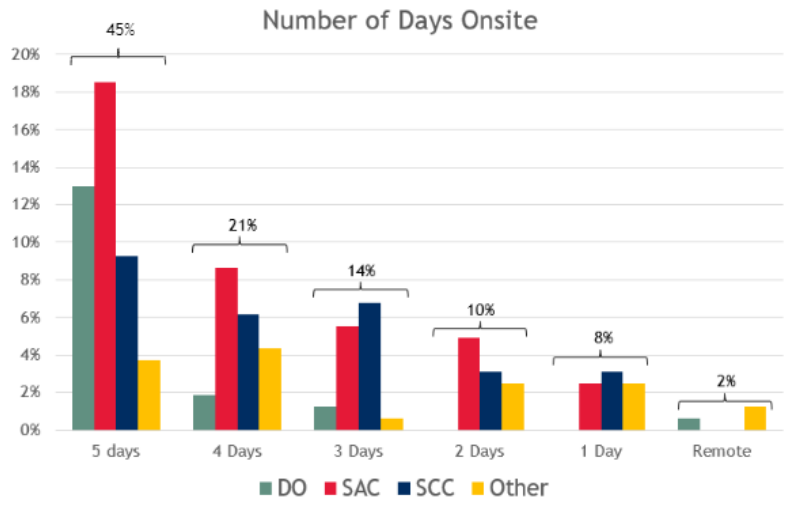


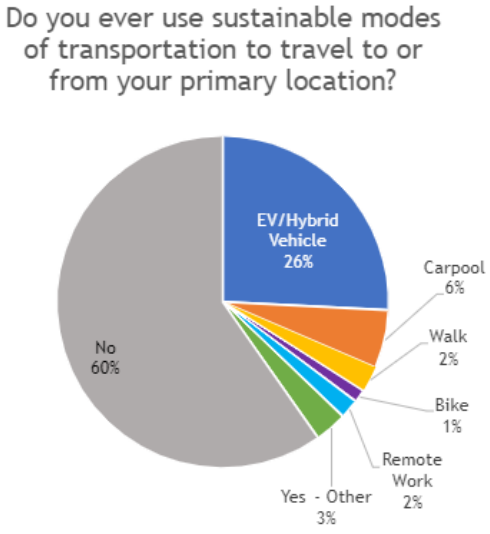
Commuting Behavior

80% employees are commuting to campus at least 3 days a week.

Transportation accounts for a significant portion of a college's greenhouse gas emissions. Employee commuting provides an opportunity for the District to encourage and support more sustainable modes of transportation.

For their commute, most employees drive alone in gas-powered cars, but many choose to drive EV or Hybrid vehicles, or other sustainable modes of transportation.

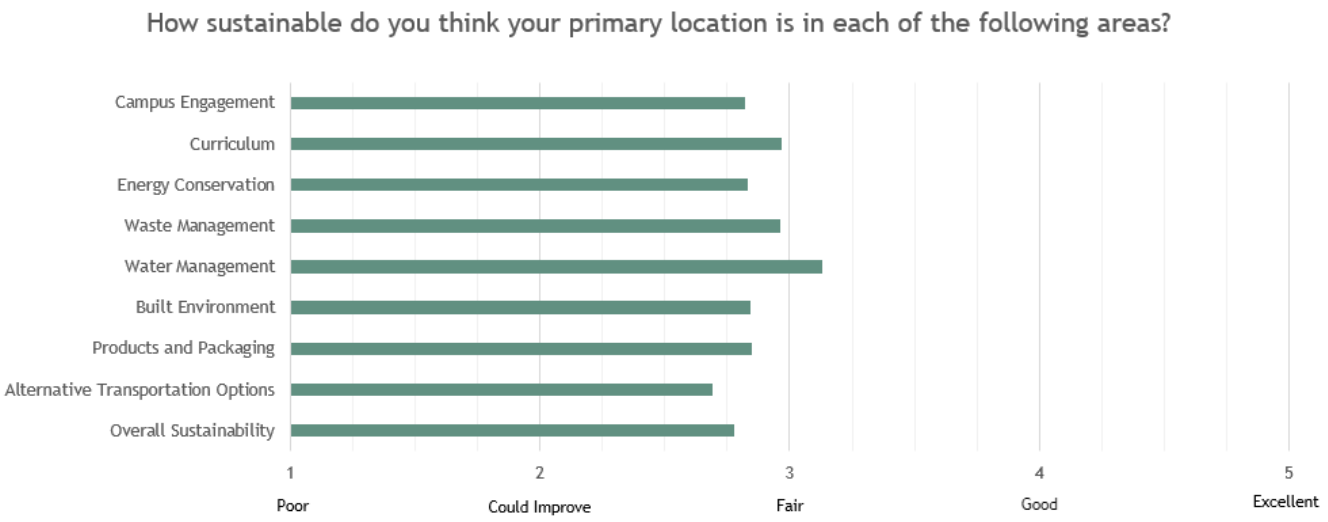




Campus Sustainability

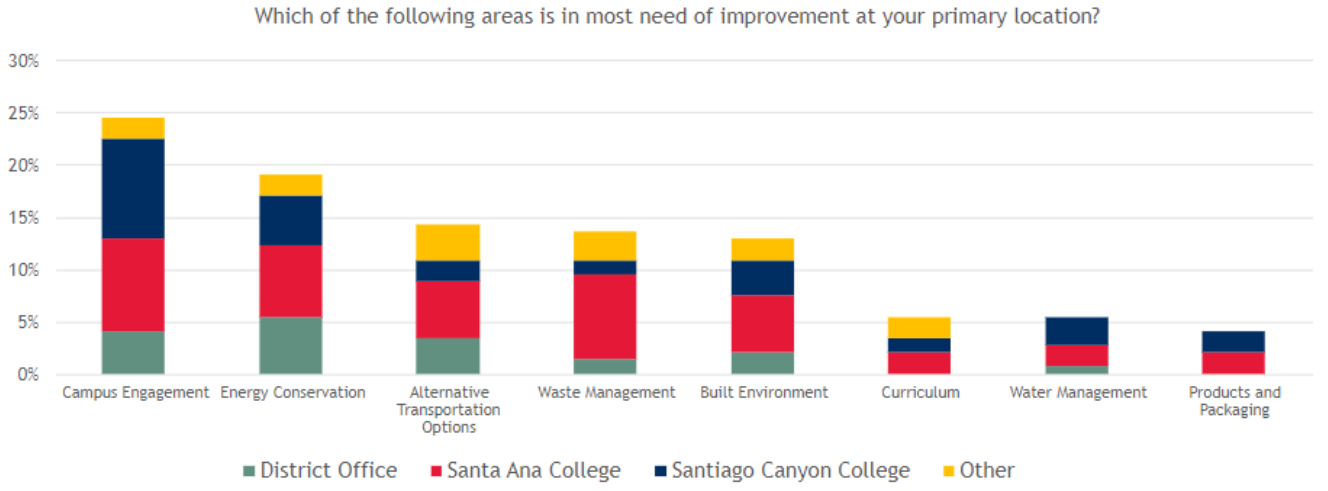
When asked how sustainable respondents felt their site performed in each area of sustainability, they reported that sustainability was fair, with room for improvement.

From the respondents' perspectives, their sites perform best in Water Management while performing lowest in Alternative Transportation Options.



Areas of Improvement

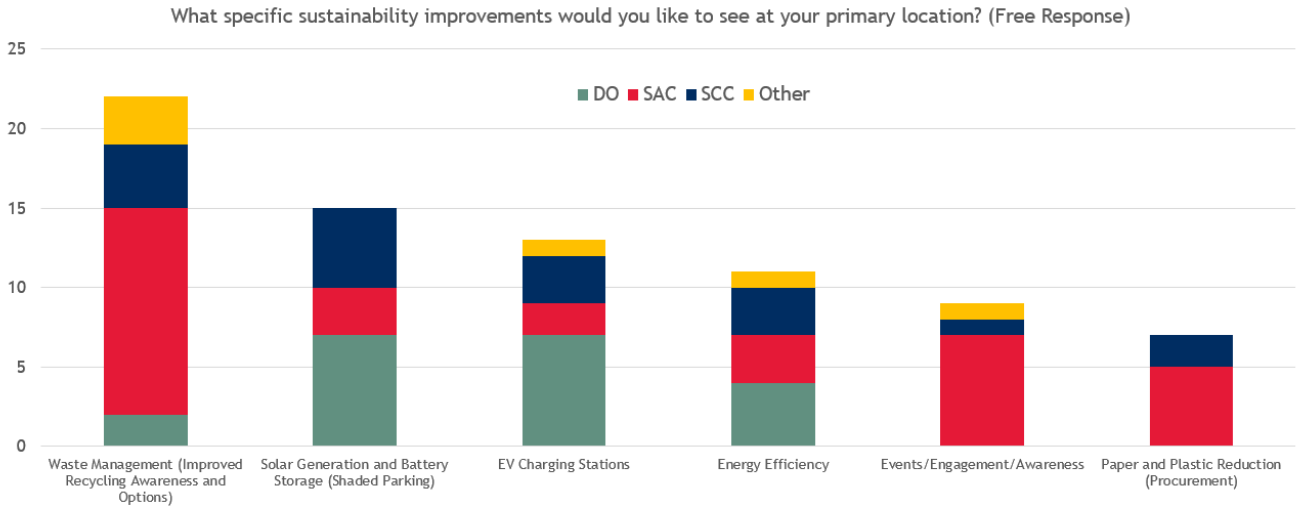
When asked which area needs improvement, 25% of respondents selected campus engagement as their top choice, followed by energy conservation, which was the top choice for 19% of respondents.



When asked to provide a free response of what sustainability improvements respondents would like to see on their campus, a significant number of respondents, particularly employees at SAC, suggested improving recycling awareness and options at their site. Many believe that recycling bin availability should be increased, and there is distrust that the sorted waste remains sorted and is taken to the appropriate recycling facility.

Another common suggestion was installing solar panels, particularly in parking lots to provide dual purpose as parking shade and/or tie to EV charging, which was the next most common suggestion to increase.

The next most common suggestions were to improve energy efficiency through various equipment improvements, as well as through promoting behavioral changes, which would be brought about by increased engagement and awareness for campus sustainability, which was the next most common suggestion. Many people felt uninformed about the sustainability achievements of the District, or felt that there was a need to improve communications and engagement.



Integrating Sustainability

When respondents were asked how they integrated sustainability in their employee position, we received a few responses, among which the most common way employees are integrating sustainability is by reducing paper use.

Other integrations include recycling, reducing electricity use, and in courses, faculty integrate sustainability into their curriculum, usually in courses which are related to the environment and ecosystems.

Faculty:
Do you integrate sustainability into your curriculum or classroom practices?

Comments	SAC	SCC	Other	Districtwide
Yes, sustainability topics are part of the course.	3	3	5	**11**
Yes, trying to go paperless	2	2	0	**4**
Yes (not specified)	2	1	1	**4**
No	3	3	1	**7**

Classified, Management, and Administration:
Do you integrate sustainability practices into your position and/or responsibilities?

Comments	DO	SAC	SCC	Other	Districtwide
Yes, recycling.	0	5	2	1	8
Yes, trying to go paperless	4	1	2	0	7
Yes, turning off lights/devices when not in use.	0	2	2	1	5
Yes (not specified)	1	1	0	0	2
No	3	1	2	1	7

2014 vs. 2024 Survey Trends

Campus Sustainability

- Overall, respondents have become more critical of the perceived sustainability of their campus.
- Perceived sustainability of Waste and Water Management significantly improved, while Campus Engagement and Transportation decreased.

Commuting Behavior

- Respondents who use sustainable transportation increased from 20% to 40%.
- Respondents who use EV/Hybrid Vehicles increased from 9% to 26%.

Areas of Improvement (Select Top 3 Areas)

- Energy, the Built Environment, and Waste Management
- Increased interest in Engagement

Areas of Improvement (Free Response)

- Waste Management and Energy
- Increased interest in Transportation (EV Charging and Bus Routes)

Integrating Sustainability Individually (Free Response)

- Recycling, reducing office material consumption, and conserving energy
- In 2024, faculty reported incorporating sustainability by reducing paper use and making sustainability part of the course.

Conclusion

Based on survey respondents, sustainability is considered important, and improvements to **Campus Engagement** and **Energy Conservation** ranked high in priority.

Respondents expressed interest in:

- Recycling awareness and bin availability.
- Promotion of sustainable campus features and achievements.
- Solar panels, particularly in parking lots for shaded parking and/or tied to EV charging.
- EV charging stations.
- Energy efficiency - equipment repair and upgrades, reduce heat gain.
- Energy conservation awareness and engagement.