

Chancellor's Sustainability Committee Meeting minutes

Wednesday, April 26 · 10:00 – 11:30 am

Attendees: Jewel Persad, Katie Maynard, Garry Mac Pherson, Cali Pflieger, Gildas Halle, Lekha Sapers, Emily Pelstring, Krista Fritzen, Carissa Garcia, Daija Odom, Julie Hendricks, Logan Babcock, Renee Bahl, Patricia Holden, Jennifer King, Melody Jue, Ken Hiltner, Jen Bowser, Eve Sanford, Andrew Riley, Drew Anderson, Katee Gustavson, Chuck Haines, eEve Sanford, Kristin Antelman

Welcome New Members

- Patricia Holden and Jennifer King

Open Forum/Introductions:

- Public Forum Comments - no comments

Announcements:

- UCOP Sustainability Office Visit on May 11th & 12th
 - May CSC meeting will be Hybrid, encouraging in person attendees for those who are able.
 - Mosher Alumni House, Henley Board Room
- Very important Tree Tour, Friday April 28th from 12:00 - 1:00PM
- Environmental humanities mixer on May 11th at noon: Environmental Humanities Flash Talks Mixer! McCune Conference Room (HSSB 6020)

Approve Meeting Min. [from March](#): Minutes approved

Updates:

- Sustainability Director Update - Katie Maynard

New office in building 424 Confirmed New Space. Already have keys, current tenant moving out this week. Our furniture services move will be May 22nd. Soft Launch Summer, Grand Opening in the Fall.

Multi-Campus Funding Compact. State looking to decrease student costs in Food, Housing, Transportation, and Course Materials. Presents exciting opportunities for partnerships with sustainability moving forward.

Exploring new funding opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Becoming CommUnify's newest partner to help more UCSB students be able to access support for utility costs and energy efficiency upgrades.

Still in the running for a Department of Water Resources Grant.

- Proposed Sustainable Practices Policy changes
 - Climate

From more than 200 responses, approximately:

- 88% support the move away from the carbon neutrality goals
- 65% support shifting funds from offsets to direct emissions reductions

Major themes:

- The UC should make faster reductions
- Unbundle combined GHG emission targets in favor of scope-specific targets
- Choose a more recent (2019) baseline year for setting targets
- Concern that use of biomethane will prevent reductions in fossil fuel use

Key Policy Changes:

| Topic Area | Changes |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Alignment with science and the state | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● References to the Science-Based Targets Initiative are removed, but the policy retains elements that directly align with science and the State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieve at least a 90% reduction in total emissions by 2045 ○ After 2045, residual emissions beyond the 90% reduction will be negated by carbon removal |
| Highlighting scope 1 reductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Locations will set GHG reduction targets separately by scope ● Targets will reference a 2019 baseline |
| Near-term action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While targets are in development, locations will incrementally reduce combustion of fossil fuels relative to 2019 baseline, and will report progress annually ● A minimum reduction across scopes 1, 2, and 3 was removed to avoid lowering location-specific ambition or setting unrealistic targets ● Locations encouraged to set the most aggressive targets feasible, recognizing that targets will not be initially funded ● The policy includes a \$25/MTCO_{2e} to define the near-term investment in direct action in 2025-2030 (for discussion) |
| Biomethane | UCOP-procured biomethane program will conclude before 2040 |

- Water
 - Water recycling evaluations are not limited to stormwater/rainwater collection and now also include water conservation.

Presentation and Discussion:

- A. [Bren Group Project Decarbonization Study for Housing, Dining, & Auxiliary Enterprises](#)
 - a. BAU with carbon offset procurement vs building electrification
 - b. Looked at one building in each category (dinning, dorms, and apartments) West Campus Apartments, San Miguel DLG,
 - c. Summer internship - researched electrification best practices (Microsoft commercial kitchen, boilers replacement options, interviewed energy managers at other UCs
 - d. Methodology, natural gas portioning, gas to electricity, combustion, electricity/natural gas/offsets price, discounting
 - e. Results
 - i. What is the cost to operate these buildings from now until 2024?

- ii. Electrification was the more costly option
- iii. Premium for San Miguel Residential Hall
 - 1. Laundry was the lowest premium, heating for space and water was the most expensive do to high capital cost for heat pump
- iv. DLG premiums
 - 1. Larger costs for kitchen appliances
- v. West Campus Apartments
 - 1. Wall Furnaces that operate independently
 - 2. Water heating was more expensive (would need 250)
- f. Recommendations
 - i. Take advantage of other necessary construction projects on campus to upgrade larger electrical infrastructure
 - ii. New funding opportunities and decarbonization technology development in the inflation reduction act
 - iii. Battery storage
 - iv. Maximize energy efficiency of buildings
- g. Study limitations
 - i. Assumed replacements maintained equal functionality
 - ii. Purchasing of electrification equipment takes place in 2022 only
 - iii. Exclusion of larger electrical infrastructure of campus
 - iv. Possible methane leakage (didn't take into account the risk of leakage)

Did you value in any way the external cost of carbon? No, we did not use a social cost of carbon

Looked at replacing equipment in 2022 but electrification could be timed with scheduled improvements or towards the end of life, to lower the costs.

All of the major boilers were going to be phased out during the modeled time.

B. [Draft CSC mission Statement](#)

Mission Statement - summary of feedback

- Partnerships!
 - Across campus and across divisions
 - Mainstream and not outlier
 - Support for all stakeholders interested; Everyone has a role to play
 - Include a breadth of perspectives
 - Factor participation into what we do
 - Instill a culture of sustainability
 - Work with/local and community groups
 - Voice in regional planning
 - Faculty, student, and staff participation on the committee strengthens its breadth of perspectives
- DEIJ
 - Inclusion of DEIJ perspectives; examine who is served by which sustainability initiatives
 - Inclusive form of Sustainability
 - Two way partnerships (rather than just "outreach")
 - uplift community leaders and knowledge
- Policy
 - Locally adapted (policies/programs)

- Tie UCOP level goals to local action
- Raising awareness of sustainability goals
- Local perspective on system wide policy
- Direct link to senior leadership
- Priority setting and acting as a unified voice
- Collect & report data
- Include educational elements (teaching, research, and co-curricular)
 - Include humanities and social sciences in addition to natural sciences and engineering

First Draft CSC Mission Statement:

The Chancellor’s Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC) develops partnerships between entities within and external to the campus to create an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable future for all. The CSC reviews and recommends locally adapted goals based on community feedback, brings attention to local and UC systemwide goals, and tracks and reports progress on those goals. This includes ensuring the whole community of students, staff, faculty, and off-campus community partners are engaged in achieving this vision collaboratively.

Feedback/Discussion:

Was there discussion about trying to define what a “sustainable future for all” means in this context?

Do we want to add more clarity here? The idea would be to focus on intersectional ideas.

When you read it you added a “that” after “This includes ensuring...” which feels like it should naturally be there.

Does this committee serve as a focal point for sustainable decision making? Is this the go to engine for Sustainability?

I think we would want to approach this with Humility, as there has been a lot of effort outside of this. We would like to be a central gathering place but not the focus.

Minor change suggested to the first sentence, replace develops with “fosters”.

I like the educational opportunity around the UC sustainability policy.

Discussion around social aspects of sustainability.

“Board Charge” if we want to change the charge, we would need to consult with the Chancellor. Board charge is more specific to the how and the mission is more visionary

Allocation of funding is outside of what this CSC does.

The CSC hasn’t been charged to way in on course work

Should we advocate for course work and Environmental GE since other groups aren’t doing this? CSC has taken more of a living laboratory approach. Should we add this to the charge?

C. CSC goals for 2023/2024

An overview of what we already do as a program

| Plan | Last Update | Likely Update | Notes on Next Update |
|---|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS) | March 2021 | Due: April 20, 2024 | Though this is not a plan, this comprehensive assessment is a massive undertaking from a workload perspective and helps us track and report on many key metrics that we use in planning. Technical Manual alone is 322 pages. 72 credits (many with several parts) |
| Campus Sustainability Plan | 2018 | 23-24 | No required update timeline |
| Zero Waste Plan | 2020 | 23-24 | Every five years. Due 2023. Consider collecting feedback while working on the Campus Sustainability Plan process and doing an update through that. AS Recycling staff position vacant as of this Friday. |
| Green Lab Action Plan | 2019 | 2023? | Is due for an update in 2023, though the green lab working group is revisiting expectations for the frequency of these updates due to workload concerns from several campuses. Possibly same approach as Zero Waste Plan. |
| Climate Action Plan | 2016 | 24-25 | Will need to be updated after the decarbonization study is complete (23-24) to align with new policy goals. Must be completed by Jan 1st, 2026. |
| Transportation Plan? | N/A | 25-26 | We don't have a current timeline for this, however there is interest in this. There are a few targeted circulation studies being completed that need to occur first. |
| Water Action Plan | 2017 | ? | No required update timeline. If we get the Department of Water Resources Grant and the staffing in that is funded, we should consider bumping this up the priority list (24-25?) and using the staffing from that grant. |
| Fleet Sustainability Implementation Plan | 2017 | ? | No update currently planned, though we seeking creative funding opportunities (such as inflation reduction act). |

CO-curricular education/training

- D. Currently offering a robust garden education program reaching 1,585 people so far this year.
- E. Throughout Summer we offer sustainability workshops to incoming freshman through

orientation programs reaching about 40-50 students each week

- F. Monthly themed programs through our communications team including: Residence Hall Energy Competition, Technology Equity and Reuse Month, Earth Month, and CycleMAYnia.
- G. 82 student interns currently employed through UCSB Sustainability.
- H. New Employee Orientation - Transportation Alternatives Program

Curricular partnerships

- I. Hosted a Bren Group Project this year on Decarbonization in Housing.
- J. Class tours of campus gardens (Environmental Studies 2, Agroecology, Computer Science, and INT Courses)
- K. Regular presentations in classes.
- L. Partnered with Writing Program on Take Back the Tap Outreach.
- M. Offered mentorship to several students in the Environmental Leadership Incubator (ELI) Program in Environmental Studies.
- N. Secured a grant to support a new class in Asian American Studies on applying Human Centered Design Equity Approaches to Food Security and Basic Needs in the AANHPI community.

Scope 3 emissions

- O. Transportation
 - a. Active Transportation Working Group at UCSB
 - b. The UC Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) is likely to take on transportation emissions in 2024-2025.
 - c. IVCSA moving forward with Sustainable Transportation Equity Program (STEP) Grant; Likely moving into implementation in 2024-2025
 - d. Travel Assessment/Best Practices
- P. Sustainable Food Systems Working Group
 - a. Each campus and health location will procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30% by 2030. Progress will be tracked annually by reporting the percentage of plant-based foods.
- Q. Waste and Procurement Sub-Committee has been
 - a. Collaborating with Campus Dining on finding compostable single use items that are accepted by Tajiguas. (Led by Dining). May need to consider policy

exceptions given Tajiguas' limitations.

- b. Updating campus signage to match new recycling and composting guidelines (Led by AS Recycling)
- c. Exploring options for bringing back the reusable container program at campus eateries (Led by AS Recycling this past year, changes in staffing may result in help being valuable here)
- d. With Jen and Jamie on the Procurement team, there is new energy and opportunity for procurement based projects.
- e. Pouring rights contract is up this coming year.

R. Topics of Future Meetings - All CSC members

Other Updates: