

Chancellor's Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 21st

1:00 – 2:30 pm

3145 Social Science and Media Studies

Attendees: Chris Kelsey, Jennifer King, Isabella Ponce, Julie Hendricks, Katja Reinwald, Katie Maynard, Kelly Barsky, Matthew O'Carroll, Nestor Covarrubias, David Pellow, Renée Bahl, Tom Hastings, Vanessa Manakova, Ada Chibueze, Lainey djajakusuma, Jewel Persad

Open Forum:

- Public Forum Comments - No items

Announcements:

- Spring Acting Co-Chair - Ken Hiltner will be on sabbatical in Spring, and David Pellow will step in as acting faculty co-chair.
- Reminder: GCLC Reception - March 6th from 6 - 8 PM at the Club -
- Edible Campus Program - [Community Care Project](#) - Vanessa Manakova (Bonnie Reiss Fellow)
 - Goals: Develop Intergenerational Relationships, Inspire Engagement in/Stewardship of Isla Vista, Connect Students with w/Local Non-Profits, Improve Sustainability of Isla Vista and Quality of Life for Residents
 - 106 volunteers signed up

Updates:

- [UC 2024 Sustainability Report Live](#) - the UC 2024 Annual Sustainability Report went live in late January.
- Annual Surveys - The CSC members were allowed to review and provide feedback on the two surveys that will be sent out this year.
 - [Sustainable Transportation/mode split survey](#) - The survey will be sent out to a representative sample during the second week of Spring Quarter
 - Undergraduate Sustainability Survey - The survey will go out to undergraduates in mid-May
 - Survey assessment for the Transportation survey - CNI fellows assessment
- Climate Action Plan Review Timeline

- Spring Quarter 2025 - First draft shared with CSC for feedback
- Summer 2025 - CSC feedback incorporated and design, graphics, and layout complete
- Fall 2025 - 6 to 8 week public feedback period
- Jan 1, 2026 - Draft plan due to UCOP
- Winter Quarter 2026 - Review and incorporate feedback from stakeholders, and Final CSC review and Approval
- Spring Quarter 2026 - Submit to Chancellor for final approval
- July 1, 2026 - Final approved plan due to UCOP

Approve [Meeting Min.](#) from Jan: - minutes approved with one addition - add Jennifer King's name to the attendee list

Presentation and Discussion:

Update on UCSB's Water Action Plan targets and ICA's request to use potable water at Meredith Field at Harder Stadium ([Report](#)) - Matthew O'Carroll & Kelly Barsky

- FY 2023/24 Water Use:
 - Potable Water: 662.7 AF
 - Recycled Water: 162 AF
 - Potable water accounts for 80.2% of total water use at UCSB.
- UC Goal 36% Potable Water Reduction by 2025. Current growth-adjusted potable reduction from FY 2005-08 baseline: 19%
 - We could look at a breakdown of which areas are the highest users of potable water and which areas have the most conservation potential.
- The reason we aren't meeting the goal is that UCSB was an early adopter of recycled water (RCW); Proactive water efficiency and conservation practices; low-hanging fruit has been picked
- Recycled water has to meet specific quality standards and can be used for dust control, landscape, toilet water makeup
- The state of California governs Recycled water and is not treated to drinking water standards
- Recycled water is produced and made by Goleta Sanitary District and sold by Goleta Water District.
- Potable water accounts for 80% of total potable water use. 3% of potable water is used for irrigation, mainly for pocket lawns and teaching species that cannot tolerate recycled water.

- If Harder field were to switch from recycled to potable, the estimated use would be 3 Acre Feet, which is estimated to change our annual potable water reductions from 19.42% to 19.05%
- Harder (Meredith) Field
 - A brand new field came on in June, we have been having a tough time with Maintenance
 - Having a hard time maintaining the field and seeing salt content issues creates a root barrier
 - Currently, Meredith Field is only irrigated with recycled water. ICA would like to have the ability to water the playing surface before training sessions and matches. The practice of lightly watering the field and subsequently having a moist playing surface is for both player safety and increasing the speed of play, as the ball moves quickly over the wet grass vs. a dry surface.
 - Watering fields before or during games with recycled water isn't allowed by the water district, as adequate drying time is needed before public use.
 - This last summer, we had to jerry rig hoses to water the grass before and during a big game.
 - Is there an option to use Artificial turf? - Preference is to play on grass. Additionally, the Coastal Commission denied the use of artificial turf at the baseball field due to concerns with forever chemicals in the coastal zone.
 - Could the potable water use be offset through other projects?
 - We have done most of the low-hanging fruit projects and would need to conduct additional feasibility studies to identify new projects.
 - What do costs look like to switch from recycled to potable water at the soccer field?
 - We haven't looked at the cost yet
 - Could potentially dual plumb, so both recycled and potable water could be used, but costs would be significant
 - Harder was previously dual-plumbed in a non-compliant manner
 - If Harder is a concern, why not other fields? For practical reasons, could we look more closely at water and soil management at

Harder?

- More irrigation with recycled water adds more salts to the soils. Depending on soil salinity conditions, irrigation with potable water could mobilize salts from deeper soils. Not sure what the soil preparation practices were when Harder was newly sodded.
- Facilities maintenance - we do not **maintain the Division 1** playing field.
- We cannot host NCAA competitions without watering the field before games
 - The Santa Barbara Sky professional team will be playing at Harder Stadium
 - Adding potable water makes it more turnkey and allows us to be put back into space.
- Longer-term possibilities for systems that make this sustainable?
 - Choose a grass species and variety that is more salt tolerant. and also drought tolerant? Anticipate more variability in climate (extremes of heat and rainfall) - make sure the field is well drained (base materials) and use grass that is adapted for saline soils.
 - Window for potable (for compliance)
 - What are other UC fields doing?
 - All competitive fields use potable water before games
 - Practice with Dual plumbing - GWD doesn't seem comfortable with this
- Irrigation is 3% of potable water use
 - Start looking at items that need a feasibility study (Need to put resources into this kind of work (for Harder, for athletics, and campus more broadly)
 - Minimum water to sustain use on campus
 - Cooling water makeup (Condensate recovery off of heating and ventilation system - would need additional data
 - Fixture
- Does this committee have any objections to switching from recycled to potable water at the soccer field?
 - No objections were raised given the limited option but the committee agreed that we should continue to work with ICA

and other water users to explore water management best practices.

- Suggestion to create more concrete plans on how to do this. Hire some interns with a faculty advisor? Contract an outside consultant? Etc.