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To: [Few, Tammy](#); [Agah, Hussain](#); [Huff, Tonya](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Communication to the field: Climate Action- 2025 BOG Sustainability and Climate Goals
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:26:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI and appropriate action. We will need to activate the DSPC leadership council dealing with this aspect of our work.

Thanks

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From: Chief Instructional Officers <CIO-ALL@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU> on behalf of Christian, Sonya <0000000cc21f0d49-dmarc-request@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU>

Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2025 8:18 AM

To: CIO-ALL@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU <CIO-ALL@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU>

Subject: [EXTERNAL SENDER] Communication to the field: Climate Action- 2025 BOG Sustainability and Climate Goals



California Community Colleges



**A Message from
Chancellor Sonya Christian**

A 12-minute read

April 13, 2025

California Community College Colleagues:

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Blue Economy Conference, hosted by the consortium of 15 community colleges actively collaborating through the Blue Economy Climate Action Pathways (BECAP) initiative. The event, jointly organized by Santa Monica College and Los Angeles Harbor College, was a powerful reminder of the leadership role the California Community Colleges are playing in advancing climate action across the state.

The opening remarks by Tina Orduno Calderon were particularly moving. She spoke eloquently about the importance of living in harmony—both with one another and with

the planet. Her words were a meaningful call to reflection and action, and they inspired me to renew my commitment to our climate action work. I left the conference with a deepened sense of purpose and a strong belief in the momentum we are building together through our shared efforts.

Let me start with the Board of Governors Goals which were updated at the January 2025 BOG meeting.

2025 Climate Action and Sustainability Goals:

David Liebman, our Facilities and Operations Climate Fellow and Sustainability and Energy Programs Manager from Santa Rosa Junior College, has made great progress in his first 5-months as a Chancellor's Climate Fellow. With the support of our Climate Corps Fellows (see more about them below), he has updated the [Board of Governors Climate Action and Sustainability Goals](#).

The refresh of the goals brings them into alignment with current state and federal regulations regarding public buildings. The goals are tiered with implementation milestones for 2026, 2030, and 2035. The 2025 goal for all categories asks colleges to benchmark their current levels in each of the areas. The refreshed goals are more ambitious than the previous iteration and urge colleges to reach towards improving the sustainability of our built environment within our 116 colleges.

Let's take a look at the 2025 Climate Action and Sustainability Goals –

Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Reduction

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
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 & Grounds

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
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)	All new Buildings and Landscapes will achieve LEED Gold (SITES for Landscapes) or higher, Living Building Challenge LBC Certification, or Nationally recognized Greenbuilding certification (New Construction & Major Renovation)	All new Buildings and Landscapes that achieve LEED Platinum (SITES for Landscapes), Living Building Challenge LBC Certification or Nationally Recognized Greenbuilding certification (New Construction & Major Renovation)
Benchmark % of Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED O & M standards	25% of Districts Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED O & M certification	50% of Buildings and Landscapes meeting LEED O & M certification

Energy

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
Benchmark Energy Usage Intensity (EUI)	Decrease EUI by 25% from benchmark	Decrease EUI by 50% from benchmark
Benchmark % of energy that comes from Natural Gas	Reduce Natural Gas usage in buildings by 30% from benchmark	Reduce Natural Gas usage in buildings by 75% from benchmark
Benchmark % of energy that comes from Renewable Energy	50% of energy comes from Renewable Energy	100% of energy comes from Renewable Energy

Water

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
Benchmark potable water usage	Reduce potable water usage by 25%	Reduce potable water usage by 50%
Benchmark Water Use Profile across the District (landscape use, cooling towers, specialty use)	Increase use of non-potable water use for applicable uses by 25%	Increase use of non-potable water use for applicable uses by 50%
Benchmark amount Stormwater Infiltrated/Captured on site	Increase Stormwater Infiltration/Capture on site by 10% from benchmark	Increase Stormwater Infiltration/Capture on site by 20% from benchmark

Waste

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
Benchmark and comply with state regulations	Divert 50% of all Construction & Demolition Waste from landfill	Divert 75% of all Construction & Demolition Waste from landfill
Benchmark Waste Profile for total Waste produced	Reduce total waste generated by 20% per combined FTES & FTE (On-site & hybrid)	Reduce total waste generated by 40% per combined FTES & FTE (On-site & hybrid)
Benchmark % diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations	75% diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations	90% diverted from landfill and comply with state regulations

Purchasing Procurement and Food Systems

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
Benchmark % of dollars spent of products and services that have sustainability characteristics and meet third party sustainability certification. Create Sustainable Purchasing Policy	Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 25%	Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 50%
Benchmark % of dollars spent of products and services that are local, as defined by the area the district serves	Increase percentage of dollars spent on local products and services by 25%.	Increase percentage of dollars spent on local products and services by 50%
Benchmark & track food purchases, products and meals served across District	Increase sustainable food purchases to 20% of total food budget	Increase sustainable food purchases to 80% of total food budget
Benchmark % of locally sourced-ingredients, and food products	Increase percentage of dollars spent on locally sourced-ingredients, and food products by 25%	Increase percentage of dollars spent on locally sourced-ingredients, and food products by 50%

Transportation

2026 BENCHMARK	2030 BUILD & INSTITUTIONALIZE	2035 IMPROVE & REASSESS
Conduct accounting/assessment of fleet vehicles; develop EV charging infrastructure	50% of vehicles that are zero emission vehicles	100% of new fleet vehicles that are zero emissions
Benchmark Student Staff Faculty Commuting Mode to and from campus or campuses	25% increase of commuters that use alternative transport from benchmark	50% increase of commuters that use alternative transport from benchmark
Benchmark District Vehicles Mile Traveled (VMT)	25% reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) from benchmark	50% reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) from benchmark

Meet the Chancellor's Office Climate Corps Fellows:

In addition to our Chancellor's Climate Fellows, we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with four Climate Corps Fellows. The Climate Corps Program is a partnership with Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) and our four Climate Corps Fellows – Nathan Lee, Celeste Alexander, Josh Atkinson, and Amanda Altobano – are all recent college graduates and early career professionals with an interest in Sustainability related careers.



Amanda Altobano graduated from UC Davis in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Sustainable Environmental Design and a minor in Community and Regional Development. Her interests include urban planning, holistic design, and placemaking. She is dedicated to learning more about sustainable landscapes and their impact on the health and well-being of communities.



Josh Atkinson graduated from UC Davis in 2024 with a bachelor's in Sustainable Environmental Design. His interests include sustainable development & green architecture, environmentalism, and economics.

Nathan Lee graduated from UC Davis in 2024 with a bachelor's in environmental policy. He is interested in environmental justice,



ocean policy, and wildfire resilience.



Celeste Alexander graduated from UC Berkeley in 2021 with degrees in Political Science and Sociology. Her interests include native landscaping and ecological stewardship particularly in implementing Indigenous environmental practices. In her previous role, she worked as an Energy and Sustainability Analyst at the San Bernardino Community College District.

Our Climate Corps Fellows have done exceptional work in assessing the sustainability and climate action efforts across the California Community Colleges. Through a combination of research and interviews with college representatives, the fellows have developed a comprehensive understanding of the significant and impactful initiatives underway throughout our system. Their analysis captures progress in key areas such as water conservation, solid waste management, energy use, sustainable purchasing and procurement, and other critical dimensions of campus sustainability.

In addition to this landscape analysis, the fellows are preparing a guidance document to support colleges in their ongoing efforts. This primer will offer clear instructions on how institutions can gather and report data on energy and resource use, while also outlining practical, actionable steps to help colleges align with the Board of Governors' Climate Action and Sustainability Goals and meet broader state-level regulatory requirements. Their work is helping to build a strong foundation for collective progress across the system.

The table below lists the 8 categories of the Board of Governors' sustainability goals, and examples of colleges identified by the Climate Corps fellow in their analysis.

Goal	Example (College + Description)
GHG Reduction	San Mateo County Community College District conducted a greenhouse gas inventory in 2022 and prepared a draft climate action plan to meet district goals of Zero Net Energy by 2030 and Zero Emissions by 2050.
Green Buildings +	The San Bernardino Community College District has built and constructed nine LEED certified buildings with three more working

Grounds	towards achieving LEED certification.
Energy	State Center Community College District installed solar panels in 2018 at Fresno City College, Reedley College, Clovis Community College, and Madera College. The system provides approximately 11.68 million kilowatt hours and is designed to produce a maximum of 83% of campuses' energy needs.
Water	Santa Rosa Junior College is implementing a water reclamation project which will capture and reuse approximately 6 to 7 million gallons of water annually for non-potable purposes such as irrigation and toilet flushing, which will reduce SRJC's potable water consumption by 20%.
Waste	Rancho Santiago Community College District's landfill diversion program is ensuring recycling and waste reduction to landfills with a goal to reduce organic waste disposal to 75% of its 2014 levels.
Purchasing + Procurement	College of Marin has established Administrative Policies and Board Policies on sustainable purchasing, including placing a blanket ban on single-use plastics on campus. Moreover, food service vendors on-site have transitioned to the use of aluminum and compostable packaging for sustainable disposal purposes.
Transportation	Butte College operates one of the largest student-funded community college transportation systems in California, featuring 8 routes that serve roughly 1,400 students per day in partnership with the Chico Center and Skyway Center Shuttles providing bus services to Butte's Main Campus.
Food Systems	Santa Barbara City College is currently expanding its on campus dining options to provide more vegetarian, vegan, and organic meals. SBCC aims to purchase 30% of ingredients locally (within 100 miles), source 20% USDA-certified organic ingredients, and increase its vegan options to 25%.

As I close this communication to the field, I would like to take a moment to reintroduce Dr. Carla Grandy, my Senior Advisor on Climate and our Lead Climate Fellow, who joins us from the San Mateo Community College District.

Carla has been working closely with the Climate Fellows and cross-functional teams at the Chancellor's Office to engage with elected officials and state agencies, highlighting the vital role that the California Community Colleges play in advancing climate action and sustainability.

Her leadership is particularly focused on workforce development to support the emerging green and blue economies. She is actively collaborating with Regional

Consortiums across the state to:

- Map existing workforce programs,
- Identify opportunities to develop new training pathways, and
- Catalog the transferable skills needed to prepare students for careers in the clean energy economy.

Carla's efforts are instrumental in positioning our system as a key driver of California's climate workforce strategy. Feel free to reach out to Carla Grandy, cgrandy@cccco.edu, and invite her or one of the climate fellows to your district to advance the work you are interested in pursuing.

Two announcements

- This month, we will be announcing the application for the second round of Chancellor's Climate Fellows.

Fellows are selected from across the 116 California Community Colleges to explore topics such as community engagement, curriculum integration, workforce development, and facilities and operations. Learn more about our inaugural climate fellows below and keep an eye out for the announcement which will be posted on the [Chancellor's Office Climate Action and Sustainability](#) page.

- Climate curriculum integration webinar on April 28, from 1:00-2:30:

Vision 2030 in (Climate) Action: Spotlighting CCC Faculty Climate Curriculum Innovation. This Zoom Webinar will feature West Los Angeles College President James Limbaugh, California Center for Climate Change Education Director Joana Tavares, and Climate Fellows Carla Grandy and Holly Bailey-Hofmann for an engaging discussion on the essential role of faculty in advancing climate action through curriculum and research.

Hear from faculty at Folsom Lake College (Eric Wada, Tamara Cheshire, Fran Keller, Steve Holtzberg) and San Diego Miramar College (Mardi Parelman) as they showcase innovative approaches to integrating climate-focused learning across disciplines. Discover strategies to inspire students, embed sustainability into coursework, and leverage research to drive meaningful environmental change.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Thank you all for the work you continue to do to support our students.

California Community Colleges – we take care of our students, our communities, and our planet.

Our time is now!

thnx
sonya

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