

# Equity in Support



## Sustainability and Climate Action

### ISSUE

Climate hazards and environmental risks require education awareness and action. Southern California is at risk for environmental and climate-related hazards. In the past several years, wildfires, extreme heat waves, historic drought, and aging utilities and facilities have threatened Californian's health and economic livelihood. The impact of these crises is more significant for vulnerable, low-income and disadvantage communities, many of which exist in the Inland Empire and within the Riverside Community College District's service area.

### BACKGROUND

The Riverside Community College District recognizes its responsibility to operate in a socially, environmentally and economically conscious way, protect regional waterways and natural ecosystems, preserve resources, and contribute to social mobility and well-being. The Riverside Community College District's Sustainability & Climate Action Plan provides an implementable roadmap toward sustainability goals that establishes the District as a leader in addressing environmental stewardship and climate change. The District's Sustainability & Climate

Action Plan includes 10 impact areas of which decarbonization/ climate justice, waste minimization/ procurement, community vitality, water/ ecosystem, and resiliency that are integrated/influenced with academics, trust/transparency, engagement, equity/social justice, and community partnerships.

### REQUESTS

Below are the funding requests based on the prioritized mission-critical projects that align with the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan at the colleges:

- Reduce carbon emissions caused by on-site fuel combustion for building operations identified under the Integrated Energy Master Plan, as follows:
  - o Implement energy conservation measures, such as boilers replacement, building energy sub-metering, daylight harvesting, glazing upgrades, reduce lighting power intensity, roof insulation, vampire load reduction, variable frequency drive, and wall insulation to reduce energy consumption and optimize efficiencies (estimated at \$27 million);
  - o Replace natural gas appliances at end of life with electrical alternatives (estimated budget \$10 million); and
  - o Replace outdated and aged campus central plants and infrastructure systems with high efficiency alternatives and more sustainable infrastructure/central plants (estimated budget \$30 million).



- Decrease water use (potable and non-potable water) as follows:
  - o Replace existing water infrastructure, including plumbing fixtures and irrigation controls to water-efficient fixtures (estimated budget \$7.7 million); and
  - o Convert turf grass to native landscape areas and/or landscape meadows to align with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office goal that turf grass shall not exceed 50 percent of the landscaped areas on campus (\$3.3 million).
- Waste Minimization and Recyclable Program (achieve zero waste to landfill – 90 percent diversion) as follows:
  - o Reduce the weight of total waste and increase waste diversion (non-construction, construction, organic, recyclables, hazardous waste, durable good, etc.) by establishing a comprehensive waste assessment/material consumption benchmark (estimated budget \$5 million).