

## **Sustainability White Paper**

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The University has a long history of energy conservation going back to the seventies. Currently we are one of the most efficient CSU campuses with regards to energy use. We have installed very efficient computer controlled irrigation systems campus wide. The latest building additions to our campus were all LEED accredited or equivalent. Our waste management practices are such that we have exceeded AB75 requirements for the last five years. We have at least 53 courses in 14 different departments that incorporate sustainability. By having satellite campuses and on-line courses, we have reduced transportation.

We are in the midst of an energy conservation project, investing well over \$30,000,000 to lower our energy use and carbon footprint. The project includes the construction of a cogeneration facility and the overhaul of the HVAC systems in our older buildings. We are in the design phase of constructing a Photo Voltaic car port style installation on the roof of the Nutwood Parking Structure. We are participating in the SCE Demand Response program and we are fine-tuning our Energy Management System and our Energy Information System.

The Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee (faculty-based) presented a report to the Academic Senate in December of 2007 recommending that a Sustainability Task Force look into three areas: raise awareness and build capacity, incorporate sustainability throughout the curriculum, and institutionalize sustainability. The Task Force has split into three sub-committees to focus on these three areas this fall. In the meantime, the Sustainability Study Group (administrator/staff-based) has been meeting this summer and will be making recommendations to President Gordon in a few weeks.

We are going to explore new technologies (fuel cells, geothermal) as possible alternative sources for energy. We will be implementing EO 987 and AB 32, requiring campus wide participation. We will continue with the construction of photo voltaic installations. The campus is studying the possibility of including PV roof installations on Student Housing phase 3 and Parking Structure 4. Our Student Housing and Child Care Center projects will aim for LEED Silver accreditation.

The carbon footprint of the University is dominated first by transportation and second by building energy. Particularly transportation is of concern because we don't have much leverage getting people to use alternate forms of transportation. We need to work with other entities in our region and work on these problems in a collective manner. We can no longer assume that we are on an island. We also need to take a serious look at how we use our facilities. Currently we have long periods of time with many spaces empty while we're using energy to heat and cool them. We need to consider changing our schedules and work habits so that we use the building more effectively and efficiently. This may also help defer the need to build extra facilities to accommodate growth. The discussion about growth must consider sustainability as an important parameter.

A small survey was undertaken to obtain ideas to make Academic Affairs more sustainable. Those ideas included:

- have more on-line classes
- incorporate sustainability into more of our classes
- make sustainability a GE requirement
- put class handouts and syllabi on Blackboard instead of having paper copies
- switching to a 4-day schedule (less energy usage) or a 7-day schedule (need to build fewer buildings and parking structures)
- putting forms and documents on-line and routing signatures on-line (change of grade forms, grad checks, grant proposal signoffs, ...)
- put the RTP portfolio on line
- if you send an announcement via email, then don't send a hardcopy (better yet, send all announcements via email)

Please provide us with your ideas about how our campus can be more sustainable and more efficient.