

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

6601

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

BUSINESS AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The purpose of this regulation is to pursue responsible environmental sustainability as a matter of operations consistent with the District's primary educational mission.

I. SUSTAINABILITY

- A. The District recognizes that the highest quality environmental practice decisions are also the most participatory. Therefore, the District will encourage student, faculty, staff, and community participation in developing sustainable practices.
- B. The District shall look comprehensively at creating an ecologically sustainable environment.
- C. The District will pursue sustainable practices in all areas, including business operations such as procurement, information technology, student services, food services, facilities operations, building maintenance, and design and construction.
- D. The District will implement the Sustainability and Energy Plan.

II. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- A. The District will strive to reduce facility greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be consistent with AB 32, *California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006* (HSC §38550). Emissions will include purchases of electricity and natural gas and other emissions over which the District has direct control. The District will also strive to meet the California Community Colleges Board of Governors' 2025 Climate Action and Sustainability Goals.
- B. The District will strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 75% by 2030.
- C. The District will strive to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035, with an interim target of 50% renewable energy by 2030.
- D. Each college shall create a Climate Action Plan and establish goals for GHG reduction.

III. ENERGY CONSERVATION AND UTILITY MANAGEMENT

- A. Buildings and facilities will be operated in the most energy efficient manner, without endangering public health and safety, and without diminishing the quality of education

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and the academic programs.

- B. Each college will continue to identify energy efficient improvements, seek implementation funding, and upon securing available funds, expeditiously implement the measures.

- 1. Each college will strive to decrease its Energy Use Intensity (EUI) by 25% by 2030.

- C. The District will cooperate with federal, state, and local governments and other appropriate organizations to accomplish energy conservation and utilities management objectives; and inform students, faculty, staff, and the general public of the need for and methods of energy conservation and utilities management.

- D. The colleges will monitor monthly energy and utility usage and will prepare an annual energy utilization report.

IV. WATER CONSERVATION

- A. Each college will pursue water resource conservation to reduce water consumption, including sustainable landscaping, controls to optimize irrigation water use, reduced water usage in restrooms and showers, and the use of reclaimed/recycled water.

- 1. Each college will strive to have a 25% decrease in its EUI by 2030.

- B. In the event of a drought, the District will cooperate with the state, city, and county governments to the greatest extent possible to reduce water use.

V. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- A. Each college shall seek to reduce the solid waste disposal rate primarily through reduction of consumption and waste source reduction, secondarily through reuse, and finally through recycling to move toward zero waste.

- 1. Each college will strive to have a 20% reduction of total waste generated by 2030.

- B. The District discourages the use of bottled water served in non-compostable containers and provides fresh drinking water in an environmentally sustainable, hygienic, and economically thrifty manner.

VI. PHYSICAL PLANT MANAGEMENT

- A. Each college shall maintain a comprehensive energy management system, which will provide centralized reporting and control of energy-related activities.

- B. To the extent possible, academic and non-academic programs will be consolidated in a

manner to achieve the highest building utilization.

VII. SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICES

- A. District-wide new construction, remodeling, renovation, and repair projects will be designed and constructed to optimize energy utilization, lower life cycle operating costs, and comply with all applicable energy codes and regulations. Energy efficient and sustainable design features will be considered in balance with the academic program needs within the available project budget.
- B. District Facilities Planning shall maintain information on design best practices to support the energy efficiency goals and guidelines of this regulation. Sustainability performance shall be based on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles.
- C. The District will strive to design and construct all new buildings/major renovations and landscapes to meet LEED Gold or equivalent certifications, progressing to LEED Platinum or comparable certifications by 2035.
- D. The District shall incorporate sustainable landscaping design, construction, and maintenance promoting drought tolerant, fire safe, and native vegetation types.
 - 1. The District will strive to divert 50% of all construction and demolition from landfill by 2030 and 75% by 2035.

VIII. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

- A. The District will promote the use of suppliers and/or vendors who offer reduced waste, re-purposed recycled material, or support other environmentally friendly practices in the provision of goods or services.
 - 1. The District will strive to increase procurement by 25% of sustainable products and services by 2030.
- B. To move toward zero waste, the District: (1) will encourage use of products that minimize trash sent to landfill or incinerators; and/or (2) may participate in procurement programs that increase recycled content in all product categories.
- C. The District does not have the resources to independently verify the environmental merits of many products purchased and may therefore, when allowable within public contract code definitions, grant preference to products certified by independent third-party environmental auditing and certification organizations (e.g., FSC certified lumber, Energy Star rated equipment, and Green Seal approved chemicals).

IX. SUSTAINABLE FOOD SERVICE

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Colleges and food service vendors shall collaborate to provide information and/or sustainable food service operation training to staff and patrons.

X. COLLEGE OPERATIONS, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE

The Presidents, working with the Chancellor, ensure the commitment to sustainability by:

- A. Providing executive support and coordination in the development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of programs and services that encourage sustainability throughout the college and the District;
- B. Ensuring that the college meets or exceeds all statewide policies, targets, and goals relevant to sustainability;
- C. Establishing sustainability priorities for operations; education and service; planning, administration, and engagement; and cultural and community connections;
- D. Establishing campus standards for improving air quality including:
 - 1. maintaining well-ventilated, chemical-free indoor airspaces;
 - 2. using low and no volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints and low toxicity cleaning supplies;
 - 3. enforcing the no smoking policy;
 - 4. implementing practices to minimize environmental impacts resulting from meeting transportation needs, including encouraging pedestrian travel, bicycle use, public transportation, and alternate fuel vehicle use; and
 - 5. establishing campus-specific metrics and targets for improved efficiency and reduced resource waste for buildings, climate, dining, energy, grounds, waste, and water.
- E. The colleges will strive to have 25% of existing buildings and landscapes meet LEED Operations and Maintenance or equivalent certification by 2030.