

Overview of the Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability

Introduction

The term "sustainability" is defined as the ability to meet the needs of the present while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems, and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Developing a robust and progressive sustainability program is critical to UCR's role as a steward of the public trust. Such a program impacts our future and the world in which we live and enhances UCR's role as a model for our community and our students. To that end, the University of California, Riverside (UCR) Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability (CCS) has been formed.

Purpose

The purpose of the CCS is to facilitate the implementation of sustainability initiatives supporting the UC President's Policy for Green Building Design and Clean Energy Standards and to develop a framework and approach and draft policy for accomplishing environmental goals at UCR, including sustainable operations, stewardship, compliance, and best practices.

Mission & Goals

UCR appreciates and respects the interdependence of complex human and ecological systems and is committed to maintaining and improving their health, wholeness and diversity. UCR will become a center of excellence for the environmental field by supporting educational programs and will actively pursue the ultimate goal of a sustainable campus by establishing campus operational policies which reduce the burdens upon the environment to a point at, or below the earth's regeneration rate.

The overarching goals of the Sustainability Agenda at UCR are to:

- Incorporate a principled environmental and social ethic for Sustainability into all campus activities
- Foster and enhance environmental leadership and stewardship in research, education, campus management, and operations
- Accomplish UCOP policy, practices, and goals
- Serve as a model of excellence for our community and institutions of higher learning worldwide

Key Committee activities include but are not limited to:

- Implement the UCOP Green Building Design Policy, Clean Energy Standard, and Sustainable Transportation Practices
- Incorporate a principled environmental and social ethic for Sustainability into all campus activities
- Maintain and improve health, wholeness, balance, and diversity on campus
- Steer campus operations to reduce our burden on the environment
- Support development of integrated educational programs
- Establish and operate appropriate workgroups, including but not limited to:
 - Procurement/Green Purchasing
 - Natural Resources/Recycling/Waste Reduction

- Performance Management System
- Sustainable Building Design
- Transportation
- Dining Services

Summary of Committee Structure

The CCS Steering Committee is comprised of designees from campus units as indicated in the Policy and works, along with topic-specific Workgroups, to accomplish the Campus' sustainability mission and goals. The Steering Committee meets monthly.

The Sustainability Executive Committee (SEC) is a subset of the CCS and is comprised of the Vice Chancellors, Deans, and representatives of the Academic Senate, Associated Students, and Staff Assembly. The SEC is chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Administration and provides the leadership policy-based decision making and resource determination necessary to ensure the campus sustainability policy and goals are achievable. The SEC meets quarterly.