

DEPARTMENT OF
**HOUSING AND
RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION**
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
2016-2020



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In the 21st century, I think the heroes will be the people who will improve the quality of life, fight poverty and introduce more sustainability.

Bertrand Piccard

Housing Excellence in Sustainability

The Department of Housing and Residential Education (DHRE) is a campus-housing department located on the California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) campus. It is composed of some 1,450 students in its campus residence halls, and has 29 FTE staff and around 70 student staff members. The primary mission of DHRE is to positively shape the quality of the campus experience by promoting student learning and success while creating conditions that motivate and inspire students to devote more time and energy to educationally purposeful activities.

Cal State University, San Bernardino is recognized as a preeminent center of intellectual and cultural activity in Inland Southern California. CSUSB is committed in its day-to-day operations to minimizing waste and pollution, reducing reliance on nonrenewable energy sources, and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, employees, and neighbors. [As an institution of higher education, CSUSB promotes the academic development of our students and faculty in sustainable principles through coursework, research, co-curricular opportunities. CSUSB also actively supports sustainable community projects and programs and has an institutional vision and mission that supports the inclusion of sustainability as institutional goals.]



The Department of Housing and Residential Education at Cal State San Bernardino strives to lead by example by focusing our efforts to reduce our environmental impacts in all operational areas. This priority ensures that we continue to make our commitment to sustainability a reality. While we are proud of our current progress, we also recognize that we can and need to do more to ensure sustainability is a driver for a more innovative and efficient delivery of services and operations within campus housing. The intent of the housing excellence strategy is to further develop and enhance expertise, education, and innovation in the management of campus housing by creating sustainable communities through adopting sustainable practices and engaging staff and students in this endeavor.

Increasingly, more attention to campus sustainability efforts are in the works. DHRE will strive to reduce our environmental impact, contribute to campus sustainability efforts, and establish a best practice approach to integrating sustainability into all levels of departmental decision-making. We will demonstrate that we are getting our house in order by making changes to reduce environmental impacts from all department areas and carry out our business in an environmentally responsible manner through:

- Identifying and addressing gaps when integrating sustainability into all business areas and activities
- Create sustainable living and learning communities within campus housing.
- Develop innovative and sustainable housing design, renovation, and construction.
- Share best practices tools and resources to encourage and enable our campus partners to make more sustainable choices.
- Be a campus change agent through guiding and supporting others in taking actions towards sustainability in our day-to-day work.
- Encourage sustainability awareness and action among students living on campus.
- Empower employees to make good sustainability choices in the workplace.
- Integrating financial, social and environmental considerations in decision making
- Identifying stakeholders and partners where we can have greatest possible impact.

Goals

The Department of Housing and Residential Education has developed several short and long-term goals towards a shared collaborative vision for future sustainability efforts. The scope and content was driven by input from a broad range of stakeholders, including student leadership, housing staff, faculty, and current students. Four foundational goals have been identified to guide the future sustainability efforts within the Department of Housing and Residential Education in order to incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly practices into all aspects of residential living. These overarching objectives will help DHRE cultivate a strategic and integrated approach to sustainability as well as reduce the DHRE's environmental impact.

1. Improve partnerships and collaboration on sustainability issues across campus.
2. Create and improve sustainability education and awareness.
3. Effectively communicate sustainability values and programs.
4. Develop strategies to create waste reduction and resource conservation

Several foci within these goals will include Sustainable Operations, Sustainable Education, Sustainable Practices, and Sustainable Leadership.

As a living document, the plan will be revisited and updated regularly to incorporate new continual sustainability improvements within campus housing. This plan also works in concert with the campus sustainability efforts. An assessment plan is currently being developed along with metrics to track and report annually to assess its sustainability performance over time.

The rationale for developing a housing sustainability plan includes a consideration of several factors, including the role a housing department can play in shaping campus sustainability efforts, current environmental issues and their impacts, and campus sustainability priorities. The Department of Housing and Residential Education can lead and help develop sustainable practices through education and practicing sustainable living practices by promoting a culture of sustainable living within the campus housing community.



Keys to Success

1. Create collaborative campus partnerships and consult with students to find ways to reduce our environmental impact and promote sustainable practices.
2. Encourage students living on campus to make reasonable and intentional efforts to conserve resources and live a green, sustainable lifestyle as a CSUSB resident.
3. Become a campus leader in action, effort, and education in sustainability practices.
4. Promote and publicize department sustainability efforts and initiatives through active and aggressive marketing and communications.
5. Creating and assessing educational programs and other initiatives that compliment institutional sustainability strategies.
6. Role model and practice the principles of environmental sustainability, environmental stewardship, and ecological sustainability.
7. Incorporate and assess sustainable and environmentally friendly concepts & practices and other educational practices into all aspects of residential living and learning.
8. Research, create, and implement 'best practices' in DHRE' sustainability practices.



Living and Learning about Sustainability

The Green House Living Learning Community is a program designed to bring students together with a shared interest in sustainability issues. Students will participate in activities throughout the academic year, in the community as well as in the surrounding area, living together on a designated residence hall on campus. The Green House LLC will focus on the following objectives:

- To live and view the world through a sustainable lens
- To engage students in critical thought about what it means to be sustainable
- To introduce students to concepts of sustainable living, including food choices, water energy consumption, and waste management
- To envision ways that the campus community can continue to increase our sustainability
- To become ambassadors to our campus community for increasing sustainability in our daily lives
- To develop strong, collaborative relationships that support sustainable living
- To promote opportunities for environmental stewardship; recognizing the connection of local and global sustainability, and actively engaging in sustainability initiatives on campus

Marketing

A number of marketing venues will be utilized to reach target audiences (students, staff, and faculty) in order to advertise and promote the DHRE Sustainability Plan, including Facebook, signage, and campus television stations, Department newsletters, floor meetings, RHA and the DHRE website.

Strategic Objectives

I. Sustainable Operations

- Obtain LEED certification on the new housing and dining facility.
- Switch various Department paper processes to electronic.

II. Sustainable Education

- Create and post signage in each residence hall/apartment area with energy saving tips (turn off water when brushing teeth, turn lights off when leaving room, average American uses 40 gallons of water per day, etc.)
- Create building competitions for students to engage in energy-reducing measures.
- Develop a “Climate Awareness Week”
- Create boxes at front desks for students to dispose of cell phones for future recycling.
- Create Eco/Floor Rep’s for each residence hall/apartment area.
- Solicit ideas from students for sustainability efforts.
- Create green aspects for each DHRE showroom.
- Conduct floor meetings discussing how residents can help the University conserve energy.
- Create a garden that can be used, studied, and maintained by students
- Create a recycling campaign.
- Implement ‘Go Cold Turkey’ Competition
- RHA programs (can drives, recycling, etc.)
- Have discussions with students about living it means to live a sustainable lifestyle at CSUSB.
- Incorporate sustainability themes into programming models and learning outcomes.
- Create and facilitate Earth Day programs in April each year.
- End of Year Donation Drive (food, clothing, electronic products)
- Collaborate with CSUSB campus partners to facilitate and work with the Green House LLC.
- Develop a monthly newsletter for residents on sustainability.
- Create and facilitate programs that compliment Energy Conservation Week.
- Create a living and learning community around sustainable living.
- Create energy Dashboard Focus Groups that to help determine how energy use will be communicated on campus.

- Create an Energy Dashboard to encourage energy reduction efforts and awareness.
- Host various programs on sustainability, such as: a sustainability, food workshop on the connection between food and the environment; a Boba Tea with Sustainability practitioners in which students are invited to talk with and learn from local sustainability leaders; a Dinner & Documentary Night in which students get together and have dinner while watching a documentary, meals and sustainability discussions with students.

III. Sustainable Practices

- Create water conservation strategies to further waste reduction and resource conservation.
- Covert all interior lighting to LED lighting.
- Used low-flow showerheads and faucets in all residence halls.
- Incorporate sustainability awareness into Week of Welcome activities.
- Replace sprinklers with drip systems in University Village.
- Create paperless processes, i.e., all residential documents in the cloud.
- Install energy efficient lightbulbs in residence halls/apartments.
- Install Energy Star AC units in residential areas.
- Replace cleaning chemicals with green, sustainable chemicals.

IV. Sustainable Leadership

- Develop campus partnerships to further DHRE sustainability initiatives
- Create a DHRE Green Team (committee) to address sustainability issues.
- Collaborate with Dining Services to create sustainability educational activities.
- Each team member signs a Green Pledge.
- Post sustainability information on the DHRE website
- Purchase recycle bins for all lobbies and apartments. Establish a Green/Sustainability Team to work with Facility Services to integrate sustainability awareness into DRS' sustainability efforts and practices.

- Monitor monthly utility expenditures to develop strategies to reduce energy consumption.
- Collaborate with offices who work with majors such as STEM, Nutrition, Food Sciences, Environmental Studies, Earth and Environmental Services.
- Learn more about sustainability and get involved in local efforts.
- Effectively communicate sustainability values to students and the campus community.
- Weigh items and keep statistics/reports annually.
- Assess and further the benchmarks of the CSUSB and DHRE sustainability plans.

Sustainability is of vital importance to Housing and Residential Education. We feel it is our responsibility and civic duty to set an example for both the CSUSB community to be good stewards of the environment. We not only understand this importance, we are committed to this goal in our daily and strategic efforts. With this understanding, we strive to ensure that our staff and students are working towards a point where they understand the importance of sustainability within the CSUSB Community and work to ensure that our resources are sufficient for the next generation of students and staff. We are committed to working with the University to meet these objectives and making DHRE a campus leader in developing and living as a sustainable community.

