



SAN DIEGO STATE
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Library

2019/2020 Report of the Committee on Sustainability to the Senate

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Introductions

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Term on Sustainability
Committee:

6/1/19-5/30/22

(employed at SDSU since 2007)

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ISCOR-CCCR Major + French
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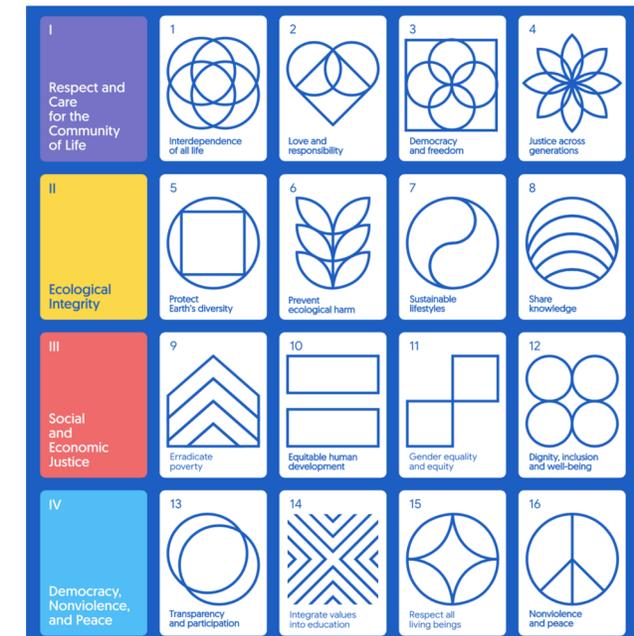
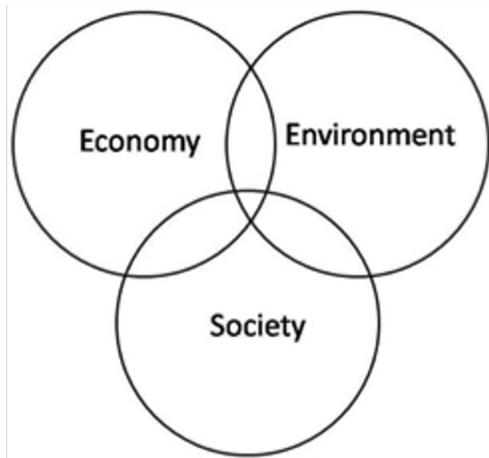
Term on Sustainability
Committee:

6/1/19-5/30/21



What is sustainability?

- The Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) defines sustainability in a pluralistic and inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations. The Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS) attempts to translate this broad and inclusive view of sustainability to measurable objectives at the campus level. Thus, it includes credits related to an institution's environmental, social, and economic performance.



Successes in 2019 and 2020

- Passage of Sustainability [Policy](#) and [Resolution](#).
 - Confirmed commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - Urges SDSU to adopt a new carbon neutrality goal to 2030 (instead of 2050).
- [Sustainability Advocacy Letter](#) to the President from various sustainability-related organizations on-campus.
- Sustainability is included in [Strategic Plan Activities 15-17](#)
 - Hopeful path towards Director of Sustainability
- Reports
 - [Second Nature](#)
 - [AASHE STARS Gold Rating 2020 Update](#)



Sustainability Policy (pt.1) - Passed 5/7/19

1.1 San Diego State University (SDSU) shall create accessible paths for University shareholders to achieve sustainability goals and resilience planning which benefit social, environmental, and economic health.

1.2 The Senate Sustainability Policy shall benefit the greater San Diego region and apply to all students, faculty, staff, and auxiliaries—and their respective areas—for the University's Mesa, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Georgia, and all future SDSU campuses.

1.3 SDSU shall comply with rules and regulations regarding sustainability issued by the city of San Diego, the California State University (CSU), the State of California, and the Federal Government.

1.4 SDSU shall strive to achieve the goals of the 2017 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and construct new goals that reflect contemporary needs such as **full carbon neutrality by 2030** with a feasibility study in place.



Sustainability Policy (pt.2) - Passed 5/7/19

1.5 SDSU shall heed recommendations of both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) while evaluating and updating our current CAP as appropriate.

1.6 SDSU shall designate a central administrative role committed to the implementation and integration of sustainability across all SDSU campuses.

1.7 Taken together, all of these rules, regulations, and recommendations shall constitute, and guide annual reporting on the actions and outcomes of, the SDSU Sustainability Policy.



Resolution - Passed 5/7/19

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the SDSU Senate urgently recommends that the SDSU President de la Torre to take the following actions:

- a) Approve the Sustainability Policy recently added to the University Policy File.
- b) Establish a set of responsibilities assigned to an appropriately placed administrator dedicated to the implementation and integration of sustainability policy for all of SDSU's campuses, coordinate with the President's Office, and address the intersectional and interdisciplinary nature of sustainability work.
- c) Commit the University to exceeding local, CSU, state, federal, and international rules and regulations regarding sustainability, including the achievement of full carbon neutrality at all campuses by 2030.
- d) Commit to achieving AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS) Platinum Ratings in Academics, Engagement, Operations and Planning & Administration, with the collaboration of students, faculty, staff, and community members.



Strategic Planning Activities

Strategic Priority: Resilience. Designed to Thrive

GOAL 3: Invest in organizational practices that prioritize the responsible management of resources with a focus on global and environmental sustainability.

Key Activities:

Activity 15: Developing a team to then provide a strategy and oversight of SDSU's sustainability efforts.

Activity 16: Updating the University Climate Action Plan, inclusive of all campus locations, with defined benchmarks.

Activity 17: Developing Guiding Principles for Sustainability that include local and international standards.



Second Nature - Progress on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

- 2019 Second Nature Report: Total emissions are only down 10.28% from 2015.
- Gross emissions in 2019: 91,395 MTCO₂e
 - SDSU emitted **47,076** MTCO₂e from local combustion (CoGen Plant, on campus facilities) and purchased electricity
 - Possible Solution to Emissions from CoGen Plant should be discussed: Kim? Bob Schultz?
 - SDSU emitted **44,319** MTCO₂e from commuting.
 - Possible Solution to Commuting Problem will be explored by Alternative Transportation Committee. Telecommuting will impact this.





AASHE STARS 2020 Update - SDSU Sustainability Assessment



- Went from Silver Rating (55.41) in March 2018 to Gold Rating (69.33) as of July 2020
 - Sustainability has been included in on-board new employee training
 - Students' public opinion is that sustainability needs to be included in academics and on-campus operations
 - They have also been taking more public transportation means
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are exceptional
- What to work on:
 - Incorporating/implementing sustainability learning outcomes in General Education reform
 - Increasing service learning course and community service participation amongst students
 - Ensure sustainable investing practices with the Campanile Foundation



Challenges

- The University lacks an administrator coordinating *overall* sustainability initiatives on campus. This is unusual and problematic for a campus our size.
- Lack of oversight may lead to implementation challenges:
 - How do we ensure that we never buy another internal combustion engine? Or that our electronics are humanely-sourced? How do we raise money for infrastructure enhancements such as electrifying our heaters? How can all these efforts be tied back to service learning and the curriculum?



Goals for 2020-2021

- Work with Strategic Planning Groups to effectively form a permanent Sustainability Team on campus.
 - What organizational structure will best serve our needs?
- Continue to meet as subcommittees to work through various ideas and goals based on AASHE STARS. This includes: facilities, academics, procurement etc.
 - Pass Green OA Policy, promote Open Educational Resources.
 - Composting, cycling, solar panels, etc.



Working through AASHE/STARS Areas of Service

- Sustainability Committee provides a good line of communication between academics, facilities and other areas of campus.
- We look forward to participation from Imperial Valley Campus.
- The task ahead is to support sustainability programs across all operations. We have sub-committee groups formed to work on these areas.
- Examples:
 - OP 17 (Support for Sustainable Transportation): Implemented strategies to encourage sustainable transportation (we are doing this through the Alternative Transportation Committee).
 - AC 11 : Support for Open Access Publishing (but not support for Open Educational Resources?).



Activities This Year (not exhaustive)

- Active discussions surrounding sustainability within Academics Subcommittee. Sustainability.sdsu.edu has been revamped.
 - <https://sustainable.sdsu.edu/> (discusses sustainability-related initiatives on campus).
 - <https://sustainability.sdsu.edu/> (website for the sustainability major)
- Better Business Series: Zoom discussions about sustainable business practices



Upcoming Event!

- Climate Justice Seminar Series (2020/2021)
(inspired by Adrienne Fusek and John Love)
 - Inaugural Seminar: Monday November 16th, 2:00pm-3:30pm
 - Speaker: Professor Ramona Perez (SDSU)
 - Title "Disposable Populations: The unintended consequences of natural resource exploitation on marginalized communities in Oaxaca, Mexico"
 - Join → <https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/81272116582>



Possibilities/Questions/Ideas

- Will working from home reduce scope 3 emissions? How is this calculated?
- *It seems there may be solutions to make the co-gen plant carbon-neutral if they can run on biofuels.*
- *Mission Valley, Imperial Valley, Georgia* campuses are all opportunities for us to burnish our sustainability reputation. *Renewable energy in IV.*
- Strategic Plan Activities 15-17 should proceed according to best practices:
- Our committee serves as a forum for folks to communicate concerns about these issues.
- We will look to AASHE/STARS and Second Nature to guide our sustainability initiatives.
- We also hope that our efforts support DEI initiatives on campus.
- San Diego has a climate action plan too!



Thank you. Questions?

Tyler Rogers - Term ends June 2021.

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Tyler's son at Lake Morena County Park, October 12th 2020