



Sustainability Report | First Quarter FY 2015-2016

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# ELECTRICITY

- Return of students to the campus, commissioning of the new science building, Sierra Hall, and warmer than usual weather all contributed to an increase in electricity usage this fall.
- Through closer monitoring and increased efficiency both inside and outside of buildings, we hope to bring electricity usage to a downward trend.



## WASTE

- Overall waste on the campus has decreased this quarter, though our diversion rate has also decreased.
- Measures such as hydration stations for refilling reusable water bottles, trash can signage, and education helped to reduce our first quarter waste generation.



# POTABLE WATER

- The entire campus community is required to reduce its potable water usage by 32% versus 2013 levels.
- Students and faculty returning for the fall semester caused an increase in potable water use.
- Water conservation messages and student campaigns have increased awareness and should influence reduction efforts.



# RECYCLED WATER

- The campus is doing an excellent job in conserving their recycled water allocation.
- Camrosa, our campus water supplier, was not able to supply our usual amount due to community water conservation.
- This gave CI an opportunity explore inventive ways to irrigate campus spaces.



# Water Conservation

- California is in one of the worst droughts in history and will continue to be no matter how severe El Niño storms hit. Not only is conserving every drop essential, it is mandated in a declaration by Governor Jerry Brown. The entire campus needs to reduce usage by 32% as compared to our 2013 water consumption.
- Some simple things to help reduce your own water use are:
  - Install low-flow devices such as toilets and aerators in your home;
  - Wait longer between car washes;
  - Turn off the faucet when you're brushing your teeth or shaving;
  - Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less.)

# Water Conservation (cont.)

- Converting the cooling towers to use recycled instead of potable water is also being considered by Facilities Services (FS). The cooling towers are used in the air conditioning process throughout the campus and they use approximately 7% of the school's potable water!
- FS has finished replacing older toilets with 1.6 gallons-per-flush (gpf) models or *even lower* 1.28 gpf ones to further reduce our school's overall water consumption.
- In addition to higher efficiency appliances, the campus is designing the new Santa Rosa Student Housing to use recycled water in place of potable in the toilets. This would further our quest in reaching 32% reduction of potable water use.

# **Completed Projects**

![](_page_8_Figure_1.jpeg)

The red areas mark where the turf conversion has been implemented.

The turf to planter conversions in North and South Quads have been completed. These conversions allow the campus to use less recycled water because sections of the grass have been removed and replaced with mulch and drought resistant plants which require less water. As a result of doing this, CI is expecting a rebate of \$56,000 from Metropolitan Water District.

# Additional Projects to help CI become more Sustainable

- FS is testing an application of CoolTerra to our north soccer fields which should help the soil hold water longer. If this product is effective, we will be able to reduce irrigation in this area.
- CI is changing lights in fixtures in the John Spoor Broome Library to reduce the electricity being used.

 Several Bell Tower classrooms were retrofit to utilize variable air volume which is a method to supply air conditioning in a more energy efficient way than outdated constant air volume. In addition to the savings from a more efficient system, CI is expecting a rebate of \$28,495.06 from SCE, the electric utility.

## **Green Screens**

- Take a look at our "Green Screens" to keep up-to-date with the next steps Facilities Services are implementing to continue making CSU Channel Islands a greener community!
- They're located in lobbies of Del Norte Hall and Bell Tower Central, as marked with green squares on the maps.

![](_page_10_Figure_3.jpeg)

## **Solar Energy**

- Facilities Services is investigating acquisition of solar panels in order to reduce green house gases and be more flexible and independent in our energy requirements. Placement of solar systems could allow for charging electric vehicles, provide light in parking lots, and help CI be more prepared in the case of emergencies.
- One option of acquiring solar power on campus is by using DC Solar Freedom, a company that works to bring solar energy to university campuses in the form of portable generation units. They would do this at no charge to us!

### Acknowledgements

CSU Channel Islands is striving for a more sustainable campus community every day. For questions, concerns, or ideas on new sustainability efforts, please email Coleen.Barsley@csuci.edu.

### Appreciation goes out to the following contributors:

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