# CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FY 2018-19

Second Quarter

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- FTES: Full Time Equivalent Students
- GSF: Gross Square Feet
- HCF: Hundred Cubic Feet
- kWh: kilowatt hour
- BTU: British Thermal Unit
- Potable Water: Drinking water
- Recycled Water: Tertiary-treated waste water
- Baseline: the year, or years, we compare our usage to (for water: 2013, for everything else: average of 2008-2009 FY and 2009-2010 FY)

## EXCEEDING GOALS

Despite sizeable increases in our campus' square footage and an ever-growing campus community, we continue to decrease our utility usages and meet our sustainability goals every quarter. This is the result of a collective effort made by students, faculty and staff to help prioritize environmental sustainability on campus. If not for the common vision that we all share for a sustainable future here at CSUCI, we would not have been able to consistently exceed our goals to this extent.



#### TOTAL WATER

Total Water is the combination of both our potable and recycled water usage. The CSU Chancellor's Office has set a reduction goal for total water of 20% by 2020 compared to our 2013 baseline. Variability from month to month can often be attributed to incoming students, local heat waves and increased winds. Efforts by our campus community are essential if we are to reach our reduction goals each month. Collective efforts contributed to a decrease in usage of 63% from our 2013 baseline in December.



#### POTABLE WATER

Our municipal water provider has requested we reduce our potable water consumption by 15% from our 2013 baseline. Realizing that goal will require the participation of every member in our campus community. Campus efforts contributed to a decrease in potable water usage of 28% compared to our 2013 baseline in December, along with an overall decrease in usage from October to December.



#### **RECYCLED WATER**

Reductions in our recycled water usage are accounted for in our total water goal. We will achieve our goals by utilizing improved irrigation management systems, metering, planting more drought-tolerant plants, adding mulch, and native landscaping. High variability in usage from month to month depends on factors such as landscaping, irrigation needs, and weather. Collective efforts contributed to a decrease in recycled water usage from 42% below our baseline in October to 52% below our baseline in December.



## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Take advantage of native and drought tolerant plants in landscaping and replace irrigated turf with wood chips, rocks or sand.
- If you have a lawn or garden that requires irrigation, program sprinklers to come on at night when evaporation is at its lowest.
- Be extremely conservative at the tap whether you're doing dishes, thawing meat, washing hands or brushing your teeth; if its not in use, it should be off. Every drop counts!
- Fix any leaks in water infrastructure immediately that water adds up.
  Notify the proper authorities if the leak is not on your property. Never assume someone else is already taking care of it.
- Consider that food waste is also water waste. Approximately 80% of California's water goes to agriculture, so buy what you'll eat and compost any waste. Compost bins can be inexpensive, low-maintenance and provide a source of free, organic, nutrient-rich soil amendments.

# ELECTRICITY

As the campus grows, our need for more electricity increases. However, as we continue to innovate and utilize more efficient technologies, our overall electricity usage has decreased compared to our baseline (average 2008-09 and 2009-10 FY). Our goal (set by the CSU Chancellors Office) of a 25% reduction per FTES versus baseline has been exceeded each month this quarter.



# TOTAL ENERGY

Total energy is our representation of all sources of energy on our campus, including electricity, steam and natural gas. Steam makes up the most amount of energy because it is used for the majority of heating hot and cold water along with space heating around Cl after it's converted at our Central Plant. Electricity is used for lighting, plug loads, and various equipment around campus. Natural gas makes up the smallest amount because only a few buildings use gas for heating hot water, cooking, and space heating. Our goal is a 25% reduction per FTES versus our baseline, which we are exceeding.



# ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

- Avoid letting your car idle: an idling car is wasting gas and spewing pollution into the environment.
- Save money, gas, and reduce pollution by carpooling, walking, biking, or using public transportation whenever possible.
- Wear layers and use blankets or fans instead of adjusting the thermostat up or down at home or in the office.
- Make sure to close windows and doors when running air handling units they are ineffective at changing the temperature outside!
- Make it a habit to turn off lights when you leave a room. Utilize natural light whenever possible.
- Wash clothes in cold water it cleans just as well without having to pay to heat it.
- Unplug devices and appliances when not in use.

# WASTE

The CSU Chancellors Office has set our waste diversion goal at 80% by 2020. While we consistently come very close, achieving the last  $\sim 10\%$  towards our goal will have to come from a reduction in waste produced by our campus community. These efforts to reduce waste sent to landfills helps to lower methane emissions and minimize chemicals that can leach into our water tables. By recycling, we reduce the energy and raw materials needed to make brand new items like water bottles and other plastics.



#### WASTE MANAGEMENT TIPS

- Buying food from local sources reduces the carbon footprint from transport, this can be done at Farmer's Markets or through a CSA box subscription (Ventura County has many options!)
- Purchasing food in bulk helps avoid extra packaging materials, but make sure to use the product before it expires.
- Take advantage of reusable items: water bottles, coffee mugs, canvas grocery bags, Tupperware, scrap paper, batteries (rechargeable), packaging materials – be creative and instill new life into materials you paid for!
- Rinse out sauce jars instead of buying mason jars, plant seeds in rinsed yogurt cups, shred last semesters notes for hamster bedding. See materials not as they are, but for what they could be!
- Know what is recyclable and where to take it. Bring electronics to ewaste centers and compost food scraps to make your own soil.
- Avoid buying items in non-recyclable thin plastic films.

# SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS

Facilities Services partnered with Environmental Science and Resource Management (ESRM) professor Dan Reineman's Land Use Planning and Open Space Management class in the Fall semester of 2018. FS worked with two groups of students, one of which created a "walking tour" of the history of the campus and the other of which conducted an assessment of the current and potential uses of Channel Islands Park.



Channel Islands Park Group

Walking Tour Group

The "Walking Tour" group worked with Sustainability and Operations Analyst Coleen Barsley, Campus Architect David Carlson and Student Assistant Lisa Noriega throughout the semester. The "CI Park" group worked with Campus Architect Terry Tarr and Student Assistant Sycora Powell.

## SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS



In late November, then Sustainability Student Assistant and now Interim Sustainability and Operations Analyst Lisa Noriega gave a presentation at the DBFA meeting about Facilities Services involvement in CSUCI's Bee Campus USA recognition.



California State University Channel Islands

In December, Facilities Services submitted our Tree Campus USA application on behalf of CSUCI in an effort to receive our campus' recognition for the seventh year in a row. This process involved a comprehensive update of our Campus Tree Care Plan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CSU Channel Islands is striving for a more sustainable campus community every day.

Keep up to date between reports on our website: http://www.csuci.edu/fs/sustainability/index.htm

For questions, concerns, or ideas on new sustainability efforts, please email lisa.noriega403@csuci.edu.

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