



# CSUCI Sustainable Living Guide



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) Sustainable Living Guide. This comprehensive resource is designed to empower our campus community with the knowledge and tools needed to lead more environmentally conscious lives. At CSUCI, we believe that every individual has the power to make a positive impact on our planet, and this guide serves as your roadmap to sustainable living on campus and beyond.

Our commitment to sustainability is deeply rooted in our unique geographical location. Nestled between the Santa Monica Mountains and minutes away from the Pacific Ocean, CSUCI is surrounded by diverse ecosystems that remind us daily of the natural world we strive to protect. This guide is more than just a collection of tips, it's an invitation to become an active participant in preserving the beauty and biodiversity that surrounds us.

In the following pages, you'll find valuable information on a wide range of topics, including eco-friendly transportation options, waste reduction strategies, and techniques for conserving both energy and water. These topics are not isolated issues but are interconnected aspects of a holistic approach to sustainability.

Whether you're a new student, a long-time faculty member, or part of our dedicated staff, this guide offers practical tips and insights to help you reduce your environmental footprint. By adopting these sustainable practices, you'll not only contribute to CSUCI's sustainability goals but also develop lifelong habits that benefit our local and global ecosystems.

Join us in our commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future. Every action, no matter how small, brings us one step closer to a healthier planet. Let's work together to make CSUCI a model of sustainability in higher education and beyond.



# ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

Greenhouse gasses are the driving force behind climate change. The [EPA](#) estimates that the average passenger vehicle produces 4.6 metric tons of CO2 annually. These emissions can be reduced in a variety of ways with your help. Consider [alternative transportation](#) while continuing your education here at CSUCI.

## 1. Hop on the Bus: Your Free Ride Awaits

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and Gold Coast Transit offer free rides to all CSUCI students with a valid campus ID. This service will take you to and from campus, and anywhere in Ventura County you wish to go. **Visit Transportation and Parking Services at Placer Hall or activate your bus pass online for free rides throughout the county.**

<https://www.csuci.edu/publicsafety/parking/vctc-intercity-bus.htm>

<https://www.gctd.org/fares-rider-guide/>

## 2. All Aboard for Green Adventures: Explore SoCal by Train

Discover Southern California in a sustainable way by taking advantage of the train system. Trains are a fantastic eco-friendly transportation option, significantly reducing your carbon footprint compared to driving. By choosing the train, you're cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing road congestion.

Traveling by train not only helps the environment but also enhances your college experience. With Metrolink, you can explore a variety of destinations, from museums and beaches to hiking trails, all while contributing to CSUCI's sustainability goals. Enjoy the convenience of free transfers on connecting transit options, making your adventures both easy and green.



Metrolink offers two exciting time-sensitive opportunities. The free Student Adventure Pass allows free travel on all Metrolink trains, LA Metro trains, and buses. Additionally, the \$10 Weekend Day Pass provides an affordable way to explore the region on weekends. These offers change periodically, so be sure to check Metrolink's website for the latest details and availability of these offers.

# ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

## 3. Carpool and Win: Share the Ride, Share the Rewards

Consider carpooling if you or your friends/classmates have your own vehicles. You'll cut down on the number of cars on the road and reduce fuel consumption, which saves time, money and reduces emissions. Need a hand finding fellow carpoolers? CSUCI's partnership with RideMatch can help! RideMatch connects individuals with similar schedules and destinations, making it easy to form a carpool group at no cost.

There are some great perks waiting for you if you register as a carpooler:

- Automatic entry into a monthly drawing for dining or gift cards
- Access to the premium carpool stalls in campus parking lots
- 5 complimentary parking passes for each person per registered vehicle
- The cost of the carpooler registration can be split among the participants

Visit Transportation and Parking Services in Placer Hall to register.

## 4. ZipCar Getaways: Book, Drive, Return

CSUCI offers two ZipCars for students with transportation needs. With rates as low as \$10.50 per hour, you can easily book a car for your trips around town or beyond. Enjoy the convenience of free gas and insurance, covering all your travel essentials. Simply reserve your ZipCar in advance and return it to the designated parking spots at Arroyo Hall or Town Center near the Mission Hills leasing office when you're finished. For more details or to make a reservation, visit [ZipCar](#).



## 5. Pedal Power: Bike and E- Bike Your Way to School

Biking is a fantastic, eco-friendly option for getting around both campus and Ventura County. Not only does biking reduce your carbon footprint, but it also provides a great workout, adding a healthy boost to your daily routine. Ventura County's transit system is bike-friendly, allowing you to bring your bike along if you need to ride the bus outside of campus.

## 6. Charge Up: Find Your EV Charging Spot

CSUCI offers electric vehicle (EV) charging on campus for vehicles with valid University parking permits. The best place to find a charging stall is in the A8 Parking Lot behind the Broome Library. This lot features 30 charging ports using the EV Connect system. You can also find 5 charging stations along with 2 sharing stalls in the A3 Lot. Visit [CSUCI's EV charging website](#) to learn more about the relevant program and policies.

# WASTE DIVERSION

CSU Channel Islands is committed to a greener future through effective waste management. Our ambitious goal is to divert 80% of all campus waste from landfills by 2040, aligning with the CSU Sustainability Policy. This initiative aims to dramatically reduce our environmental impact and promote responsible resource use across our campus community. The urgency of this goal becomes clear when we consider that the average Californian discards 6.7 pounds of trash daily according to [CalRecycle](#). This figure encompasses all types of household waste, including recyclables and organic materials.

To tackle this challenge, we're focusing on a three-pronged approach- reducing waste generation through material reuse, maximizing recycling efforts, and expanding our composting program for organic waste. As of 2022, we've made significant progress, diverting 61% of campus waste from landfills. However, we still have work to do to reach our 80% target by 2040.

## Tips to Reduce Waste:

- Learn and practice proper waste sorting techniques to separate recyclables, compostables, and landfill waste correctly.
- Opt for reusable alternatives instead of single-use items like plastic cutlery, straws, and disposable containers to minimize waste.
- Choose products with minimal packaging to further reduce waste.
- Don't contaminate recycling bins with trash. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Donate items you no longer need to Goodwill or another secondhand store, especially when moving out.
- Buy second hand furniture, books, and clothing to save money and reduce resource use.
- Carry a reusable shopping bag to grocery stores and other shops.
- Edit papers on-screen instead of printing; if you must print, use double-sided copies.
- Use refillable water bottles and take advantage of water bottle refilling stations around campus.



# ENERGY

We are constantly looking for ways to reduce energy consumption at CSUCI to support the university's goal to be carbon neutral by the year 2040. CSUCI has set an ambitious goal to reduce its Energy Use Intensity (EUI) by 20% by 2029, using 2019 as the baseline year. EUI measures the total energy consumption per square foot of building space, providing a metric for assessing the efficiency of energy usage in campus buildings. Lower energy usage decreases greenhouse gas emissions and saves money.

## **CSUCI's Solar Powerhouse: Energizing the Campus and Beyond**

CSUCI is home to an impressive solar farm that plays a vital role in powering the campus, reducing its carbon footprint and supporting the university's commitment to sustainability. Spanning 14 acres with over 12,000 solar panels, this facility provides about 68% of the university's annual electricity needs, making it a cornerstone of CSUCI's renewable energy initiatives. At its peak, the solar farm generates enough energy to power over 500 homes, and it even contributes excess electricity back to the local power grid, showcasing CSUCI's leadership in environmental stewardship. For more information check renewable resources.

## **To conserve energy on campus, consider incorporating these simple actions into your daily routine:**

- Whenever possible, take advantage of natural daylight instead of turning on lights.
- Always turn off lights when leaving a room or when they are not needed.
- On colder days, dress in layers to stay comfortable without relying on additional heating, and in warmer weather, choose lighter clothing to keep cool.
- Unplug devices when they are not in use to prevent phantom energy consumption.
- Use LED bulbs for all lighting needs, as they are more energy-efficient and have a longer lifespan.
- Wash clothes in cold water and only do full loads. Consider using a clothesline or drying rack instead of a dryer to save energy.
- Be mindful of hot water consumption when showering, doing laundry, or washing dishes.



# WATER

CSUCI is committed to responsible water management and conservation. Our campus employs several strategies to reduce water usage and promote sustainability in this drought-prone region:

- **Irrigation**– CSUCI uses recycled water for irrigating plants and trees across campus, conserving potable water resources.
- **Landscaping**– Our grounds feature drought-tolerant plants to reduce irrigation needs.
- **Fixtures**– Bathroom fixtures such as toilets and faucets have been upgraded and optimized to reduce water usage by up to 50%.

## Tips for Conserving Water:

- Take shorter showers and consider using a shower timer to track your usage
- Don't leave the faucet running while lathering your hands, brushing your teeth, or shaving
- Clean vegetables and fruits in a pan instead of under running water
- Consider reducing beef consumption, as its production is water-intensive
- At home, water plants early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation
- Report leaks on campus as soon as possible to Facilities Services (fsworkcenter@csuci.edu or 805-437-8461)

For more information on CSUCI's water conservation efforts and to learn about current initiatives, visit the [CSUCI Water Conservation page](#).

Remember, every drop counts in California. By working together and implementing these practices, we can create a more sustainable water future for our campus, community, and state.



# GET ENGAGED

At CSUCI, we believe that everyone has a role to play in creating a more sustainable future. There are numerous ways for students, faculty, and staff to get involved in sustainability initiatives on campus. By participating in these efforts, you not only enhance your college experience but also contribute to a greener, more sustainable future for our campus and beyond.

- **Join Sustainability Events**

One of the most exciting ways to engage with sustainability at CSUCI is by joining our various sustainability-focused events. Throughout the year, the campus hosts a range of activities including Earth Month celebrations, beach clean-ups, sustainability workshops, and guest speaker series. These events provide excellent opportunities to learn, network, and make a tangible difference. Keep an eye on the campus events calendar and visit the [sustainability website](#) to stay informed about upcoming opportunities.

- **Participate in the Sustainability Working Group**

For those looking for a more ongoing commitment, consider participating in the Sustainability Working Group. This collaborative effort brings together students, faculty, and staff to address sustainability challenges on campus. By joining this group, you can contribute ideas for new sustainability initiatives, help implement existing projects, and network with like-minded individuals passionate about environmental issues. Visit the [Sustainability Working Group website](#) to learn more.



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- **Host Your Own Sustainability Event**

If you have a great idea for a sustainability event, we encourage you to take the initiative and host your own. Develop your event concept, reach out to the Sustainability Office for guidance and potential resources, collaborate with relevant campus departments or student organizations, and promote your event through campus channels. This is an excellent way to make your mark on campus sustainability efforts and inspire others to get involved.

- **Request a Training or Workshop**

For those interested in deepening their knowledge on specific sustainability topics, the Sustainability Office offers customized training sessions and workshops for campus groups. These can cover a range of subjects including waste reduction and recycling, energy conservation, sustainable transportation, water conservation, and climate change and resilience. To request a training or workshop, simply email [sustainableci@csuci.edu](mailto:sustainableci@csuci.edu) with your proposed topic and target audience.



# CULTIVATE YOUR EXPERTISE AT CI

At CSU Channel Islands, we offer a diverse array of courses designed to foster environmental stewardship and sustainable living practices. Whether you're a beginner looking to explore the field or a student pursuing a full degree, we have something for everyone. Our curriculum spans from foundational courses in environmental science, covering topics like climate change and ecology, to specialized classes in sustainable resource management and environmental policy.

For those interested in hands-on learning, we provide courses focused on sustainable technologies and field studies. Students can explore renewable energy systems, green building design, and participate in environmental monitoring and analysis. These practical courses are complemented by our academic offerings in environmental law, impact assessment, and the integration of sustainability in business practices.

Our courses are available through various academic pathways, including the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science & Resource Management, the Bachelor of Art in Environmental Communication, the Environmental Technologies Certificate, and the Environmental Science & Resource Management Minor. This flexibility allows both full-time students and working professionals to gain the knowledge and skills needed to address real-world environmental challenges. At CSUCI, we're committed to providing the educational foundation necessary for promoting sustainable living and pursuing careers in environmental sustainability, no matter your starting point or ultimate goals.

View [CI's Sustainability Course Inventory](#) to explore how to best integrate sustainability into your education.



# CONCLUSION

As we conclude this Sustainable Living Guide, we hope you feel inspired and empowered to make positive changes in your daily life. Remember, sustainability is a journey, not a destination. Every small step you take, whether it's choosing to bike instead of drive, properly sorting your waste, or simply being mindful of your energy use, contributes to a larger movement towards a more sustainable future. At CSUCI, we are proud of the progress we've made, but we know there's always room for improvement. We invite you to be an active participant in our ongoing sustainability efforts, to share your ideas, and to challenge us to do better. Together, we can create a campus community that not only talks about sustainability but lives it every day. As you move forward, carry the knowledge and practices you've gained here into your future careers and communities, becoming ambassadors for environmental responsibility wherever life takes you. Thank you for joining us in this crucial mission to protect our planet and ensure a thriving future for generations to come.

