

SUSTAINABILITY

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) believes it is important to improve the performance of the corporation by promoting a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness.

For this reason, ASI has adopted this Policy on Sustainability to guide the corporation as it seeks to manage its operations in a manner that minimizes its negative environmental impact and enables the integration of sustainability principles and practices into improving the quality of campus life for students, while also enhancing their educational experience.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) to foster a culture of living sustainably and reducing the corporation's ecological footprint by incorporating principles of sustainability into programs, services, student advocacy, shared governance, and community engagement activities. ASI will incorporate sustainability performance indicators alongside other key indicators of the corporation and strive to set a good example of sustainable practices by adopting recognized best practices across all operations. Accordingly, ASI will:

- Recycle and compost acceptable materials
- Ensure sustainability is reflected in all ASI's strategic documents
- Develop an annual sustainability report on the corporation's progress and accomplishments to be submitted by Special Projects & Sustainability Manager in March

- Provide training and support for students and staff on how to adopt sustainability principles and practices to achieve behavior change in their lifestyle and in their place of work.
- Commit to working with all contracted vendors to reduce the amount of waste material produced as part of services provided to students, recycle and compost all materials possible
- Incorporate the principles of sustainable design and practices into all capital and infrastructure projects, and
- Present the annual sustainability report to the University Student Union/Student Recreation & Wellness Center Board of Trustees to ensure practices are effective and improve practices if needed.

Because achieving long-term environmental sustainability requires sustained attention, Special Projects & Sustainability Manager will monitor and review quarterly progress toward implementing these policies.

CAMPUS-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) believes it is our duty to align our sustainability efforts with those of the greater campus community. ASI is committed to supporting the campus in meeting the following sustainable plans and commitments:

- [Sustainability Plans and Commitments](#)
- [Climate Leadership](#)
- [Climate Action & Adaptation Plan](#)
- [Water Action Plan](#)
- [Strategic Energy Plan](#)
- [Landscape Master Plan](#)
- [CSU Sustainability Policy Report](#)
- [CSU Single Use Plastics Policy](#)

WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| ☒ Budget Area Administrators
Management | ☒ Elected/Appointed Officers | ☐ Grant Recipients | ☒ |
| ☒ Program Advisors | ☒ Staff | ☒ Supervisors | ☒ Volunteers |

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the terms used are defined as follows:

Term	Definition
Sustainability	Operating in a manner which considers: (1) responsibility to the environment, (2) social responsibility and (3) financial responsibility with the goal of meeting present needs while creating a foundation for the future.
Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED)	A green building certification program, sponsored by the United States Green Building Council that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices.
United States Green Building Council (USGBC)	A private, 501(c) 3 membership-based non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in building design, construction, and operations. The USGBC is best known for its development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system.

Green Seal Certified Products	A certification given by Green Seal, a non-profit environmental standard development and certification organization, which is based on Green Seal standards, which contains performance, health and sustainability criteria.
Climate Action Plan (CAP)	A set of strategies intended to guide efforts for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	A gas that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. Radiation from greenhouse gases is the fundamental cause of global climate destabilization.
Living Lab	Locations where students, staff, and faculty do coursework and research using the physical campus as a testing ground for new concepts, projects, and technology.
Zero Waste	The ethical, economical, efficient, and visionary goal of guiding people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources. Zero Waste means: (1) designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, (2) conserving and recovering resources not burning or burying them. Implementing Zero Waste practices will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.

REGULATIONS

1.0 FACILITY DESIGN

ASI is committed to ensuring that all new facility projects and existing facility renovations will incorporate the highest principles of sustainable design and practices within the constraints of program needs and budget parameters. It is the goal of ASI to achieve USGBC LEED Silver certification or higher whenever possible. Additionally, ASI will look for new and innovative products and systems to be added to facility projects that will reduce energy use and landfill waste, increase water conservation, and maximize alternative energy sources whenever feasible.

ASI is committed to supporting a sustainability center that will serve as a central location for sustainability resources for ASI, the campus, and the greater Long Beach community.

2.0 SUSTAINABLE BUILDING OPERATIONS

ASI shall actively pursue the use of sustainable options when identifying necessary supplies for building operations. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Increase the use of non-paper hand drying systems to minimize the use of paper towels
- Ensuring environmentally friendly paper materials are being utilized in dispensers, where applicable
- Utilizing Green Seal Certified cleaning products to ensure that they meet the needs of the University Green Cleaning Policy or exceed it
- Implementing sustainable practices within future contracts between facility, reservation, and vendors for events within ASI facilities are highly encouraged
- Working with the Campus Events Office (CEO) to provide sustainable options for event planners such as composting, recycling, and sustainable food/drink purchases for events
- Moving towards low emission vehicles where feasible
- Supporting the University Transportation initiative of promoting bicycles by installing bicycle racks
- Following the water action plan to actively identify new opportunities to minimize water consumption
- Utilizing LED lighting and implementing occupancy controls within each building
- Evaluating annually the water delivering systems to minimize the amount of leaks

- Implementing a system that utilizes drip irrigation and reclaimed water and minimizing usage
- Recycling all electronic waste generated within ASI and USU facilities through certified E-Waste vendors.
- Transitioning towards low-flow urinals and low-volume toilet models upon renovations.

2.1 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND ENERGY STANDARDS

ASI shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to energy use, utilities, and sustainability. Any existing or future power systems, equipment, or operational practices that fall outside of regulatory or institutional energy requirements shall be identified and brought into compliance within **120 days** through appropriate modifications or corrective actions.

The Senior Director of Facilities Operations & Sustainability, in association with the Special Projects & Sustainability Manager, shall be responsible for monitoring these pursuits.

3.0 EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

ASI is committed to ensuring that sustainability plays a role in all its programs, services, and activities. Accordingly, ASI, in coordination with Sustain U Department, will host mandatory educational trainings and workshops for ASI employees, volunteers, and student government representatives on procedures that will help them be more sustainable in their daily work and beyond. Furthermore, ASI is committed to advocating for more sustainable course options and programs that provide practicum, internship, and research opportunities for students looking to further their education in sustainability.

This includes:

- Mandating training at ASI Student Staff Day and ASI Student Government Retreat
- Tabling during Week of Welcome, Earth Month, Sustainability Month, and other events related to Sustainability
- Working with Sustain-U to expand the Trash Talkers program to spread waste management awareness on campus
- Working with the President's Commission on Sustainability
- Collaborating with the ASI Commissioner for Environmental Justice to provide quarterly reports to the student body regarding sustainable efforts throughout ASI and the impact of our carbon footprint and integrating sustainability into the co-curriculum experience.
- Training all ASI staff on sustainability, waste disposal, and environmental purchasing practice bi-annually.
- Utilizing Grow Beach Garden as a living lab to cultivate their own food while creating sustainable impacts.

4.0 FOOD SERVICE

ASI is committed to working with contracted vendors in all ASI facilities to provide products to customers in compostable packaging, wherever feasible. Additionally, ASI will provide resources and training, where appropriate, for contracted vendors in all ASI facilities to encourage participation in the composting of food packaging and food waste in back-of-house operations. ASI will actively include sustainable procedures within future contracts with vendors to promote more sustainable practices. ASI will adhere to CSU Executive Order 5236 to ban single use plastic by July 1, 2020, where applicable and comply with all city, county, and state ordinances.

ASI will ensure all food service tenants follow established City of Long Beach ordinances including the Styrofoam ban.

5.0 CLIMATE PROTECTION

ASI is committed to keeping its carbon footprint in line with the California State University, Long Beach Climate Action Plan. Moreover, the ASI Special Projects & Sustainability Manager and the Commissioner of Environmental Justice will work with the California State University, Long Beach campus to reduce ASI facility greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to, or below, levels of 1990.

6.0 RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

ASI is committed to the expansion of the composting program. ASI is also committed to exceeding the CSU System's sustainability goals by doing all it can to reduce solid waste from all ASI facilities and move to zero waste by 2030. This may include:

- Improving efficiency and participation of the composting programs through improved signage and expansion of composting bins available within ASI
- Providing Isabel Patterson Child Development Center (IPCDC) and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) with collection services of recyclable and compostable items
- Working with the University towards a Zero Waste Policy and mixed recyclables
- Collaborating with Athletics, Beach Shops, Housing and Residential Life, and the University to promote composting
- ASI self-operated commercial services will not offer single use plastic water bottles for sale

7.0 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

ASI will annually evaluate products used in office and service areas in search of substitutes, which are recycled and environmentally friendly, when economically and operationally feasible. ASI will hold itself accountable to have offices maintain sustainable practices. This may include procedures on purchasing items and utilizing sustainable products whenever possible for ASI sponsored events and programs.

8.0 CLEAN ENERGY

ASI shall act in accordance with the University clean energy standards. The campus is committed to increasing the amount of solar power generated on campus and encouraging our utility provider to source more electricity from renewable sources and take steps to phase out the dirtiest fuel sources from its energy mix.

ASI must reduce consumption of electricity by continuing to implement energy efficiency measures while increasing renewable energy usage including, but not limited to, the replacement of halogen and fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED lighting or an equal alternative.

FORMS

The following forms are to be used in the execution of this policy.

Form Name	Purpose	Responsible Office	Approved By	Timeline for Submission
Ex: Request for Payment or Purchase (RPP)	To request a check or purchase order	A.S. Business Office	Authorized budget area signatory	Submit at least four business days before desired date of disbursement