

UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: AN OVERVIEW

The UC Sustainable Practices Policy guides sustainability efforts across the 10 UC campuses. UCLA Sustainability created this summary to provide a simpler guide to the key targets and requirements. View the full [Sustainable Practices policy](#).

These policy goals form the foundation of UCLA's Sustainability Plan. Visit the [UCLA Sustainability Plan website](#).



GREEN BUILDING DESIGN

- Outperform state code energy efficiency standards by 20–30%
- No on-site fossil fuel combustion for space and water heating in new buildings or major renovations
- Achieve “Gold” certification or better for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the industry-leading green building rating system
- New parking structures are at least Parksmart “Silver” certified, while striving for Gold
- New buildings will achieve at least five points for applicable LEED water efficiency credits, while also pursuing waste reduction and recycling credits
- Non-major interior renovations must achieve LEED certification
- All projects must register with an eligible local utility energy efficiency program



ENERGY

- Achieve a 2% reduction in energy use intensity, on average, annually
- 100% clean electricity purchased from off-campus sources, including the local utility, UC Clean Energy Program, or other sources that provide verified renewable or carbon free energy
- Install additional renewable energy (e.g., solar) and energy storage on-site, as feasible



CLIMATE

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 90% by 2045 compared to 2019 levels
- Strive to meet interim year targets (for 2030, 2035, and 2040) with direct emissions reductions rather than voluntary carbon offsets
- Continue to report on emissions annually



TRANSPORTATION

- All UCLA vehicle acquisitions are zero-emission (ZE), unless such an option is not available for a particular vehicle classification
- Use clean or low emission fuels for university vehicles where ZE is not available
- Reduce single occupant student and employee commuting to 30% and 40% or lower, respectively, by 2050
- Support employee telecommuting and flexible work arrangements
- Promote and support electric vehicle use so that 30% of commuter vehicles at each UC location are ZE by 2050
- For any proposed parking structure, a business case analysis showing how the investment would align with each UC location's Climate Action Plans and/or sustainable transportation policies is required



SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AND LAB OPERATIONS

- Certify as many existing buildings as possible through LEED for Operations & Maintenance certification
- Maintain a Green Lab Assessment Program, as well as the Green Labs Action Plan, to assess the operational sustainability of research groups, labs, and other research spaces



WASTE

- Divert 90% or more of waste from going to a landfill
- Reduce waste generation by 50% by 2030, compared to fiscal year 2015–16 levels
- Bans on polystyrene (“styrofoam”) and other single use plastics used for packaging, foodservice, and bottled beverages, including for third party operators

UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES: AN OVERVIEW (CONT.)



PURCHASING

- Support waste reduction by avoiding unnecessary purchasing and prioritizing purchases of surplus or multiple use products
- Compliance with Required Level Green Spend criteria (per the UC Sustainable Procurement Guidelines) for each product category, as well as 25% Preferred Level Green Spend and 25% Economic and Community Impact Spend
- The Procurement Department integrates sustainability, including by:
 - » Allocating at least 15% of the points utilized in competitive solicitation evaluations to sustainability criteria
 - » Engaging suppliers to reduce packaging and build more sustainable supply chains



FOOD

- Procure 25% sustainable food products by 2030
- Implement programs to recover edible food from foodservice operations
- Provide education and training materials that support healthy and sustainable food choices
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food purchases:
 - » Continue to create plant forward menus
 - » By 2030, procure 25% plant based food, while striving for 30%
 - » Annually report on plant based food procurement progress



HEALTH AND WELL BEING

- For vending machines, at least 60% of beverages and 40% of food meet UC Healthy Vending spend guidelines:
 - » UC locations must promote Healthy Vending items and annually report on their implemented strategies
 - » At least 25% of associated vending appliances and IT hardware should qualify as green spend
 - » Follow Zero Waste restrictions on foam and single use plastics
- Provide information on chemicals of concern through educational materials and/or training



WATER

- Reduce potable water use for irrigation through:
 - » Use of recycled water
 - » More efficient irrigation
 - » Drought tolerant landscaping
 - » Turf removal
- Develop and maintain a Water Action Plan
- Eliminate or replace once through and constant flow cooling and cleaning systems with alternatives that recirculate or use other means that do not drain after one use
- No new once through or single pass cooling systems for short term research:
 - » Connect to an existing cooling, vented, or chilled system, if available
 - » Otherwise, ensure water flow is metered, automated, and controlled
- Provide easy access to free drinking water
- Evaluate water conservation opportunities—planning for water recycling and long term sustainability in construction, renovation, and operations



ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Assess existing sustainability efforts for anti-discrimination, equity, and inclusive excellence
- Incorporate these principles by 2030 into all areas of the UC Sustainable Practices Policy
- Include an equity and inclusion analysis as part of any addition to, or revision of, the Sustainable Practices Policy



GENERAL SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Achieve or maintain a Gold rating—while striving for Platinum—with certification under the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).