

SAN DIEGO  
CONTINUING  
EDUCATION



San Diego Continuing Education  
Sustainability Committee  
Action Plan 2020–2021



The San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) Sustainability Committee was formed in fall 2019 to develop a plan that will strengthen SDCE's commitment to promote and reinforce principles of sustainability. These efforts support the strategies outlined in the San Diego Community College District's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. SDCE believes we have an obligation to reflect on the impact our actions have on our community and the planet. Students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators met regularly to lead the efforts and serve as advocates for this important work.

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GOAL

### Raise awareness of environmental issues at SDCE campus locations

- Identify 1-3 environmental issues at each SDCE campus
- Discuss and provide sustainable solutions to these issues

2

GOAL

### Identify resources and programs to efficiently advance sustainability at SDCE

- Identify resources and programs currently provided by the city and the state
- Incorporate and use identified resources to the extent possible

3

GOAL

### Sponsor campus events and activities that support sustainability

- Educate employees through informational lunch-and-learn sessions with local departments of water and power or waste authority
- Support SDCE's Associated Student Body in the promotion of sustainability

## 4

### GOAL

#### Empower classified professionals and faculty to become campus sustainability leaders

- Create and embrace a sustainability culture at SDCE that may include monthly challenges (e.g. challenge an office to go a month with no plastic eating utensils, and reward those who stick with it by offering small prizes, such as gift cards or snacks)

## 5

### GOAL

#### Encourage faculty to become sustainability leaders

- Make sustainability part of a class syllabus (e.g. dedicate an entire class or simply a few minutes to this subject; educate students on basics such as the blue recycle bin)
- Invite industry leaders as classroom guest speakers to enhance awareness and accessibility to green and energy-efficient jobs and careers
- Provide energy education and core energy education connections leading to meaningful, well-paid careers in HVAC, plumbing, and construction trades

## 6

### GOAL

#### Train and promote the use of technology to reduce the consumption of resources

- Provide professional development opportunities to explain that Microsoft 365 is an environmentally friendly and efficient work productivity tool
- Provide professional development opportunities to explain how Adobe Sign integrates with Microsoft 365 applications; further increasing sustainability by providing e-signature solutions within the tools that employees use every day
- Consider how to make Microsoft 365 available to currently enrolled students
- Encourage the use of Zoom for virtual meetings to reduce the increasing amount of carbon in the environment; reducing travel and paper printing

7

GOAL

## Encourage the use of eco-friendly everyday snack/party supplies

- Use compostable plates and reusable silverware for office celebrations (e.g. birthday and holidays)
- Encourage the use of reusable items (e.g. Keurig pods and water cups)
- Encourage the use of campus refillable water fountains

8

GOAL

## Purchase and install smart power strips for workspaces

- Automatically reduces power use by shutting off the power to products that are in standby mode

9

GOAL

## Establish a sustainability initiative task-force or green team

- Identify eco-minded co-workers and appoint a sustainability taskforce
- Brainstorm creative ideas and advise the Executive Governance leadership
- Develop a system to measure and monitor how the initiatives are making a positive impact

10

GOAL

## Integrate sustainability into facilities planning

- Install solar panels and energy-efficient equipment on SDCE campuses to reduce energy consumption
- Educate each campus on how they faculty, classified professionals, and administrators can directly contribute to the conservation of energy and water