

Los Angeles Valley College Climate Action Plan



Achieving Climate Neutrality

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends of Los Angeles Valley College,

We exist to serve the community as a leader in instructional excellence, to facilitate the success of our diverse students, develop critical thinkers and life-long learners, and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of the San Fernando Valley and beyond. This is our mission. With this in mind, we have taken important steps to be a more sustainable institution.

Climate change is a significant challenge that we face and we must act now to avoid the most life altering affects. In 2007, to strengthen our commitment to sustainability, Los Angeles Valley College signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, and joined hundreds of other colleges and universities across the country that have committed to becoming a climate-neutral campus.

Colleges may not be large emitters of greenhouse gases on the global scale, but our influence is large, and it is important that we provide a good example not only for our students, but also for our community. Los Angeles Valley College educates approximately 17,000 students every year from the local community. We have the opportunity to transform lives and we recognize that sustainability must be a part of that transformation.

Los Angeles Valley College has taken the bold step of developing and putting into action a plan that will help us reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Now, we are pleased to present our climate action plan here. Through continued collaboration on implementing our climate action plan, we can achieve our goal of climate neutrality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Carleo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A. Susan Carleo, Ph.D.
President

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles Valley College is on a quest to become climate neutral by 2050.

We're serious about this quest: We made an official commitment to it by agreeing to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment in 2007.

How do we get there?

Los Angeles Valley College (Valley College) has taken the initial steps. We have developed our baseline greenhouse gas inventory, determined our strategies, and begun to implement measures. Now, our climate action plan will guide us toward achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions and climate neutrality. This critical tool is a roadmap into our future. It will help us monitor progress, measure outcomes, and be accountable.

Our climate action plan outlines strategies and milestones to lead Valley College students, faculty, and staff through the next 40 years. This is a crucial time period during which our actions, along with those of institutions, businesses, and governments around the world, will largely determine the world's fate with global warming.

As our climate action plan progresses, we have many responsibilities:

- We have to dedicate our efforts to short-, medium-, and long-term tasks.
- We have to learn new thought processes, knowledge fields, techniques, and cutting-edge technologies to apply new processes and introduce new solutions; we also have to embrace lessons from unintended or unexpected results.
- We have to be resourceful and collaborative: we have to acquire skills and knowledge from institutions experienced in certain project areas, and we have to share best practices and experiences with institutions tackling new challenges, in which we have gained insights.
- We have to be adaptable to changes for a better future, be patient through processes, and be flexible in adjusting our course when called for by external factors.
- We have to recognize the small wins and the major accomplishments.

Most importantly, for our climate action plan to succeed, we must ensure two conditions are consistently met:

- **Everyone at Valley College must be involved: students, faculty, administrators, and staff.** We hope everyone will be actively engaged as we execute our plan and work together towards an environmentally and economically sustainable future for all.
- **Climate action plan strategies and tactics must align with our mission statement.** The campus has a park-like quality, with a rich variety of trees selected by its founding faculty. As a result, the campus itself serves as a laboratory for learning and gives the College a special appreciation for the environment and issues of sustainability.



**CLIMATE CHANGE
IMPACTS OUR
WORLD, OUR
NATION, AND
OUR COMMUNITY**

Climate Change Affects the World, Our Nation, and Our Communities...and, We Effect Climate Change

Climate change presents one of the most profound challenges of our time. Many atmospheric scientists believe that Earth's climate system is changing in response to elevated levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels for energy use.



Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States¹ — a few key findings:

- 1. Global warming is unequivocal and primarily human-induced.**
Average global temperatures have increased over the past 50 years. The observed increases are primarily due to human-induced emissions of heat-trapping gases.
- 2. Climate changes are underway in the United States and are projected to grow.**
Climate-related changes have already been observed in the United States and its coastal waters. These include increases in heavy downpours, rising temperature and sea level, rapidly retreating glaciers, thawing permafrost, lengthening growing

seasons, lengthening ice-free seasons in the ocean and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt, and alterations in river flows. These changes are projected to grow.

- 3. Widespread climate-related impacts are occurring now and are expected to increase.**

Climate change is already affecting water, energy, transportation, agriculture, ecosystems, and health. These impacts are different from region to region and will grow under projected climate changes.

- 4. Future climate change and its impacts depend on choices made today.**

The amount and rate of future climate change depend primarily on current and future human-caused emissions of heat-trapping gases and airborne particles. Responses involve reducing emissions to limit future warming, and adapting to the changes that are unavoidable.

We need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:^{2,3}

- Over the next century, limiting the increase in average global temperature to 2°C may avoid the most damaging and irreversible impacts of global warming.
- Greenhouse gas emissions need to be stabilized well below 450 parts per million to minimize the average global temperature increase to 2°C.
- **Global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 50% of their 1990 levels by the year 2050, in order to reduce the risks of severe climate change.**

1. U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) 2009. "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States." Page 12. <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts> This report was issued in 2009, by a task force of U.S. government science agencies led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

2. International Climate Change Task force. "Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change." 2005. <http://www.americanprogress.org/kfi/climatechallenge.pdf>

3. University of New South Wales Climate Change Research Centre. <http://www.crcr.unsw.edu.au/news/2007/Bali.html> 2007 Bali Declaration by Scientists.

New Lessons in Higher Education

We have all contributed to the progression of climate change, and we all have a role in changing its course.

Colleges and universities have a pivotal role in advancing sustainable business practices, since we have a great influence on our next generation of young professionals. We have a responsibility to lead our students on the right course, through learning opportunities that empower them to understand climate change, make decisions for sustainable living, and use new skills to build a safer and healthier future.

Higher education is a billion dollar economic engine. We employ millions of people and consume vast resources, manufactured goods, and services. There are over 17 million students across more than 4,000 higher learning institutions in the United States.⁴ Students will pursue many different careers, and they will have an impact on businesses, organizations, and operations of all types. They need to acquire knowledge and skills in new disciplines to effect positive change.

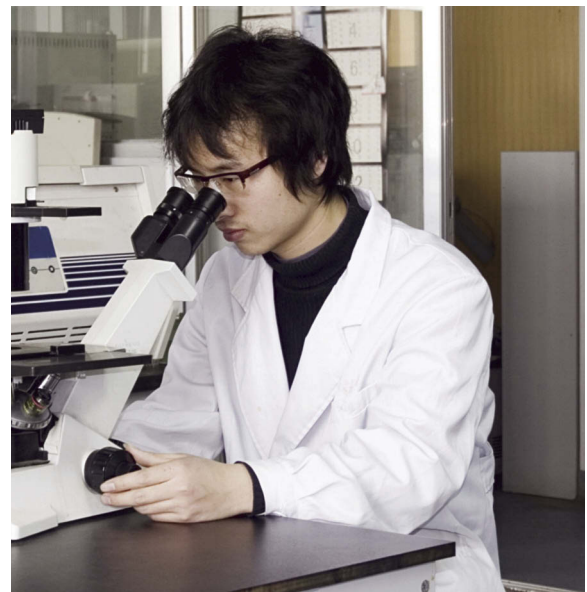
Higher education is in the best position to not only teach our next generations the critical lessons and tools to create a new course for our future, but also to take actions as an institution to model ways that can help foster improved climate conditions.



The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment is a growing network of colleges and universities that have committed to develop and implement plans in pursuit of climate neutrality.⁵

Higher education has been granted tax-free status, the ability to receive public and private funds, and academic freedom, in exchange for educating students and producing the knowledge that will result in a thriving civil society. For these reasons, higher education has a moral and social responsibility to rise to this challenge.⁶

American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment.



4. ACUPCC Website "Why Sign the Commitment" <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment/why-sign>

5. ACUPCC Website "Mission and History" <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/mission-history>

6. ACUPCC Website "Why Sign the Commitment" <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment/why-sign>



Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is the largest community college district in the United States. It has nine colleges, including Los Angeles Valley College, and it covers an area greater than 882 square miles in more than 36 cities and communities. LACCD offers lifelong learning opportunities for students.

As a higher education institutional system, LACCD recognized its responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Former LACCD

Chancellor Darroch Young and the current Chancellor Daniel LaVista also understood the urgency to take action. The District became one of the 12 founding signatories of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2006.

LACCD has been a rising leader in advancing sustainable practices. Its hallmark initiative is the \$6 billion Sustainable Building Program to replace buildings in states of disrepair and neglect.

LACCD Firsts:



- First community college system to require Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for new buildings
- First community college system to achieve a BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) certification
- First community college system to sign on to the ACUPCC Climate Commitment
- First community college system to host the UC/CSU/CCC Annual Sustainability Conference
- First community college system to join the California Climate Action Registry

LACCD Awards and Recognitions

2010

IIDA Caliber Environmental Leadership Award for commitment to sustainability and influence on the broader community (International Interior Design Association)

2009

Sustainability Showcase Award, Other Products and Services category (California Sustainability Alliance)

Community Impact Award (Los Angeles Business Council)

Higher Education Energy Efficiency Best Practices award (UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference)

Green California Leadership Award (Green Technology and Advisory Board for the Green Calif. Summit)

Sustainable Leadership and Design Development Non-Profit award (CoreNet Global)

Leonardo Public Sector Industry Honor Award (Society for Marketing Professional Services, Los Angeles Chapter)

2008

Green Leadership Achievement Award (Green California Community College Summit)

REmmy Corporate Citizens Award (CoreNet Global)

Energy Efficiency Partnership Program Best Practices in New Construction & Sustainable Operations (UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference)

2007

Clinton Climate Initiative

Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award—Sustainable Practices or Facilities

California Construction Owner of the Year—McGraw Hill (California Construction Magazine)

2006

Savings by Design Award (Southern California Gas Company)

Sustainable Future Award (U.S. Green Building Council—Los Angeles Chapter)

Flex Your Power (State of California)

2005

Flex Your Power Education and Leadership (State of California)

Visionary Leadership Award (U.S. Green Building Council—Los Angeles Chapter)

Sempra Energy Efficiency Excellence Award

2004

California/Local Environmental Leadership Award (Global Green U.S.A. Millennium Awards)

Visionary Award (U.S. Green Building Council)

Flex Your Power Award (State of California)

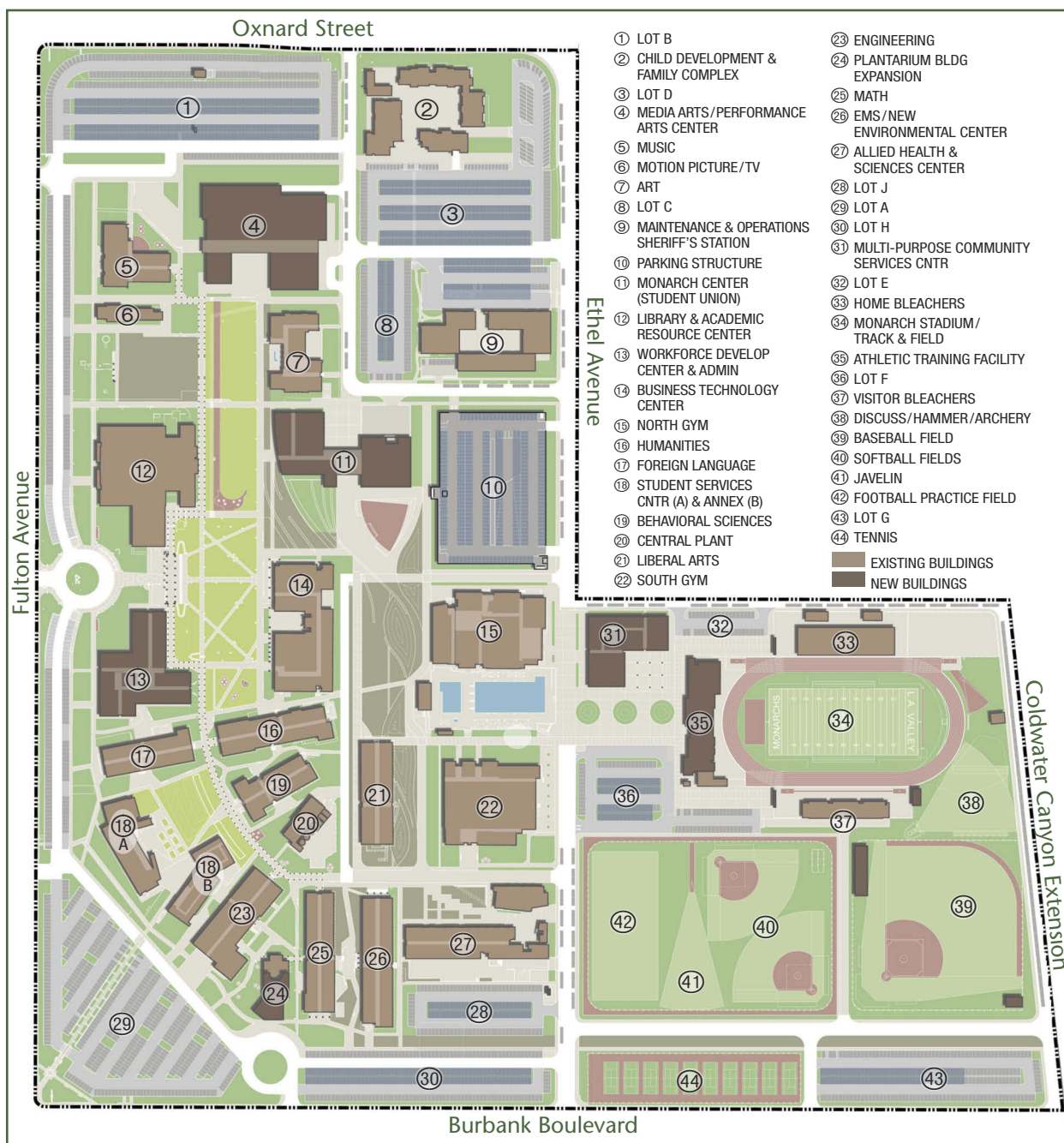
Doing Our Part at Los Angeles Valley College

Just south of the Los Angeles Civic Center located in the center of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles Valley College is a two-year college that has been offering transfer education, career technical education, and lifelong learning and vocational preparation for over 60 years. We are a top-rated community college offering more than 140 associate degree programs and certificate programs.

Our campus is undergoing a transformation.

From our buildings and curriculum to our administration and operations, we are making physical, environmental, and social changes to improve Valley College.

Our picturesque campus sits on 104-acres in the Los Angeles suburb of Valley Glen. The campus is just minutes away from Hollywood, Beverly Hills, downtown Los Angeles, major motion picture and television studios, and the beaches of Santa Monica and Malibu.



Our Course for a Climate Action Plan

Cultivating campus sustainability is a cornerstone of the Valley College climate action plan.

As a signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, Valley College has agreed to:

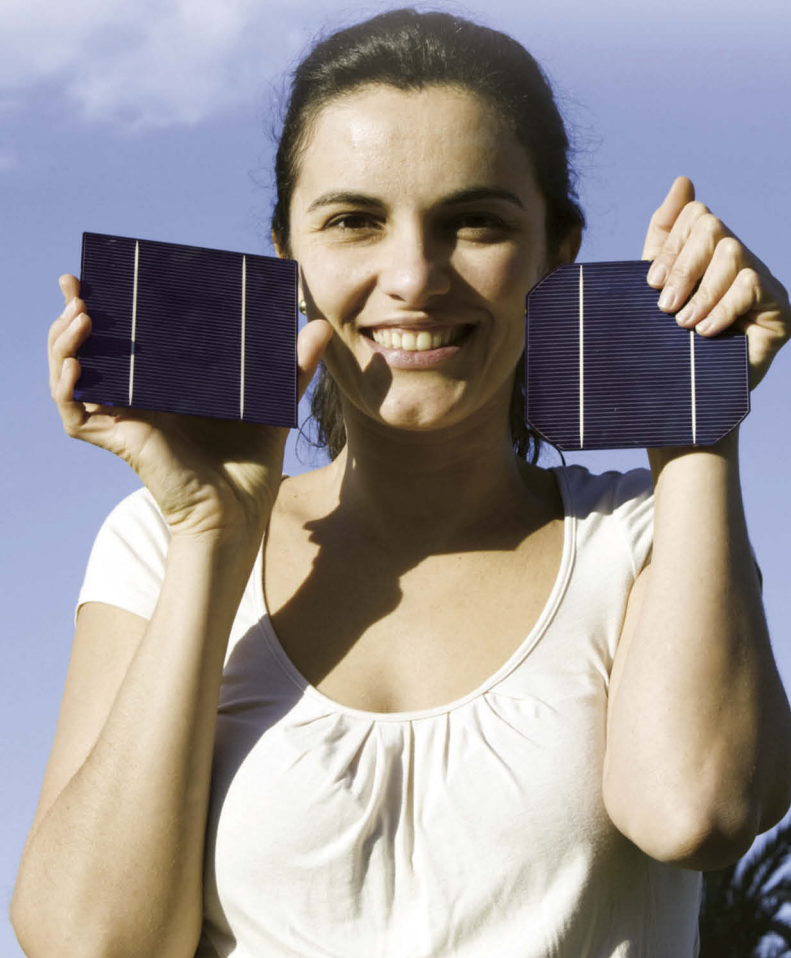
- Complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Set a target date for becoming climate neutral
- Take immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Integrate sustainability into the curriculum and make it part of the educational experience
- Develop a climate action plan that outlines strategies and tactics to achieve climate neutrality

Here, in our climate action plan, we solidify our commitment to employing sustainable practices and developing green education and training programs. We highlight strategies and tactics that will enable Valley College to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and meet our social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and sustainable society.



We are dedicated to creating a more sustainable future.





ESTABLISHING A BASELINE

Building a Baseline Greenhouse Gas Inventory

In 2005, as part of an LACCD district-wide initiative, Los Angeles Valley College joined the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR). That year, LACCD conducted a greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory of the 2004 calendar year to establish a baseline for each of its nine campuses and the District Office. LACCD has conducted subsequent inventories for 2005 through 2009.

The Valley College greenhouse gas inventory accounted for emissions in three categories:

- Consumption of natural gas in campus buildings and other onsite combustibles, such as gasoline-driven lawn mowers and diesel back-up generators
- Electricity consumption in campus buildings
- Gasoline and diesel fuel consumption for student, faculty and staff commuting

As Valley College began to lay the groundwork for developing a climate action plan, our total GHG emissions have fluctuated, but overall increased in recent years (2004–2009):

- Emissions from natural gas increased significantly between 2007 and 2009,

largely due to the heating system for the new Olympic size pool.

- Emissions from building electricity increased significantly from 2006 to 2009.
- Emissions from commuting were the single largest source of GHG emissions, but as of the last reporting for these emissions in 2007, were on the decline.



The Kyoto Protocol is a protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The agreement identifies six high priority greenhouse gases for reductions:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- Methane (CH₄)
- Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)
- Hydroflourocarbons (HFCs)
- Perflourocarbons (PFCs)
- Sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆)

Climate Leader Recognized by California Climate Action Registry (CCAR)



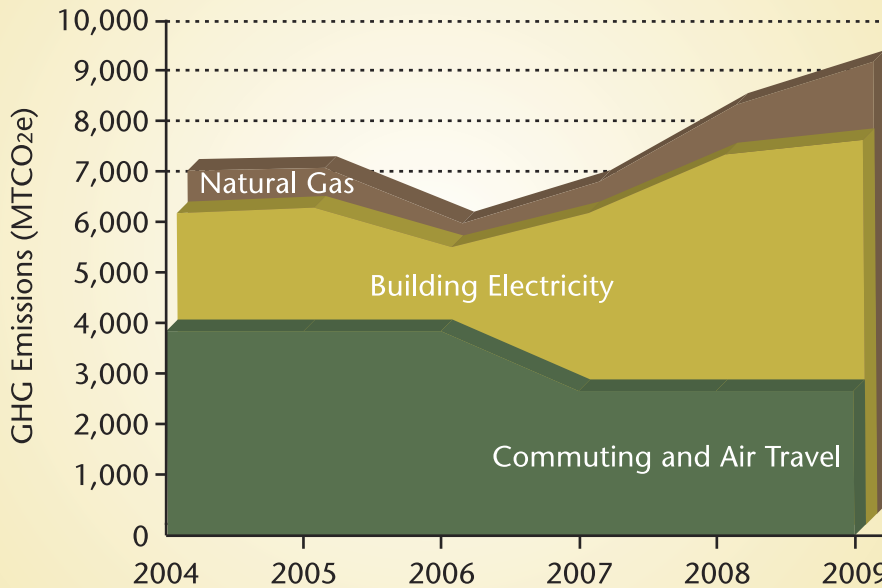
Valley College follows the CCAR General Reporting Protocol to collect, calculate, and report GHG emissions data.

Valley College's 2007, 2008 and 2009 inventories have been adjusted to include all six greenhouse gases.

A third party verifies all of Valley College's data collected.

Valley College's annual emissions are included in the LACCD GHG emissions reports available to the public on the CCAR website, <http://www.climateregistry.org/>.

Los Angeles Valley College Emissions Trends, 2004-2009



What is a metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e})?

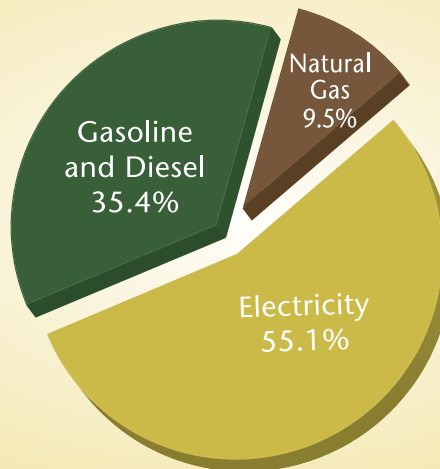
Each of the six Kyoto greenhouse gases has different global warming potentials, meaning they have differing abilities to trap heat in the atmosphere. The total emissions of all six greenhouse gases are normalized according to their global warming equivalence to a molecule of carbon dioxide (CO_{2e}). And a metric ton is approximately 2,204 pounds!

Building Electricity

Valley College campus buildings typically use electricity for lighting, motors, fans, heating and cooling systems, and plug loads, such as computers. Valley College purchases its electricity from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). We also generate our own emission-free electricity from three solar photovoltaic (PV) systems located on campus.

In 2008, we purchased 8,027 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity from LADWP, equivalent to 4,482 MTCO_{2e}.

2009 GHG Emissions Sources



Building Natural Gas

As of 2008, the main sources of natural gas consumption are boilers, heaters and kilns. In addition, Valley College completed construction for an Olympic size pool in 2008 which requires a significant amount of natural gas for heating.⁷ The natural gas is supplied by Southern California Gas Company.

Valley College used a total of 144,878 therms of natural gas, equivalent to 771 MTCO₂e.

Transportation Fuels

Commuting is part of the everyday life at Valley College, for faculty, staff, and students alike. **In 2007, Valley College student, staff,**

and faculty commuters were responsible for approximately 2,875 MTCO₂e of indirect mobile (gasoline and diesel) emissions. This was a decrease from the previous three years of tracking.

Valley College operates a small number of fleet vehicles. The emissions from college vehicles are negligible compared to the commuting emissions.

Other Emissions Sources

Emissions from equipment powered by propane, gasoline or diesel fuel, such as emergency generators, were found to be negligible compared with the other emissions sources.

⁷ Los Angeles Community College District, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Verification Report, 2008, Appendix D



ACHIEVING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY



Emissions Forecast and Achieving Climate Neutrality

Global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced 50-80% by 2050 to avoid dramatic consequences of climate change.

California has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 80% of its 1990 levels, by 2050.⁸

Valley College will go beyond the recommended reduction goal for GHG emissions to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

A climate action plan must state an emissions forecast. This forecast helps foster a concerted effort to implement emission reduction projects, and it establishes a comparative measure between future emission reductions and business-as-usual (BAU) emission levels to track progress.

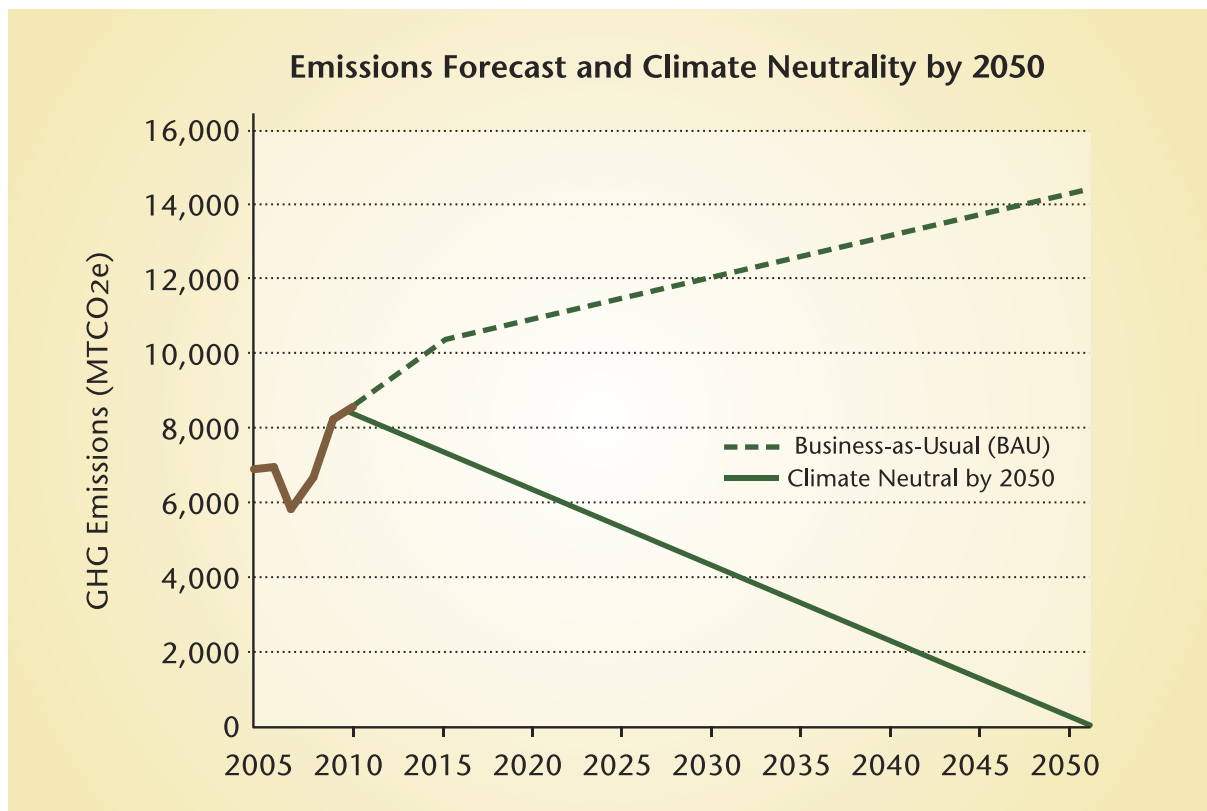
The emissions forecast for Valley College is based on the emissions trend calculated from 2004 through 2009, and the Sustainable Building Program's new construction projects planned through 2015.



What is Climate Neutrality?

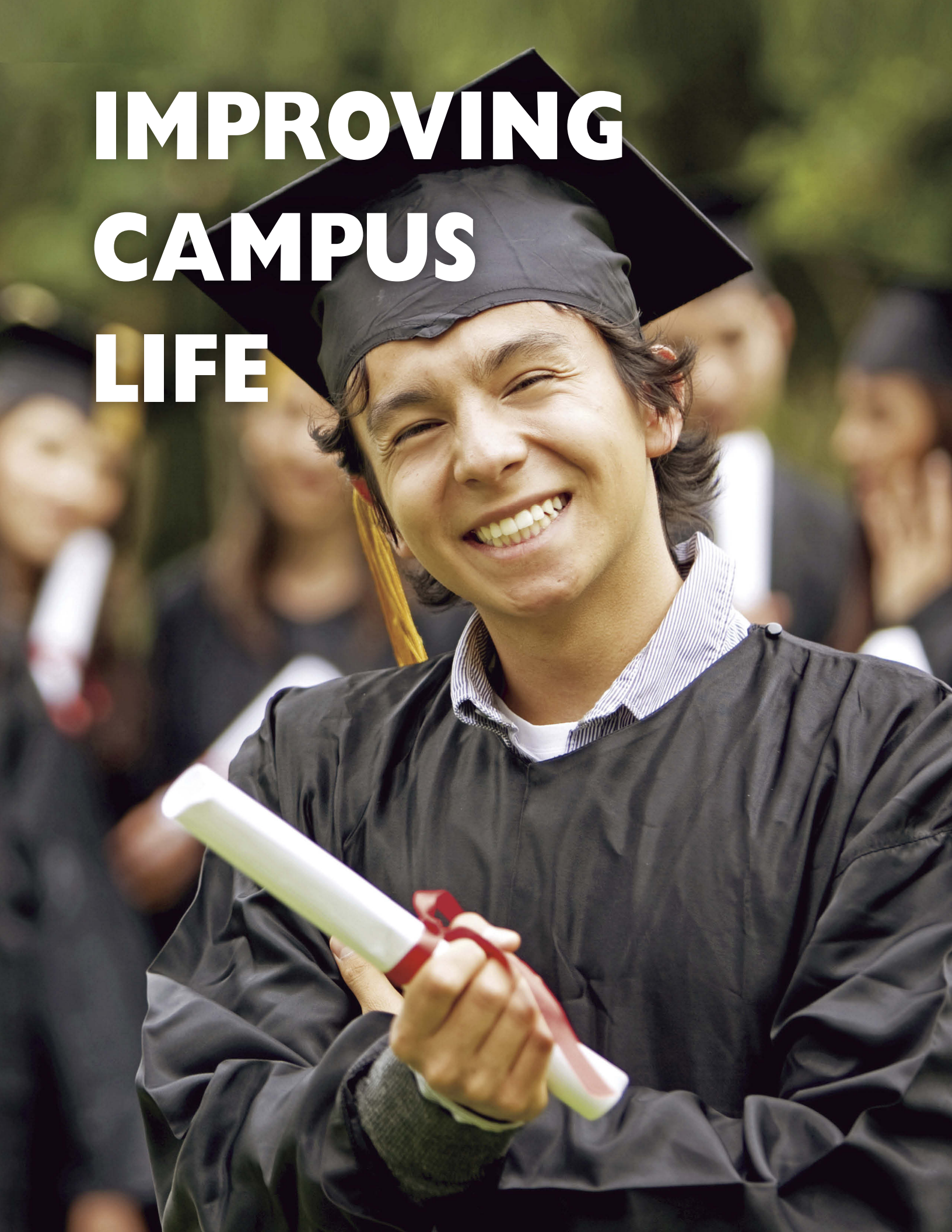
According to the ACUPCC, climate neutrality is defined as having no net GHG emissions.

Climate neutrality can be achieved by minimizing GHG emissions as much as possible, prior to considering carbon offsets or other offsite mitigation measures.



8. Executive Order S-3-05, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005

IMPROVING CAMPUS LIFE



Climate Action Strategies

Valley College's climate action strategies target the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions: buildings and transportation.

Buildings

DISTRICT-WIDE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PROGRAM



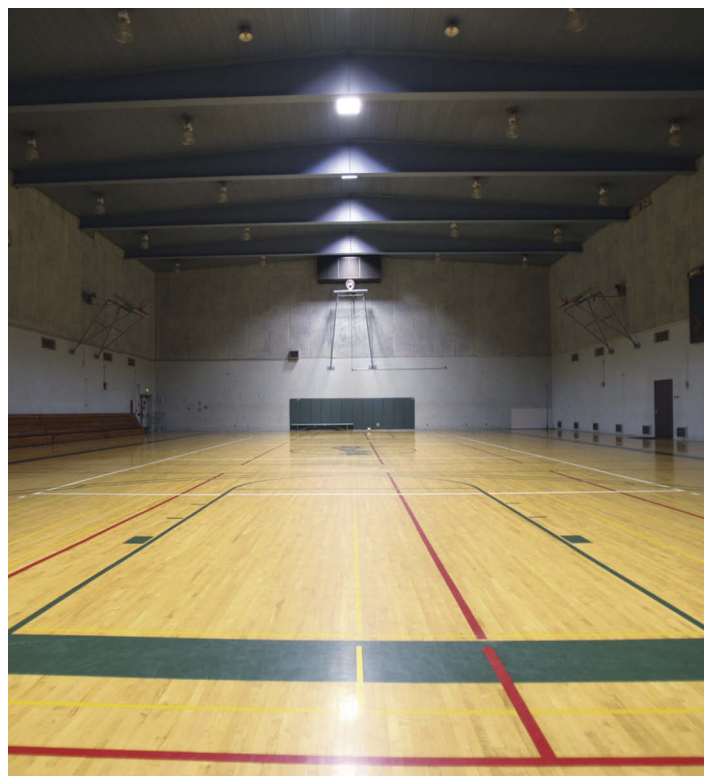
In 2002, the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees adopted a groundbreaking commitment to sustainability—a sustainable policy mandate that requires a LEED-certified rating or better for all new construction and major renovation projects throughout its college campuses. **Today, the LACCD is at the helm of a \$6 billion Sustainable Building Program, which is among the nation's largest environmentally friendly green-building programs.**

The Sustainable Building Program cultivates positive impacts for society:

- Creates improved environments that are better suited to prepare and train students for twenty-first century jobs
- Boosts the California economy
- Models sustainable practices and decreases the District's GHG emissions

To supplement the Board's policy, a sustainable standards and specification was launched to give designers guidelines to focus their efforts on conserving energy, integrating sustainable siting design, reducing waste and water consumption, improving indoor air quality, and using sustainable materials and resources.

All buildings will be designed and constructed with environmental sensitivity in mind.



LACCD Building Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Campus Sustainability

Water use measures

- Collect all stormwater so none shall leave the campus: store collected stormwater to re-use or infiltrate onsite
- Reduce potable water demand for all landscaping by a minimum of 50%: utilize Xeriscaping and drought resistant planting
- Reuse and collect greywater
- Reduce potable water demand for buildings by at least 40%: install waterless urinals in all new and existing buildings

Energy use measures

- Reduce the heat island effect: use cool roofs and appropriate materials, such as green roofs where applicable and less dark materials like asphalt
- Design new buildings to exceed Title 24 by 20% and major renovations to exceed Title 24 by 10%

- Measure and verify energy use and analyze system trends to optimize building operations and energy performance

Renewable energy generation measures

- Use photoluminescent exit signage, which harnesses solar power, thereby reducing electricity demand from electric-powered exit signs
- Generate at least 10% of each building's energy through renewable technologies

What is Title 24?



Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the California Building Standards Code, contains the regulations that govern the energy consumption standards for buildings.



Material reuse and recycling measures

- Ensure 90% of materials generated from construction and demolition activities are diverted from landfills: recycle, reuse, or repurpose a minimum of 90% marketable materials. LACCD's goal is to divert 100% of all construction and demolition waste from landfills.)
- Use 35% fly ash in concrete, which contributes to recycled content use
- Use recycled carpet that comprises 100% recycled content for the backing and up to 75% recycled content for the carpet fiber

Sustainable carpet materials: Every fiber counts



LACCD's carpet manufacturer has agreed to reduce the cost, demonstrate the ability to recycle products at the end of their useful lives, and adhere to other sustainable practices:

- Use materials in which a minimum of 90% can be recycled
- Obtain third-party certification to verify antimicrobials have not been added to products
- Obtain third-party certification for the use of environmentally preferable products
- Use only products that comply with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's guidelines to environmental marketing for recycled content
- Offer a take-back program in place for its products, with a sustainable warranty that guarantees all carpet returned will be recycled in its entirety and no portion will be added to a landfill, incinerated (including waste-to-energy), or disposed of in any other way





Maintenance and Operations

The year 2006 marked the beginning of a decade of renovation and construction at Valley College with the groundbreaking of the college's new Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Sheriff's Station. Valley College will continue to undergo facility renovations and new construction. While new buildings contribute to a net increase in electricity and natural gas consumption, we are seeking to reduce the impact as much as possible through implementing LEED standards for new construction.

Completed in 2006, the Maintenance and Operations facility was the first LEED Silver building on a college campus for LACCD.

The 28,000-square-foot, one-story facility houses maintenance equipment, shipping and receiving, warehouse offices, and Sheriff's personnel and operations. It consists of three connecting structures that form a compound with an inner courtyard. Valley College employs 65 electricians, plumbers, painters, carpenters, auto gardeners, and custodians, as well as a mechanic, locksmith, and machinist. In addition, the Sheriff's Station, which operates 24 hours a day, is the base for campus. The facility features a 15 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system to supply on-site electricity with zero emissions.



Valley College has eleven building projects in development ranging from LEED Certified to Silver levels.



Allied Health and Sciences Center

In September 2008, the state-of-the-art Allied Health & Sciences Center opened to the public. This new 98,000-square-foot building houses Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, Anthropology, and Health Sciences departments and boasts 131 new rooms, tutorial labs and faculty offices.

The new 3-story teaching lab and classroom facility has lab and office wings that form a courtyard at the structure's center. Located on the site of former bungalows at the corner of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Street, this new facility and its plaza will function as an entrance to Valley College as well as a destination point along the pedestrian thoroughfare that runs within the campus.

This building was designed to qualify for the LEED Silver rating. Sustainable design features include:

- 60 kW of rooftop photovoltaic panels for generating electricity
 - A storm water retention system in the landscaping that help remove pollutants from runoff.
- ### Other recently completed projects
- **Humanities Building renovation:** Updated with new energy efficient windows, new doors, and new paint.
 - **Campus Center Building renovation (Phase 1):** Replaced the roof of the Campus Center building and installed new solar water heating tubes.
 - **Aquatics Center:** Includes a new pool complex that features an eight-lane, 50-meter competition pool; a six-lane, 25-yard training pool, and a warm up pool.
 - **Belle & Harry Krupnick Media Arts Center:** Featuring a state-of-the-art TV Studio with green screen capabilities and high definition production equipment.

Renewable Energy

Los Angeles Valley College is capitalizing on our location in sunny California: we are committed to using photovoltaic power for onsite energy generation.

Producing energy from clean renewable resources on campus helps reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have installed solar photovoltaic panels on the South Gym, Allied Health and Science Center building, and Maintenance and Operations building, which together generate over 190,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually.

We plan to install 185 kW direct current solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at our Performing and Media Arts Building and 1,042 kW direct current solar PV panels at our Parking Lot D.

We are also assessing opportunities at the Student Union Building, Community Workforce Development Center, and the South Gymnasium.

Additionally, our campus central plant now uses 7,952 solar tubes to harness energy from the sun to heat water.

Our goal is energy independence.

We are evaluating the latest opportunities, technologies, and applications to promote cleaner sources of on-campus electricity generation. We'll continue to explore opportunities to use photovoltaic panels, energy storage, fuel cells, wind power, anaerobic digestion, solar thermal, and geothermal concepts.

Transportation

Student Commuting

The Los Angeles Community College District Transit Access Pass (I-TAP) program is a key initiative to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

During the first year of the two-year I-TAP program, full-time students can purchase a semi-annual pass, offered year-round, for uninterrupted access to transit services for attending classes. During the second year of the program, LACCD offers the pass on a semester basis, which covers three semesters.

Full-time students can purchase a semi-annual pass for \$15, which is a 93% discount from the regular price, or a semester pass for \$15, which equals a discount of 89%.

I-TAP Program Benefits:

- Provides a low-cost, sustainable transportation option for students, particularly those taking courses on multiple campuses
- Addresses the daily transportation needs of students in regard to education, job training, and employment
- Reduces VMT significantly, in a region that is challenged by poor air quality and traffic congestion
- Supports LACCD's commitment to sustainability and climate neutrality
- Reduces demand for on-campus parking

This program is funded through Measure J to address the interruption of on-campus parking during construction phases at LACCD campuses.



For the 2009 spring and fall semesters, a total of 6 million transit trips on Metro services were clocked using I-TAP. At an average of 7 miles on each trip, that represents a reduction of 42 million vehicles miles traveled (VMT) and 36 tons of CO₂.



Staff and Faculty Commuting

Since 2002, Valley College has offered regional transit vouchers (“commuter checks”) to staff and faculty for commuting to and from work via public transportation. This program helps to reduce the number of single vehicles driven to campus. Vouchers are issued by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Business Travel

Valley College is equipped with state-of-the-art video-conferencing facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to business travel. Video conferencing allows representatives from all LACCD campuses to participate

State-of-the-Art Communication Technology



LACCD needed a video solution that served as a clean, efficient way to communicate, since executive groups and project management teams are dispersed across 882 square miles. LACCD installed 23 high definition video-conference systems throughout nine campuses.

face-to-face in required and functional meetings. It has also increased our productivity, while significantly reducing GHG emissions from traveling.

Operations

Valley College supports practices to meet green-certified standards, such as using environmentally preferable cleaning products, conserving water, composting, and reducing the amount of toxic and non-toxic materials entering the waste stream.

The Los Angeles Community College District has an innovative recycling program in place, which reduces GHG emissions from waste going to landfills.

We have a material reuse program for furniture, equipment, computers, and books. In 2009, LACCD introduced a program for all campuses to receive compacting trash units and to use green equipment and materials.

Valley College also continues to compost grass, although on-campus construction has lessened the need. We will promote sustainable landscaping to reduce water consumption and protect buildings from the elements to reduce energy needs.

Campus Urban Forest at Valley College



Trees enhance the natural beauty of our campus, reduce urban heat island effect, and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Valley College has completed a full assessment of all 1,837 trees on campus, and categorized each by type, health and maintenance requirement.

We are committed to the health and maintenance of our campus forest. This information will be used to maintain the health of our campus forest and protect trees during construction.



Green Education, Training, and Public Awareness

At Valley College we are committed to environmental literacy, which is the ability to think critically about the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of the human-environment interaction.

As a comprehensive community college, Valley College serves the educational needs of our neighbors throughout the greater San Fernando Valley. We offer programs, resources, and support, so our students can develop the knowledge and skills necessary for optimal growth and achievement. Through our curriculum, we are seeking to permanently institutionalize our passion and commitment for sustainability.

Our Sustainability Committee has created a Go Green website which hosts a variety of resources for students and faculty who would like to be greener in their everyday lives.

Through the Sustainability Committee, with funding support from Perkins IV Title 1C grant, a workshops series for students, faculty and staff was delivered to increase awareness and provide training on curriculum updates. The workshop series was institutionalized through the Green Ambassadors, those who received certification from the initial workshop series.

The Green Ambassadors continue to serve as advisors for faculty who want to integrate topics of sustainability into their course curriculum or to create a new course, and they provide leadership in the green movement on campus.

Through support from the Perkins IV Title 1C grant, a brochure was created promoting sustainability, and a biological wastewater treatment system was built to showcase sustainability methods in reclaiming wastewater via bioremediation and natural filtration techniques. The wastewater treatment system is also being used as part of a series of classroom activities for a number of Career Technical Education courses.



Green Technology Programs

The District's colleges are committed to developing sustainable components in existing programs, creating new programs, and redesigning curriculum to infuse sustainability into all courses and programs.

These Green Technology Programs are a work in progress. They are a portrait of the present, as well as a window into the future of sustainable education at the colleges.



Our environmental courses seek to meet the following objectives:

- Increase student awareness of green jobs or green career opportunities
- Increase student awareness of sustainability issues and sustainability practices in the home, workplace, campus, and community
- Identify strategies to reduce environmental pollution and enhance quality of life for all members of society
- Identify strategies to reduce health risks associated with environmental pollution and raise awareness of environmental justice issues in our community
- Identify strategies to protect and preserve the environment, including natural resources, plants, and wildlife
- Identify strategies to reduce consumer consumption on non-renewable resources, and to encourage reuse and recycling whenever possible

We offer a variety of courses related to sustainability in the fields of architecture, biology, construction management, electronics, engineering, environmental science, health, oceanography, and real estate among others.

Many of our courses are also offered online to provide students the flexibility they need to manage their personal lives, and also reduce the amount of time they spent sitting in traffic.

We have also developed a Green Careers website so that students have readily available information on green career opportunities and our “green course” offerings.

For more information see: <http://lavc.edu/greencareers/classes.html>

We will continue to partner with key stakeholders to engage the campus community in energy- and money-saving activities—many of which mirror the District’s current energy efficiency initiatives.



THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY



Monitoring and Tracking Progress

As part of our commitment to reach climate neutrality, we will continue to track Valley College greenhouse gas emissions and complete an inventory annually. We use reporting protocols outlined by the California Climate Action Registry and The Climate Registry to calculate our progress towards emissions reductions and receive third-party verification.

Upon completion of each inventory, we will analyze the effectiveness of our implemented measures to ensure that Valley College is on track to achieve our goals. We will adjust our strategies and tactics if necessary, based on our findings.

Conclusion

Los Angeles Valley College has an impressive legacy of environmental stewardship, while educating our future leaders of tomorrow.

What are your passions? Do you identify most with entrepreneurial activities, politics, or social causes? Do you have a technical or design prowess; are you innovative? Are you interested in health and medicine, or nutrition and food? Are you intrigued by energy and concerned about finding new fuel sources that are cleaner and more economical to decrease our dependency on foreign oil?

Are you an influencer or a thought leader—is your strength in the ability to appeal to people of all cultures and generations, to mobilize groups of people to become part of a movement, or to foster a collaborative spirit. Or, maybe you're tactical and results-oriented, and you have a successful track record of implementing and completing projects—you're the person that can get things done.



Climate change and sustainability are global movements that involve myriad challenges in need of solutions now. Our climate action plan includes strategies that are applied across many disciplines and fields, and they require vast skill sets and strengths to achieve our goal for climate neutrality. All students, faculty, and staff have a role in our plan.

It's up to you to decide on the opportunity to start taking action.



LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
Phone (818) 947-2600
www.lavc.edu