Agenda

- Climate
- Philosophical approach and definitional underpinnings
- Faculty involvement opportunities
- A hypothesis
Be the change our youth seek in the world.
Acknowledging planetary physics and our lack of action

‘No point in anything else’: Gen Z members flock to climate careers

Colleges offer support as young people aim to devote their lives to battling the crisis

About this content

Angela Lashbrook
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Hundreds of protesters march to the White House calling for climate action, including a Civilian Climate Corps.

Photograph: Allison Bailey/Rex/Shutterstock

California is facing a drought so devastating, some publications call it “biblical”. Colorado now has “fire years” instead of “fire...
We are not helpless in the face of crisis

We have navigated Covid

We can navigate this as a family

We are in this with Nature
“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”

- Buckminster Fuller
“If you can’t find a solution, draw a bigger box around the problem.”

- Buckminster Fuller
Defining Sustainability at USC *(Draft for Discussion)*

- Sustainability is the alignment of economic and social systems with natural life support systems, maximizing positive feedback loops and minimizing trade-offs, in order to enable people and other species to thrive now and into the future.
Applied definitions
Vision Statement – Sustainability at USC (Draft for Discussion)

USC will serve as a premier leader by:

• Expertly **educating** society’s future leaders, including in inclusionary problem-solving with a sustainability mindset

• Generating innovative and trans-disciplinary, solutions-oriented **research** outcomes

• Aligning university **operations** with natural systems, inclusive decision-making, and social justice

• **Engaging** our communities to solve challenges together and build a stronger, **inclusive**, healthier society
How the Academic Senate enables sustainability progress

• **Infuse** sustainability principles into courses, certificates, minors, graduate studies
• **Create new** sustainability courses
• Leverage campus and community for **experiential learning**
• Add **UN SDG** categories to course listings
• Support policies and programs that promote inter-disciplinary **solutions-based learning** in addition to deep, disciplinary expertise
• Pursue **interdisciplinary research** for applied solutions
• Pursue **community-based participatory research**
• Encourage **centralization** of non-mission functions (eg: purchasing, fleet support, IT)
• Support strong climate action and the upcoming **2028 Sustainability Plan**
“We can’t save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change – and it has to start today.”

– Greta Thunberg
Hypothesis: Sustainability provides superior alternatives

• The more **environmentally** and **socially preferable** solution IS ALSO the more **economically superior** solution WHEN the following two dilemmas are satisfactorily resolved within the larger system:
  • Who pays and who benefits? (ie: Externalities)
  • When are the costs paid and when are the benefits achieved? (ie: Time scale)
Setting USC’s Climate Goal

- **Key Drivers in Setting USC’s Climate Goal:**
  - Climate science (IPCC Sixth Assessment Report)
  - USC sustainability pillars / leadership brand
  - Attracting / training students as leaders
  - Reducing climate footprint + social inequities
  - City and State climate goals
  - Fundraising potential
  - Media attention
USC Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Historical Emissions

USC and USC Hospitals

- Scope 1 Annual Fuel
- Scope 2 Annual Electricity
- Scope 3 Annual Commuting
- Scope 3 Annual Air Travel
- Scope 3 Annual Waste, T&D
- Scope 3 Annual Construction
- Scope 3 Annual Purchasing (except construction)

USC

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Legend:

- = tracking, current goal
- = tracking, no goal
- = no tracking, no goal

Additional Emissions Measurement Opportunities