Progress on Assignment: Earth

Academic Senate
October 18, 2023
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH

• Guiding principle: *Climate change and sustainability intersect with all aspects of human life and natural systems and, as a result, every discipline contributes to this effort*

• **27 goals** across Education, Research, Operations, Engagement, and Inclusion

• Developed by 100+ faculty, students, and staff across USC through the President’s Working Group on Sustainability

• Key presidential priority that is core to our academic and administrative operations going forward

• Sustainability is the next moonshot
• 52 organizations from across campus participated in Grand Opening
• A place for all disciplines to gather
• 24 events hosted so far from a range of departments
• 55 average users per day
ASSIGNMENT: EARTH RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

• Sustainability Hub in the center of campus – come visit!
• Presidential Sustainability Solutions Post-doctoral Fellowship program
• President’s Sustainability Initiative Research Awards program
• Sustainability Across the Curriculum Initiative grants
• AASHE STARS Silver rating – now going for Gold
• Operations Achievements
  • 25MW solar agreement with LADWP (10/2022)
  • 31% reduction in scopes 1 & 2 emissions since 2014
  • 46% waste diversion rate
  • 15% water use reduction per square foot since 2014
  • 55% of dining food purchases from sustainable sources
  • Single-use plastic bottle elimination – over 1.5M plastic bottles avoided
  • Athletics three-time champions of PAC-12 Zero Waste Challenge
  • Country’s first campus “green zone” – certified by American Green Zone Alliance
• Presidential Sustainability Research Seed Grants program
• Sustainability Across the Curriculum Initiative workshops and grants
• Sustainability Data Hub – geospatial datasets related to campus operations – can be used for applied experiential learning assignments and projects
• Sustainable Course Finder helps students find courses related to or focused on the various UN Sustainable Development Goals
• Student Sustainability Training on TrojanLearn helps students explore how global sustainability imperatives connect to USC’s Assignment: Earth framework and how they can get involved
• Faculty Learning Community – Experiential Learning for Sustainability
• USC Libraries Sustainability Experiential Learning Research Guide
What do you see as the biggest challenges and opportunities for faculty to advance sustainability in curriculum and research?
THANK YOU!

Questions for us?

Sustainability.usc.edu