

Progress on Assignment: Earth

Academic Senate

October 18, 2023



Working together
for a sustainable future

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



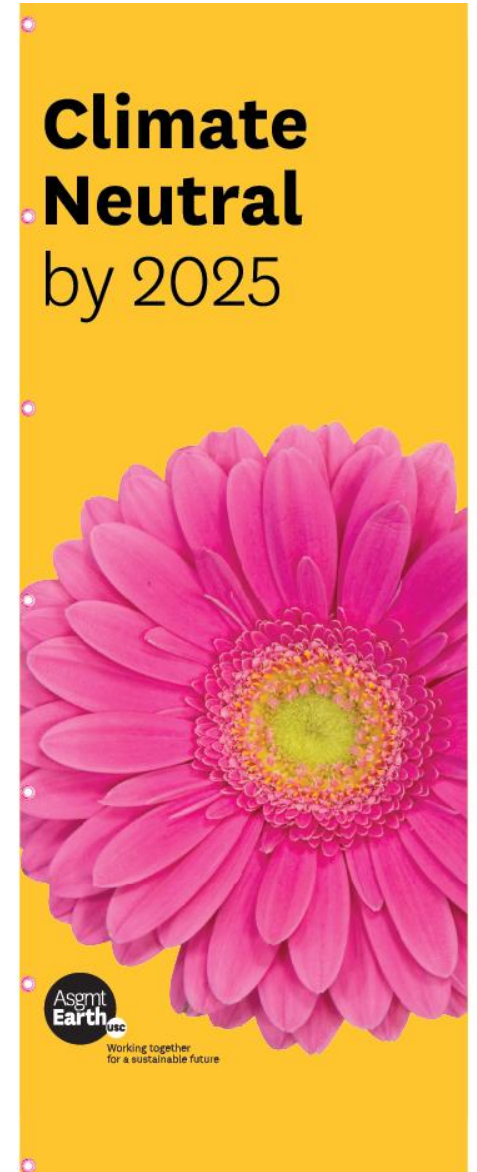
USC SUSTAINABILITY HUB



- 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



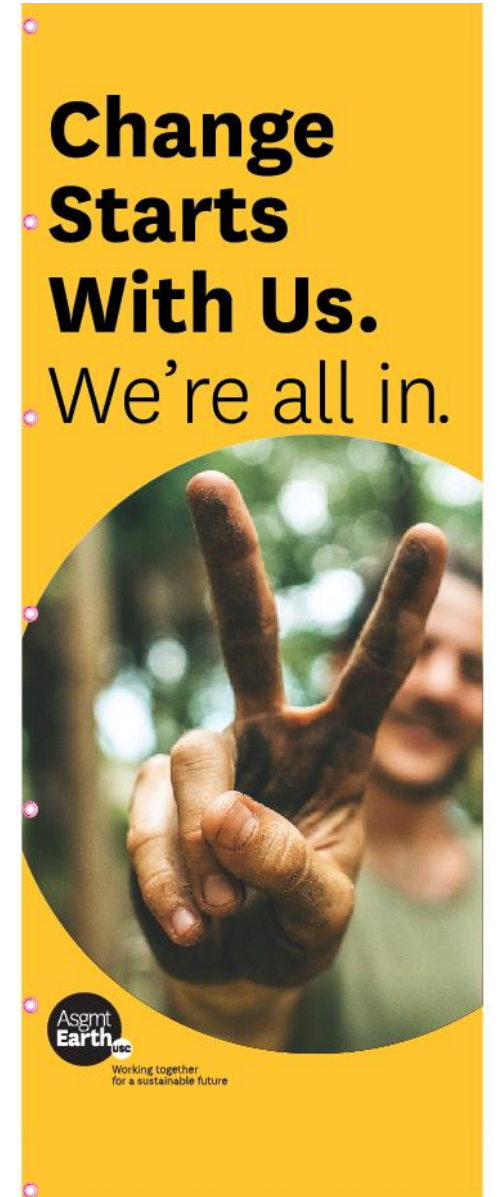
TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR FACULTY

- [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](#)



FEEDBACK

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](https://sustainability.usc.edu)

