
Santa Monica College Core Value: Sustainability

Another core value of Santa Monica College is sustainability. As expressed in the College's fourth Institutional Learning Outcome, students will *"take responsibility for their own impact on the earth by living a sustainable and ethical life style."* The College believes that living a sustainable and ethical lifestyle is a key component of global competency due to the global interconnectedness of the planet's ecological systems.

The College informs students of its commitment to sustainability in many of the same manners as it uses to communicate its commitment to global citizenship. New students receive information about this Institutional Learning Outcome through the [College catalog](#), the [class schedules](#), and the [College website](#), as well as during new student orientation.¹ Students are also informed of this value as they work with counselors to develop their educational plans, as students may complete the global citizenship requirement by taking a course in ecological literacy and/or engaging in a service learning project that impacts the environment, among other areas. Continuing students are reminded of the College's commitment to sustainable and ethical living throughout the year through the actions of several College committees, as well as the College's physical plant. Santa Monica College's Office of Sustainability hosts many events that encourage sustainable and ethical living, including [Sustainability Week](#) and [Earth Week](#).²

At the center of these activities is the [Center for Environmental and Urban Studies](#) (CEUS),³ which provides students and faculty with a space to facilitate meaningful exploration of key environmental and urban issues and solutions. Students interested in obtaining environmental degrees, taking environmental courses, or building their transfer applications and resumes through applied learning opportunities are encouraged to visit the CEUS.

The CEUS is also home to student environmental clubs and committees working on campus to address sustainability initiatives and carry out research. The Center sponsors the Environmental Issues Lecture Series presented each semester, which further reminds students and personnel of the College's commitment to sustainable and ethical living. The CEUS is also headquarters for [Sustainable Works](#),⁴ a community based, not-for-profit organization that offers special programs that show individuals and businesses how they can adopt sustainable practices.

The Environmental Affairs Committee, supports these efforts to inform and remind the College community of the Sustainability value. The committee serves as the Senate's and the College's resource and recommending body on academic and professional matters related to the

¹ Evidence: [IC10_Sustainability_ILO_website.pdf](#) [IC10_ILOs_from_Class_schedule_Web_2015-2016.pdf](#)
[IC10_Sustainability_ILO_SMC_catalog15-16.pdf](#)

² Evidence: [IC10_Flyer_Sustainability_Week_2015.pdf](#) [IC10_Flyer_Earth_Week_2015.pdf](#)

³ Evidence: [IC10_Center_for_Environmental_Urban_Studies.pdf](#)

⁴ Evidence: [IC10_Sustainable_Works_webpage.pdf](#)

environment, ecological literacy, and greening the curriculum, and its functions include the following:

- Support the Center for Environmental and Urban Studies
- Support the continued development and growth of ecological literacy and the continued “Greening of the Curriculum” at the College
- Support efforts to enhance the College's sustainability
- Facilitate partnerships to enhance and develop College environmental programs
- Work with the Associated Students, the District Planning and Advisory Council, and other College committees to address environmental concerns at the College
- Sponsor environmentally relevant activities and programs at the College

While student understanding and application of sustainable living is a key learning outcome, the College is also committed to the development, implementation, and maintenance of a Sustainable Physical Environment, as indicated in its fourth Supporting Goal – Sustainable Physical Environment. This goal states that Santa Monica College will apply sustainable practices to maintain and enhance the College’s facilities and infrastructure including grounds, buildings, and technology. In doing so, it becomes an applied resource for students and faculty as they explore sustainable and ethical living. Examples of sustainable practices employed to date include College-wide recycle bins, solar energy; rainwater catchment; a vermicomposting bin; installation of a bicycle rental facility, and zero-waste policies and practices.

To remind the College community that sustainable and ethical living is a valuable outcome, the College shares each new practice it employs to improve sustainability and reduce its footprint on the planet through signage, activities of the Center for Environmental and Urban Studies, and information releases through the [Public Information Office](#).⁵

Given the impact of this commitment on building and maintenance staff and the need for employees who support this value, it is vital that the College employ staff who are aware of sustainable practices. This commitment begins with the employment process, when the application process may include questions about the applicant’s understanding and experience with sustainable building and maintenance practices. Given that the College posts its Vision, Mission, Supporting Goals, and Institutional Learning Outcome on nearly all of its documents, individuals seeking employment with Santa Monica College have access to the resources to understand the College’s commitment to sustainability. Upon employment and throughout the year, new and existing staff are encouraged to participate in ongoing training in this area.

Other staff are also actively engaged in the process of ensuring a Sustainable Physical Environment, including Purchasing, which selects vendors and contractors based in part on their commitment to sustainable practices, including food vendors who are also expected to adhere to this value. Staff in these departments stay abreast of the current and best practices through ongoing participation in professional development activities and industry conferences.

⁵ Evidence: [IC10_Bicycle_Friendly_webpage.pdf](#)