



Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability | '22-23 Annual Report

Background

In Spring 2017 Vice President of Administration & Finance Joyce Lopes and Provost Alex Enyedi established the *HSU Advisory Committee on Sustainability (HACS)* to engage stakeholders and to make recommendations to the Administration for further implementing sustainability into the core focus areas of campus operations, academics, infrastructure and engagement. Since its inception, the committee's student, faculty and staff members have continued to meet once a month, with additional sub-committee work outside of regular meetings, to discuss and take action on the tasks set forth in the committee's charge¹.

The committee bases its work on the following definition: *Sustainability is the recognition that humanity is a part of the natural world, not separate from it, and that healthy social and economic systems depend on the health and resilience of ecological systems.*

The purpose of this annual report is to update leadership on committee accomplishments in the 2022-23 academic year, to specify goals and activities for the 2023-24 academic year, and to summarize specific recommendations to further sustainability into the core focus areas of the campus.

Deliverables

HACS completed the following activities in the 2022-23 academic year:

1. **Sustainability in the Campus Physical Plan Update.** The Committee held meetings with the Smith Group to discuss sustainability in the campus physical plan update and provide comments and feedback. Committee members also participated in workshops hosted by Smith Group and its partners, and completed surveys.
2. **Support for Campus Sustainability Initiatives.** The Committee received regular reports from the Office of Sustainability, Faculty Sustainability Fellow, Sustainability Librarian, and student sustainability organizations and provided feedback, outreach assistance and other support to their activities. This included but was not limited to:
 - a. Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) reporting;
 - b. Sustainability Faculty Mini Grants;
 - c. Sustainability Employees Educators Program;
 - d. Green Lunchtime series, and
 - e. Development of a Northern California Climate Conference

¹ Go to the [Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability](#) webpage for more information.

3. **Working Groups.** The Committee formed working groups to work on specific projects:
 - a. Update of the annual Sustainability Literacy Assessment survey. This group updated questions in the survey tool to better reflect the interdisciplinary scope of sustainability. The updated survey was then tested with a student focus group before finalized.
 - b. Selection team for the Sustainability Champion Awards. This group reviewed nominations and selected one student, one staff member and one faculty member to receive [this annual award](#).
4. **Study Session.** This annual special meeting was organized in February 2023 and attended by Provost Capps. Discussion centered around improving communications and collaboration across campus and with the broader community, which led the committee to further discuss and plan for improving communications in the next academic year.

2022 - 2023 Members

Co-chairs	
Laura Levy	Geology
Morgan King	Climate Action Analyst

Student Appointments	
Mark Bulgara	A.S. Sustainability Officer
Cody Ellis	CCAT Co-Director
Zander Leigh	Zero Waste Director (WRRAP)
Amber Chung	Green Campus Coordinator

Faculty Appointments	
Stephen Nachtigall	Art
Jo Archibald	Env Res Engineering
Li Qu	School of Business
Jennifer Ortega	Kinesiology & Rec, Env Sci Mgmt

Staff Appointments	
Amanda Nelson	Athletics Compliance Coord
Joellen Peterson	Housing Coordinator
Morgan Barker	Sustainability Librarian
James Richards	Chartwells Reg Dist Mgr
Katie Koscielak	Sustainability Analyst
Andrea Alstone	Energy Analyst
Mike Fisher	AVP Facilities

Community Member	
Emily Benvie	Arcata Env Svcs Dept Dir

Planned Activities for AY 2023-24

1. Support the work of - and closely collaborate with - the Sustainability Fellow, Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Librarian and other sustainability-focused groups.
2. Establish working groups to:
 - a. Improve on and deliver sustainability communications;
 - b. Assist in the process to designate academic courses with sustainability content, and
 - c. Develop a sustainability designation for research.
3. Hold study sessions with the Sustainable Transportation Committee and leadership
4. Support the integration of sustainability into the campus physical plan update

5. Seek ongoing synergies with groups on campus and in the community, and represent interests of sustainability within those groups.

Moving Forward

The **Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability** (HACS) urges campus leadership to continue building momentum for its efforts to make sustainability a strategic priority of the university, so that all major decisions are crafted with consideration of their social, environmental and economic impacts to student and employee success, campus operations, infrastructure, community partnerships and our relationship to the non-human world. The triple planetary crisis² is a stark reminder of the vulnerability of our campus and the broader society to global scale threats. Sustainability can be a lens through which Cal Poly Humboldt transitions towards decarbonized and climate-resilient operations, and to a curriculum renowned for preparing students with the skills and knowledge to build resilient and socially just communities. We look forward to supporting this effort.

² Climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss are the three main interlinked issues that humanity currently faces. See the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) for details.