



## Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability | '23-24 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 charge<sup>1</sup>.

The committee bases its work on the following definition: *Sustainability is the recognition that humanity is 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 2023-24 academic year, to specify goals and activities for the 2024-25 academic year, and to summarize specific recommendations to further sustainability into the core focus areas of the campus.

### 2023 - 2024 Members

Co-chairs	
Jo Archibald	Env Res Engineering
Morgan King	Climate Action Analyst

Student Appointments	
Vacant	A.S. Sustainability Officer
CJ Paulsen/N. Luna	CCAT Co-Director
Ethan LeVering	Zero Waste Director (WRRAP)
Harper Lacey	Green Campus Coordinator
Erik Meusborn	At Large

Faculty Appointments	
Carly Slade	Art
Andrew Stubblefield	Forest, Fire Range
Ramesh Adhikari	School of Business
Jennifer Ortega	Kin & Rec, Env Sci Mgmt

Staff Appointments	
Vacant	Athletics Dir or Designee
Joellen Peterson	Housing Coordinator
Morgan Barker	Sustainability Librarian
Nichole Miller	Dining Sustainability Coord
Katie Koscielak	Sustainability Analyst
Andrea Alstone	Energy Analyst
Mike Fisher	AVP Facilities
Mike Dronkers	Comm Specialist
Vacant	Budget Dir or Designee

Community Member	
Morguine Sefcik	Arcata Env Services

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

## Deliverables

HACS completed the following activities in the 2023-24 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 and forums hosted by Smith Group and its partners.
2. **Sustainability Tour.** The committee held a walking tour of campus to see sustainability in action as well as areas for improvement.
3. **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 and support for their activities. This included but was not limited to:
  - a. Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Path to Platinum;
  - b. Sustainability Library Certification
  - c. Art Supplies Exchange on behalf of the Art Department
4. **Course Designations.** Jennifer Ortega (Faculty Sustainability Fellow) led a workshop for the committee to review and provide feedback on a process and assessment tool to designate courses with various levels of sustainability content.
5. **Sustainability Champion Awards.** The committee formed a selection team for the eighth annual Sustainability Champion Awards. This group reviewed nominations and selected one student, one staff member and one faculty member to receive [this annual award](#). This year's winners are Nick King (student), Pablo Midence (staff), and Kaitlin Reed (Faculty). Committee members then MC'd an awards ceremony during the Sustainability Mixer on April 26.

## Planned Activities for AY 2024-25

1. Support and elevate the work of - and closely collaborate with - the Sustainability Fellow, Office of Sustainability, Sustainability Librarian and other sustainability-focused groups, as they:
  - a. Strive towards the Path to Platinum (AASHE STARS rating)
  - b. Develop and promote the story/history of sustainability at Cal Poly Humboldt in a more cohesive and visual manner
  - c. Foster further curricular integration of sustainability and professional development opportunities for faculty
2. Support campus engagement with - and implementation of the campus physical plan, with particular emphasis on its sustainability elements.
3. Support efforts to engage Athletics in 'greening' their operations and practices
4. Gain representation from the College of Extended Education & Global Engagement by recruiting a member from that department.
5. Hold a study session with campus leadership.

## What You can Do to Support our Efforts

Per the committee's charge, there is to be a member from Athletics (appointed by the Athletics Director) and a member from the Budget Office (appointed by the Budget Director). These two seats have been especially challenging for the committee to fill. We request that campus leadership help us by encouraging the Athletics Director and the Executive Director of Finance & Budget to appoint their representatives to the committee in the 2024-25 academic year. Furthermore, we request that campus leadership strive to engage with this committee and to lean on us for information and recommendations on integrating sustainability into operations, academics and campus culture.

## 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 crisis<sup>2</sup> 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. According to an [annual survey](#), Cal Poly Humboldt students are seeking more sustainability education and a university that models sustainability in its operations. We look forward to supporting this effort.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.