

# CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

## Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability

### 2021-2022 Annual Report

#### Directive

The Humboldt Advisory Committee on Sustainability (HACS) strongly urges campus leadership to double down on 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 success, campus operations, infrastructure and community partnerships. The climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic are stark reminders 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.

#### 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 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 2020-21 academic year, to specify goals and activities for the 2021-22 academic year, and to summarize specific recommendations to further sustainability into the core focus areas of the campus.

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

## Deliverables

HACS completed the following activities in the 2021-22 academic year:

1. **New Committee Charge.** With consultation from then-Chief of Staff Gordon, the Committee developed and adopted an [updated committee charge](#), which highlights its advisory role to the Office of the President, the President's Cabinet and other President Advisory Groups. The charge also calls for an expanded membership. Two new committee seats were created: 1) an at-large community member: Emily Benvie, Deputy Director of Arcata Environmental Services; 2) an at-large student member: Alexis Dias, SJEIC Sustainability Coordinator.
2. **Climate Action Plan 2.0.** The Committee provided direct support to the development of the five year update to the [Climate Action Plan](#). Committee members joined other faculty, staff, students and community members in six different working groups to review, refine and recommend goals and strategies for inclusion in the plan. Committee members also assisted with final review and edits of the draft plan.
3. **Polytech Implementation Planning.** The Committee wrote a letter to Chief of Staff Gordon and Provost Capps urging leadership to make sustainability a priority for all seven implementation planning working groups. Committee members also participated in various Polytech working groups, the public forum and public survey to advocate for sustainability as a core pillar.
4. **Supported and collaborated with Sustainability Faculty Fellow.** The Committee worked with Jennifer Ortega, Sustainability Faculty Fellow, by offering support and advertising the following: 1) Sustainability visioning charrette with three faculty members; 4 one-hour sessions were held discussing an ideal scenario for how students learn with sustainability in mind and how instructors teach with sustainability in mind, and 2) monthly Faculty & Staff Green lunchtimes.
5. **Annual Sustainability Champion Awards Selection Committee.** Committee members reviewed nominations and selected one student, one staff member and one faculty member to receive [this annual award](#).
6. **SPF Curated Sustainability Grants List.** The Committee received a presentation from SPF staff Pia Gabriel and Cara Peters on their efforts to develop a curated list of grants to support sustainability research and projects. The Committee provided suggestions on building faculty awareness of the list.
7. **Working Groups.** The Committee established three working groups to identify and work on projects within the context of their focus areas:
  - a. **Policy Working Group**: zero emissions procurement guidelines to be incorporated into the master utility plan.
  - b. **Food Working Group**: planning for a food recovery program with Chartwells to redistribute leftover food to students first and the surrounding community second. This may include participating in the [Food Recovery Network](#).
  - c. **Academics & Research Working Group**: assist the Faculty Sustainability Fellow in developing a process for identifying sustainability content in course curriculum.

## 2021-2022 Members

Co-chairs	
Laura Levy	Geology
Morgan King	Climate Action Analyst
Student Appointments	
Zeen Vincent	A.S. Sustainability Officer
Sofia Borgeson	CCAT Co-Director
Payton Wills	ROSE Director (WRRAP)
Dev Fields	Green Campus Coordinator
Alexis Dias	At Large
Faculty Appointments	
Stephen Nachtigall	Art
Kerry Byrne	Env Science & Mgmt
Li Qu	School of Business
Jennifer Ortega	Kinesiology & Rec, Env Sci Mgmt

Staff Appointments	
Amanda Nelson	Athletics Compliance Coord
Lynda Henderson	Housing Buyer
Frank Herrera	SJEIC Coordinator
James Richards	Chartwells Reg Dist Mgr
Katie Koscielak	Sustainability Analyst
Patrick Orona	Budget Analyst
Andrea Alstone	Energy Analyst
Mike Fisher	AVP Facilities
Community Member	
Emily Benvie	Arcata Env Svcs Dept Dir

## Goals and Activities for AY 2021-22

1. [CSU Sustainability Policy](#) - meet with Cal Poly Humboldt leadership to interpret the state-wide policy and how it dovetails with CAP 2.0, STARS and other campus initiatives.
2. Support the work of - and closely collaborate with - the Sustainability Fellow.
3. Continue the work within the Policy, Food, and Academics & Research working groups.
4. Support the rollout of the Cal Poly Humboldt Climate Action Plan and building campus engagement in support of its carbon neutrality and climate resilience goals.
5. Further seek synergies with other established groups on campus and in the community, and represent interests of sustainability on other committees.
6. Continue to receive reports from the Office of Sustainability, faculty, and students on sustainability-focused initiatives, policies and programs, and provide advice and support to further the integration of sustainability into the core focus areas of campus.
7. Hold a minimum of one informational meeting per semester with leadership (e.g., the Chief of Staff, Provost and the Vice President of Administration & Finance).