

# Environmental Stewardship



## CSU Powers California's Environmental Workforce

The California State University makes environmentally-conscious living and learning the way of life on all 23 campuses. The CSU is unique in its responsibility and ability to broaden, educate and diversify tomorrow's environmental workforce by using campuses as *living laboratories*.

Students, faculty and administrators are engaged in collaborative efforts to develop student workforce skills – enabling them to participate and compete in the green-jobs marketplace and promote the development of sustainable products and services that will contribute to California's leadership in this vital economic sector.

### **Living Labs Link Sustainability, Student Success**

When faculty collaborate with campus facilities staff, they create opportunities for students to engage in hands-on research that makes campuses more sustainable – preparing graduates who are ready to solve real-world problems. CSU campuses are increasingly providing opportunities to develop and test new technologies, while implementing best practices.

In 2013, the CSU established the *Campus as a Living Lab Grant Program* that provides funding opportunities for the redesign of courses that tie sustainability learning opportunities to the campus physical plant.

These courses also incorporate at least one high-impact practice, such as for-credit internships, service-learning courses, undergraduate research opportunities, student learning communities, first-year programs or capstones.

## Research Centers and Institutes

The CSU has 29 centers and institutes dedicated to environmental and energy issues – with many more dedicated to food and water studies. Campuses combine their support for the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology, the CSU Agricultural Research Initiative and the CSU Water Resources Policy Initiatives – helping the CSU partner with government agencies and industry, raising awareness of workforce needs, and providing a base to bring new ideas to market.



**Humboldt State University's Schatz Energy Research Center** has been conducting research on clean energy technologies for more than 30 years. Faculty and students at the center designed the nation's first street-legal hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle.



## CSU's Sustainability Goals

- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 15 percent by 2020
- Increase on-site self-generation capacity to 80 megawatts
- Reduce water consumption
- Integrate sustainability into academic curriculum
- Reduce solid waste disposal by 80 percent

## Building Design and Operations

CSU has committed itself to sustainable building practices by incorporating the local geography in building design, minimizing operating costs, maximizing energy and water efficiency, and choosing materials and systems that minimize environmental impacts – from manufacture to replacement. All new construction and major renovation projects meet or exceed the most stringent energy code in the nation – California's Title 24. The CSU also has 39 LEED-certified buildings and ten more in development.

## Reducing Water Use

CSU campuses are taking several conservation measures in response to the drought. In addition to installing low-flow plumbing fixtures and repairing leaks, many CSU campuses are also replacing lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping. Since much of the water used by campuses goes to grounds and landscaping, this has substantial impacts. The CSU is conserving millions of gallons of water per year to meet its own ambitious sustainability goals – as well as Governor Brown's statewide mandate to reduce water use by 25 percent.