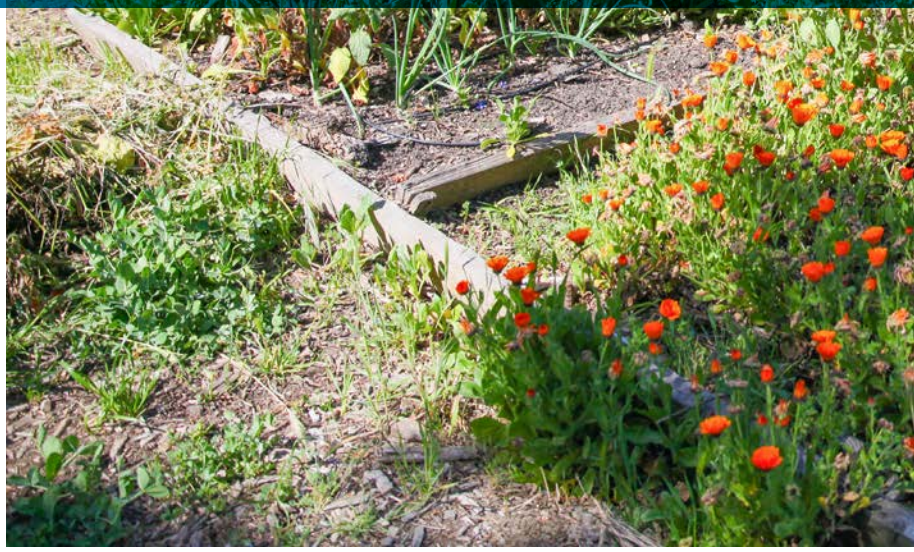
2025 – 26 Annual Sustainability Report

Contra Costa Community College District

May 13, 2026



Contra Costa Community College District

pathways to success

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Executive Summary

The climate crisis and widening equity gaps share many interconnected common factors, underscoring the need for coordinated and equitable climate action.

In response to many environmental and equity issues, on November 9, 2022, the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) Governing Board adopted a Board Resolution in support of Sustainability and Climate Action. This Resolution adopted nine Districtwide sustainability goals, which support the 2019 California Community Colleges Board of Governors (BOG) Climate Change and Sustainability Policy and the 2021 BOG Climate Action and Sustainability Framework. The 2021 Framework refined the 2019 Policy and extended the end target year by five years, to 2035. This framework aligns with current state policies and includes comprehensive goals for establishing benchmarks and meeting targets for reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, energy efficiency, water usage reduction, waste, transportation, food systems, and sustainable purchasing. The 2021 Framework goals were updated and adopted by the BOG in January of 2025 to be aligned with additional State policies and mandates.

The 2026 4CD Annual Sustainability Report centers on our progress toward the District's nine sustainability goals. It includes a description of each goal, steps taken in support and advancement of each goal and the development of baselines and targets to articulate annual measurable progress. This report is also forward-looking, reflecting our continued commitment to shaping a sustainable future and identifying the resources needed to achieve these goals across all campuses. Throughout the report are ways the Facilities Plans (FP) are being implemented on each campus, including the use of local funds to electrify end-of-life systems, upgrade building controls for better energy performance and occupant comfort, and convert aging lighting infrastructure to efficient LED systems. While these investments are moving us incrementally forward, future funding will be necessary to fully realize the efficiency and cost savings envisioned in the FPs and to accomplish our nine sustainability goals. Last year, we procured lower-cost, cleaner, green electricity to reduce and stabilize our utility budgets. This change in electricity service providers started July 1, 2025, and the Utility Cost section of this report includes an update on our year to date results, demonstrating the significant cost savings achieved from this transition.

This year we also initiated a solar photovoltaics (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) project design for our three main campuses. These are being designed and evaluated for long-term funding in our continued efforts of reducing our annual energy costs while lowering our GHG emissions and increasing our renewable energy.

Woven throughout the report is our collective commitment to promoting and implementing opportunities for student learning and engagement in sustainability. This includes ongoing collaboration with the student leaders, interns and the Associated Students sustainability champions, who continue to play a vital role in fostering a culture of environmental stewardship across the District.

Finally, this report highlights activities, projects, initiatives, and progress by campus Sustainability Committees to promote increased awareness of how we can collectively foster high-quality, sustainable learning environments and deliver a student-centered experience across the District.

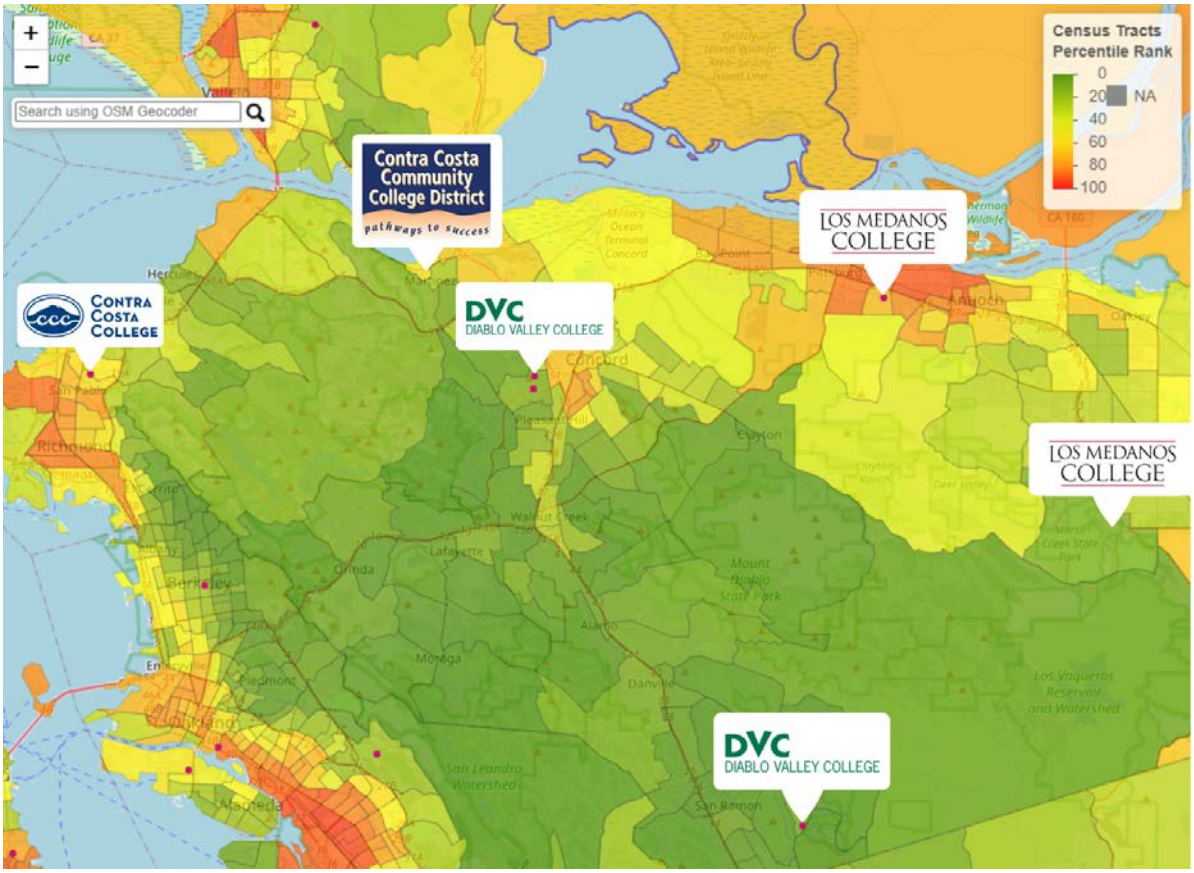
Environmental Justice

California continues to advance long-range energy and sustainability goals, mandates, and plans that outline the actions needed to mitigate a wide range of environmental risks, including wildfires, coastal erosion from sea level rise, water supply disruptions, air quality related health threats, and soil and water contamination. These risks contribute to significant environmental and health equity gaps with substantial economic consequences. The interconnected nature of the climate crisis and socioeconomic and health inequities stems from multiple factors, including energy procurement and use, materials sourcing, waste generation and disposal, water use, transportation, and food systems. Decisions in each of these areas directly influence environmental justice, public health, and social equity outcomes.

Research shows that environmental hazards, such as soil contamination and air pollution, disproportionately impact historically disadvantaged communities, often situated near polluting facilities. While these hazards impact people, animals, and our ecosystems, it is important to note they disproportionately impact young people, future generations, communities of color and low-income individuals, thus exacerbating existing inequities and limiting opportunities. Addressing and closing these equity gaps requires ongoing dialogue, intentional strategy, and ongoing action.

While national commitments to environmental justice are currently shifting, sustaining this prioritization of environmental justice requires continued state and local support. In fact, mitigation solutions and costs for damage already occurring remain a funding priority in California. The map below shows 4CD locations most vulnerable to climate change, including power grid outages, and socioeconomic and health disparities. Warmer colors indicate higher risks, while cooler colors denote lower risks. Achieving the nine 2035 sustainability goals aligns our operational practices with the 4CD Strategic Plan, generating long term cost savings while contributing to cleaner air, water, and soil, and fostering more equitable environments in which to work and learn.

Map of 4CD locations most vulnerable to climate change, power grid outages, and socioeconomic and health disparities



Source: PSE Healthy Energy Mapping Tool

Timeline of Sustainability at 4CD

Sustainability efforts at 4CD have been shaped over the years through numerous state and local level policies, as well as collective leadership from the District Office (DO) and the Colleges, including faculty, staff and students past and present. Below is a brief history of select Districtwide sustainability milestones.

2008

The first Districtwide **energy efficiency projects** completed included Districtwide solar PV installations, lighting retrofits, mechanical equipment and controls upgrades.

2010

4CD Governing Board approves Board Policy (BP) 6004: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, supporting resources and environmental conservation at 4CD.

2013

Proposition 39 funding: 4CD receives $4.5 million in State funding, allowing for implementation of several key Districtwide energy efficiency projects, including Light-emitting Diode (LED) lighting, mechanical and some building controls upgrades completed in 2019.

2019

California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG adopts the **Climate Change and Sustainability Policy**. This sets sustainability goals for 2030 and places intermediate targets for 2025. This decision also requests community college districts (CCDs) to adopt their own local climate change and sustainability resolutions.

4CD Governing Board approves the 4CD Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025. This Plan outlines five District Strategic Goals. Strategic Direction #2 and #5 provide the framework for the Districtwide sustainability efforts.

2020

86 Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations are installed Districtwide, providing access to EV charging to faculty, staff, students, and community members.

2021

California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG adopts the **Climate Action and Sustainability Framework**, which refines the 2019 BOG policy to reach further and extends the end target year by five years, to 2035. The framework also asks CCDs to establish benchmarks and track progress toward these goals.

2022

4CD Governing Board adopts **Board Resolution 20B, In Support of Sustainability and Climate Action**, adopting nine Districtwide sustainability goals and aligning 4CD with California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG 2019 and 2021 Climate Action and Sustainability Framework goals. It sets near-term goals in 2025, 2030, and 2035.

2023

The first **sustainability internships** were created in the Facilities Planning Department, in collaboration with the colleges. Funding from PG&E supported the **Campus Energy and Sustainability** intern and **Building Decarbonization** intern, both located at Diablo Valley College (DVC). Funding from the **Learning Aligned Employment Program** (LAEP) supported the creation of **Zero Waste Analysis** internships at all three colleges.

2025

California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG refines the climate action and sustainability goals to further align with state mandates, policies and State Chancellor's Office Vision 2030.

4CD Districtwide Sustainability Goals

4CD Districtwide Sustainability Goals

The California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG adopted the Climate Change and Sustainability Policy in 2019, followed by the nine Climate Action and Sustainability Framework goals in 2021, including: GHG Emissions, Green Buildings, Energy, Water, Waste, Purchasing and Procurement, Transportation, and Food Systems.

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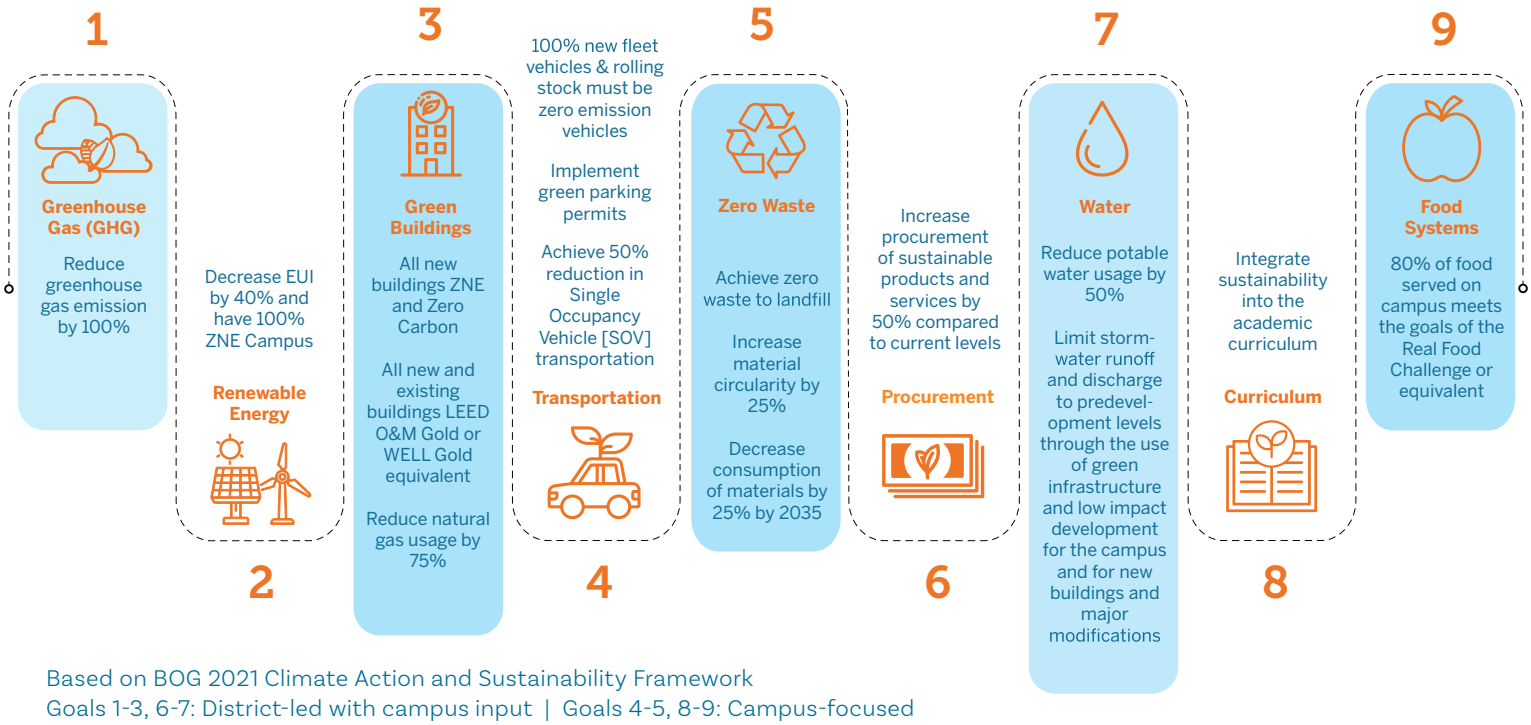
The Climate Action and Sustainability Framework calls on California's community colleges to establish baselines for each of the nine sustainability goals. It further requires districts to track progress toward the goals for 2025, 2030, and ultimately, 2035.

In 2022, the 4CD Governing Board established the 2035 Climate Change and Sustainability Goals by passing a Governing Board Resolution in support of Sustainability and Climate Action. This action allowed 4CD to align with the California Community College Chancellor's Office BOG 2019 and 2021 policy and goals. In 2025, the Chancellor's Office BOG refined their Climate Action and Sustainability Goals to prioritize measurable progress across the critical areas identified in the 2021 Framework and to closely align with the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan.

The 4CD Sustainability Team continues to prioritize year round engagement and education, ensuring that District sustainability goals are clearly communicated to the College Sustainability Committees and student sustainability champions. These coordinated efforts strengthen the dialogue and action needed to advance campus focused Goals 4-5 and 8-9. In 2024, the development of Facility Plans (FPs) initiated implementation measures focused on electrification, reductions in energy and water use, and updates to building controls and mechanical systems in alignment with Goals 1-3 and 6-7. The College Sustainability Committees and student sustainability champions continue driving culture change across all campuses by engaging faculty, staff, and students through annual goals, coordinated initiatives, and community wide events that promote energy conservation, waste reduction, and responsible resource stewardship.

2035 Districtwide Sustainability Goals



Based on BOG 2021 Climate Action and Sustainability Framework
Goals 1-3, 6-7: District-led with campus input | Goals 4-5, 8-9: Campus-focused

Goal 1

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Policy Goals –
District-led with campus input

2025:
Establish baseline by creating an inventory of GHG emissions. Create a Climate Action Plan.

2030:
Reduce GHG emissions by 75% below 2013 baseline.

2035:
Reduce GHG emissions by 100% below 2013 baseline.

Progress Toward Goals

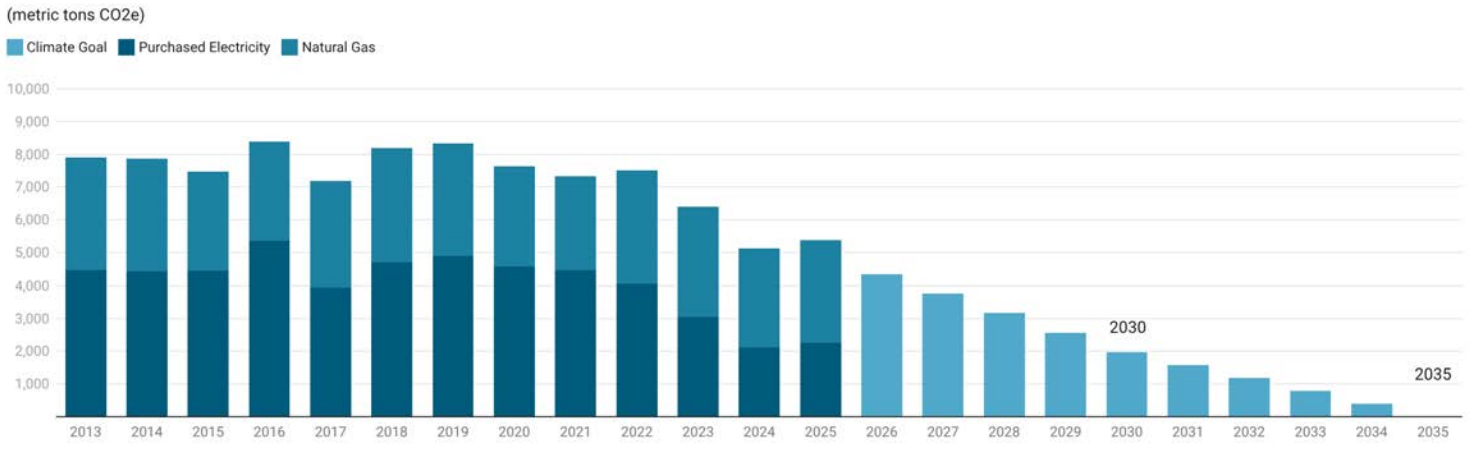
4CD's first and overarching sustainability goal is reducing its total GHG emissions, which directly contributes to climate change. This goal also directly enhances our capacity to lower energy use and cut operating expenses. In doing so, it supports both environmental responsibility and financial stewardship

To advance this goal, 4CD is implementing several decarbonization strategies, including purchasing greener electricity, expanding on campus solar PV, electrifying fleet vehicles, improving campus energy efficiency, and replacing end of life natural gas fired equipment with electric heat pumps. In 2024, these strategies were reviewed, analyzed, and incorporated into the Facilities Plans to determine specific implementation pathways and funding approaches for the required equipment and infrastructure upgrades.

Energy efficiency measures reduce overall energy use and the associated emissions from purchased electricity. Strategies such as installing high efficiency lighting and electrifying gas fired equipment and heating systems not only support progress toward this goal but also generate operational cost savings through improved system performance. Electrifying fleet vehicles further reduces transportation related emissions while lowering long term fuel and maintenance costs. Finally, transitioning to renewable energy sources—through expanded on campus solar PV and the procurement of cleaner electricity—offers the greatest opportunity to significantly reduce 4CD's GHG emissions while stabilizing electricity costs.

The chart below reflects actual emissions from 4CD's purchased electricity and natural gas. Natural gas remains the largest contributor to overall emissions, followed by electricity. Without the District's existing solar installations, electricity related emissions and associated energy costs would be significantly higher. In 2024, emissions declined due to cleaner electricity sources and reduced overall energy use compared to 2023. The chart also shows an increase in 2025 emissions, driven by higher electricity and gas consumption during the 2024-25 fiscal year. We anticipate that electricity related emissions will decrease once the 2025 GHG emission data is released. Reducing natural gas emissions, however, can only be achieved through lower consumption and the eventual electrification of all gas fired heating systems. Achieving the District's 2035 goal of a 100% reduction in GHG emissions, therefore, depends on replacing gas fired systems with electric alternatives, with the most cost effective approach occurring at the end of useful life replacement.

4CD Greenhouse Gas Emissions Compared to Goal



Campus fleet not yet incorporated into chart. 2024 Fleet vehicles contribute 155 metric tons to our GHG emissions. 2025 GHG Emissions from Purchased Electricity are estimated based on 2024 Power Content Labels, as 2025 data is not yet published.

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Goal 2

Renewable Energy

Policy Goals –
District-led with campus input

2025:
Establish a campus-level baseline energy use intensity (EUI) score. Conduct effective useful life (EUL) analysis of all gas appliances and systems. Plan for electrification of systems with EULs of less than 10 years.

2030:
Decrease campus EUIs by 25% from 2013 baseline. Produce or procure 75% of 4CD's electrical consumption through renewable energy.

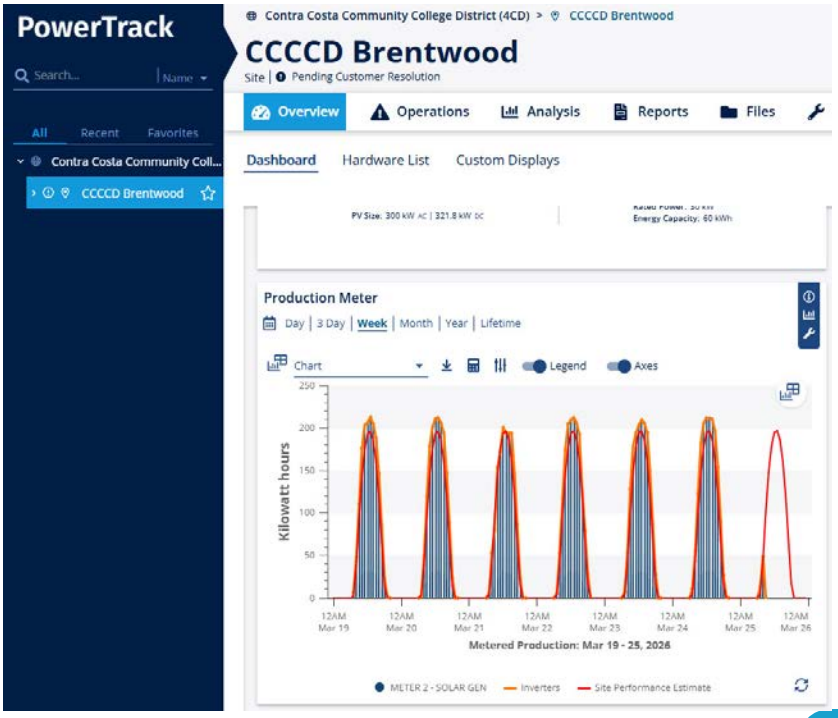
2035:
Decrease EUI by 40% from 2013 baseline. Achieve zero net energy (ZNE) at all campuses.

Progress Toward Goals

Goal 2 focuses on increasing renewable energy across 4CD while reducing overall energy use. This includes lowering building EUIs and progressing toward Zero Net Energy (ZNE) campuses, where annual energy consumption matches on site renewable generation. Advancing Goal 2 also supports Goals 1 and 3. Although our campuses currently host solar PV systems, they offset only a modest portion of total electricity use. Continued growth of renewable energy on California's electricity grid, along with selecting cleaner electricity providers, further advances this goal by increasing the share of renewable energy in 4CD's purchased electricity.

Several major capital projects directly support Goal 2. A new solar and battery storage system at the Brentwood Center was completed in 2025 and began generating electricity in October, reducing operating costs and improving resiliency. The new Engineering Technology (ET) building at DVC also incorporates rooftop solar and battery storage. In addition, a Districtwide solar PV and battery energy storage system (BESS) is currently in design and under evaluation for funding. Once implemented, it is expected to nearly double 4CD's solar capacity and further stabilize annual utility costs.

Long range planning remains essential to achieving all our sustainability goals. The college Facility Plans (FPs) include an electrification study that establishes the 2025 baseline for Goal 2 by evaluating EUIs, end of useful life (EUL) equipment, and electrification opportunities across District buildings. The study also assessed future solar PV capacity to expand renewable energy generation and reduce utility expenses, informing the new Districtwide solar PV project. The FPs additionally identify Districtwide energy conservation measures—such as lighting and controls retrofits—that will reduce building EUIs and define project scopes as funding becomes available. Campuses are already implementing locally funded projects, including LED lighting upgrades, electrification of EUL HVAC systems, and building controls improvements, all of which contribute to Goals 1, 2, and 3.

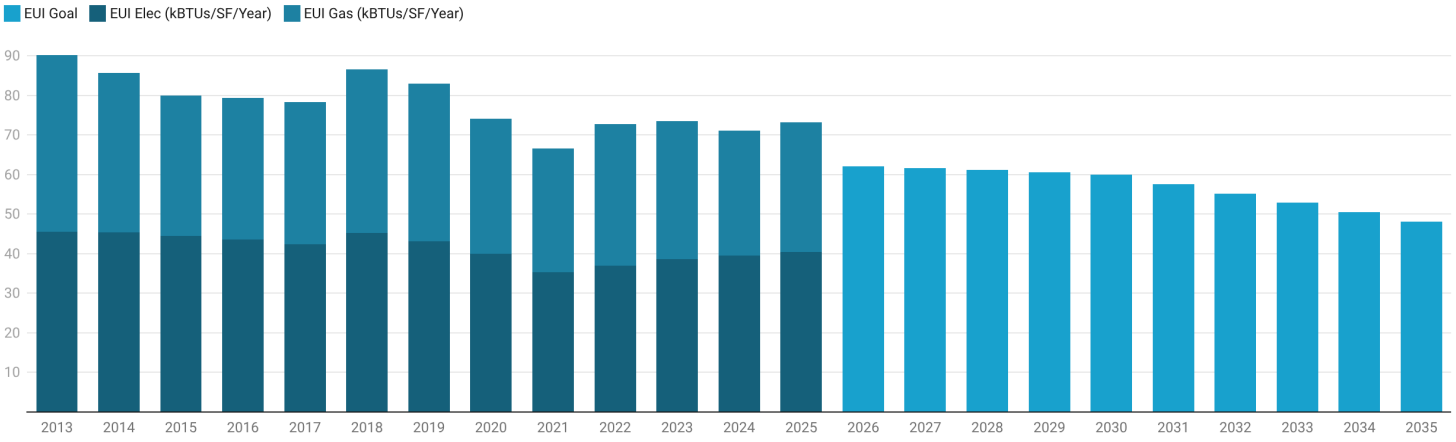


4CD is actively exploring grant and funding opportunities to help make necessary capital investments more financially feasible. The colleges participate in the HEEP Program, which provides energy efficiency services, technical assistance, and incentives. This work led to customized HVAC operating schedules that reduce energy use when buildings are unoccupied and support scheduling strategies that consolidate classes to minimize building operations during low use periods. This annual analysis also helps our college leadership teams consider scheduling alternatives, when possible, such as combining classes into centralized buildings to reduce utility costs. Additional funding opportunities—including energy efficiency programs, state-scheduled maintenance funds, and project grants such as those available through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)—are being actively explored. IRA tax credits are expected to offset up to 40% of installation costs for the Brentwood and Districtwide solar PV/BESS projects, and 4CD is currently submitting funding requests.

The Energy Information Systems (EIS) Dashboard continues to support real time monitoring of electricity, gas, and water use, enabling quicker responses to unexpected changes and improving operational efficiency.

The graphs below illustrate that 4CD's EUI has steadily declined over time, with a notable drop during the pandemic when many building systems were shut down. A slight increase occurred post pandemic as in person learning resumed. The significant reduction from 2018-2021 also reflects the addition of newer, more efficient buildings funded through the bond program. A second graph shows the contribution of on campus solar PV and renewable energy in purchased electricity. On site PV currently provides roughly 20% of total electricity use and reduces annual operating costs. The percentage of renewable energy varies year to year based on the state grid's generation mix and provider specific sources; for example, drought conditions reduce hydroelectric output, affecting the renewable share of purchased electricity.

4CD Energy Usage Index (EUI) Compared to Goal



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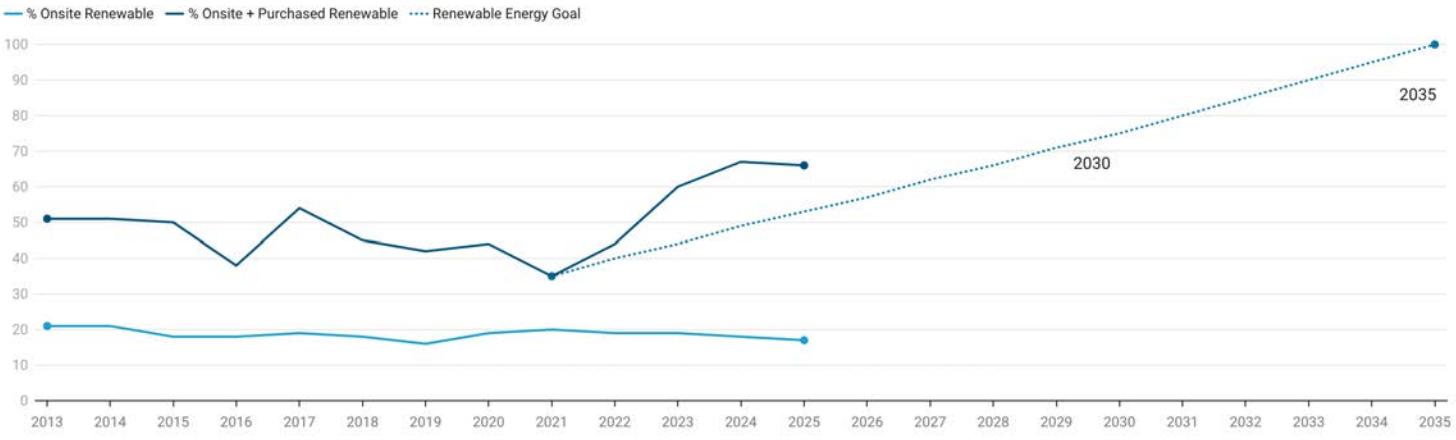
4CD Onsite and Purchased Renewable Energy



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Goal 3

Green Buildings

Policy Goals –
District-led with campus input

2025:
Establish an EUI score for all campus buildings. Develop a ZNE and campus electrification strategy. As appropriate, conduct Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or WELL assessments of existing 4CD buildings.

2030:
All new buildings are LEED or WELL Gold certified. Reduce natural gas usage by 30%.

2035:
All new buildings are ZNE and Zero Carbon rated. All existing buildings are certified LEED O&M Gold or WELL Gold equivalent. Reduce natural gas usage by 75%.

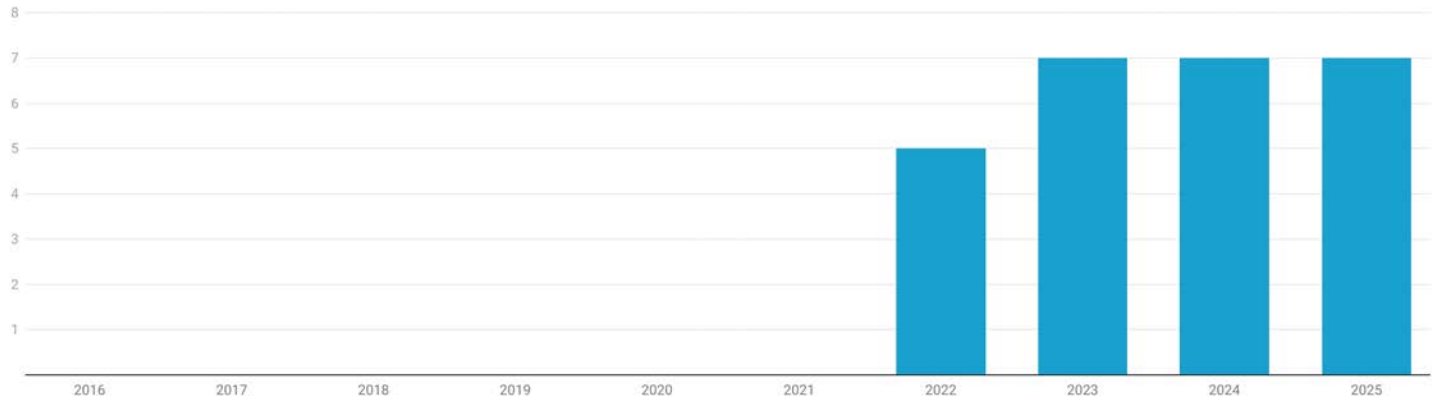
Progress Toward Goals

This goal requires 4CD's new and existing buildings to become LEED or WELL Gold certified. This goal also requires reducing our Districtwide natural gas usage to decrease on-site emissions. The LEED certification process evaluates a building's performance in sustainable site development, water and energy efficiency, materials selection, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design, creating healthy spaces for students and staff. 4CD has several buildings that have achieved LEED Gold certification, including several major capital projects under the Measure E bond program. These projects are the Art and Physical Education/Kinesiology (PE/K) Complex at DVC, the new Science Building at Contra Costa College (CCC), the Student Union and Kinesiology Athletics Center at Los Medanos College (LMC), the new Brentwood Center, and the DVC Art and PE/Kinesiology Complex, all surpassing former LEED Silver targets. The newest buildings at CCC and DVC have an all-electric design, which eliminates emissions from fossil fuels and puts them on target to achieve LEED ZNE certification. DVC's Engineering Technology (ET) building is on target to achieve LEED Gold certification and will also be all electric. Students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors can learn about the sustainable features of these newer LEED certified buildings by reading the LEED educational signage boards installed within each building.

The electrification study that is part of the FPs outlines a Districtwide ZNE and campus electrification strategy. This is accomplished by establishing a baseline EUI score for each campus building as well as developing EUI targets required to meet the goals. State scheduled maintenance funds are also lowering building EUIs by upgrading the lighting systems, HVAC systems and controls. This long-term planning and baseline and target establishing puts 4CD on track to help meet the established 2025 and 2030 intermediate targets for this goal.

The natural gas usage graph below shows 4CD's gas usage has been steadily dropping over time, with some fluctuation over the last few years. Our usage at most campuses dropped but increased in 2025 at our largest site. We are still trending downward, near our target values for the year. This results in reduced annual utility costs and reduced GHG emissions for 2025.

4CD Cumulative Number All Electric New Buildings



Six of these buildings are projected to be Zero Net Energy by using existing Onsite Solar PV

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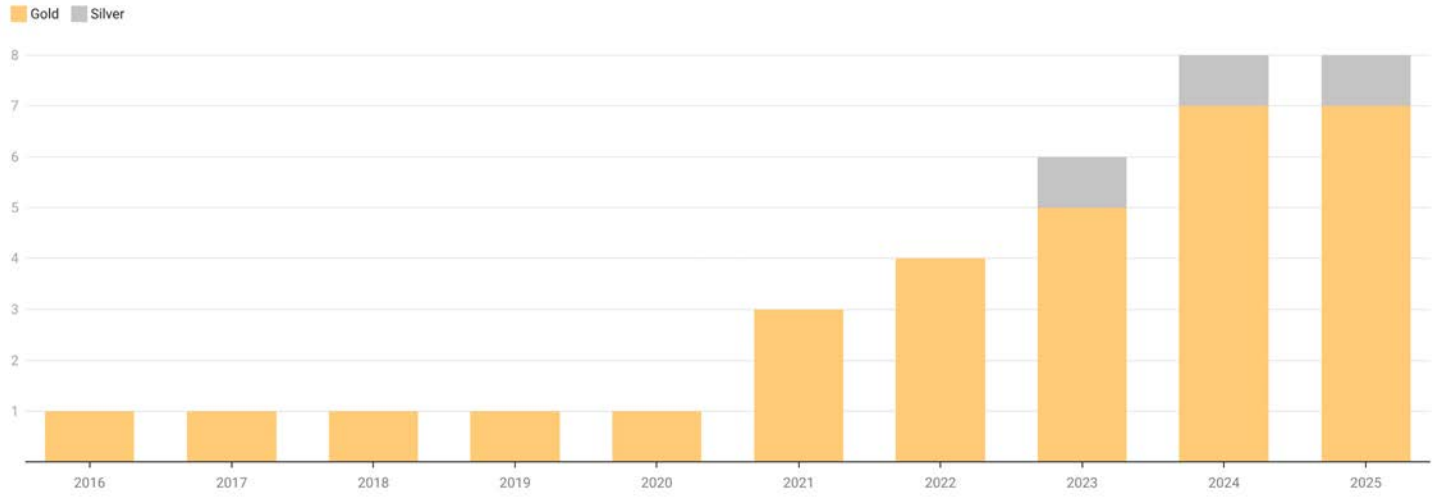
4CD Cumulative Number of LEED Certifications by Year



2030 Goal - 100% new buildings LEED or WELL Gold

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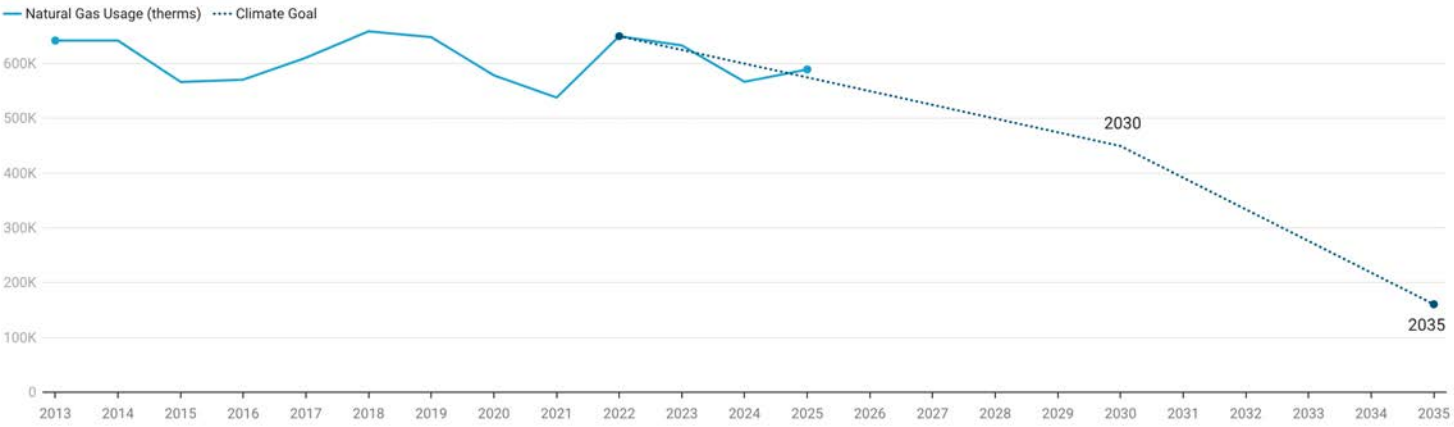
4CD Natural Gas Usage Compared to Goal



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Goal 4

Transportation

Policy Goals –
Campus-focused

2025:
Conduct accounting and conditions assessment of fleet vehicles; assess remainder rolling stock for electrification. Develop EV charging infrastructure to encourage EV use among 4CD community. Promote accessible shared transportation methods. Make pedestrian and bicycle assessment improvements by 2025.

2030:
Achieve 50% electrified rolling stock, and 50% of new fleet vehicles as electric. Implement green parking permits districtwide.

2035:
Achieve 100% electric new fleet vehicles, 100% electric rolling stock, and 50% reduction in single occupancy vehicle (SOV) transportation.

Progress Toward Goals

This goal focuses on several initiatives, including electrifying 4CD's fleet vehicles, expanding EV charging stations, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to campuses, and expanding access to shared transportation options. To date, 4CD has completed the installation of 86 EV chargers Districtwide ahead of its 2025 goal, by planning early and leveraging available programs and grants. More charging stations are coming because of code requirements in the new ET building and with the new Districtwide solar PV project.

In 2022, 4CD collaborated with Prospect Silicon Valley (PSV) on a fleet electrification assessment to develop a strategy for electrifying 4CD's fleet vehicles. PSV assessed the existing vehicle fleet across 4CD, assigned replacement priorities based on age and recommended the best models and funding strategies to move toward fleet electrification. This assessment, along with a total cost of ownership perspective, guides 4CD's next steps in collaborating with the colleges' Maintenance and Operations (M&O) teams and other departments to support step-by-step vehicle replacements with electric equivalents. In addition to the fleet vehicles, 4CD has 67 landscaping devices, ranging from lawnmowers to blowers and trimmers. As these gasoline and diesel-powered landscaping devices age, state mandates require they be replaced with electric-powered devices. EV replacements are expected to occur as older vehicles are replaced or retired from campus fleets, in alignment with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements.

College sustainability committees continue to promote sustainable transportation practices, like carpooling, cycling, or using public transportation to reduce emissions and reliance on fossil fuels among faculty, staff, students, and community members. Some campuses and the DO also host "Bike to Wherever" day stations, providing snacks, drinks, maps, bike lights, and other goodies, sponsored by 511 Contra Costa to the bike riders during their commutes. This work also supports 4CD's Goal 1 by reducing GHG emissions from campus commuting. https://www.bikelink.org/maps

Each site has been working toward developing plans to electrify their fleet vehicles and landscaping equipment. This past year, the DO replaced its gas minivan used for delivering mail between the campuses to an all-electric vehicle. DVC also replaced one of its gas trucks used by the O&M team with an all-electric truck. LMC is planning to convert most of its truck fleet to smaller, more efficient, all electric carts for on campus use. CCC tried out a new all-electric riding lawn mower this year and are receiving grants from BAAQMD to cover half of the purchase price – currently on order. Each of these actions will result in reducing operating and maintenance costs and reducing our transportation based GHG emissions. The DO and DVC vehicles are also applying for IRA tax credits to offset part of their purchase price as well.

Goal 5

Zero Waste

Policy Goals –
Campus-focused

2025:
Conduct a waste categorization assessment. Develop total material consumption benchmark. Benchmark and comply with T14 Division 2 Chapter 5 requirements, and T14 CCR Division 7 requirements. Conduct AB341 compliance assessment. Centralize reporting for waste and resource recovery.

2030:
Achieve zero waste to landfill. Conduct circularity analysis. Reduce material consumption by 10%.

2035:
Maintain zero waste to landfill. Increase material circularity by 25% and decrease consumption of materials by 25%.

Progress Toward Goals

The colleges continued to make strides towards zero waste this year, including continued expansion of waste signage and three-stream bin setups across campuses, as well as educational efforts to train campus communities on waste sorting rules. At the District level, benchmarking efforts resulted in the collection of historical waste data for each site across 4CD. This allows us to track overall waste generation and diversion rates moving forward. Central to this effort are the dedicated contributions by campus M&O teams, as well as students, faculty, and staff members supporting one another in this culture shift of practicing recycling and composting as much as possible. At CCC, new three-stream bins became available across campus through the work of the Custodial Department. The Middle College High School leadership class supported waste sorting education through a newspaper article and student-made signage. DVC's Environmental Affairs Committee, Catalyst Club, and Pond Research Group supported campus beautification efforts through litter removal and pond ecology research. LMC hosted a lake cleanup event, as well as waste sorting game tables at the winter Mustang Day event and CalFresh Outreach Week. DVC also hosted a clothing swap, which reduces clothing waste and helps people find free clothes. Food establishments like the cafeterias have also worked to expand their offerings of compostable takeout containers, further achieving our goal, by diverting waste from landfill to compost streams.

Goal 6

Procurement

Policy Goals –
District-led with campus input

2025: Benchmark sustainability of existing products and services. Adopt a sustainable procurement policy and administrative procedure. Purchase environmentally preferable electronics products.

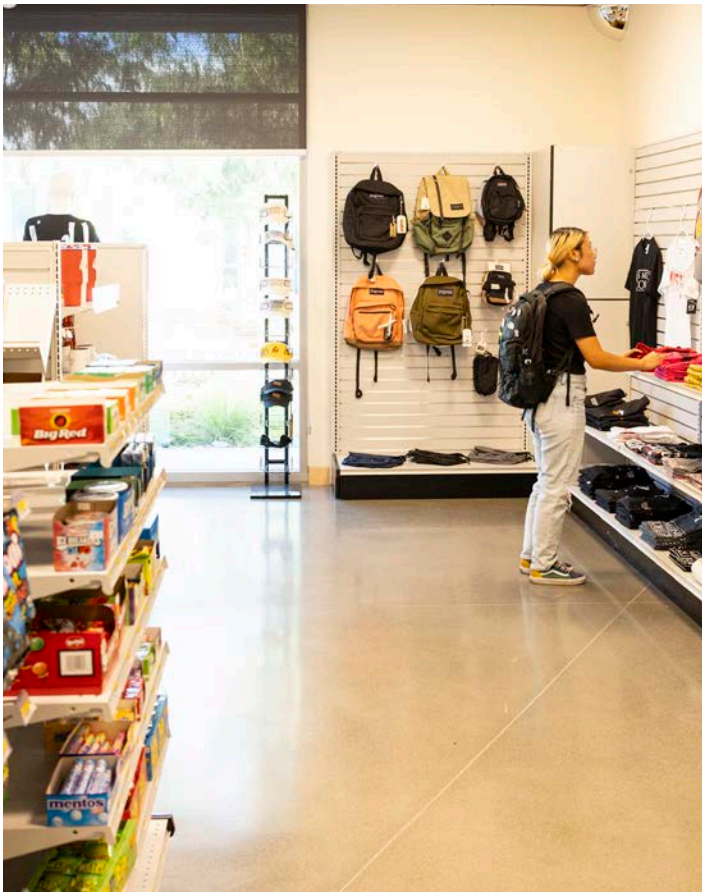
2030: Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 25%.

2035: Increase procurement of sustainable products and services by 50%.

Progress Toward Goals

Sustainable procurement and purchasing policies prioritize the use of environmentally friendly and socially responsible products and services in procurement. 4CD is implementing several strategies to achieve this goal, including setting clear sustainability goals and criteria, monitoring progress, working with suppliers who meet sustainability criteria, promoting sustainable products and services, and engaging stakeholders to support sustainability initiatives and promote a culture of sustainability within 4CD.

In the 2025-26 academic year, collaboration continued with the purchasing department and the colleges to shift to EVs for their new fleet purchases. As mentioned in the transportation section, CCC purchased a new electric utility vehicle (UTV), DVC purchased a new electric truck, and LMC is in the process of exploring electric options to replace some retiring trucks while the DO replaced a courier van with an electric equivalent. We continue to see aluminum containers taking the place of plastic containers in our vending machines, reflecting our collaboration with the purchasing teams to make our vending machines more sustainable.



Policy Goals –
District-led with campus input

2025: Develop local benchmarks for potable water usage and identify non-potable water resources. Create a landscape zoning map and irrigation metering strategy. Adopt CCC Model Stormwater Management Program practices.

2030: Reduce potable water usage by 25%. Install meters on all landscape irrigation systems of 2,500 square foot or more (unless using local or municipal reclaimed water). Achieve 90% of landscape plantings as geographically native species. Irrigated turf cannot exceed 50% of landscaped areas on campus. Follow Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements.

2035: Reduce potable water usage by 50%. Limit stormwater runoff and discharge to predevelopment levels for temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow through use of green infrastructure and low impact development for the campus, and for new buildings and major modifications.

Goal 7
Water

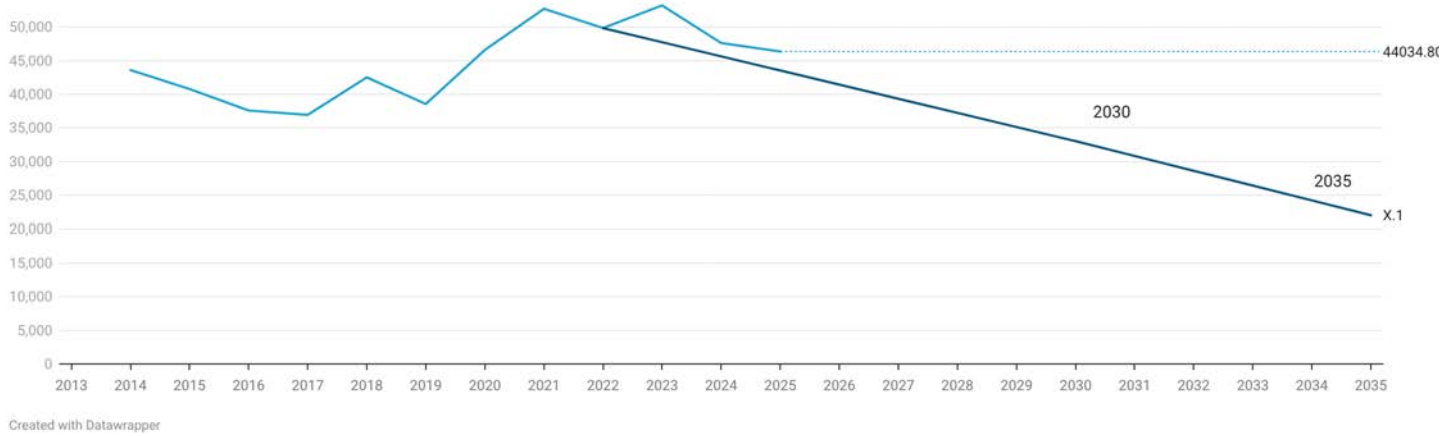
Progress Toward Goals

4CD's water goal focuses on implementing, expanding, and maintaining water conservation measures across all campuses. In a drought prone state like California, it is essential to use water efficiently, recycle it where feasible, and protect local water sources. To support this goal, the District is implementing a range of strategies, including installing low flow fixtures, using native and reclaimed water compatible landscaping, irrigating and flushing with reclaimed water where available, installing water efficient appliances, and educating students and staff about conservation practices. Monitoring water use through utility smart meters and alerts, along with partnering with local water agencies, remains central to reducing overall consumption.

The graph below shows historical potable (drinking) water use. While most campuses irrigate with reclaimed water, challenges remain. At LMC, operational issues with reclaimed water irrigation required a return to potable water, increasing potable water usage. At CCC, a major underground leak beneath the creek—shown in the photograph below—was identified and repaired, reducing water use by two thirds and lowering monthly costs by approximately $15,000. LMC is also advancing conservation through student led efforts, such as the Hyphae Club's work to expand drought tolerant native landscaping.

At campuses where potable water is still used for irrigation, it often accounts for more than half of total potable water consumption. Transitioning to lower water use landscaping offers substantial opportunities for both water and cost savings. District and college teams are actively pursuing solutions to these challenges to support progress toward the water goal and reduce utility expenses. Despite ongoing issues, overall potable water use declined in 2025 compared to 2024, demonstrating positive momentum toward achieving this goal.

4CD Water Usage Compared to Goal



Goal 8
Curriculum

Policy Goals –
Campus-focused

Integrate Sustainability into the Academic Curriculum

Progress Toward Goals

This goal focuses on updating curriculum and expanding opportunities for all students to learn about sustainability and climate action across academic disciplines. Learning opportunities extend beyond the classroom and include campus events, speaker series, internships, volunteer activities, and other experiential programs. To advance this goal, the 4CD Sustainability Team collaborates with the colleges to promote hands on learning, strengthen community partnerships, leverage technology, and support faculty and staff participation in professional development. The team also provides resources to help integrate sustainability principles into existing programs and coursework.

Using campuses as living laboratories is a key strategy in this effort. The "Campus as a Living Lab" model offers students applied learning experiences by engaging them in real world problem solving on campus, a practice successfully implemented at other community colleges.

Each college offered unique sustainability focused learning opportunities during this year. At CCC, the High School Career Connections program and Workforce Wednesday events featured panels with professionals in clean energy, water, and zero waste fields. At DVC, the Education, Nonprofit, Environmental, and Public Sector Career Fair connected students with employers in environmental organizations and highlighted sustainability related career pathways. Through PG&E funding, DVC also hosted a Building Decarbonization Intern who collaborated with the District Office on electrification projects and educational outreach. At LMC, the IMPACT student leadership conference included a sustainability and social responsibility workshop led by the sustainability team, and an LMC faculty member presented nationally on integrating sustainability into an environmental ethics course.

Faculty from all three colleges were invited to contribute examples of sustainability in curriculum integration to a statewide landscape study led by a Curriculum Fellow at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. The 4CD Sustainability Team also continued to engage campus sustainability representatives—student leaders who serve as sustainability champions and ambassadors. These representatives participate in Districtwide Sustainability Committee meetings, provide student perspectives on the nine 4CD goals, and lead campus initiatives such as clothing swaps, clean up events, and waste audits.

Goal 9
Food Systems

Policy Goals –
Campus-focused

2025:
Campus food service organizations track their sustainable food purchases. Refer to Real Food Challenge guidelines – or equivalent – with consideration for campus-requested improvements.

2030:
Increase sustainable food purchases to 20% of total food budget.

2035:
Achieve 80% of food served on campus meets the goals of the Real Food Challenge or equivalent.

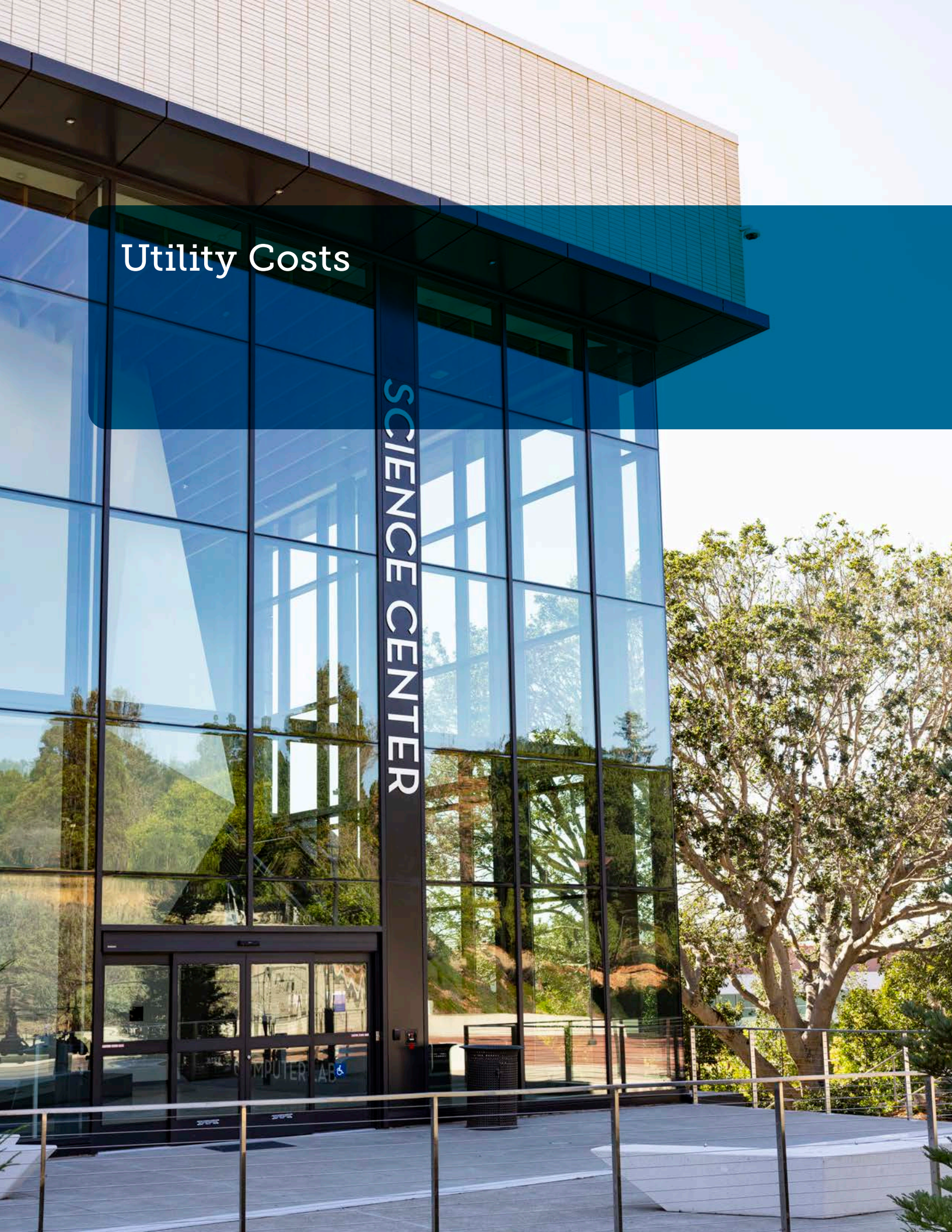
Progress Toward Goals

The Food Systems goal focuses on how 4CD purchases, prepares, and serves food across its campuses. Sustainable food procurement emphasizes sourcing food that is produced and distributed responsibly, with environmental, social, and economic considerations in mind. As 4CD advances its sustainability efforts, the focus also includes reducing food waste and addressing food insecurity by recovering edible food and redistributing it to under resourced individuals. California's SB 1383 supports this work by requiring all 4CD campuses that prepare and serve food—CCC, DVC, LMC, and DVC's San Ramon Campus—to implement edible food recovery programs through partnerships with external food recovery organizations.

During the 2024-25 academic year, all 4CD colleges contracted with White Pony Express as their food recovery vendor. White Pony Express redistributes surplus food, including prepared meals, to local community partners, helping reduce food waste and support community needs. Integrating these recovery efforts with local sourcing practices and educational programming strengthens 4CD's commitment to building a sustainable food system.

This work relies on collaboration across departments and active engagement with students. Monitoring and reporting on key sustainability metrics remain essential to tracking progress. Collectively, these efforts contribute to a more resilient food system that benefits the environment, supports public health, and promotes social equity.

Utility Costs



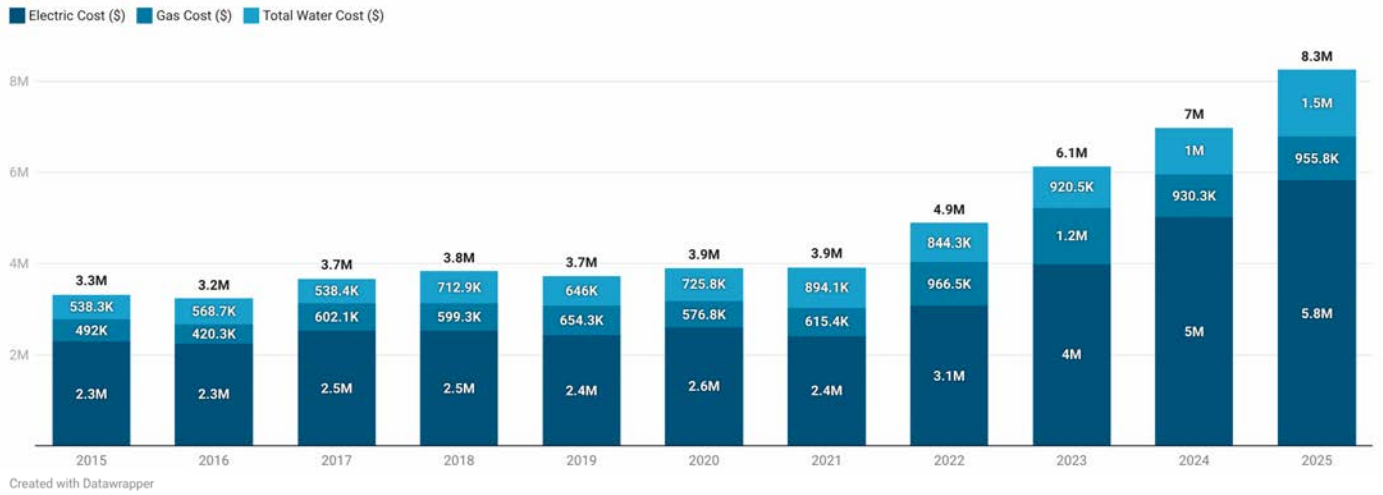
Districtwide Utility Costs Update

Districtwide utility costs are impacted by two primary factors: usage and unit cost. As usage increases, costs typically increase. As unit costs increase, overall costs may increase even when usage is on a decline.

4CD Utility Costs

The following graph shows the total utility cost increased by 151% between 2015 and 2025. More specifically, electric costs increased by 152%, gas costs increased by 94% and water costs increased by 178%. Though the graph does not articulate the percentages for each cost, electricity represents 71% of 2025 costs, while gas and water come in at 12% and 18%, respectively.

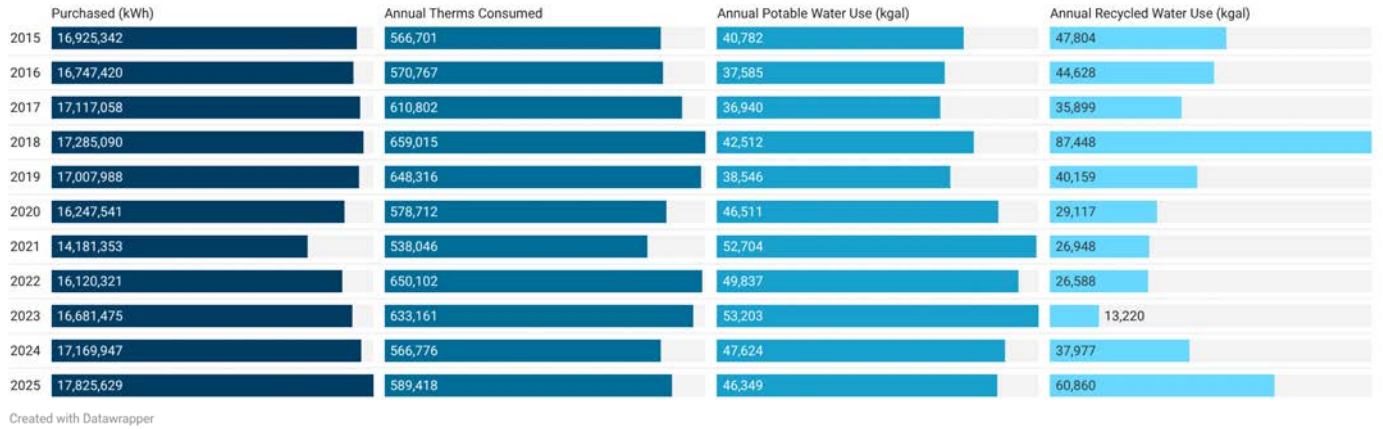
4CD Utility Cost by Fiscal Year



4CD Utility Usage

4CD total usage is noted in the 4CD Utility Usage by Fiscal Year graph. What is not as easily captured in this graph is the impact of adding new buildings and more building areas. Between 2015 and 2025, 4CD grew by 207,769 square feet, representing an overall increase of 13%. The electric usage and gas usage in the graph below 5% and 4% higher in 2025 compared to 2015, thereby noting the increase in cost shown in the graph above is due to the unit costs increasing. Without the reduced utility usage per square foot (through implementation of LEED buildings, electrification and overall energy and sustainability efforts), our annual utility costs would be approximately $992,000 higher this year. Similarly, if we did not have our campus solar PV, our annual utility costs would be $1,079,000 more this year. Building new efficient buildings combined with generating electricity on campus with existing solar PV saves us $2M annually.

4CD Utility Usage by Fiscal Year

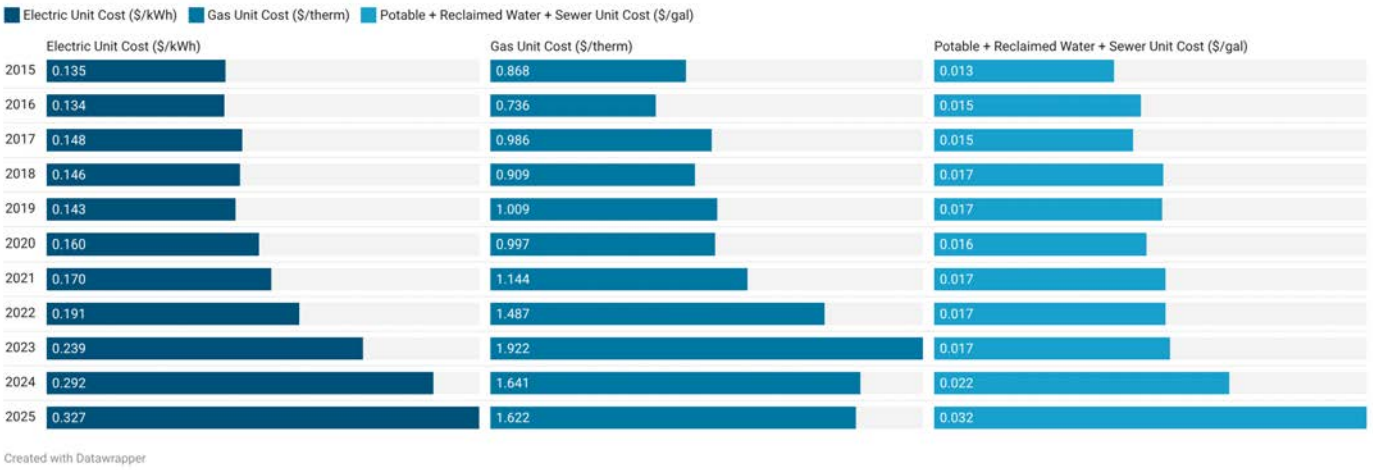


4CD Utility Unit Costs

The utility unit costs chart shows how the unit costs for each utility have increased. Electricity increased by 142% between 2015 and 2025, while gas and water increased by 86% and 146%, respectively. This increase would imply that electric and water unit costs were the most volatile, followed by gas. Last year, water was the least volatile of the three.

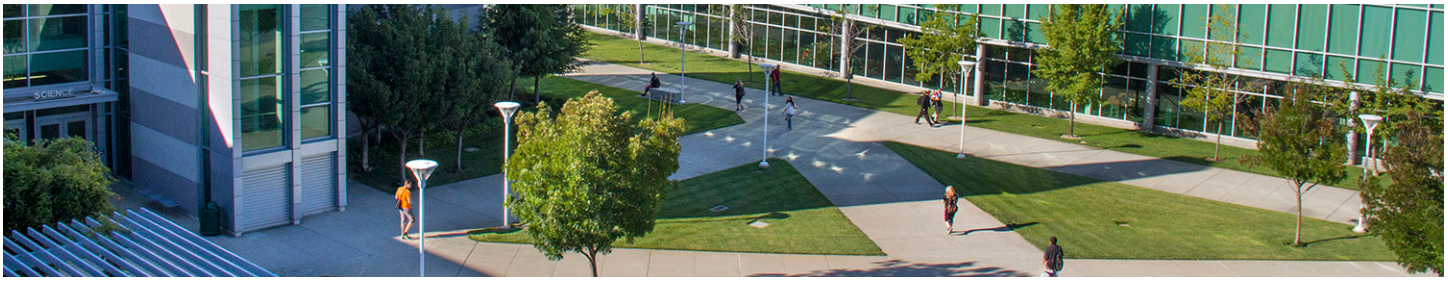
The 2025-26 budget was projected to be 9.7% higher than the previous year, accounting for all the known unit price increases. However, many utilities often increase their rates after our budget is set, so regular monitoring throughout the year is prudent. Looking at our EIS Dashboard, we are projecting some incredible savings in electricity, primarily from switching our electricity provider on July 1, 2025. We were also able to receive refunds for city utility taxes, which we are exempt from paying as a public agency. Our electricity unit costs have dropped by 19% to date in the 2025-26 fiscal year. The electricity provider switch is projected to save $675,000 annually.

4CD Utility Unit Costs by Fiscal Year



As more campuses electrify, it will be important to stabilize electricity unit costs, as they will become an even larger portion of the budget. This can be done by adding more solar PV panels to the campuses, and by engaging in long-term agreements with clean, green electricity providers. The electric heat pump technology is three to five times more efficient than gas fired equipment, so this helps minimize the increase in electricity usage and cost as well. Some analysts project future natural gas prices rising sharply in California, and many expect those left using natural gas will bear the infrastructure costs among fewer customers, as the state electrifies.

This year we generated 17% of our electricity on campus from our existing PV, which means we received 17% of our electricity for free. The value of that electricity usage, this year alone, is $1,079,000 and represents Districtwide avoided utility costs. If we were able to completely offset our electricity costs by generating all our electricity on campus, we could eliminate approximately $5.8 million a year in utility costs. If we electrify our gas, we are able to offset all of that usage with onsite renewable energy systems, like solar PV. Our FP electrification study projects future electric usage, after we electrify our campuses, and helps us to refine and manage our future utility costs by proposing additional future solar PV on our campuses.



Campus Sustainability Updates

Contra Costa College

Contra Costa College continued progress in the areas of campus energy conservation, zero-emission transportation, zero waste infrastructure, and sustainability-focused education and workforce development. These efforts were made possible through leadership in multiple areas across the campus, including the CCC Sustainability Committee, M&O Department, Student Life, Workforce and Economic Development Department, Middle College High School, and more.

A. Energy

The 2025-26 school year marked CCC's third year in the statewide HEEP program, which focuses on providing campus-specific recommendations for energy efficiency and conservation opportunities. Through this program, CCC has continued to adjust building operating schedules, heating and cooling control sequences, and thermostat setpoints to improve comfort, resulting in electric and gas savings, and thus cost savings. This academic year, work done on campus as part of the HEEP program has resulted in CCC saving 172,450 kWh in electricity and 4,009 therms in natural gas usage, equating to $63,000 in annual utility cost savings and earning a one-time utility incentive.

B. Transportation

In September of 2025, campus staff repaired the vandalized/cut cables for most of the EV charging stations. Unfortunately, vandals cut many of the cords again in mid-December 2025. The Committee continues to assess options to restore functionality to these stations.

The CCC M&O Department also explored other methods of equipment electrification, which included testing and ordering a fully electric riding lawn mower through a BAAQMD pilot grant program. They also purchased a new all-electric utility vehicle. These investments help improve local air quality, by reducing air pollution caused by emissions from gas and diesel-powered vehicles, and landscaping equipment.

C. Zero Waste

Zero waste efforts on campus continued to advance in the 2025-26 school year. New three-stream bins were added to several locations throughout CCC, thanks to the work and coordination of the Custodial Department. These include two additional three stream bins in the cafeteria, and one new three-stream bin in the Gym Annex, Middle College Cafeteria, AA Building, Student Lounge, Music Building, ATK Building, and GE Building.

The Middle College High School Program also led zero waste efforts on campus through waste sorting education projects from their leadership class. Led by Mrs. Williams, students in this class wrote an article educating their peers about waste sorting and created their own 3D signs to provide a visual aid for community members sorting their waste on campus.

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THE PANTHERS POST

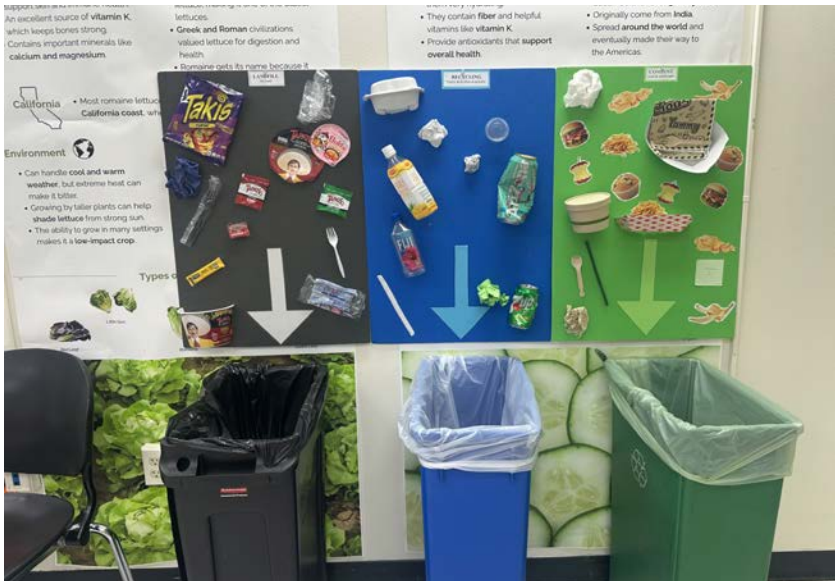
Editor: Juliana Libunao Marketing Editor: Mrs. Williams

KEEPING THE MCHS CAFE CLEAN

By: Frenchelle Calmorin

As we await the renovation of the student lounge, it is important that everyone follow proper garbage sorting procedures when picking up lunch from the Middle College Cafe. Clearly labeled bins for compost, trash, and recycling are conveniently located inside the cafe. Take careful consideration of your waste and ensure that plastic, paper, and food waste are placed in the appropriate bins. Your cooperation is essential to keeping the new cafe area clean and organized. To help with your efforts, below is a list of some examples to help organize your waste.

Compost:	Trash:	Recycling:
• Food Scraps	• Styrofoam Cups	• Soda Cans
• Wooden Utensils	• Chip Bags	• Plastic Bottles
• Paper Plates	• Condiment Packets	• Milk Cartons



D. Curriculum

Students attending career panel events at CCC this year had multiple opportunities to learn about careers in sustainability. The summer High School College Connection program featured a sustainability-focused panel in the Career Exploration Wednesdays program. Featuring RecycleMore and Sustainability staff from the DO, students had the opportunity to learn about different career paths in sustainability ranging from waste management, energy management, and environmental education. They also completed workshops about zero waste, classroom energy audits, and total cost of ownership (TCO) calculations for electric vehicles versus gas vehicles.

CCC's Workforce Wednesday program also hosted a clean energy industry professionals panel in October. Featuring presenters from Viridi Parente, 16500, and Sunbelt Rentals, this panel focused on career pathways in battery energy storage systems and renewable energy, the evolution of the clean energy sector, and different educational requirements, certifications and skills needed in these careers. Attendees also learned about internship and entry-level opportunities in these areas, and were able to attend a resume workshop led by the Career Services team.

CCC also hosted its annual Earth Day event in April. The CCC Sustainability Committee recruited vendors representing various sustainability organizations, allowing students and campus community members to learn how to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives and on campus.

E. Water Conservation

In fall 2025, a significant underground water leak was identified and repaired in a cracked pipe located beneath the creek. This repair, along with other campus leak corrections, resulted in approximately $15,000 in monthly utility cost savings. Smart utility meters with leak detection alerts continue to support 4CD in identifying and reporting potential leaks across campuses, helping prevent similar losses in the future.

Diablo Valley College

DVC advanced its efforts toward developing greener buildings on campus, lower emission transportation options, zero waste and campus cleanup efforts, and promoted learning opportunities related to sustainability. These accomplishments were made possible through the leadership of the DVC Sustainability Committee, ASDVC's Environmental Affairs Committee, Catalyst Club, the Maintenance & Operations Department, Career and Transfer Center, and other campus partners.

A. Energy

This year marked DVC's third participation year in the statewide HEEP program. Because of its active participation in the program, DVC has adjusted building operating schedules, heating and cooling control sequences in buildings, and thermostat setpoints, to improve occupant comfort. Through this year's efforts, DVC's San Ramon campus achieved 77,487 kWh of energy savings, equivalent to $25,000 in annual energy cost savings.

B. Green Buildings

The ET building is under construction, set to be completed in 2027 with a LEED Gold goal. LEED , as a rating system, awards points for sustainability considerations in the building's design, construction, and operational phases, resulting in lower operational costs and improved occupant comfort and air quality. The ET Building's instructional programs have also been able to use this project as a living lab learning opportunity, particularly by incorporating the LEED scorecard and its associated data and analyses into their coursework.

C. Transportation

The DVC Sustainability Committee is focusing on Goal 4: Transportation and has been brainstorming multiple options to advance greener transportation methods on campus. This included research to increase campus transit options between the Pleasant Hill Campus (PHC) and the San Ramon Campus(SRC), increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations on campus, and promote lower-emission forms of commuting like walking, biking, public transportation, and more. The committee also helped promote the Try Transit program and e-bike rebate program from 511 Contra Costa, and collaborated with 511 Contra Costa to develop and launch a transportation survey that was administered across 4CD's colleges and DO.

DVC's M&O Department purchased a new all-electric truck with the help of remaining federal EV tax credits, increasing the number of fleet electric vehicles and reducing local air pollution.

D. Zero Waste

DVC continued to promote a circular economy and reduce clothing waste by hosting its biannual clothing swap event, which allowed campus members to donate or take home gently used clothes for free. In October, the Career and Transfer Services team partnered with the DVC Sustainability Committee to host a clothing swap featuring clothing donated to the Career Closet over the course of the year. A total of 525 pounds of clothes were donated, and 383 pounds were taken home by attendees, representing 73% of all clothing donations.

Student leadership also advanced multiple zero waste efforts on campus. The DVC Catalyst Club helped lead a campus cleanup and waste audit in the fall, presenting results to the DVC Sustainability Committee. Club members planned another audit in Spring 2026. A student-led Pond Research Group also conducted research on the history and ecology of the fish ponds on Science Hill, with a focus on pond beautification and restoration. The ASDVC Environmental Affairs Committee also explored options to beautify the lake area through litter cleanup efforts.

At SRC, the 2025-26 school year also featured a pilot project of compostable takeout containers at the Learning Commons Cafe. These containers support zero waste efforts by directing more food-related waste into the compost stream, and away from landfill. To accompany this pilot, the 4CD Sustainability Team built three-dimensional landfill, recycling, and compost signs and installed them in the Learning Commons in collaboration with the DVC Custodial Department. Both teams collaborated to help students and staff sort their waste during the fall opening week.

E. Curriculum

DVC offered several opportunities to learn about sustainability through on-campus events and internships. In March 2026, the Career and Transfer Center hosted the Education, Nonprofit, Environmental and Public Sector Career Fair, which invited many attendees and provided students networking opportunities with employers in environmental, education, nonprofit, and public sector fields.

DVC's Sustainability Committee also collaborated with the DO to host a sustainability-focused internship this year. Josue Hinojosa was hired as the Building Decarbonization Intern to support electrification projects on campus, as well as education and outreach about the details and benefits of electrification projects.

Members of DVC's Catalyst Club and ASDVC Environmental Affairs Committee also collaborated with the DVC Sustainability Committee to organize the 2026 Earth Day event in April.

Los Medanos College

Los Medanos College marked progress in several areas of sustainability this year. These included strengthening committee participation expanding LED efficient lighting retrofits on campus, updates to HVAC building controls, promoting sustainability at campus events, exploring sustainability concepts in curriculum, and demonstrating zero waste leadership through the Puente Program. This work was made possible by strong collaboration and leadership across several LMC groups and departments, including the LMC M&O Department, Hyphae Club, Puente, Student Life, faculty, and others.

A. Energy

This year marked LMC's third year in the statewide HEEP Program. Through this program, LMC has adjusted building operating schedules, heating and cooling control sequences in buildings, and thermostat setpoints to improve comfort and efficiency. Completion of College Complex and Math building HVAC building controls improvements as well as LED lighting retrofits have vastly provided increased comfort, better indoor air quality and large energy savings by allowing systems to automatically shut down or reset based on occupancy and user requests. Through this work, LMC achieved 42,130 kWh in electricity and 7,548 therms in natural gas savings r, resulting in approximately $26,000 annually in energy cost saving.

The new 300 kW solar PV system at LMC's Brentwood Center began generating free electricity in October 2025. This array reduces our purchased electricity, generates clean, renewable energy and reduces GHG emissions. A battery system was also installed to allow the servers to operate during utility power outages.

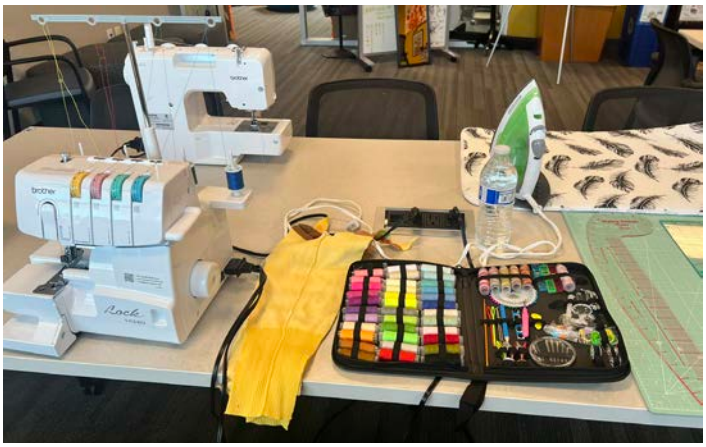
B. Transportation

The LMC M&O Department is planning to transition from gas trucks to electric carts. This will reduce operating costs and lower emissions related to Goal 4: Transportation.

C. Zero Waste

LMC's Pittsburg and Brentwood Center campuses made several strides toward supporting the zero waste goal this past year. The spring semester Mustang Day events included a zero waste sorting table at the Pittsburg and Brentwood campuses, where students were able to practice their waste sorting skills for a prize. LMC's CalFresh Outreach Week in February also featured a waste sorting table in partnership with Mount Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR), where attendees were able to practice their waste sorting skills and earn a raffle ticket.

At LMC's Brentwood Center, a brand new Community Closet space was created this year in the student commons area, to promote the free exchange of gently used clothing and other items. The space helps promote zero waste and circularity on campus by facilitating the exchange and reuse while connecting more students to free clothing and classroom supplies.



Compost services from the local hauler are now provided at the Brentwood Center, allowing them to put all their compost into the waste haulers stream and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. LMC's Puente Program hosted a Mend, Don't Spend event in January 2026, which encouraged students to learn and practice mending skills to extend the lifespan of their clothes and personal belongings. They also began hosting First Fridays Craft Time each month, providing a space for students to drop in and learn sewing skills to repair personal belongings. These events provide a practical and fun collaborative workshop experience, while directly supporting zero waste efforts on campus. The First Fridays Craft Time events were presented at a statewide Puente event in February 2026. Puente also practiced zero waste at a multicultural food festival event, which featured upcycled centerpiece decorations.

D. Curriculum

The 2025-26 school year brought multiple learning opportunities for sustainability on campus. In addition to the waste sorting games listed above, the LMC IMPACT leadership conference for students featured a workshop on the overlap between sustainability and social responsibility. Student leaders attending the workshop learned about sustainability topics through a Kahoot! game, followed by an interactive brainstorming session on applying the Districtwide Sustainability goals into campus-based projects.

LMC also hosted its annual Earth Day event in April. The LMC Sustainability Committee recruited vendors representing various sustainability organizations, allowing students and campus community members to learn how to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives and on campus. Hyphae Club hosted its annual celebration in the Nature Preserve, featuring a scavenger hunt, food, learning opportunities about the Nature Preserve, rock painting, and a piñata for attendees.

In November 2025, students also had the opportunity to plant California native plants at LMC's Nature Preserve. Prior to the plantings, they also had the opportunity to learn about the importance and role of native plants in California's ecosystem. A lake cleanup event hosted by the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Office took place in honor of Native American Heritage Month. Student volunteers gathered to walk around the perimeter of the lake, picked up litter and gathered fallen branches for the grounds team to pick up.

Integrating sustainability topics into curriculum has been an ongoing discussion topic in the LMC Sustainability Committee this year, including efforts to scope and understand existing work in this area. In February 2026, LMC's Professor Tiffany Morgan spoke on this topic in a nationwide panel titled, "High Impact Climate Pedagogy," sharing examples of incorporating sustainability into her environmental ethics course and culminating in an Honors Community Project that students get to bring to life. Those student projects, led by Mary-Genevieve Korklan and Jenica Perez, are in the process of being implemented.

Sustainability Awards

2008

Energy Efficiency Best Practice Award for Districtwide Lighting Retrofit & Honorable Mention for Districtwide Solar PV Project

2019

Diablo Valley College earns the Contra Costa Sustainable Resources Management Award

2020

Contra Costa College's new Science Building wins the CA Community Colleges Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Award for Best Overall Innovative Project – Large District. See press release here.

2021

4CD's District Office wins the 2021 Eco-Award by promoting sustainability through conscientious business practices, presented by the City of Martinez and Republic Services.

2022

Diablo Valley College's Art Complex wins the CA Community Colleges Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Award for Best Overall Innovative Project – Large District.

2026

4CD Energy and Sustainability Manager recognized as the Sustainability Champion in the California Community College Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Awards.

Glossary of Terms

BAAQMD
The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is a public agency that regulates the stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties of California's San Francisco Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano, and southern Sonoma.

Backcasting
Backcasting is central to the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development, which is a framework that has helped hundreds of different organizations around the world integrate sustainable development into their strategic planning and create long lasting transformative change. Backcasting begins with the end goal in mind, moves backwards from the vision to the present state, and then moves step-by-step toward the vision, using sustainability principles.

Carbon dioxide (CO2)
Carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and other biological materials, and because of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle. Carbon dioxide emissions are the primary driver of global climate change. It is widely recognized that to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the world needs to urgently reduce emissions.

Carbon Neutral
Carbon Neutral is an emerging definition that relates to measuring, reducing and offsetting carbon energy used by either a building or an organization. A carbon neutral building is one where the design, construction, and operations do not contribute to GHG emissions that cause climate change.

CCTA
The Contra Costa Transportation Authority works to plan, fund, and implement innovative transit programs that strengthen our diverse communities and improve the lives of residents. 511 Contra Costa is program of CCTA.

Compost
This is organic matter which has been decomposed in a process called composting. This process recycles various organic materials otherwise regarded as waste products and produces a soil conditioner. Compost is rich in nutrients. Sometimes it is referred to as “organics” on waste bin signs.

Decarbonization
Decarbonization has been simplified by many in our industry, by using the term electrification. This term applies to part of the definition. Yet, the second part of decarbonization will require absorbing carbon from the atmosphere by capturing emissions and enhancing carbon storage in places such as agricultural lands, forests and possibly deep in the ground in depleted oil and gas reservoirs.

Electrification
Electrification, in the context of this report, refers to changing things which use fossil fuel as their power source to using electricity as their alternative power source. For example, a gas fired boiler could be electrified by changing it from gas to an electric heat pump boiler. Or a gasoline powered vehicle could be changed to an EV. It assumes the electric grid will be shifted to 100% renewable, clean, green power, that emits zero GHG emissions.

Energy Usage Index (EUI) or Energy Usage Intensity
EUI is a common performance factor that can be compared against benchmarks in the same climate and in the same type of usage (college/university, office buildings, and so on). EUI is expressed as energy per square foot per year. It is calculated by dividing the total energy consumed by the building in one year (measured in kBtu) by the total gross floor area of the building/campus.

Environmental Justice
Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

EV Charge Program
PG&E launched the EV Charge Network program to install 7,500 EV chargers at multi-unit dwellings and workplaces throughout its service territory, including sites in disadvantaged communities. This program provides an opportunity to contribute to California's clean energy goals while also investing in your property.

GHG
This acronym stands for greenhouse gas. It includes any various gaseous compounds (such as carbon dioxide or methane) that absorb infrared radiation, trap heat in the atmosphere, and contribute to the greenhouse effect. In this report, we use it as a synonym for CO2 and methane emissions.

LEED
Short for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. Available for all building types, LEED provides a framework for healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings.

Methane (CH4)
Methane is emitted during the production, transport and burning of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

Photovolatic (PV)
Solar cells, also called PV cells, convert sunlight directly into electricity. PVs get their name from the process of converting light (photons) to electricity (voltage), which is called the photovoltaic effect. Solar PV has specific advantages as an energy source. Once installed, its operation generates no pollution and no GHG emissions, it shows simple scalability in respect of power needs and silicon is largely available in the Earth's crust.

Renewable Energy
Renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human time scale, including carbon neutral sources like sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Renewable energy does not emit GHG emissions while generating/producing energy. The term often also encompasses biomass as well, whose carbon neutral status is under debate.

Weather Normalized
This is a process that measures the impact of weather on energy consumption. Because weather patterns vary widely daily and annually, weather for a given season may be colder or warmer. Energy used in keeping warm is directly dependent on how cold it is. Comparing the weather or energy consumption from one year to the next would provide only the change between those years. However, when energy consumption is "Weather Normalized," energy consumption is compared over a normal weather period. Weather normalization adjusts energy usage so it can be compared to energy usage in other years over a longer period.

WELL
This is a performance-based system for measuring, certifying, and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and well-being, through air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind.

ZNE
The State of California defines ZNE for state buildings as follows: ZNE Source - Energy Efficient building that produces as much clean renewable energy as it consumes over the course of a year, when accounted for at the energy generation source. Other terms used for this include: zero-energy building (ZE) and net-zero energy building (NZEB). A net zero building is a building with ZNE consumption, meaning the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is equal to the amount of renewable energy created on the site.

Additional Resources

- CA Community Colleges Climate Action and Sustainability Goals
- CA Community Colleges BOG Climate Action and Sustainability Framework
- CCC Sustainability Committee
- DVC Sustainability Committee and DVC Sustainability Page (coming soon!)
- LMC Sustainability Committee
- 4CD Facilities Planning, Sustainability Page (coming soon!)

https://www.4cd.edu/business/facilities/annual-sustainability-reports/index.html

Contra Costa Community College District

pathways to success

The Contra Costa Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and campus life. 4CD does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parental status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any access to and treatment in college programs, activities, and application for employment.

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