Taking a walk? Check out these points of interest to see some of the ways CSU Dominguez Hills is going green. Keep an eye out for the CSUDH Sustainability signs at most of the numbered spots on the map to help find your way.

www.csudh.edu/sustainability

Did you know?

90% of campus landscaping uses reclaimed (recycled) water

The campus has won six statewide UC/CSU best practice awards over the past seven years for its energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives
Native Gardens

1. Garden of Dreams
This California native garden is publicly accessible and available for research activities. Legoland Foundation provided grant funds to help establish this space. The garden features a variety of native plant species of cultural significance to the local Tongva tribe, and many species are useful in cooking, basket-weaving, dyeing, and more. In addition, the plants provide food, shelter and nest sites for birds, butterflies and native pollinators. The plants are all native to the Dominguez Hills, the Palos Verdes Peninsula or Santa Catalina Island. Most were grown here on campus.

2. Ocean-Friendly Garden
Located just outside the entrance gates to the University Housing complex, the garden replaces nearly 7,000 square-feet of grass with 250 water-saving, drought-tolerant trees and plants native to Southern California and will save up to 80 percent of the water previously required for landscaping. Additionally, it is designed to redirect and capture water from the street to allow for natural irrigation of the garden.

3. Heritage Creek Preserve
This small Preserve features plants native to the Dominguez Hills and Palos Verdes Peninsula and connects us to the land as it looked in the 1800’s. Plants were propagated from locally collected seeds and cuttings. The Preserve provides bio-filtration for storm water and also serves as an important ecological research lab. Because it provides much-needed native habitat (food and home sites) for birds, reptiles and insects, the land is managed with conservation in mind. The Preserve survives mainly on natural rainfall and experiences the wet and dry seasons typical for our Mediterranean climate. Please feel free to explore the walking paths as the area is open to the campus and the public. Enjoy the many birds, rabbits, butterflies and other animals.

4. Pollinator and Butterfly Gardens
Pollinator Garden: This garden features a variety of California native plants that attract beneficial pollinator species. This garden originated as a class project from the Natural Resources class in fall of 2014.

Butterfly Garden: This garden was established in spring of 2012 through the biogeography class and the Earth Science Club. This project was grant-funded by Southern California Edison and is recognized as a waystation for threatened butterfly species.

5. CALL Garden
Native plants attract more native pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds, when compared to non-native plants. This has been demonstrated by ecology students here at Dominguez Hills – this highlights the value of having spaces like this as a part of the Campus as a Living Lab. This garden provides opportunities for observing interactions in nature, whether you are actively participating in one of several classes studying the garden, or just passing by. All parts have a function – even the decorative white gravel allows water to bio-filtrate while still preventing weeds from colonizing. Look for hummingbirds, butterflies, and other creatures while you rest under the pergola.

Renewable Energy & Energy Projects

5. Central Plant Projects

Net Zero Innovation Center: This space was made possible through a Greenovation grant awarded by the California State Student Association (CSSA) in partnership with Associated Students Inc (ASI). The Center features a variety of sustainability features and technologies that are applicable in a residential setting. Designed to be net zero in terms of energy consumption, water usage, and landfill impacts, the space incorporates solar panels, rain capture systems, and a composting/recycling system. Please take a look around. We hope visitors are inspired to take these sustainability ideas home and to incorporate green living into their daily lives!

1 MW Battery Storage: This award-winning project stores enough energy in the Tesla batteries to power the entire campus for up to four hours at a time. This cutting-edge technology helps the campus stand out as a statewide leader in renewable and energy efficiency technologies while also reducing the campus energy bill.

Central Plant provides 90% of the heating and cooling for the campus which requires a large piping system that runs through a quarter-mile of tunnels underground. Want to see it? Take a free tour during the Central Plant’s annual Open House event (fall semester) or ask your professor to arrange a class field trip to tour our facilities.

6. Active Learning Classrooms
On the first floor of Welch Hall, there are special Active Learning classrooms featuring advanced energy efficiency controls and technologies to create a state-of-the-art learning environment.

LED Lighting Projects
Several parking lots and buildings have been retrofitted with highly advanced LED lighting and controls. CSUDH has won two statewide best practice awards for lighting alone. Can you tell the difference?

8. Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture

9. Campus Urban Farm
The CSUDH Campus Urban Farm is an outdoor classroom, lab, and garden that uses a multi-disciplinary approach to address student food insecurity, urban agriculture, and sustainability. A venue for faculty-led research and experiential learning for students, the Campus Urban Farm features a variety of activities related to composting, solar, permaculture, and water-wise techniques. If the gate is unlocked, you are welcome to visit our planting beds, lounge in the outdoor classroom, or check on how our crops are doing.

Earth Day Grove

Every year at the annual CSUDH Earth Day Festival, volunteers plant a fruit tree at this location to help celebrate the planet. These trees are lovingly hand-watered with potable (fresh) water by students from the Campus Urban Farm, and help provide an extra source of locally-grown foods for the campus.