

# CSUDH Annual Sustainability Report

**FY 2022-2023**

*July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023*

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## Executive Summary



Figure 1- CSUDH receiving a \$2.4 million check for greenhouse gas reduction as part of Southern California Edison's Clean Energy Optimization Pilot. The campus has reduced nearly 50% of its behind the meter greenhouse gas emissions since entering the pilot program in 2019 and has been the top performer in the program since its inception.

### **Campus Sustainability Highlights:**

In the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY), California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) made several important strides towards supporting sustainability on campus. A few prominent accomplishments include:

#### ***Awards/Accomplishments:***

- Earned a STARS Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in recognition of its sustainability achievements. CSUDH is the first CSU campus to rise from a Bronze (2018) to a Gold rating (2023) in less than five years.
- National 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the Race to Zero Waste competition in the Large Campus Category for Zero Waste.
- Earned national Tree Campus USA recognition for the fifth year in a row for CSUDH's 2022 activities.
- In year two of participation in Southern California Edison's Clean Energy Optimization pilot, CSUDH once again was the top performer, saving more than 40,000 metric tons since beginning the pilot in 2019. The campus has cut its behind-the-meter greenhouse gas emissions by 54% since it began participating in the program. This achievement was recognized with a visit by Southern California Edison board members as well as Senator Bradford in June 2023 to present the greenhouse gas payment check of \$2.4 million.

# Executive Summary

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## Projects:

- **Climate Action Plan Adopted:** In support of the President's Climate Commitment signed by President Parham in March 2021, which formally pledges CSUDH to net carbon neutrality for scopes 1-3 by 2045, the Office of Sustainability prepared the annual greenhouse gas inventory for the campus for the 2022-23 FY (with 2019-20 FY serving as the baseline). Additionally, the supporting draft Climate Action Plan was approved and finalized by Executive Cabinet in August of 2022.
- **1MW Rooftop Solar:** After a multi-year bidding and construction process, the campus went live with almost 1MW (985) kW) of rooftop solar on five buildings (Welch Hall, SBS, Library, NCSI, and the Gym) via a power purchase agreement (PPA) at the end of June 2022. These panels now allow the campus to get almost 1/3-1/2 of its daily energy from on-site, renewable sources. Two buildings are now carbon negative on average, putting more energy back into the campus grid than they consume. 1,874 MWh in solar energy was provided during the 2022-23 FY.
- **Alternative Transportation Committee:** At the start of summer 2023, the Office of Sustainability and Parking Services collaborated to formally begin recruitment for the Alternative Transportation Committee (required by the 2021 CSU Transportation and Parking Policy) as well as being sharing duties to promote and develop alternative transportation resources for all Toros.
- **EV Charging:** CSUDH applied and began agreement negotiations over the course of the 2022-23 FY for Southern California Edison's ChargeReady electric vehicle infrastructure program. This will ultimately provide 100 electric vehicle charging stations in Lot 3 (the only parking lot where sufficient electrical infrastructure exists to support the stations while also meeting the program criteria of stability for 10 years) at almost no charge to the campus.
- **Pop Up Thrift:** After several successful pilots of the Pop Up Thrift Initiative originally funded through the President's Challenge grant, the Office of Sustainability began hosting regular, monthly Pop Up Thrift events to reduce waste caused by disposal of good condition items while simultaneously assisting in-need students in meeting their basic needs. These are now a regular feature once a month at the weekly Farmers Market as well as at Housing move-in and move-out events to help provide a venue for donations as well as the free distribution of useful items. Over 550 Toros took advantage of the program to take home items in the 2022-23 FY.
- **Sustainability Criteria in RFPs:** In spring of 2022, the campus procurement process officially added sustainability scoring measures (as well as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) as an evaluation criterion for all campus request for proposals (RFPs). This ultimately means all vendors applying to provide services to CSUDH will now need to provide information on their sustainability efforts as part of their proposals and be scored accordingly.

## Engagement:

- Reached 4,342 people via sustainability events and campus outreach. These efforts included weekly programming at the campus Farmers Market as well as during particular months throughout the academic year including October (Sustainability Month), March (Race to Reduce Month) as well as the in-person Earth Day Festival on April 18, 2023.

## Executive Summary

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- In summer of 2022, the Office of Sustainability sponsored a sustainability course as part of GearUp's Toro Summer Academy designed to engage local high school students with CSUDH. 15 students participated in the six-week long sustainability course.
- On August 2, 2022, the Office of Sustainability conducted a sustainability tour for 40 emerging African youth leaders visiting CSUDH as part of participation in the Mandela Institute.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.csudh.edu/alumni-enrichment-institute/>

# Sustainability Staffing & Institutionalization

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*“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

*-UN World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987*

## Sustainability Staffing & Institutionalization

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### Sustainability Institutionalization:

#### **Sustainability Staffing:**

During the course of the 2022-23 FY, the Office of Sustainability was supported by a team of three full-time staff members: the Sustainability Manager, the Zero Waste Coordinator, and a full-time Americorps VISTA member.

- During the summer of 2023, the Office of Sustainability was also awarded two full-time California Climate Action Fellows funded to work over the course of that summer. The position was awarded to a CSUDH student as well as an outside candidate, both of whom concluded their fellowships in August having supported the Office of Sustainability on a variety of climate-related projects.

#### **Building Student & Employee Leadership/Involvement in Sustainability:**

**Goal:** Create avenues for students and employees to engage with sustainability activities in a non-formal employment capacity and develop independent leadership in sustainability initiatives.

- In the 2022-23 academic year, the Office of Sustainability worked with paid student interns to continue facilitating engagement opportunities through the Sustainability Club. Club activities were designed to provide weekly activities oriented around paid intern activities and projects.
- In February 2023, the Office of Sustainability launched the second cohort for the Sustainability Star Program designed to engage faculty and staff in sustainability leadership. Six staff and faculty members from various departments successfully completed all the graduation requirements including attendance at all three training workshops and completion of a pre/post survey. The three workshops educated participants on deeper-level concepts around environmental justice and fighting climate change at home and while on campus.
- The University Sustainability Committee conducted monthly meetings throughout the 2022-23 academic year. This committee is charged with formally representing the university in determining campus-wide recommendations for furthering

# Sustainability Staffing & Institutionalization

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sustainability at CSUDH. Their list of annual recommendations was submitted to Cabinet in time for the new fiscal year prior to July 1, 2023.

## Utilities & Services

Utilities include energy, water, and trash/recycling services. Annual consumption is reported for the 2022 fiscal year (unless otherwise stated) below.

### Utility Consumption & Greenhouse Gas Impact



Figure 2- CSUDH has been a signatory of the Carbon Commitment to carbon neutrality and member of the national Climate Leadership Network since March 2021.

## Energy

### Net Zero Energy & Carbon Neutrality:

*Goal:* Improve the energy efficiency of campus facilities and increase renewable energy generation with the goal of achieving a net zero energy bill and scope 1-3 carbon neutrality for the campus by 2045.

- Progress:
  - In support of the President's Climate Commitment signed by President Parham in March 2021, which formally pledges CSUDH to net carbon neutrality for scopes 1-3 by 2045, the Office of Sustainability prepared the annual greenhouse gas inventory for the campus for the 2022-23 FY (with 2019-20 FY serving as the baseline). Additionally, the supporting draft Climate Action Plan was approved and finalized by Executive Cabinet in August of 2022.
  - The campus maintained normal operations throughout the 2022-23 FY (no disruptions in campus population due to pandemic) which resulted in increased emissions for Scope 3 due to the resumption of business travel and regular commuting. For the 2022 fiscal year:
    - Scope 1 emissions were 2,013.22 tons
    - Scope 2 emissions were 3,151.14 tons



- Scope 3 emissions were 13,701.16 tons
  - Electricity consumption for the 2022 fiscal year was 15,042,628 kWh.
  - Electricity consumption for the 2022 fiscal year for solar PPA was 1,874 MWh.
  - Natural gas consumption for the 2022 fiscal year was 356,209 therms.
- 2022-23 FY Initiatives:
    - In year two of participation in Southern California Edison's Clean Energy Optimization pilot, CSUDH once again was the top performer, saving more than 40,000 metric tons since beginning the pilot in 2019. The campus has cut its behind-the-meter greenhouse gas emissions by 54% since it began participating in the program. This achievement was recognized with a visit by Southern California Edison board members as well as Senator Bradford in June 2023 to present the greenhouse gas payment check of \$2.4 million.
    - After a multi-year bidding and construction process, the campus went live with almost 1MW (985 kW) of rooftop solar on five buildings (Welch Hall, SBS, Library, NCSI, and the Gym) via a power purchase agreement (PPA) at the end of June 2022. These panels now allow the campus to get almost 1/3-1/2 of its daily energy from on-site, renewable sources. Two buildings are now carbon negative on average, putting more energy back into the campus grid than they consume. 1,874 MWh in solar energy was provided during the 2022-23 FY.
    - Despite the addition of major buildings on campus as well as accommodating the full in-person return of academic instruction during the 2022-23 FY, Central Plant continued to be pro-active about saving energy, implementing continued measures to:
      - Improve campus HVAC and lighting schedules to match occupancy levels.
      - Holistically improve the energy efficiency of campus buildings, supporting ongoing rollouts of LED lighting and smart lighting controls as well as converted from pneumatic to DDC HVAC controls for greater energy efficiency throughout campus buildings.
      - Completed an aggressive LED upgrade of exterior light poles on the major streetways lining the south of campus.
      - Upgrades of Central Plant assets to ensure more efficient delivery of heating and cooling to campus buildings.



Figure 2- Example of one of the campus standard interior three-stream bins rolled out to every campus building in support of the Zero Waste Initiative.

## Waste Management

### Net Zero Waste:

*Goal:* Striving for the highest possible diversion rate to non-landfill sources with the goal of becoming a zero waste campus (90%+ landfill diversion rate) before 2045. Reducing waste volume overall by integrating source reduction approaches into campus.

- Progress:
  - 2022 FY represented the first full year of normal in-person operations since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Campus users returned to multiple space moves and two new buildings to occupy which greatly increased the amount of move-in and clean-up waste as occupants returned to full office residency. As a result, 819 tons were sent to the landfill during the 2022 calendar year (per CalRecycle reporting).
  - Despite the overall increase in waste, the zero waste program demonstrated its ability to quickly engage campus users by participating in the national Race to Zero Waste competition by the National Wildlife Federation for the very first time. This competition challenged campuses to drive behavior change to reduce waste in three buildings (Housing, student union, and an administrative building). Based on this criteria, the Office of Sustainability engaged in outreach activities at Housing Phase III, the Loker Student Union, and Welch Hall in the eight-week long campaign through February and March 2023. These efforts

were highly successful, resulting in CSUDH winning the large campus category for Zero Waste in the national competition.

- 2022-23 FY Initiatives:
  - In Fall 2022, a zero-waste informational video was officially integrated into the mandatory pre-orientation training for all students to ensure incoming enrolled students would understand the zero waste station system and receive basic sorting guidance.
  - As of Spring 2023, the Zero Waste Coordinator was officially added to the programming for Human Resources' New Employee Orientations which occur monthly throughout the year. This means all new employees moving forward receive a presentation on zero waste services and guidance as part of their initial on-boarding.
  - Although CSUDH had been one of the first CSU campuses to mobilize to fully comply with the new requirements AB 827 and SB 1383 legislation that went into effect on July 1, 2020, the fall 2022 semester continued to see space adjustments based on the post-pandemic return of faculty and students. As a result, the Office of Sustainability worked to continue adding dozens more zero waste "stations" that were rolled out over the course of the fiscal year.
    - In the month of September of 2022, the Office of Sustainability engaged in a door-door campaign to provide information on the zero waste program and check on campus office users to encourage them to place a Work Order to address any zero waste set-up issues associated with the new program. 250 employees were engaged across all campus buildings as part of this initiative.
  - The Office of Sustainability's existing utilization of Clean City Networks technology, which provides real-time fill levels on 65 waste bins completed its first year of full implementation, providing an average fill level to help inform annual CalRecycle report volumes.
  - After several successful pilots of the Pop Up Thrift Initiative originally funded through the President's Challenge grant, the Office of Sustainability began hosting regular, monthly Pop Up Thrift events to reduce waste caused by disposal of good condition items while simultaneously assisting in-need students in meeting their basic needs. These are now a regular feature once a month at the weekly Farmers Market to help provide a venue for donations as well as free distribution of useful items. Over 550 Toros took advantage of the program to take home items in the 2022-23 FY.

## Water

### Net Zero Water:

*Goal:* Only consuming water, regardless of source, equal to the amount that would be delivered to the same area based on natural precipitation by 2045.

- Progress:

- Potable (indoor) water consumption continued its annual decrease, with only 6,886 CCF (vs. 7,370 in 2021) consumed during the 2022 calendar year.
- With the addition of new buildings/correlated landscape, as well as rehabilitation of under-maintained landscaped areas in anticipation of the in-person return, reclaimed/outdoor water use increased to 70,546CCF (up from 57,091 51,038) during the 2021 calendar year.
  - Per the [CSUDH Water Action Plan](#), this combined consumption still meets the overall net zero water balance goal listed above.
- 2022-23 FY Initiatives:
  - The Sustainable Landscape Committee continued to review landscaping plans for Capital Projects for compliance with Model Water Ordinance (MWELO) standards to ensure efficient irrigation and low-water using plantings and in accordance with the Sustainable Landscape Plan approved plant palette.
  - Grounds has continued efforts to manage the CalSense irrigation control system for the campus to maximize efficiency and utilization of an Irrigation Controls Specialist to continue identifying leaks and efficiency opportunities in landscaping.
  - WaterScope meters were installed in all campus buildings which provide real-time alerts on potential indoor water leaks. Based on this information, the plumbing unit of Facilities Services was able to save thousands of gallons in waste water from user behavior and/or fixture leaks on a proactive basis.

### Sustainable Landscaping

The Sustainable Landscape Committee continued to meet regularly during the 2022-23 FY to provide guidance and support for sustainable landscaping on campus.

- In recognition of the Sustainable Landscape Committee's comprehensive and coordinated approach to tree management, the Arbor Day Foundation once again awarded CSUDH national Tree Campus USA recognition for its 2022 calendar year activities.
- Over the course of the 2022 calendar year, 25 new trees were planted on campus. This included the planting of three new fruit trees in front of the Campus Urban Farm as part of a tree celebration event held during October Sustainability Month.
- In spring 2023, the Office of Sustainability promoted the annual online Green Graduation Pledge, where students from the graduating classes of 2020-2025 are encouraged to pledge to consider the environment when making future career decisions. Facilities Services offered to provide \$1 towards campus tree planting efforts for every student who took the pledge during their graduating year. As a result, 47 students took the pledge resulting in a new fruit tree scheduled to be planted in fall 2023 as a result.



Figure 3- CSUDH is a recognized Tree Campus through the Arbor Day Foundation for its comprehensive landscape management efforts.



Figure 4- New bicycle repair station placed on the East Walkway to service CSUDH cyclists.

## Transportation

As a commuter campus, CSUDH continues to make efforts to reduce the environmental impact of transportation by CSUDH students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

- Proposed measures and policies to support implementation of the 2021 CSU Transportation and Parking Policy, fill the Rideshare Coordinator position, and greater support for alternative transportation and electric vehicle charging were included in the final Climate Action Plan approved by Cabinet on August 2022 as part of the strategy for achieving Scope 3 carbon neutrality.
- At the start of summer 2023, the Office of Sustainability and Parking Services collaborated to formally begin recruitment for the Alternative Transportation Committee (required by the 2021 CSU Transportation and Parking Policy) as well as being sharing duties to promote and develop alternative transportation resources for all Toros.
- CSUDH applied and began agreement negotiations over the course of the 2022-23 FY for Southern California Edison's ChargeReady electric vehicle infrastructure program. This will ultimately provide 100 electric vehicle charging stations in Lot 3 (the only parking lot where sufficient electrical infrastructure exists to support the stations while also meeting the program criteria of stability for 10 years) at almost no charge to the campus.
- As part of the Toro Green Initiative Fund for 2023, a new public bicycle repair station was installed on the East Walkway to help provide free support for bicyclists visiting the campus. The Office of Sustainability also commissioned a bicycle rack map and posted it on its website to provide greater informational guidance for potential cyclists looking for resources.

### Procurement & Sustainable Food



Figure 5- The weekly CSUDH Farmers Market provides fresh produce, EBT services, and Market Match funds for in-need students.

As an entity with significant purchasing power, the campus has great influence over the embedded environmental impacts from the items it buys. By supporting and utilizing suppliers and vendors that incorporate waste reduction, recycled materials, and/or other environmentally friendly materials and practices, the university can support sustainability on a much larger scale. The campus also has an economic and environmental responsibility to attempt to encourage re-use as well as the use of recycled content in its purchases.

Food in terms of production, distribution, and disposal has a massive environmental impact that needs to be part of campus sustainability planning efforts. To that end, in the 2022-23 fiscal year, the campus pursued the following initiatives:

- In spring of 2022, the campus procurement process officially added sustainability scoring measures (as well as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) as an evaluation criterion for all campus request for proposals (RFPs). This ultimately means all vendors applying to provide services to CSUDH will now need to provide information on their sustainability efforts as part of their proposals and be scored accordingly.
- The weekly CSUDH Farmers Market returned for the 2022-23 academic year, providing the campus with much-needed access to fresh produce and CalFresh and EBT/Market Match benefits for students.
- During the 2022-23 FY, the campus transitioned to Aramark for its dining and food services. As a result, there was increased data on food purchasing (which was submitted as part of the campus' AASHE STARS submission for 2023) as well as re-alignment of existing food recovery programs and offerings.

## Utilities & Services

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- This included ensuring compliance with the CSU Single-Use Plastics policy which resulted in Aramark providing only aluminum water bottles (not plastic) in all vending machines and catering operations.
- Food recovery efforts were more formalized to ensure the campus kitchens directly recover food to the campus food pantries with regular drop-off's and pick-ups coordinated between Aramark and Basic Needs.

## Academics/Green Workforce Development

# Academics/Green Workforce Development

## Courses

Integrating sustainability concepts into the curriculum and supporting sustainability courses is critical in ensuring students graduate with a strong understanding of their role as global citizens.

*Goal:* Host at least one event per semester focused on engaging faculty members in support of integrating sustainability into curriculum.

## Office of Sustainability Academic Infusion Initiatives

The Office of Sustainability worked with several faculty members during the academic year to help integrate sustainability principles and projects into coursework. This ranged from guest-lecturing particular courses, leading classes on tours of sustainability features, to arranging sustainability activities for students as part of their coursework and class projects.

Description	Date	Students	Class Code
<b>Lissa McCullough-</b> tour of Campus Farm	8/3/2022	12	PHI 101
<b>John Menary-</b> class presentation on sustainability	9/29/2022	20	UNV 101
<b>George Wing-</b> class presentation on Leave No Trace principles	10/3/2022	45	REC 260
<b>Jung Kwon-</b> class presentation on sustainability	10/5/2022	12	PHI 101
<b>Parveen Chhetri-</b> tour of Campus Farm and agriculture presentation	10/10/2022	15	GEO 420
<b>Chris Russo-</b> class presentation and assigned research projects on sustainability engagement/marketing	10/24/2022	30	MKT 350 MKT 325
<b>Lissa McCullough-</b> class presentation on sustainability	10/31/2022	20	PHI 101-01
<b>George Wing-</b> class presentation on Leave No Trace principles	3/1/2023	18	REC 260
<b>Chris Russo-</b> class presentation and assigned research projects on sustainability engagement/marketing	4/7/2023	50	COMM 342
<b>Jenney Hall-</b> full class participation in weekly Eco-Living Workshops (September), October Sustainability Month events, and Campus Urban Farm growing operations	Fall (22) & Spring (23) Semester	60 30	UNV 101 IDS 210



# Academics/Green Workforce Development

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- The University Sustainability Committee continued to support an academic working group, co-chaired by the committee representatives for the Academic Senate that met monthly during the academic year. This working group developed several recommendations related to academic initiatives to support sustainability in curriculum that were included in the annual recommendations report to Cabinet. The group also helped implement several recommendations that were approved in the year prior including:
  - Submittal of a Center for the Sustainability and the Environment charter to the Office of Graduate Research to create an organizational unit to formally support academic curriculum, research, and external partnerships for the university.
  - Drafting of a proposed Academic Senate resolution to integrate a University Learning Outcome (ULO) around sustainability in both the undergraduate and graduate ULO's for submittal in in the 2023-24 academic year.

## Internships & Service Learning

In addition to having coursework related to sustainability, students can greatly enhance their understanding of sustainability through hands-on service learning and internships working on sustainability projects.

*Goal:* Support paid and voluntary internships for at least 3 CSUDH students per semester.

The Office of Sustainability works collaboratively with several departments to support a variety of paid and voluntary internships:

- Sustainability Internships: The Office of Sustainability supported a team of three paid student interns throughout the 2022-23 FY.
- For-Credit Interns: Internships performed in exchange for academic credit are important elements of a robust internship program. This fiscal year, the Office of Sustainability supported four volunteer/for-credit interns from Earth Science, Human Health, Nursing, and Political Science respectively. One Earth Sciences' student utilized the for-credit internship towards their ENV 596 requirement, while the other chose to pursue the opportunity on a purely volunteer basis for experience. The Human Health and Nursing students applied the internships towards their major's graduation requirements. The Political Science volunteer intern applied their hours towards an external grant/service award's community service hour requirement.
- College Corps Interns: As part of a multi-year grant partnership between CSUDH and the state, CSUDH began its first cohort of approximately 100 College Corps fellows. These CSUDH students participate in the College Corps fellowship program via an initial course instructed by CSUDH faculty and are then assigned to various project sites affiliated with the campus.
  - For the first year, the Office of Sustainability hosted five College Corps members who supported a variety of sustainability projects and outreach initiatives over the course of the 2022-23 academic year.

## Green Workforce Development

In addition to educating employees and students on the importance of sustainability, the campus can also take a role in encouraging the development of workforce skills in the green jobs industry.

*Goal:* Provide support for at least one green workforce event per semester.

To that end, the Office of Sustainability collaborated with the campus Career Center and other campus groups to host two events over the course of the year specifically designed to encourage the development of the green workforce:

- Joined the Career Center's Fall Student Employment Fair on August 5, 2022 in order to promote the Office of Sustainability's paid and volunteer internship opportunities and openings. As a result, the Office of Sustainability engaged 45 students directly regarding its green employment opportunities.
- Hosted a Green Career Panel event and cross-promoted with Alumni Relations on October 27, 2022 to introduce 39 students to four CSUDH alumni successfully working in green careers as part of October Sustainability Month.
- Multiple exhibitors at the 2023 Earth Day Festival attended in order to provide promotion around paid internships and job opportunities at their organizations, so were placed next to each other to better facilitate engagement around these green employment opportunities with the students. (See "Engagement" section for full information on the event).

## Campus Urban Farm

Founded in February 2018 after approval by Presidential Cabinet, the CSUDH Campus Urban Farm (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 Farm is now the site for experiments with composting, solar, permaculture, and water-wise techniques.

The Farm occupies approximately .11 acres with 30'x 80' of available growing space. It also houses a large nursery shed, and an adjoining space that is used as an outdoor classroom. Once the site of a campus nursery, the Farm is fully enclosed with a gate and has a sidewalk encircling the main growing area which now consists of 15 raised planter beds, three solar-powered hydroponic towers, and several demonstration growing areas/exhibits.



Figure 6- Teddy Toro in front of the raised beds at the Campus Urban Farm.

## Mission

The Farm has a strong educational mission, and not only provides fresh produce to food-insecure students, but supports the study of urban agriculture, sustainability, and other faculty-led research projects. By weaving sustainability training and education into the farm experience, CSUDH is preparing environmentally responsible community members who understand the importance of reducing their energy, water, and waste, as well as understanding the impacts that urban agriculture can have on a community.

The mission of the Farm is to serve as a resource for:

- Providing free and/or affordable produce to food-insecure students.
- Providing a living laboratory space for faculty and students to integrate sustainability into their coursework and research.
- Providing an outdoor classroom space and event venue to support relationship-building in the community, both on-campus and off.
- Piloting a campus composting program to support efforts to keep campus green waste on-site.

## Summary Metrics

To ensure the Farm is supporting its mission, it maintains metrics on several key performance indicators. The summary of those metrics is listed here:

## Academics/Green Workforce Development

Fiscal Year	Pounds of Food Distributed to Campus	Volunteers Engaged	Classes Engaged
2017-18 Fiscal Year (February-June)	0 (construction)	140	2
2018-19 Fiscal Year (July-June)	104	291	7
2019-20 Fiscal Year (July-June)	259.4	371	3
2020-21 Fiscal Year (July-June)	108.63	14	3
2021-22 Fiscal Year (July-June)	48.5	62	3
2022-23 Fiscal Year (July-June)	267.74	90	4

### 2022-23 FY Highlights

In its first full year of operation since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted both operations and distribution, the Campus Urban Farm was finally able to resume normal growing operations as well as gain access to the ability to distribute fresh produce on a weekly basis. As a result, the Farm had its most productive harvest year to date, distributing approximately 268 lbs of fresh produce to students in need in the 2022-23 FY.

## Academics/Green Workforce Development



Figure 7- Campus Urban Farm workshops on the South Walkway as part of the weekly Farmers Market

### **Funding/Engagement**

Shell provided an additional donation of \$2,500 in 2022 to support Farm educational programming. The funding was used to support three community workshops around urban farming with the goal of engaging at least 75 people. These workshops took place in November 2022 at the weekly CSUDH Farmers Market (open to the community) for maximum exposure. All spots were fully taken, and ultimately engaged 90 members in urban gardening topics ranging from composting, herb growing, and how to set up a home garden.

As part of previously allotted grant funds, CalFresh provided \$2,500 to support increased food production projects at the Campus Urban Farm. This funding was used to purchase the supplies necessary to enhance existing food production, but also begin infrastructure improvements to begin the foray into egg production by preparing to house a small flock of chickens at the Farm. Chicken farming is anticipated to begin in 2024.



Figure 8- CSUDH students planting new fruit trees in front of the Campus Urban Farm to provide additional sources of fresh produce to help address food insecurity on campus.

# Academics/Green Workforce Development

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The Farm began to host class tours once again in addition to volunteering by regular classes. Some other highlights included:

- K-12 Tours:
  - Throughout July 2022 the Office of Sustainability hosted a class through GearUp's Toro Summer Academy Program. As part of this six-week course, 15 local high school students enrolled in the class made frequent visits to the Farm to engage in educational classes on urban farming and sustainability topics.
  - On February 10, 2023 the Farm provided a tour for 64 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Roosevelt Elementary School as part of CSUDH's GearUp program efforts.
- On April 15, 2023 the Farm was booked for a multi-workshop event with Bridge Builders. As part of this programming, the Farm conducted tours of the site as well as provided the venue for their gardening workshop event.

## **Academics**

With the return of in-person instruction in Fall 2021, two IDS classes taught by Campus Urban Farm faculty co-sponsor Jenney Hall visited weekly to rehabilitate the Farm and support growing operations. Additionally the Farm supported an in-person class tour for Philosophy professor Lissa McCullough's PHI 101 course of 12 students as well as Earth Sciences professor Parveen Chhetri's GEO 420 course of 15 students in the Fall 2022 semester.

## **Contact Us**

**For more information, please visit our website at: [www.csudh.edu/sustainability/campus-urban-farm/](http://www.csudh.edu/sustainability/campus-urban-farm/)  
The CSUDH Campus Urban Farm regularly posts to Instagram @durbanfarm and can be reached directly at [durbanfarm@gmail.com](mailto:durbanfarm@gmail.com)**

## Engagement



Figure 9- Accounting staff team at the photo-booth leading to the annual Central Plant Trick or Treat tours of the campus tunnels: one of October Sustainability Month events which features a mix of virtual and in-person events.

## Outreach Campaigns

In order to support the sustainability goals of the campus, the Office of Sustainability supports educational programming to encourage sustainable user-behavior change on a variety of topics.

*Goal:* Reach at least 10% of the FTE campus population every fiscal year through direct interactions via outreach events and campaigns.

- Progress:
  - The 2022 fall FTE was 12,455 which means outreach efforts would need to reach 1,246 students to represent 10%. This fiscal year's outreach campaigns reached 4,342 people total, well-exceeding this target.
- 2022-23 FY Initiatives:
  - **Academic Infusion Engagement:** As mentioned in previous sections of this report, the Office of Sustainability conducted general academic programming that collectively reached 312 students.
  - **Eco-Living Workshops** were conducted weekly during the month of September and provided virtual workshops featuring hands-on crafting activities and tips to help students live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. 259 people were reached through this campaign.
  - **October Sustainability Month** was a month-long series of events designed to engage the campus around National Campus Sustainability Month. 470 people were reached through this campaign. The activities included:
    - Themed activities at the Sustainability booth at the weekly Farmers Market.

- The first-ever University Sustainability Committee Townhall event which was conducted in-person.
- A virtual Green Career Panel event featuring CSUDH alumni working in green jobs.
- The annual Trick or Treat Tunnel Tours of the Central Plant.
- The **March Race to Reduce campaign** placed a larger emphasis on engaging the campus in sustainability activities designed to reduce campus resource consumption. This year's campaign incorporated CSUDH's first-ever participation in the national Race to Zero Waste competition (previously mentioned in the "Waste Management" section of this report). 414 people were reached through this campaign:
  - In addition to themed activities at the weekly Farmers Market, the Office of Sustainability proactively engaged its student interns in canvassing the campus and encouraging campus users to take an educational zero waste pledge in exchange for prizes.
  - There were also weekly webinars on sustainability topics as well as an in-person Climate Teach-In event that featured faculty presenting global sustainability topics related to their disciplines.

## Additional Campus Outreach

In addition to formal campaigns, the Office of Sustainability supported additional ad-hoc outreach efforts to further sustainability education to the campus:

- The Office of Sustainability continued supporting other campus entities by participating in their respective tabling events, conducting as-needed presentations on zero waste and sustainability for staff departments as well as classes, and resumed weekly tabling with the return of the CSUDH Farmers Market in spring 2022.



Figure 10- Art Department setting up for the upcycled art display featured at the 2023 Earth Day Festival.

## Community Outreach

The largest sustainability event catered to reaching the outside community specifically is the annual Earth Day Festival. The 2023 annual festival returned for its 16<sup>th</sup> iteration on April 18, 2023:



- On the day, the Office of Sustainability was able to encourage 112 people to participate in the booth bingo activity that involved interacting with the 30+ organizations that tabled at Earth Day. The Art department also collaborated to feature a student exhibition of upcycled art on the Library roof deck as well as a follow-up guest speaker event covering eco-art. The event also held its annual Green Hero Awards Ceremony during the lunch period which recognized individual faculty, staff, and student members of the CSUDH community for their outstanding efforts around campus sustainability.<sup>2</sup>

#### Other Highlights:

- In summer of 2022, the Office of Sustainability sponsored a sustainability course as part of GearUp's Toro Summer Academy designed to engage local high school students with CSUDH. 15 students participated in the six-week long sustainability course.
- On August 2, 2022 the Office of Sustainability conducted a sustainability tour for 40 emerging African youth leaders visiting CSUDH as part of participation in the Mandela Institute.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://news.csudh.edu/16th-earth-day-festival>

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.csudh.edu/alumni-enrichment-institute/>

## Contact Information



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### Information on the Office of Sustainability

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California State University, Dominguez Hills and other state institutions are major consumers of energy and natural resources. The university has a responsibility to be a wise steward of scarce resources by reducing the use of non-renewable resources, increasing energy efficiency, and as part of the larger CSU system, promoting continued economic and ecological viability in California. CSU Dominguez Hills is on the cutting edge of sustainability efforts by an urban campus, and is actively providing leadership in engaging faculty, students and staff in on-campus sustainability efforts. We are looking at ways to increase partnerships and funding to support the educational, research, and public service missions of the university as they relate to sustainability.



*Please consider the environment before printing this report.*