



Long Beach City College Pacific Coast Campus

CLIMATE NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2026

OUR YEAR IN MOTION: CLIMATE ACTION AT CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Dear California Community Colleges Community Members —

Each year, we have a few moments to pause and remember the opportunities we have to affect real change for our communities – change that has lasting impact. This is one of those moments. We know how critical climate action is for people across our state, and the work accomplishments are a testament to our students’ and fellows’ tireless and passionate efforts; they are demonstrating our systemwide commitment: *We are not waiting to take action on climate.*

Thank you for all you do to support this critical aspect of our work. We hope you enjoy reading highlights from what we have accomplished together and that you feel the same pride as I do in our efforts toward a more sustainable future.

Dr. Sonya Christian
Chancellor, California Community Colleges

MEET THE CHIEF CLIMATE OFFICER, CARLA GRANDY, PH.D.



Dr. Carla Grandy has served as senior advisor to the chancellor and is now Chief Climate Officer for the California Community Colleges. She has nearly two decades of progressive experience in the system.

Carla began her career as an Earth Science faculty member, where she connected students with opportunities to engage in climate action and environmental justice. Most recently, she served as Vice President of Instruction at College of San Mateo. In her current role, she leads the implementation of climate action and sustainability efforts across the 116 California Community Colleges, working with a team of climate fellows.

Carla is excited to connect with campuses and statewide partners engaging in climate action at all levels.



MEET OUR CLIMATE FELLOWS

Our [team of Climate Fellows](#) has doubled over the last year, representing an even greater diversity of leaders from across the system who are driving our work on climate action:



Carla Grandy
College of San Mateo



Holly Bailey-Hofmann
West Los Angeles College



Tonya Huff
Riverside City College



Dave Liebman
Santa Rosa Junior College



Norma Rojas-Mora
Kern Community College District



Crystal Morse
College of the Redwoods



Roman De Jesus
Fullerton College



Isai Orozco
Kern Community College District



Dennis Astl
Palomar Community College District



Tammy Wong
College of San Mateo

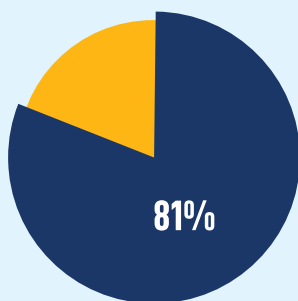
We will soon announce a new cohort of Climate Fellows who will join us in the coming academic year to lead efforts ranging from integrating environmental justice into curriculum to advancing high performance buildings across the system.

2025-26 ACHIEVEMENTS

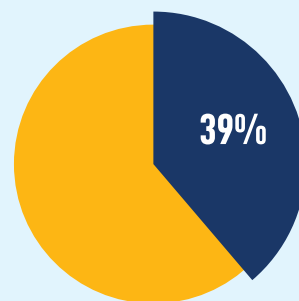
Advancing climate action requires just that—action. We are proud to share some of the steps taken over the past year that set our system on track for historic progress in field support and course offerings:

Integrating Climate Into Curricula

Curriculum Climate Fellow Dr. Holly Bailey-Hofmann collected benchmark data to assess the extent to which community colleges are integrating climate topics into their curricula across disciplines. She discovered that, while many colleges offer climate-related degrees, certificates, and courses, we have an opportunity to engage other colleges to help build climate into curricula beyond the STEM disciplines.



81% of colleges have a sustainability or climate-related General Education degree or certificate



39% of colleges report non-STEM sustainability, climate-centered, or embedded courses

Data snapshot from Chancellor's Office Curriculum Climate Fellows, November 2025



Some standout colleges and districts doing this work at scale are:

- Mt. San Antonio College
- Fullerton College
- LACCD: Sustainable Environmental Institute (SEI)
- West Los Angeles College
- Cerritos College
- SDCCD: Mesa, Miramar, and City College

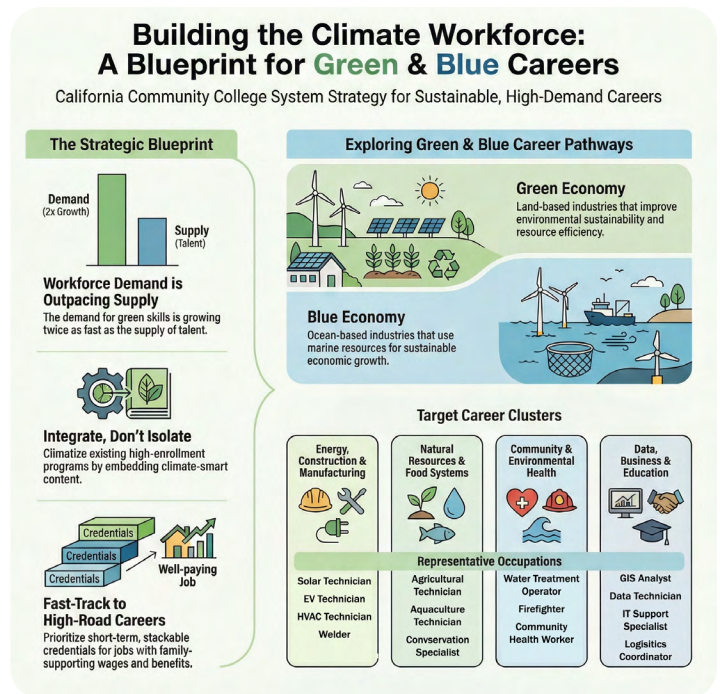
To address this gap, Curriculum Climate Fellows Holly Bailey-Hofmann and Roman De Jesus held a [series of webinars](#) during Spring 2025, Fall and Spring 2026 to spotlight college faculty who have embedded climate into their courses and to offer guidance to other college faculty interested in “climatizing” their curriculum. Climate Fellows will continue to hold workshops designed to empower faculty to incorporate climate action into their curriculums so that students can make connections across their fields of study. Additionally, a repository for sharing climatized curriculum and course modules is in the works this summer.

If you or faculty at your college are interested in this work, the [ASCCC Academic Academy](#) taking place October 23-24, 2026, in Newport Beach will be a great chance to learn from faculty across disciplines who are incorporating climate into their curriculum.

Advancing Green and Blue Economy Career Pathways

Workforce Development Climate Fellow Tammy Wong conducted a statewide climate and sustainability CTE landscape analysis of programs directly and indirectly related to climate. The analysis highlighted that many established programs are integrating topics like regenerative agriculture, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and sustainable design—enabling students to develop climate-relevant skills within existing, industry-aligned programs.

Building on this work, the next phase centers on expanding access to program information through a Climate Workforce Supply-Demand Dashboard. Developed by CTE Research Analyst Climate Fellow Isai Orozco, it enables users to assess workforce needs by analyzing labor market data, comparing the supply and demand of program completers, and identifying regional workforce gaps. The dashboard will be part of a comprehensive resource toolkit accessible on our forthcoming Climate microsite.



NotebookLM

Approximately 70% of California community colleges are located within 80 miles of the coast, positioning the system to support workforce development in the growing blue economy. In response, Workforce Development Climate Fellow Dr. Crystal Morse has launched the North Coast Blue Economy Consortium (NCBEC) to identify regional workforce needs and develop programs aligned with emerging industry demand. The consortium—comprised of College of Marin, Santa Rosa Junior College, Mendocino College, and College of the Redwoods—will serve as four innovation hubs, each serving its region and collectively supporting colleges from San Francisco to the Oregon border.



AltaSea

These efforts build upon the lessons learned from the [Blue Economy & Climate Action Pathways \(BECAP\)](#) collaboration with AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles to advance blue economy workforce development. As the largest port complex in the Western Hemisphere transitions toward zero-emission operations, the Port of Los Angeles is working with the Chancellor’s Office, AltaSea, and a consortium of 14 LA regional colleges to support the training and education needed to meet these evolving workforce requirements.



Sustainable Facilities and Operations

The Chancellor's Office oversees 25,000 acres of land and 6,000 buildings. Facilities Climate Fellows David Liebman and Dennis Astl worked with colleges to reduce emissions through initiatives such as advocating for funds to support the construction of microgrids on our campuses and issuing sustainability guidance for colleges like this [Zero Waste Guide](#) by Climate Corps Fellow Lani Warren and this [Sustainable AI toolkit](#) by Student Climate Fellow Alyna Esteem.

In addition, six colleges [won](#) the Board of Governors Energy and Sustainability Awards! Honoring leading innovators and standout programs, these Awards recognize colleges for their ongoing efforts to achieve environmental sustainability while advancing [Vision 2030](#). Congratulations to Riverside Community, Sonoma County Junior, and Kern Community College Districts; Shasta College; and leaders from Contra Costa Community College District and Mt. San Antonio College!

We can't wait to see what our fellows and leaders across the system achieve next!



Student Climate Fellows (front to back): Alyna Esteem (RCC), Trinie Ngo (RCC), Amy Llamas (LAVC), Ashneet Kaur (RCC), and Andrew McKinnell (MCCC)



CCC Board of Governors Honors Contra Costa Community College District's Tracy Marcial with Excellence in Energy and Sustainability Award

Community and Student Engagement

Since the launch of Climate Ambassadors in December 2025, 35-40 statewide faculty, staff, students, administrators, and external partners have met on the first Friday of every month to share knowledge and best practices on climate and sustainability issues. Participants provide feedback to the Chancellor's Office and Climate Fellows and support coordination across colleges and contribute to the broader development of campus and systemwide climate efforts. Resources and recordings from our monthly meetings can be accessed [here](#).

The program offers a flexible way to participate in this work without requiring a full fellowship commitment. To join Climate Ambassadors, please sign up [here](#).

May 30, 2026 marked the first Student Climate Convergence held at Riverside City College (RCC). This student-led climate conference was envisioned and realized by Student Climate Fellow Alyna Esteem with the support of her advisor, RCC Life Sciences Faculty and Student Engagement Climate Fellow Tonya Huff.

Alyna attended the California Community Colleges C3Converge Climate Summit in Fall 2025 and wanted to create something that was just for students. The conference was a success, bringing together:

- 219 registered webinar and in-person participants, plus 15 walk-ins
- 24 educational institutions
- 20+ community partners

The student-led workshops, presentations, and panels were outstanding and inspiring, and the Community Partners Fair was very engaging and informative.

Presentation slides and photos from the event can be found [here](#).