



Climate Action Workplan

Prepared by:

Carla Grandy

Contributions from:

Holly Bailey-Hofmann, Norma Rojas-Mora, Tonya Huff, David Liebman

Vision 2030 calls on California's community colleges to lead in climate action: in workforce development and in our built spaces and daily operations. The 116 colleges and their centers across California are primed to build the next wave of climate action solutions like the creation of microgrids for grid resilience, particularly in our disinvested communities. Our science, arts and humanities curricula also need to instill the importance of taking care of our planet.

California Community Colleges have an imperative to prepare students for the green and blue economy jobs of the future while at the same time preparing a skilled workforce to lead the transition to a more sustainable California. We recognize also that low income and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the climate change and we have a responsibility to ensure that our students are prepared to meet those challenges within their local communities while at the same time ensuring that our campus facilities are minimizing their impacts on the environment and serving as community resilience hubs in times of crisis.

Vision 2030 identifies four areas of Climate Action for the California Community Colleges, including:

1. Integration of Climate Across Curricula
2. Sustainable Facilities and Operations
3. Community Engagement for Climate Action
4. Workforce and Economic Development for the Green and Blue Economy

For each of these areas of focus there are multiple activities underway:

Climate Across the Curriculum

ACTIVITY 1: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLIMATE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM TO INCREASE CLIMATE LITERACY

Develop regional convenings to provide professional development for faculty that would like to incorporate sustainability/climate action into their curriculum. A particular focus will be on faculty not teaching in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields who may not have climate expertise and who would benefit from peer support or examples of how climate action can be related across disciplines. Trainings will:

1. empower and equip faculty in course, program, and degree creation; and
2. empower and equip faculty to help students make connections across disciplines, thus building climate literacy.

In addition to regional training, Curriculum Climate Fellows will offer regular webinars spotlighting curricular climate innovation to create awareness for college administrators, faculty, and staff. A digital repository of climatized curricula will be created for faculty use across the state.

Outcome: A Board of Governors Climate Action and Sustainability Goal to incorporate climate across curriculum will be developed and in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the California Code of Regulations Title 5 §55061(c)(5) Natural Sciences will be updated to include language specifically on addressing the impact of humans on the environment.

Sustainable Facilities and Operations

ACTIVITY 2 – IMPLEMENT OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Support colleges to benchmark data and improve metrics relative to the [Board of Governors Climate Action and Sustainability Goals](#) that were updated in January 2025. These goals are in line with state regulations and encourage colleges to reduce waste and water usage, develop renewable energy on campuses, and increase sustainable procurement. Climate Fellows support colleges with their collecting and reporting of benchmarking data and pursuing energy savings projects on campuses such as developing microgrids and other renewable energy options. Additionally, Climate Fellows will support by documenting ‘shovel ready’ projects on campuses that would benefit from funding and working to identify funding sources that can be utilized for identified projects.

Outcome: California community colleges will benchmark sustainability metrics by 2026 and work to improve over the course of the next ten years.

ACTIVITY 3 – SUPPORT CAMPUSES TO BECOME COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUBS

Support campuses with technical assistance and identification of funding sources that will enable the installation of microgrids and other energy generation projects so that campuses can serve as hubs in times of crisis. California Community Colleges are vital resources within the communities they serve. With increasingly common climate-related natural disasters, colleges serve as natural community hubs in times of crisis.

Outcome: Chancellor’s Office will support colleges to obtain funding necessary to construct microgrids and other forms of renewable energy on campuses.

Community Engagement for Climate Action

ACTIVITY 4 – PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPMENT WITH COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) whose mission is related to mitigating the impacts of climate change to build local relationships and provide support in educating communities about the impacts of climate change and opportunities for local solution and workforce development.

Outcome: Climate literacy education will be expanded through community engagement with climate action-oriented organizations.

ACTIVITY 5 – INDUSTRY COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with the California Renewable Energy Lab (CREL) to build communities of practice with industry partners that will identify workforce development needs and support curriculum development at the colleges. This curriculum will be shared among colleges to facilitate the development of programs across regions and hiring of graduates into family-sustaining wage career pathways. In this way, potential faculty, industry partners, and employers will be brought together to ensure that curriculum meets the needs of the industry

and that a pipeline of employees and employment for both industry and students is created.

Outcome: Communities of practice in high demand blue and green economy sectors that develop curriculum development and foster employment pathways for students will be established.

Workforce and Economic Development for the Green and Blue Economy

ACTIVITY 6 – BLUE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE ACTION PATHWAYS (BECAP) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Build a trained workforce with the knowledge and skills to fill blue economy positions through the Blue Economy and Climate Action Pathways (BECAP) Consortium, an innovative alliance of 14 Los Angeles community colleges, AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). BECAP is a novel workforce training and placement program to prepare students for the next generation of ocean economy occupations. The Consortium is leveraging existing resources and innovative workforce opportunities to establish post-secondary certificate and degree programs focused on four blue economy industry sectors: Regenerative Aquaculture, Renewable Energy, Bluetech and Underwater Robotics, and Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration.

Outcome: The BECAP model will be replicated across other sectors and region of the state to achieve regional collaborations in support of blue and green economy workforce development.

ACTIVITY 7 -- CATALOGUE TRANSFERABLE SKILLS IN GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY

Inventory transferable skills of displaced workers from the fossil fuel industry and other declining sectors to high growth Blue and Green Economy careers.

Outcome: Dashboard of transferable skills in blue and green economy jobs to support workforce development and skills attainment will be created.

CONCLUSION

The Vision 2030: Climate Action Workplan lays the foundation for “Taking Care of Our Planet” in Vision 2030 – The July 2025 Edition. The California Community Colleges will lead in addressing the climate crisis through curriculum integration, sustainable operations, workforce development, and deep community engagement. By embedding climate literacy across curricula, expanding workforce pathways into the green and blue economies, and positioning campuses as hubs of community resilience, the system is both meeting an urgent global need and honoring a collective responsibility to serve California’s most impacted communities. As the California Community Colleges system moves forward, continued collaboration, innovation, and equity-centered implementation will be essential to achieving the shared vision for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. Through these collective efforts, California’s community colleges will not only educate and empower the next generation of climate leaders but also drive tangible progress toward a more just and sustainable state.

Resources informing the Vision 2030: Climate Action Workplan

California Community Colleges: Leading the Way in Climate Action: <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/report/ccc-climate-action-2024.pdf>

The Blue Economy in Los Angeles County: Charting a Course Forward: <https://www.smc.edu/academics/workforce-economic-development/becap/documents/BECAP-Report-Feb25.pdf>

California Jobs First: State Economic Blueprint: <https://jobsfirst.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Blueprint.pdf>