

**\*DRAFT\***  
**Sustainability  
Improvement**

AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE  
2020 - 2024



# Message from the President

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# Sustainability Improvement Project Team

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# Introduction

This Sustainability Plan is a document intended to provide a framework for integrating sustainability into institutional policy & practice at American River College. ARC has a long history of adopting and implementing sustainable practices; however, the college community is not always aware of these practices. To strengthen and communicate ARC's commitment to sustainability and align it with ARC strategic Goal #4 Vibrancy and Resiliency it was deemed necessary to institutionalize sustainability across ARC. Strategic Goal #4 states:

- *The college promotes a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and transparent communication. Proactive, effective, and efficient operational systems and governance and data-informed approaches to planning, decision-making, and resource allocation provide a high level of service to our students, community, and to one another.*

# Introduction

## *continued*

The development of this plan is driven by our needs as a college to educate, the environment, the community we live in, and the protection of our resources for the future generation. Below is a list of current sustainable practices to help guide our development and institutionalization of sustainability at ARC.

- Waste streams are segregated based on their site of generation
- Green Waste – leaves, branches, grass and clippings
- Wood Waste – clean wood that can be repurposed into other projects
- Recycled Waste – single-stream waste which includes glass, paper, plastic, and aluminum
- Food Waste -- The Oak Café / Hospitality Management & our Cafeteria are separating their pre-consumer food waste to meet AB1826
- Metal Bin – used to collect metal from welding and other generator sources such as renovations and building projects
- Universal Waste – this includes bulbs, batteries, E-waste, clay, photography waste, theatre C&D,
- Landfill waste – Certain wastes are not currently being segregated and may end up in general trash meant for landfill. These include Styrofoam, certain plastics, and other waste brought onto the campus.
- Hazardous waste



# Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability is often defined as using, developing, and protecting resources at a rate and manner that provides for the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The recognition that there are negative consequences from previous and current human activities (as well as financial costs) has spurred higher education to begin to implement practices which reduce or mitigate such consequences. As a responsible member of the world community, American River College is pursuing a commitment to environmental stewardship through the development of a sustainability plan.



# Our Mission

The mission of the ARC Sustainability Improvement Plan Team is to create a culture of sustainability in which the entire ARC community is aware of, engaged in, and committed to advancing sustainability through education, operations, and community service activities to help create a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.



# Our Vision

At American River College we envision a future where sustainability is the guiding influence for all of our work intrinsic and extrinsic of the college. We are committed to fostering a culture that engages in sustainable practices through program development, campus-wide efforts, and promoting sustainability accomplishments and work of staff, faculty, and students. We aim to research, create, and implement solutions for a more sustainable future. As an institution of higher learning, we strive to ensure that staff, students, and faculty understand the interconnectedness of the environment, social systems, and economics and the role each of us play in creating a sustainable future. We envision that our students will become ambassadors of sustainability while at ARC and when they graduate or transfer from ARC to their intended college or career in the industry. We will engage with vendors that embody sustainability to provide services or goods to ARC. We will encourage and support student, staff, or faculty-led sustainability programs and initiatives and continue to support those taking action today for a better tomorrow. By working with all stakeholders we strive to help ARC create and make a sustainable future for us and support our global community's effort for a sustainable future.

# Areas of Focus

**Engagement/Leadership:** Identify campus leaders such as; students, administration, faculty, staff, and the community to engage in a meaningful way in managing, implementing, maintaining, and developing sustainable efforts for the present and future

**Built Environment:** Build and design spaces and facilities that serve the community, students, and staff by considering present and future impacts and demands. These spaces and facilities are sustainable, creates engagement, incorporates biomimicry, and educates the public while promoting equity, justice, and inclusion

**Technology Adaptation:** Evaluate and implement technology that is sustainable, reduce waste, and improve the overall health of the campus and environment

**Food**

# Areas of Focus

Curriculum

Energy & Climate

Communication & Education

Laboratory Spaces

# Areas of Focus

Landscape & Biotic Environment

Waste Management

Water

Transportation

# Areas of Focus

Office of Sustainability

Equity & Justice