

**Request for Campus Discussion and Action: Becoming an Environmentally Sustainable Institution
West Los Angeles College
Fall 2019**

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, speaking at the R20 World Summit in May 2018, has called climate change and global warming an “existential threat to humanity.” As educators, we have a moral imperative to help our students understand the immediacy of this challenge and how they can contribute to solving this world-wide problem. Additionally, we should become an institution that models sensitivity to and actions in response to climate change. Through the leadership of our faculty, we have taken a first step with the introduction of our Climate Change Studies curriculum—the only such program in the country—but we must do more.

Therefore, I will be formally asking College Council, as our primary participatory governance entity, to consider this issue and to convene a campus-wide ad hoc committee to address the challenges and opportunities in becoming a sustainable* institution that reflects our commitment to the environment through academics, operations, student/faculty/staff engagement, community outreach, and our overall campus culture. The formal charge of this committee will include the submittal of a series of action-oriented recommendations.

A sample of topics that can be considered by an ad hoc committee are delineated below.

<p><i>Curriculum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of courses taught that include sustainability • Opportunities for immersive experiences • Cross-disciplinary educational opportunities • The campus as “living laboratory” • Faculty research <p><i>Campus Engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to sustainability through student orientation • Student life (e.g., a student sustainability initiative through ASO) • Faculty/Staff programs and projects • Recycling, composting <p><i>Community Outreach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community partnerships • Continuing education • Inter-campus collaboration <p><i>Air and Climate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions • Air quality 	<p><i>Buildings and Grounds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building operations and maintenance • Building design and construction • Building energy consumption • Renewable energy options • Landscape management • Biodiversity <p><i>Purchasing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and beverage purchasing leading to sustainable dining • Sustainable procurement of electronics, cleaning supplies, office paper <p><i>Transportation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable transportation modes • Bicycle-friendly campus <p><i>Waste Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste minimization and diversion • Construction and demolition waste diversion • Hazardous waste management <p><i>Water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water use • Rainwater management
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* For purposes of this discussion, a sustainable institution is best described as one which “reduces the environmental impact both within and outside the [organization], as well as raising awareness of the environment in the communities of higher education” (“*What does environmentally sustainable higher education institution mean?*” Freidenfelds, D.; Kalnins, S.; Gusca, J. Paper presented at the International Scientific Conference “Environment and Climate Technologies,” CONECT 2018).