

Standing President's Committee on Sustainability

The Pitzer Board of Trustees Climate Change Working Group, established last year, charged President Trombley with the creation of a Committee on Sustainability for a period of 3-5 years to work in conjunction with relevant campus groups and institutions to propose projects and policies that promote reduced resource consumption and environmental sustainability at Pitzer College and the Claremont Colleges. It will create a comprehensive plan for enhancing campus sustainability, and will oversee and evaluate programs and policies that foster the development of an environmentally sustainable campus.

The committee will report directly to the President, and will give annual sustainability reports, greenhouse gas emissions updates, and work on STARS¹. The committee will be made up of students, staff, and faculty. Students will run for election to hold a position on this committee, which will also make ongoing annual reports on sustainability and energy issues. The membership of the Committee will be as follows:

Composition

- Two elected student members
- Two appointed faculty members
- Two appointed staff members
- Director of the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability Sustainability Manager
- Manager or representative of Facilities
- Vice President for Student Affairs or representative
- Vice President for Academic Affairs or representative

The following actions are recommended to provide a holistic approach to climate action at the staff, faculty, and student level. These actions will be pursued through their appropriate channels (Faculty Executive Committee, faculty meetings, Student Senate, student meetings, etc.).

Functions

- a) The Committee will elect a faculty or staff chairperson, who will bear particular responsibility for getting the business of the committee organized and underway, for calling meetings, for delegating tasks to subcommittees, for arranging liaison with other standing committees, taskforces, and with the administration, and for reporting to College Council.
- b) The Committee will explicitly seek to promote and support reduced resource consumption and campus sustainability.
- c) The Committee will contribute to discussions and decisions about space development, the allocation and utilization of energy resources, and other activities and policies that have substantial environmental and sustainability impacts.
- d) The Committee will solicit proposals from all segments of the Pitzer Community and, where appropriate, use its own considered judgment and initiative in promoting projects and policies that foster development of reduced resource consumption and environmental sustainability at Pitzer campus.
- e) The Committee will review, approve and support an environmental sustainability orientation program for new students.
- f) The structure and function of this Committee will be reviewed in three years. During this review, FEC will determine whether the campus sustainability functions, thus far carried out by the Committee, merit the creation of a separate standing committee, or whether such functions can be integrated into already existing committees and/or other bodies at the College.

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- I. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS®) was started in 2010, and currently has 212 participating institutions such as Stanford University, Scripps College, Pomona College, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and Occidental College to name a few. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.
- a) Provides more holistic approach to campus sustainability performance than the ACUPCC, which Pitzer joined in 2007. The ACUPCC requires semi-regular Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reports/Updates, a Climate Action Plan, and Progress Reports. However, it is limited by its ability to account for many of the other important climate related actions taken by the College which are not as easily accounted for in the neutrality framework.
 - b) Allows peer institutions to share information on best practices, project ideas, and performance over time.
 - c) Facilitates the actualization of our carbon neutrality goals and other long-term sustainability initiatives.
 - d) Only colleges and universities participating in STARS are considered for the Sierra Club Cool Schools list. Joining STARS will further our public recognition as a leader in sustainability in higher education.
 - e) By signing onto STARS we will still be able to complete our ACUPCC reporting data and continue forward as Charter Signatories of the Commitment. STARS fully incorporates all data collected for ACUPCC reporting. The cost for participation is minimal. Membership dues are \$900 the first year, and \$450 subsequently thereafter.