

Executive Summary

Climate change is the defining challenge for the 21st century and generations beyond. It is causing unprecedented stress on our communities, institutions, and environments with increasing dramatic health and economic risks. The destructive forces of climate change are not felt equally, and unfortunately our students and their families at lower income levels and communities of color are less able to navigate safely through extreme weather events. This report is a call to action by all levels of our college to play a part in preparing ourselves and help others in this global effort.

Our Climate Action Plan is part of a 116-community college wide effort to act in unison and make systemic changes to how we operate, how we prioritize, and how we communicate the challenges before us. Las Positas college is uniquely positioned with strong ties to local industry leaders and local governments to prepare those at greater risk than others from these challenges.

This report provides a vision for each area of the college to alter our campus culture, shift perspectives, and lead the way toward positive change.

1 OPERATIONS - Cutting emissions & achieving a net negative campus.

- Increase energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind.
- Electrify campus heating and cooling systems.
- Develop and incentivize a robust carpooling system for students, faculty, and staff.

2 ADMINISTRATION - Institutionalizing leadership around a resource hub.

- Hire a permanent sustainability director to oversee projects.
- Institute a Sustainability Office at Las Positas.
- Create a grant writer position for the campus.

3 ACADEMICS - Encouraging a shift in academic practices.

- Expand Climate-Focused and Climate-Related Curriculum.
- Encourage Sustainable Teaching Practices.
- Increase Climate Literacy Amongst the Student Body.

4 ENGAGEMENT - Engaging in the wider region will pay dividends.

- Foster Leadership Opportunities for Students in Campus Sustainability.
- Engage Community Partners in Campus Sustainability Efforts.

5 FUTURE - Tracking our progress and being nimble in the process.

- Implement tracking mechanisms within our existing systems.
- Create a periodic checklist for facilities and operations.
- Share best practices with other institutions.

