UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS BEGIN HERE

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Overview

This 22nd Annual Report on Sustainable Practices highlights the achievements of the University of California's comprehensive sustainability program in 2025. It includes progress in sustainable operations required by UC's Sustainable Practices Policy as well as sustainability achievements in education, research, patient care and public service.

Letter from the Executive Vice President and CFO

As the University of California's Chief Financial Officer, I have the privilege of co-chairing UC's Global Climate Leadership Council. Alongside faculty, administrators, students and experts from across and beyond the University, we work together to implement UC's operational climate action goals and further UC's mission of teaching, research and public service. Since co-founding the council in 2014, the work to combat climate change has evolved, but a consistent theme has endured: sustainable innovation begins here at UC. As we reflect on the past year and look ahead, UC continues to propel the climate solutions making a difference across the state, the nation and the world.

Critical to the University's climate action goals is educating and inspiring the next generation of climate leaders and innovators. I'm proud that the council continues to support the expansion of the Bending the Curve course platform — a climate change curriculum that launched at UC San Diego in 2018. Today, it's available for learners of all ages. Four UC campuses, universities around the world and high schools in multiple states across the country have offered the curriculum.

On the research front, UC faculty are addressing local climate-related challenges using Climate Action research grants. These state dollars support projects that help California communities understand, fight, and adapt to climate change, including mitigating forest fires and reducing chemical exposures for farmworkers. With these resources, our best and brightest researchers are addressing the climate issues touching the lives and livelihoods of our fellow Californians.

UC's leadership in sustainable innovation has always been intertwined with patient care and public service. UCSF is a pioneer in implementing safe, efficient anesthesia practices that dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This year, UCSF successfully transitioned to multiuse anesthesia breathing circuits, devices that deliver oxygen and anesthesia gases to patients during surgery. These reusable circuits can be used for up to 24 hours when paired with a modern filter system rather than being disposed of after each patient. In a sector responsible for nearly 10 percent of all carbon emissions, UC's innovations are a model for other health systems and contribute to reducing climate impacts.

UC innovations are also transforming transportation and agriculture. UC Santa Barbara teams are working to deploy new cost-saving technology that reduces CO2 emissions in the maritime shipping industry, another major greenhouse gas producer. Students at UC Merced are digging into technological innovations at the campus's largest laboratory, the Experimental Smart Farm. Breakthroughs such as these can be found across sectors, from food to construction and beyond, and spanning all of our campuses and communities.

I'm grateful to our students, faculty and staff, who continue to refine, power and inspire sustainability efforts across the University. In the years to come, I am eager to see how they will continue to lead the fight to combat climate change and ensure UC remains a primary driver of sustainable innovation for California and beyond. Our collective future depends on it.

Nathan Brostrom

NATHAN BROSTROM
Executive Vice President and CFO

Letter from the AVP of Capital Programs, Energy & Sustainability

The University of California is committed to leadership in sustainability — not just through bold goals, but through meaningful action. The theme of this year's Annual Sustainability Report is "Sustainable innovations begin here." There's no doubt that UC's researchers are shaping the world with their findings, so I'll call out a few particularly impressive examples of novel approaches in the University's operations that are helping create a healthier, more resilient world.

The Pathways to a Fossil-Free UC Task Force, a systemwide body including students, faculty, staff, administrators and external experts, completed its charge this year, delivering recommendations on how the University can accelerate its decarbonization efforts for existing buildings and infrastructure. Guided by a shared goal and scope, UC campuses and academic health centers conducted State-funded decarbonization studies to analyze their energy systems and identify pathways to transform them into fossil-free solutions as quickly as possible. The diversity of ideas and approaches discovered by UC's locations varied significantly thanks to their unique local circumstances, thus providing a range of solutions for many other institutions to learn from and model.

An important foundation of our decarbonization progress has been energy efficiency and renewable energy use, coupled with all-electric new buildings. Energy efficiency and green building practices have reduced UC's energy use intensity, generating $100 million in cost savings since 2024 and $623 million in cumulative cost savings since 2010. As a result of UC's progress in these arenas, most emissions from new construction will come from embodied carbon — the emissions generated from mining, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, transporting, installing and eventually disposing of building materials. The UC Embodied Carbon Case Studies showcase different carbon reduction strategies at existing facilities, such as the use of low carbon concrete to reduce embodied carbon 36% at the UCSF Bayfront Medical Building or UC Berkeley's mass timber Undergraduate Academic Building, which will save the amount of energy used by 300 homes annually. Creative designs can also save money, like in the case of the UC San Diego Marine Conservation and Technology Facility, where the project team maintained the concrete structure and foundation to transform a fishery building and generate an estimated 12% in cost savings. Innovations in low-carbon construction at UC are targeting a major pollution source, as the manufacturing of construction materials accounts for 15% of global emissions.

A key strength of the University of California is the unique nature of each of our campuses, academic health centers, national labs and statewide programs. Together, these locations form a dynamic ecosystem of experimentation, collaboration and progress. Solutions developed at UC are not only improving our own operations, they're also offering blueprints for others. This year's report reminds us that the path to a more sustainable future doesn't start elsewhere; it starts here.

David Phillips

DAVID PHILLIPS
Associate Vice President, Capital Programs, Energy & Sustainability

Policy Areas

The University of California's formal sustainability commitments began in 2003 with a Regental action that led to the adoption of the Presidential Policy on Green Building Design and Clean Energy Standards in 2004. Since then, UC has expanded the scope of the Sustainable Practices Policy to include climate, transportation, building operations, waste, procurement, food, water, health and well-being, UC Health and sustainability performance, as well as anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Sustainable Practices Policy applies to all 10 campuses, five academic health centers, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the UC Office of the President (UCOP).

The complete UC Policy on Sustainable Practices can be accessed online. At the time of this report's publication, revisions to the policy were under review. A summary of the goals in place as of June 30, 2025, is available below. UC's sustainability data summarizes progress toward those goals through June 30, 2025.

CLIMATE

Each UC campus, including its associated academic health center, LBNL and UCOP will set targets and climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from a 2019 baseline that will address:

- Total emissions
  - Reduce total emissions (scopes 1, 2 and 3) at least 90% by 2045 without relying on voluntary carbon offsets.
  - Negate any residual emissions remaining in 2045 through investments in carbon removal (no more than 10% of 2019 emissions levels).
- Scope 1 emissions
  - By 2025, set reduction targets for 2030, 2035 and 2040.
  - Incrementally reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions from the on-site combustion of fossil fuels.
  - Allocate funds equal to $25 per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent for all remaining scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2025 through 2030 toward projects that achieve direct emissions reductions or support climate justice or community benefit programs.
- Scope 2 emissions
  - Purchase 100% clean electricity beginning in 2025. (LBNL will follow federal requirements).
- Scope 3 emissions
  - Set scope 3 emissions reduction targets for business travel, commuting and solid waste disposal in alignment with the state of California's goals.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

As part of its commitment to applying anti-racism principles to all sustainability policy areas, programs and initiatives, the University will:

- Complete a diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) assessment of the existing policy.
- Develop goals that incorporate principles of anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion into specific areas of the policy by 2025.
- Include a DEIJ impact analysis with any policy addition or revision.

ENERGY

- Energy efficiency: Reduce each location's energy use intensity by an average of at least 2% annually.
- Renewable electricity: Each location will install on-site renewable electricity supplies and storage systems as appropriate to support the location's climate action goals.
- Clean electricity: Obtain 100% clean electricity at each campus and health location by 2025. (The UC Clean Power Program has been meeting this standard since 2018.)

FOOD SERVICE

- Procure 25% sustainable food as defined by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS) at each campus and 30% sustainable food as defined by Practice Greenhealth at each academic health center by 2030.
- All campuses and academic health centers will procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30%.

GENERAL SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

All undergraduate campuses must achieve an Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System's (AASHE STARS) Gold rating and strive for Platinum.

GREEN BUILDING

- Design and construct all new buildings and major renovations to a minimum LEED BD+C (Building Design and Construction) Gold rating.
- Design and construct renovation projects with a cost over $10 million (except acute care facilities) to a minimum LEED ID+C (Interior Design and Construction) certified rating.
- New parking structures will be designed and constructed to achieve, at a minimum, a Parksmart Silver certification.
- Prohibit on-site fossil fuel combustion (e.g., natural gas) for space or water heating in all new buildings and major renovation projects (except those projects connected to an existing campus central thermal infrastructure).
- Energy-efficient design:
  - Acute care/hospital facilities and medical office buildings: Outperform the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standard 90.1-2010 by at least 30% or meet UC's whole-building energy performance targets.
  - All other buildings: Outperform the energy requirements of the California Building Code by at least 20% on all new construction and major renovation projects or meet UC's whole-building energy targets.
- Achieve at least five points within the available credits in LEED BD+C's Water Efficiency and Sustainable Sites: Rainwater Management categories.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

By 2025, suppliers that operate or maintain vending machines on UC locations will:

- Ensure at least 50% of the beverages and 35% of the food in a vending machine meet the UC Healthy Vending Guidelines for Healthy Spend.

By 2027, suppliers that operate or maintain vending machines on UC locations will:

- Ensure at least 60% of the beverages and 40% of the food in a vending machine meet the UC Healthy Vending Guidelines for Healthy Spend.

PROCUREMENT

- Achieve full compliance with required level green spend criteria per product category; target to be reached within three fiscal years after a category is added to the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
- Reach 25% preferred level green spend per product category; target to be reached within three fiscal years after a category is added to the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
- Reach 25% economically and socially responsible spend; target to be reached within five fiscal years of adoption of this section in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
- Allocate a minimum of 15% of the points utilized in competitive solicitation evaluations to sustainability criteria.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING OPERATIONS AND LABS

Implement an ongoing Green Labs assessment program and assess three research groups in total at each campus. Report the number of researchers directly and indirectly engaged by the program annually.

TRANSPORTATION

Fleet

- All sedan and minivan acquisitions will be zero-emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles, except for public safety vehicles with special performance requirements.
- At least 50% of all vehicles acquired by each UC location after July 2023 will be zero-emission or plug-in hybrid.

Commute

Each location shall strive to:

- Reduce its percentage of employees and students commuting by single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) by 10% relative to its 2015 SOV commute rates by 2025.
- Have no more than 40% of its employees and no more than 30% of all employees and students commuting to the location by SOV by 2050.
- Have at least 4.5% of commuter vehicles be zero-emission by 2025.
- Have at least 30% of commuter vehicles be zero-emission by 2050.
- Take steps needed to normalize and promote telecommuting and flexible work options.

UC HEALTH

Each academic health center will:

- Obtain 100% clean electricity by 2025.
- Design and construct new acute care/hospital facilities and medical office buildings to outperform the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 – 2010 by at least 30% or meet whole-building energy performance targets per the policy.
- Maintain membership in Practice Greenhealth, a nonprofit dedicated to health care sustainability, and achieve Practice Greenhealth's Greenhealth Partner for Change award.
- Achieve a target of 25 pounds of total waste as defined by Practice Greenhealth per adjusted patient day by 2025 and strive for 20 pounds of total waste per adjusted patient day by 2030.
- Reduce growth-adjusted potable water consumption 20% by 2020 and 36% by 2025, when compared to a three-year-average baseline of fiscal year 2005–06, fiscal year 2006–07 and fiscal year 2007–08.
- Procure 30% sustainable food as defined by Practice Greenhealth by 2030.

- Procure 25% plant-based food by 2030 and strive to procure 30%.
- Evaluate at least three products/devices and associated contracts for reprocessing collection and buyback, and implement a medical device reprocessing program with an FDA-approved third-party reprocessor by 2025. Strive for new contracts to specify that at least 20% of disposables purchased be reprocessed.
- Meet UC's required level green spend target and 25% of UC's preferred level green spend target for procurement of office supplies, IT hardware and appliances.
- Ensure at least 50% of the beverages and 35% of the food in a vending machine meet the UC Healthy Vending Guidelines for Healthy Spend by 2025.

WATER

- Reduce growth-adjusted potable water consumption at each location by 36% by 2025, when compared to a three-year-average baseline of fiscal year 2005–06, fiscal year 2006–07 and fiscal year 2007–08.
- By 2025, campuses and academic health centers will initiate new water reuse and conservation feasibility evaluations to develop water conservation, water recycling and stormwater reuse projects.
- By 2025, propose a goal to increase the number of bottle filling stations as a percentage of drinking fountains and identify deficiencies in drinking water access, including consideration of increased drinking water demand during heat wave events.

ZERO WASTE

- Reduce per capita municipal solid waste generation to 25% below fiscal year 2015–16 levels by 2025 and 50% below fiscal year 2015–16 levels by 2030 at each campus.
- Divert 90% of municipal solid waste from the landfill at each campus.
- Reduce and eliminate single-use plastic items such as bags, foodware accessory items and beverage bottles by 2024.
- Prohibit the sale, procurement and distribution of packaging foam.

Timeline of Sustainability

For many decades, the University of California has been committed to sustainability in its operations, education, research and public service.

1970
- UC Santa Barbara creates the first environmental studies program in the country

1971
- UC Santa Cruz establishes the first student farm in the country

1998
- UC issues policy on Trademark Licensing Code of Conduct, providing guidance to companies granted permission to use the University's name on how workers should be treated

1999
- UC Santa Barbara students approve student fee to create Coastal Fund

2002
- UC's first LEED certification, UC Santa Barbara's Bren School, is also the first LEED Platinum laboratory building in the world

2003
- UC Regents approve action calling on the President to issue a policy on green building and clean energy
- UC Berkeley establishes the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability

2004
- President Dynes approves the University's Sustainable Practices Policy, covering green building design and clean energy standards
- UC launches a Statewide Energy Partnership with four California utilities to accelerate campus energy efficiency

2006
- The Green Initiative Fund referendum passes at UC Santa Barbara
- Transportation and climate protection sections added to Sustainable Practices Policy

2007
- All 10 UC chancellors sign the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment
- Operations, waste management and procurement sections added to Sustainable Practices Policy

2009
- Sustainable food service section added to Sustainable Practices Policy

2012
- Goal of installing 10 megawatts of on-campus renewable energy met two years early
- UC achieves 100th LEED certification

2013
- President Napolitano announces the Carbon Neutrality Initiative, committing UC to carbon neutrality by 2025
- Sustainable water systems section added to Sustainable Practices Policy

2014
- President Napolitano announces the Global Food Initiative
- UC becomes the first university in the world to sign the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing

2015
- UC hosts Bending the Curve Carbon Neutrality Research Summit
- UC commits to invest $1 billion in clean and renewable energy over five years
- UC publishes Framework for Sustainable Investing
- UC sells investments in companies with major revenue from tar sands or thermal coal

2016
- UC signs on to Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- UC begins documenting annual carbon footprint of public equities holdings

2017
- UC's purchase of 80 megawatts solar power — the largest by any U.S. university — comes online

2018
- UC Health sustainability section added to Sustainable Practices Policy
- UC Regents vote to make Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance part of the UC Investment Policy
- UC's internal power company provides 100% clean electricity

2019
- UC General Endowment Pool sells investments in companies that own fossil fuel reserves
- UC recognized as the top college/university in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership rankings

2020
- UC attains $1 billion in cumulative clean energy investments
- UC investment portfolios are free of assets that own fossil fuel reserves after the sale of more than $1 billion in assets from its pension, endowment and working capital pools
- UC adopts policy to phase out single-use plastics
- UC Merced becomes the first public research university in the country to achieve carbon neutrality
- Report and Recommendations on the Use of Herbicides and Other Pesticides completed

2021
- UC Center for Climate Justice launches
- UC's Energy Efficiency Partnership marks $100 million in incentives received from utility companies since the program launched in 2004
- UC receives Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Leadership Award
- UC adopts Small Business Forward Policy

2022
- UC achieves 400th LEED certification
- UC Center for Climate, Health and Equity launches
- UC and CSU jointly launch the K-12 Environmental and Climate Change Literacy Projects initiative
- UC Health becomes a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector
- UC's Retirement Savings Plans sell roughly $1 billion in assets that own fossil fuel reserves assets and will exclude such investments going forward
- UC Academic Senate issues memorial on reducing fossil fuel combustion and President Drake creates Pathways to a Fossil-Free UC Task Force

2023
- UC adopts new, stronger climate action goals focused on direct decarbonization
- Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion section added to Sustainable Practices Policy
- UC enters into its first wind energy contract, the University's largest renewable energy commitment
- In partnership with the state of California, UC announces $95 million in grants for climate action research, innovation and entrepreneurship
- UC campuses and academic health centers launch decarbonization studies

2024
- UC campuses and academic health centers complete decarbonization studies
- UC locations develop interim greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030, 2035 and 2040
- UC Health locations develop a scope 3 greenhouse gas inventory
- UC San Diego launches climate change general education requirement
- 16 of 17 UC locations partially or completely eliminate single-use plastic foodware in UC-operated dining facilities, cafés and to-go facilities

2025
- Campuses and academic health centers to reduce per capita potable water use by 36%
- All campuses' and academic health centers' purchased electricity to be 100% carbon-free
- At least 50% of beverages and 35% of food in vending machines across all locations to meet UC Healthy Vending Guidelines

2030
- 25% sustainable food procurement goal for campuses and 30% sustainable food procurement goal for academic health centers to be met

2045
- UC campuses, academic health centers and LBNL to achieve 90% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions; any residual emissions will be negated by carbon removal

Academics

The University of California is at the forefront of understanding the climate crisis and implementing practical solutions to global climate disruption and other sustainability challenges through research, teaching and public service.

Leveraging interdisciplinary scholarship, community engagement and collaboration, the UC system fosters innovation in addressing the climate challenge on local, regional and global scales.

Research

As the leading public research university in the most populous state in the U.S., the University of California continues to advance science-based mitigation and adaptation efforts to protect people and nature, prepare for the impacts of climate change and ensure energy security. The second year of state-funded climate action research grants saw continued progress by faculty researchers helping California communities understand, fight and adapt to climate change, highlighted by a conference in Sacramento with grantees, state agencies and community partners. Administered by UC, the state-funded California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program awarded eight grants totaling $6 million in 2024 to advance research on reducing cancer and cancer risk among firefighters. California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment is co-led and supported by UC faculty and researchers serving as study authors, expert reviewers and executive editorial team leaders. The assessment contributes to understanding climate-related vulnerability throughout the state and supports on-the-ground implementation and decision-making, especially in vulnerable communities.

In 2024–25, UC Research Initiatives directed nearly $10 million — two-thirds of a total $15.5 million investment in Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives — to fuel inter-institutional, interdisciplinary discovery in climate and resource-related challenges. These investments address urgent realities such as heat exposure and water scarcity, push the boundaries of sustainable agriculture through agroecological farming and cultivate the future of engagement with multidisciplinary climate action. The UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program sponsored systemwide workshops and funding opportunities that help advance solutions to environmental challenges, including fusion energy and community-engaged research in clean energy, convening researchers from UC campuses and UC-affiliated national laboratories to strengthen collaborative ties and chart new directions for next-generation energy solutions.

The Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES), a public-private partnership (P3) founded by UC, entered the planning and permitting phase of its Department of Energy-funded work to build California's renewable hydrogen economy. The UC Regents approved UC's participation in Pacific CREST Fusion, a new P3 envisioned by a coalition of UC researchers and leaders from industry and the state, to accelerate research, development and deployment of fusion energy facilities. The Pacific CREST coalition will build on UC's research successes and partner facilities to develop fusion energy power plants, which could provide stable, clean power to meet California's growing energy needs and renewable energy mandates.

UC Natural Reserve System

To help the state of California protect its biodiversity, the UC Natural Reserve System (UCNRS) has launched a long-term ecosystem monitoring network at dozens of its reserves across the state. Each node in the Sentinel Sites for Nature network includes a standardized set of biodiversity monitoring and weather station equipment. Camera traps and acoustic recording devices will continuously track the presence of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bats and birds. Climate sensors will measure conditions such as air temperature, precipitation, solar radiation, soil moisture and temperature, and fuel moisture (a measure of wildfire risk). Telemetry stations tracking tagged birds, plant surveys and other methods will provide additional information about each location. Sentinel Sites for Nature data from the UCNRS and other entities will enable California to monitor shifts in wildlife populations, observe the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and evaluate the success of biodiversity protection efforts such as the state's 30×30 commitment to conserve 30% of its lands and coastal waters by 2030. The project is supported by a $2 million grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Cannabis Program.

Education

The University continued to expand its educational offerings related to climate change and sustainability last year. UC San Diego launched the Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement for incoming first-year students in fall 2024. Students are now required to complete a one-quarter course designed to empower them with the knowledge and skills needed to confront the urgent global challenge of climate change.

At the systemwide level, the UC President's Global Climate Leadership Council funded an expansion of systemwide offerings such as the Bending the Curve course platform. In the 2024–25 academic year, Bending the Curve content was offered by four UC campuses (UCLA, UC Riverside, UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz) and universities around the world (Appalachian State University, National Taiwan University and Stockholm University). The course also expanded to six high schools in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Miami through the National Education Opportunity Network, which enables high school students from historically underserved communities to take college courses. Additionally, two organizations — One Health Workforce Academies and the Los Angeles Unified School District — have licensed the Bending the Curve content library, providing access to their networks of more than 100 universities across the globe and thousands of teachers and administrators.

In collaboration with Bending the Curve, the Center for Climate, Health and Equity (CCHE) partnered with the American Medical Association to provide continuing medical education on climate change and health. Between October 2024 and May 2025, the UC-generated curriculum was accessed by 800 health care providers. In response to the Los Angeles area wildfires, CCHE co-sponsored a psychoeducational training to provide basic skills to effectively help those impacted by wildfires with acute stress responses and co-sponsored a six-part webinar series for the UC community and the public focusing on the physical health, mental health and social impacts of wildfires, providing a blend of scientific information and practical skills, and highlighting environmental justice issues. Additionally, the UC Center for Climate Justice continued expanding and adapting its materials to help students understand the growing climate justice field, also partnering with the National Education Opportunity Network to provide more than 220 high school students with access to their courses.

Students

The University of California's environmental sustainability goals are rooted in student activism, beginning more than two decades ago when students encouraged the Regents to approve UC's first green building and clean energy policy, which they did in 2003.

The UC Office of the President oversees the Bonnie Reiss Leading on Climate Student Fellowship Program. The program funds student-generated research and operational and engagement projects across all UC locations. Student fellows study climate- and food-related challenges, engage the UC community in climate action and sustainable food systems, and implement solutions at UC locations and in neighboring communities.

Fellows meet throughout the year to develop projects, identify solutions to shared challenges, build leadership skills and cultivate systems of peer support. Many fellows from the 2024–25 cohort conducted projects reflecting the annual report's theme: Sustainable innovations begin here. For example, Kea Rutherford, a UC Agriculture and Natural Resources fellow, developed an open-access software package that simplifies the carbon accounting process in California. By the end of the year, the analytic software had been installed more than 3,400 times and used by CAL Fire, the U.S. Forest Service, forest managers and other research labs. Fong Clement Vo at UC San Diego Health conducted a spatial analysis combining public health and climate risk data to identify communities that are most vulnerable to climate change. This mapping initiative can be used to inform targeted outreach to high-risk, high-density hotspots.

LEADING ON CLIMATE FELLOWS

73
annual fellows in 2024–25

877
total fellows since 2014

Academic Senate

The University of California's Academic Senate carries out shared governance responsibilities established by the Regents and relating to academic matters. Academic Senate divisions continue to advance climate action and education, as the highlights below illustrate.

CAMPUS-LEVEL SENATE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Academic Senate divisions advanced climate and sustainability activities across the University in 2024–25. Notable activities and achievements include the following:

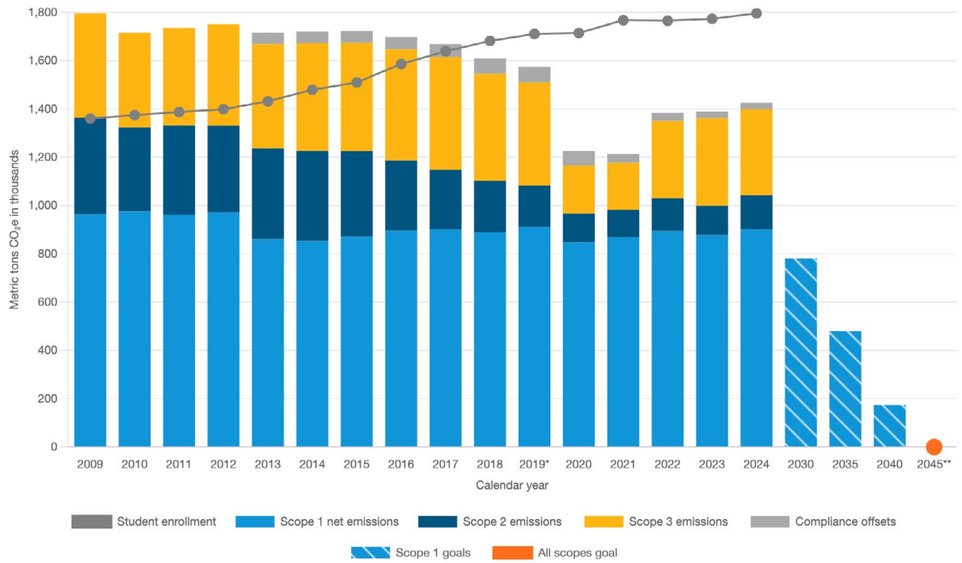
- UC Berkeley's Climate Change Task Force focused on two major priorities: enhancing undergraduate climate education and strengthening campus coordination for climate research and fundraising. Its recommendations included establishing an undergraduate certificate in climate change and appointing an associate provost to lead climate initiatives and development efforts. These proposals have received positive responses from campus administration, and implementation planning is underway.
- UC San Francisco's Committee on Sustainability launched a new lab sustainability training module on UCSF's learning platform, promoted micromobility commuting by hosting events for Bike to Wherever Day and advocated for reduced travel in academic advancement practices. The committee also supported UCSF's Campus Decarbonization Plan, amplified student advocacy for climate action and fostered collaboration among clinicians and trainees working on medical waste reduction projects. Finally, the committee partnered with the UC San Diego Senate Committee on Campus Climate Change to propose a systemwide Senate sustainability committee.
- UC San Diego's Committee on Campus Climate Change (CCCC) advanced efforts in campus decarbonization, climate education and sustainability policy. Key actions included contributing to the campus decarbonization study and long-range development planning, supporting implementation of a new climate-focused general education requirement and co-authoring a proposal for a systemwide Senate committee on climate change. Additionally, CCCC updated the campus food waste report.
- UC Santa Cruz's Joint Senate-Administration Committee on Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience advanced campus-wide climate action in its first year through three subcommittees focused on research, teaching and operations. Key efforts included drafting a proposal for an interdisciplinary climate research institute, developing pathways for climate education grounded in justice and supporting decarbonization, resilience and well-being initiatives.

Policy Progress

The University is committed to sustainability as a part of its mission, expressed throughout its operational practices. UC has been tracking progress in sustainable operations, as required by its Sustainable Practices Policy, since 2004.

Climate

EMISSIONS



**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal*
Systemwide GHG emissions are based on campuses' and academic health centers' reported emissions, which will be verified by a third party by early 2026.

Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose by approximately 3% compared to the previous year, but they still stand at about 8% below the pre-pandemic (2019) levels. Scope 1 emissions experienced a slight increase of 2%, while scope 3 emissions saw a slight decrease of 2%. In contrast, scope 2 emissions showed a notable 18% rise due to changes in local electrical grid emission factors and increased electricity purchases while UC's largest cogeneration plant was offline for engine replacements. Despite this fluctuation, locations remain committed to achieving UC's 100% clean electricity goal, which will be reported next year. Additionally, this marked the first year that each location was required to submit scope 3 data for solid waste and business travel, including adding that scope 3 data to each year's reported emissions back to the 2019 baseline year.

After all locations completed energy system decarbonization studies in fall 2024, the systemwide Pathways to a Fossil-Free UC Task Force compiled the results of these studies in its final report, "Evaluating decarbonization strategies across the University of California." Locations are navigating changes in federal and state funding and location-specific financial constraints, making it essential to follow the task force's recommendation to implement decarbonization pathways in phases.

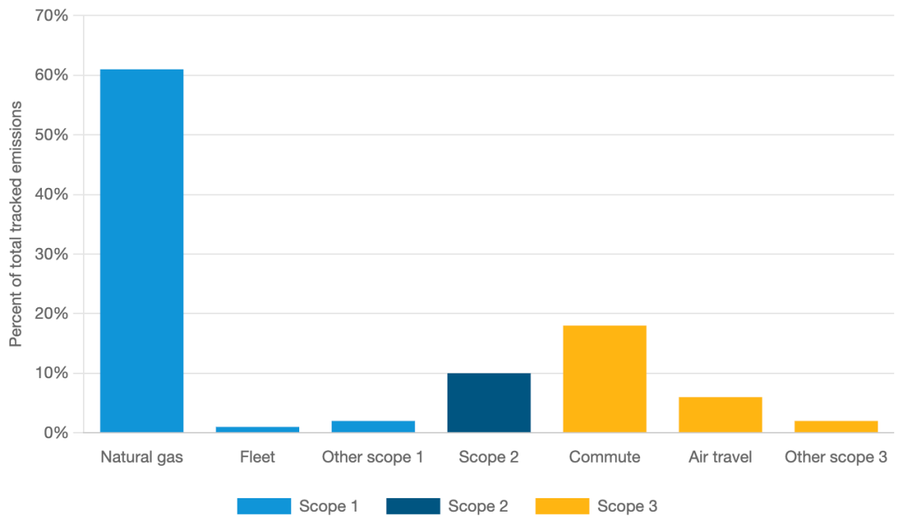
In December 2024, UC locations adopted local targets for reducing GHG emissions by 90% by 2045, along with interim targets for scope 1 reductions that outline a path to meeting the 2045 goal. To support these targets, locations are drafting updated climate action plans to identify more specific actions to implement in pursuit of their scope 1, 2 and 3 climate commitments. The updated climate action plans will be submitted in June 2026 and will consider GHG emission reductions across all three scopes of emissions, as well as equity impacts and climate resilience as a continuation of each location's recent work in these areas.

Scope 1
Direct emissions (e.g., burning gas and oil)

Scope 2
Indirect emissions from purchased power

Scope 3
Commuting, business travel, waste, etc.

UC'S TRACKED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

The University made progress in assessing how efforts to implement sustainable practices can avoid harm and benefit all University community members. Climate protection remained a significant focus, with findings and recommendations in the "Evaluating decarbonization strategies across the University of California" report exploring how to ensure that the transition to fossil-free campus energy infrastructure includes plans for helping campus operational staff gain the skills needed to operate new energy systems and equipment. Campuses and academic health centers have integrated the decarbonization report's recommendations into their updated climate action plans.

Beyond decarbonization and climate action planning, systemwide working groups responsible for individual sustainability policy sections incorporated equity considerations into proposed policy updates for sustainable transportation and sustainable water systems, as well as grant funding processes for green laboratory operations and single-use plastics reduction. For example, the Sustainable Operations and Laboratories Working Group held collaborative discussions with working group representatives from each campus to understand each campus's unique needs and priorities. This inclusive approach ensured that all campuses could utilize grant funding effectively. As another example, the Sustainable Transportation Working Group developed updated policy language and the "Electric vehicle ramp-up guide," which includes strategies for reducing disparities in fleet electrification and charging infrastructure.

Energy

To continue to reduce its carbon footprint, the University is efficiently using its resources and changing the sources of energy that campuses and academic medical centers consume.

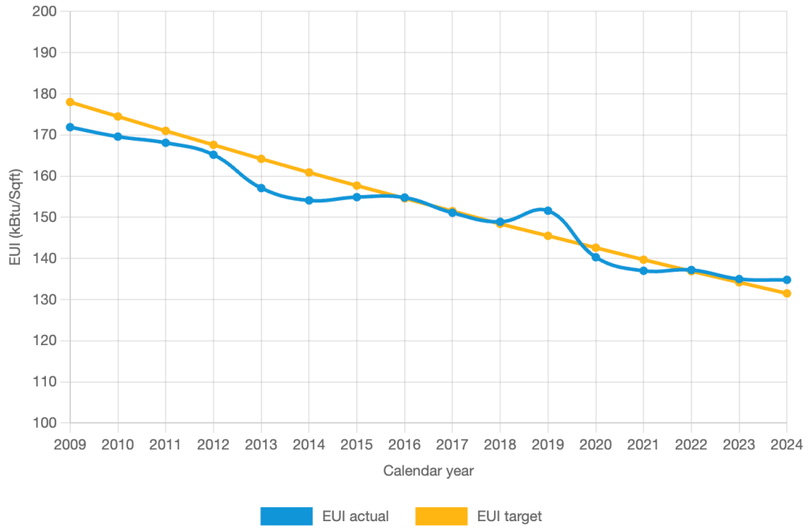
Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency and green building practices have reduced UC's energy use intensity across its portfolio of buildings.

$100M
Cost savings in 2024

$623M
Cumulative cost savings since 2010

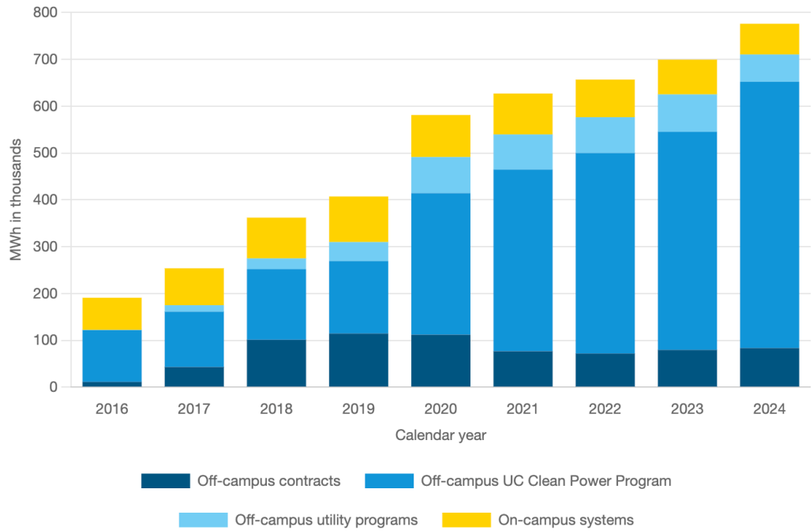
ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



As a metric for relative efficiency, energy use intensity (EUI) is calculated by totaling all of the energy used by a location and dividing the sum by the associated square footage. In 2024, UC locations continued their energy efficiency efforts while working to retain the energy use reductions realized in previous years, now with increased on-campus activity and the significant expansion of UC Health facilities. As a result, the system was still able to achieve just under a 2% annual reduction in EUI but needs to drive additional efficiency increases over the next two performance years to meet UC's cumulative goal.

Renewable Energy and the UC Clean Power Program

RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



The University of California ranks first among colleges and universities when it comes to green electricity use, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to over 55 megawatts of on-campus projects, the University has three operating utility-scale solar projects in California under contract: Five Points (60 megawatts), Giffen Solar Park (20 megawatts) and Golden Fields (30 megawatts with a 15 megawatt battery).

The University of California signed its first-ever wind energy contract in 2023, the largest renewable energy commitment by the University to date in support of campus decarbonization. The contract with SunZia Wind provides electricity from a 3,500-megawatt wind project in New Mexico delivered to California along a 550-mile transmission line. The expected electricity generation from UC's 85-megawatt portion of SunZia is equivalent to the total annual electricity consumption of UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside and UC Merced combined.

Renewable energy from the wind project will be used by every UC campus and academic medical center. UC Clean Power — an electric service provider operating through California's Direct Access Program — will use a significant portion to continue serving campuses with clean electricity. The project will be a key resource for UC Clean Power to continue meeting the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard and statewide energy sector greenhouse gas reduction targets. UC Clean Power has provided 100% clean electricity to UC locations since 2018 and supplies approximately 48% of the University's purchased electricity.

Food Service

CAMPUS LOCATIONS

16%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($24M)

33%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($50.3M)

Campuses have a goal to procure 25% sustainable food products, as defined by AASHE STARS, by 2030.

HEALTH LOCATIONS

23%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($11.3M)

27%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($13.6M)

UC Health has a goal to procure 30% sustainable food products, as defined by Practice Greenhealth, by 2030.

This year, the UC Global Climate Leadership Council continued to fund technical assistance to advance sustainable food supply chain sourcing and dining practices, as well as a Bonnie Reiss Sustainable Food Services Fellowship to support UC Dining Services with sustainable food sourcing and data collection. Project outcomes included connecting campuses with local and sustainable producers and food hubs, holding an event with campus chefs to streamline meat product purchasing across the system to reduce cost and increase sustainable spend, modifying language in requests for proposals to prioritize sustainable food options and developing a toolkit for fellows supporting Dining Services.

Concurrently, UC campuses continued to face significant challenges, including food cost inflation and budget cuts, as well as continuing difficulties with data tracking and reporting. As a result, nine locations were able to increase their sustainable food spend, while others saw reductions. Sustainable food spend represented 16% of food purchases on campuses and 23% of purchases at health centers in fiscal year 2024–25. This amounts to over $35 million going to sustainable food suppliers.

Of the University's total food and beverage spend, 31%, or over $63 million, was on plant-based food items. Ten locations are already on track to meet the policy goal of at least 25% spend on plant-based food by 2030.

The Sustainable Food Services Working Group is using lessons learned from engagement across the system and reviewing updated standards from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and Practice Greenhealth to develop updated systemwide food policy goals.

General Sustainability Performance Assessment

BERKELEY
3.0 STARS Platinum
Valid through 04/2028

DAVIS
2.2 STARS Gold
Valid through 07/2026

IRVINE
2.2 STARS Gold
Valid through 04/2028

UCLA
2.2 STARS Gold
Valid through 12/2026

MERCED
2.2 STARS Gold
Valid through 05/2025

RIVERSIDE
3.0 STARS Gold
Valid through 05/2028

SAN DIEGO
2.2 STARS Platinum
Valid through 12/2027

SANTA BARBARA
2.2 STARS Gold
Valid through 05/2027

SANTA CRUZ
3.0 STARS Gold
Valid through 08/2028

All nine undergraduate UC campuses participate in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS).

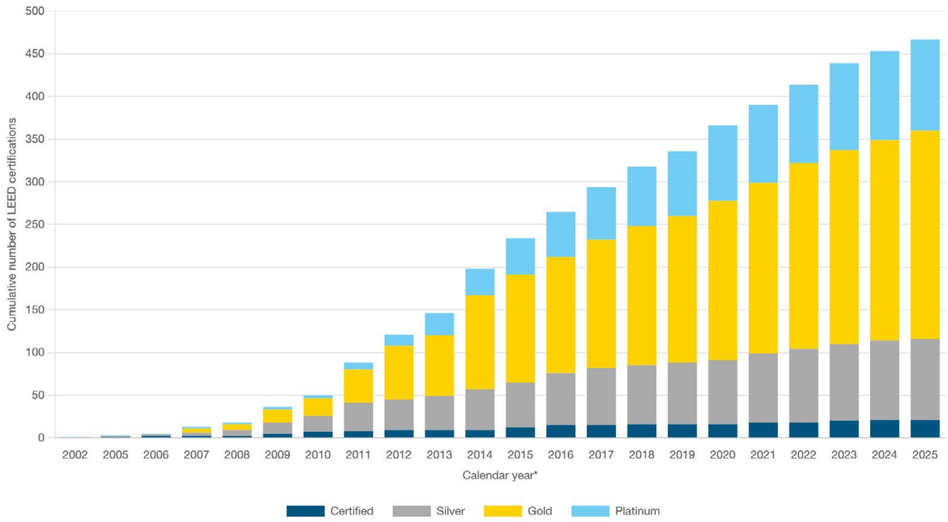
Six of the nine undergraduate campuses currently hold an AASHE STARS Gold rating. UC Berkeley and UC San Diego have a Platinum rating, the highest STARS rating. Three UC campuses, UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Cruz earned ratings in the latest version of STARS, version 3.0. UC Merced previously received a Platinum rating and is planning to submit for an updated rating in 2026.

STARS is the leading North American sustainable campus rating system and was developed by colleges and universities, including UC. The AASHE STARS Steering Committee guides the STARS development and implementation process and currently includes representation from the University's sustainability officers. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS provides the foundation for other campus sustainability rankings and is a primary standard by which peer institutions evaluate their overall achievements and progress in sustainability.

UC campuses, academic health centers and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received many additional awards in fiscal year 2024–25.

Green Building

LEED CERTIFICATIONS



**Data reported only accounts for buildings certified through the first half of 2025.*

In the past fiscal year, UC locations reported 14 new LEED-certified green building projects: three Platinum, nine Gold, and two Silver certifications. UC's total LEED certifications now include 467 projects, representing approximately 41 million square feet. The past year saw an increase in the University's all-electric building portfolio, which now comprises 45 buildings, exceeding 4.5 million square feet of occupied space. An additional six facilities (1 million square feet) use only electricity for space and water heating. UC campuses continue to add to this total, with another 50 all-electric buildings in planning, design and construction phases, totaling almost 11 million square feet. UC locations are pursuing Parksmart certification for nine new parking projects, adding to the University's five existing certified facilities.

The Green Building Working Group has proposed an update to the Sustainable Practices Policy that would require monitoring-based commissioning (MBCx) throughout the first year of a new building project's occupancy. This is an opportunity to ensure that building systems perform as designed while taking advantage of the contractor's warranty period to make no-cost corrections. By making a small investment in MBCx, the University will reduce energy use, capture cost savings, ensure equipment longevity and optimize thermal comfort for occupants.

Health and Well-Being

23%
healthy vending spend on food ($525K)

34%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($916K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

The University made significant progress toward its goals for healthy vending and chemicals of concern in the past year. Nine campuses and five health locations reported fiscal year 2023–24 data on food and beverage vending machine spend. This is the first year that the UC Annual Sustainability Report includes this data, which shows that, on average, healthy food accounted for 23% of all food sold from vending machines, and healthy beverages accounted for 34% of the beverages sold.

The Sustainability and Well-Being Working Group also explored ways to reduce chemicals of concern on campus. The working group developed informational materials to augment the furniture section of the UC Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, clarifying the policy goals for buyers and vendors. The working group also assessed implementation challenges, meeting with key stakeholders to explore how to make the guidelines clearer, and provided recommendations to improve the guidelines. As a result of this effort, data collection for the furniture green spend was updated to better represent UC's goals to purchase furniture free of chemicals of concern.

Procurement

CAMPUS LOCATIONS

$55.2M
green spend on electronics (62%)

$5.4M
green spend on cleaning supplies (53%)

$25.5M
green spend on indoor office furniture (84%)

$1.8M
green spend on office supplies (20%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (12), Furniture (8), Cleaning supplies (7), Office supplies (5).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

HEALTH LOCATIONS

$20.7M
green spend on electronics (98%)

$792K
green spend on cleaning supplies (23%)

$11.7M
cost savings through medical device reprocessing, representing 247,000 pounds of medical waste avoided

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (8), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

This year, the Sustainable Procurement Working Group began a process of updating the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines to address implementation challenges and changing regulations. Updates will include the replacement of the Economically and Socially Responsible Spend section with the Economic and Community Impact Spend section to better support UC's local economy and communities, changes to the foodware section to address composting challenges and updates to the furniture section to facilitate implementation.

The University also continued to improve its process of collecting sustainable campus procurement data. The UC Procurement Analytics team analyzed data for over $138 million in total campus spend from 32 suppliers for the 2024–25 fiscal year; this represents a 51% increase in the amount of spend analyzed from the prior year. Within that spend, the University found that 62% of electronics, 84% of indoor office furniture, 53% of cleaning supplies and 20% of office supplies met UC's requirements on minimum or preferred green spend, as outlined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines. This represents nearly $88 million in spend on products meeting green certification standards. UC Health locations also reported their green spend on office supplies and electronics and contributed an additional $21 million in spend on products meeting green certification standards. Analysis of UC's support of small businesses, presented to the state each year, can be found online.

Trademarks and Licensing

The UC Code of Conduct for Trademark Licensees Steering Committee met throughout the 2024–25 academic year to collectively assess trademark licensees' progress in meeting the contractually binding UC Trademark Licensing Code of Conduct sustainability standards.

The committee discussed current and emerging developments affecting UC campuses' trademark licensees' adherence to the code, including:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection's enforcement of recent federal tariffs on products of all kinds and the impact that these tariffs are having on UC campus licensees and their supply chains' treatment of workers.
- Identification of UC licensees that source their products from production facilities in Pakistan and are required to sign the Pakistan Accord for health and safety in the textiles and garment industry, a legally binding agreement to achieve safe factories with the agreement of apparel businesses, international unions, worker advocacy organizations and the International Labor Organization. Signatories include a growing list of licensee and international apparel brands, encompassing more than 90% of licensees that have disclosed manufacturing sources in Pakistan for UC campuses' products.
- Individual licensees' manufacturing partners' remediation of workplace rights and conditions violations.
- The implications of SB 707 California Responsible Textile Recovery Act on apparel licensee businesses.

Overall, the global impact of the University of California's licensed product manufacturing extends to 48 countries where more than 4,400 disclosed suppliers manufacture for 369 licensee companies that are licensed to use UC campus trademarks on products that are sold to the public.

Sustainable Building Operations and Laboratories

253
total assessed green laboratories

By the end of fiscal year 2024–25, the cumulative number of laboratories certified as green by campuses totaled 253. This 37% decrease in certified green labs from the prior year reflects some previously certified laboratories not maintaining their certification as staffing shortages resulted in some campuses pausing green lab certification programs, as well as significant redesign of several programs. However, ongoing green lab programs across the University reported engagement with 1,221 individual researchers throughout the year.

The Sustainable Operations and Laboratories Working Group supported these efforts by engaging with all campuses to develop a plan to allocate sustainability funds received through a new systemwide contract with Carl Zeiss Microscopy. This partnership will strengthen campus green lab programs by funding student positions, expanding rebate opportunities, enhancing services and initiatives to advance sustainable lab operations, and/or supporting engagement activities. The first round of Zeiss funds is scheduled for distribution in fiscal year 2025–26.

This year also was the third year of the rebate program for energy- and water-efficient equipment funded through a partnership with Fisher Scientific. In 2024–25 this program enabled 23 pieces of energy- and/or water-inefficient equipment to be replaced across the system, bringing the total to 63 pieces of equipment across the life of the incentive program.

Transportation

75%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

51%
of all vehicles and **70%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

33%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

>2,400
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel*

In 2024–25, the overall (student and employee) single-occupancy-vehicle (SOV) rate for the University of California was approximately 25%. This means over 75% of students, faculty and staff utilized a sustainable commute option, such as telecommuting or commuting to campus by walking, biking, taking transit, or in a vanpool or carpool. However, despite this progress, only seven of the 13 locations that reported data are on track to meet the goal of reducing SOV commute rates by 10%.

The focus of the UC Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) this academic year is on transportation emissions, with deep dives planned into fleet, commuting and business travel. The GCLC plans to propose new policies, programs and best practices for reducing transportation emissions. In parallel, the systemwide Sustainable Transportation Working Group developed recommendations to update sustainable transportation goals in alignment with the University's long-term climate goals. The proposed policy updates are currently under review and will be published in spring 2026.

Systemwide, 51% of all new fleet vehicles (light, medium and heavy-duty) acquired in fiscal year 2024–25 were battery-electric, plug-in hybrid, or another qualifying clean transportation fuel vehicle, up 2% from the previous year. UC's goal is that alternatively powered vehicles account for at least 50% of all vehicle acquisitions at each campus (regardless of vehicle size). Systemwide, 70% of all sedans and minivans acquired meet the UC policy, falling short of the ambitious goal of 100%.

UC locations now host over 2,400 active electric vehicle (EV) charging ports, an increase of approximately 10% from last year, along with many additional EV-ready spaces to support fleet and commuter vehicles.

UC Health

As part of continued operational and capacity expansion, UC Health locations included innovative design features to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in both new and existing health care facilities.

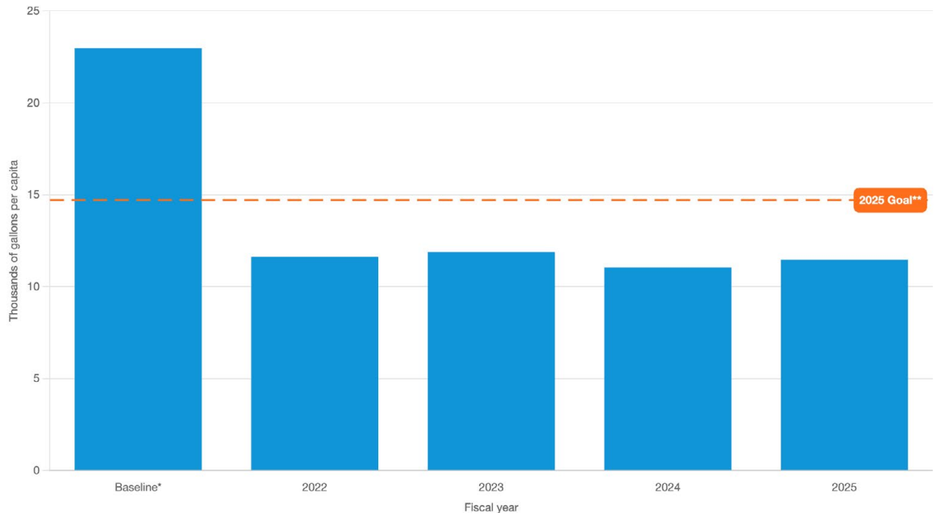
UC Health also continued its efforts to address scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from sources like transportation and supply chain. UC Health published an inventory of its scope 3 emissions showing that the largest sources of emissions are from the supply chain. Based on that analysis, UC Health initiated a project to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the largest sources of emissions within its supply chain.

UC Health locations also evaluated the impact of climate change and the environment on the communities they serve. Locations developed and included a climate-related question in their Community Health Needs Assessments. UC San Diego Health also conducted a survey to determine the importance of environmental values and sustainable practices to their patients. The survey results showed that 85% of UC San Diego Health patients prefer to receive health care from an organization that is committed to environmental health and sustainability.

The University of California's Center for Climate, Health and Equity (CCHE) continued to elevate clinical decarbonization as a health care priority. CCHE facilitated the second year of its new Clinical Decarbonization Fellowship, selecting three UC clinician fellows to work on decarbonization projects in UC clinical health care settings. CCHE also facilitated six educational webinars and one clinician training session in response to the 2025 LA area wildfires. Further, CCHE partnered with the American Medical Association to provide continuing medical education on climate change and health in collaboration with UC's Bending the Curve climate education initiative.

Water

WATER USE



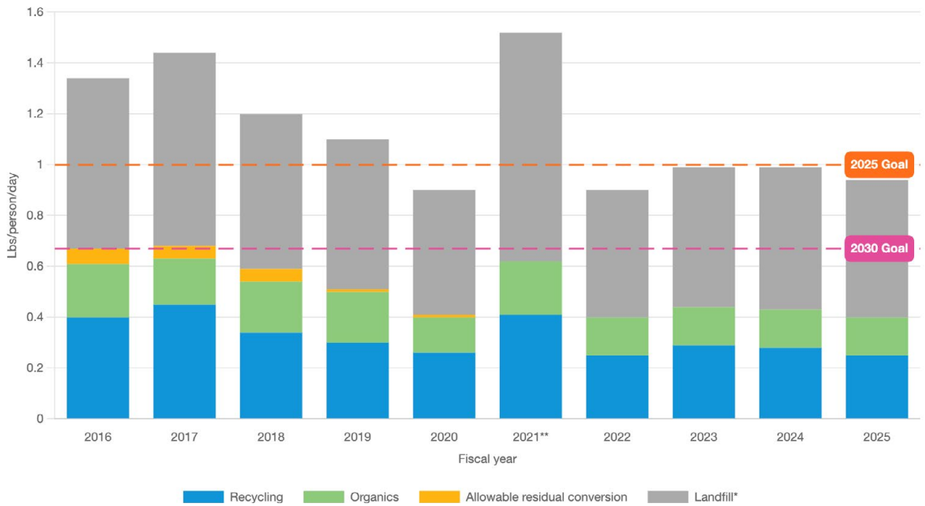
**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005–08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*
Systemwide calculations exclude ANR, UCDH, UCIH, and UCSFH.

Total water consumption systemwide increased slightly in 2024–25 compared with the previous year. Ten out of 15 locations are on track to meet the growth-adjusted water conservation goal of reducing potable water consumption by 36% by the end of 2025–26. Locations that are not yet on track to meet the goal cited a range of technical challenges, including increases in square footage growth that do not correlate with population growth, aggressive water conservation programs prior to the baseline period, limited recycled water supplies to offset potable water use and limited funding.

The University continued to advance water conservation by advancing UC policy for equitable access to safe drinking water and sharing resources and funding opportunities related to water recycling.

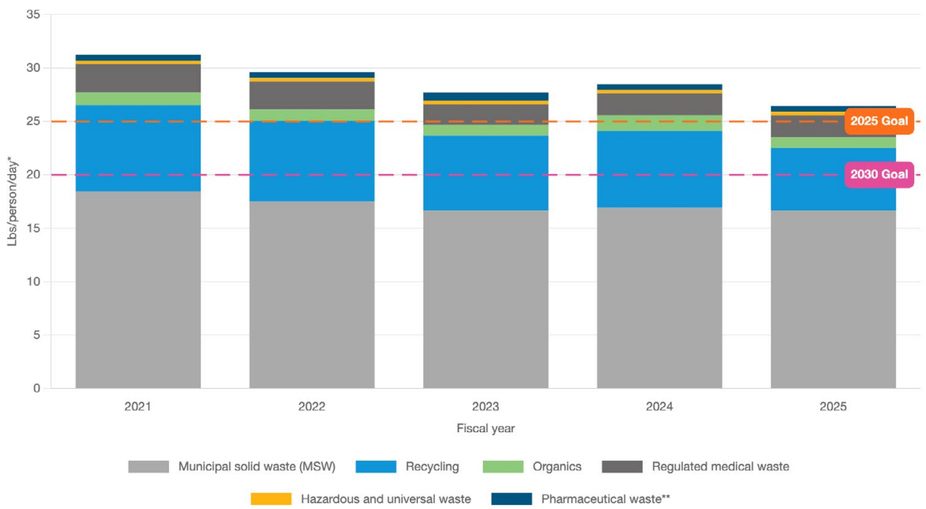
Zero Waste

WASTE GENERATION - CAMPUS LOCATIONS



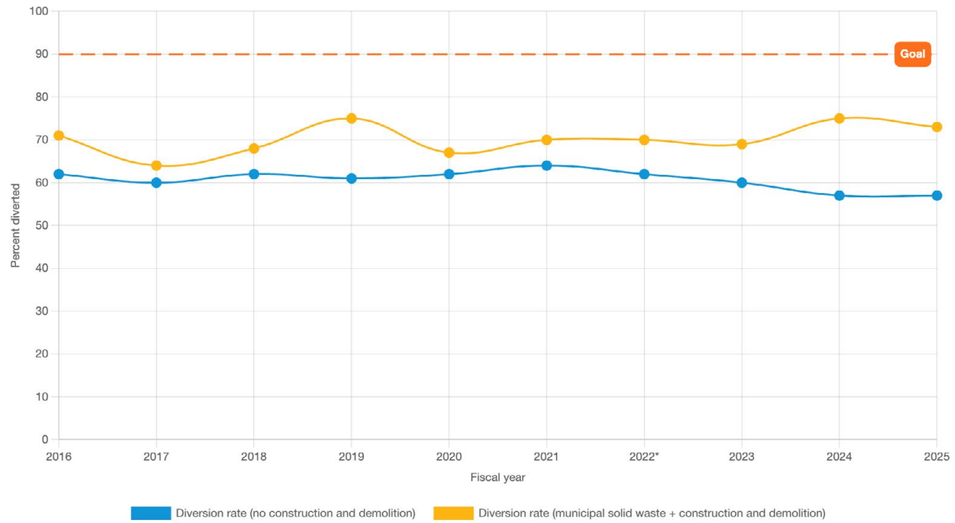
**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

WASTE GENERATION - HEALTH LOCATIONS



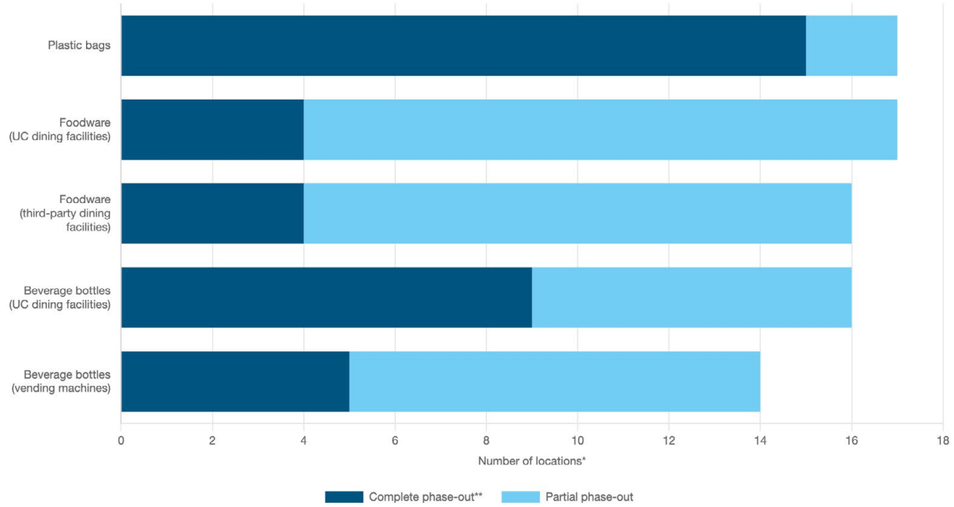
**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

ZERO WASTE - DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT



**17 locations included: campuses, academic health centers, LBNL and UCOP.*
*** Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

The University continued focusing on the phase-out of single-use plastics. The number of locations that have completely phased out plastic bags rose from 12 the prior year to 15. As campuses continued to struggle with fully phasing out single-use plastic foodware and beverage bottles, the UC Global Climate Leadership Council selected 13 projects across the UC system to pilot reusable or compostable alternatives to single-use plastic foodware. Projects include supporting awareness campaigns, piloting reusable dishes and to-go ware, and installing hydration stations.

Five campuses are on track to meet the 2025 goal of reducing per capita municipal solid waste generation by 25 percent from the 2015–16 baseline year. Two of those campuses are also already on track to meet the 2030 goal of a 50% reduction. Among the five campuses not yet on track to meet the 2025 goal, two of them are within 2 percentage points of the goal. Campuses continue to seek waste reduction opportunities to work toward the 2030 goal of 50% reduction from the 2015–16 year.

UC Health locations have made significant strides toward their 2025 goal of 25 pounds or less of waste per adjusted patient day. Two UC Health locations are on track to meet the 2025 goal, and the remaining three had significant reductions, bringing them closer to meeting the goal.

Campuses also continue working toward achieving the goal of diverting 90% of waste from the landfill. The University is actively seeking diversion opportunities and innovative ways to approach waste management for both campus and health locations.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

UC Berkeley built on previous planning, operational and programmatic efforts to achieve multiple important milestones.

- Thanks to the ongoing work and advocacy of staff, students and faculty, the Berkeley Clean Energy Campus (BCEC) project was approved by the University of California Regents in July 2025. The BCEC is a critical infrastructure renewal and decarbonization project that will include a new central plant and thermal energy storage tank, which together will produce hot water and store chilled water to be distributed to buildings on the eastern side of the campus. The new plant will be sized to adequately serve the entire campus as future phases of the project are implemented. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2026.
- With leadership from the Office of Sustainability and participation from units and individuals across campus, UC Berkeley earned the honor of becoming the first university in the world to achieve an AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) Platinum rating under the latest STARS 3.0 standards. STARS is the most widely recognized framework for publicly reporting comprehensive sustainability performance across colleges and universities, and Berkeley's rating indicates exceptional innovation and execution of sustainability principles in all areas of campus.

UC Berkeley reduced emissions by 8% compared to last year, completed three LEED buildings, procured healthier and more sustainable food and beverages, expanded green lab certifications and reduced recycled waste. Challenges remain in complex areas such as fully eliminating single-use plastics, creating integrated reporting methodologies and accommodating a growing campus user base.

STORIES

Reusable Cup Collaboration Brings Cal Closer to Zero Waste

Cal Athletics teamed up with Cal Zero Waste, Levy, Pepsi and r.World Reusables to make football game days zero waste. Levy served drinks at California Memorial Stadium from durable, reusable plastic cups. Fans deposited cups into clearly marked return bins at the game, while r.World collected, sanitized and returned them for the next game. This change diverted thousands of cups away from the landfill, cut greenhouse gas emissions from production and disposal, and reduced litter.

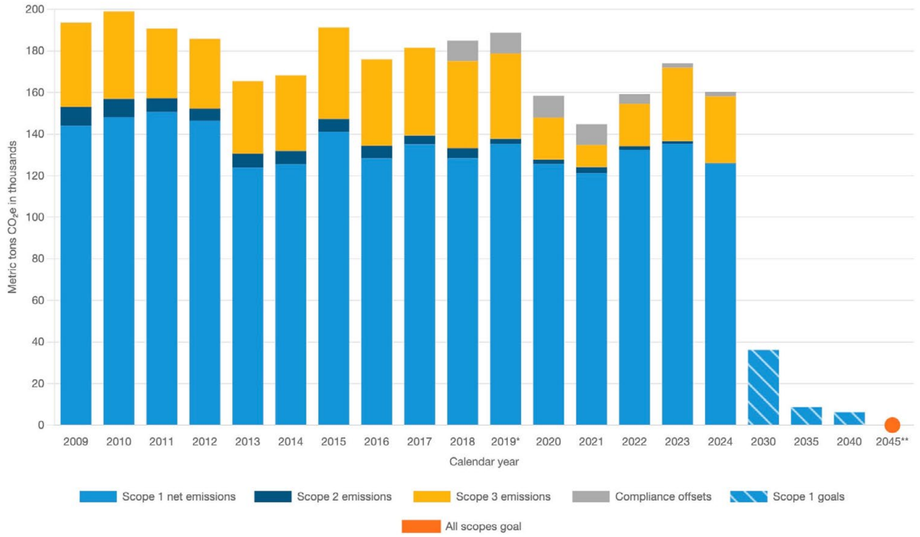
GrizzlyCorps Exemplifies Campus-Community Partnerships and Student Empowerment

GrizzlyCorps, an AmeriCorps fellowship designed by Project Climate at UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment in partnership with California Volunteers, sends recent college graduates into rural communities across California to promote regenerative agri-food systems and fire and forest resilience. The program received a UC Berkeley Chancellor's Award for Campus-Community Partnership in 2025, despite having lost substantial funding due to federal budget cuts. GrizzlyCorps has placed over 150 volunteers around the state.

Read full article:

https://www.law.berkeley.edu/article/grizzlycorps-center-for-law-energy-and-the-environment-public-service-climate-change/

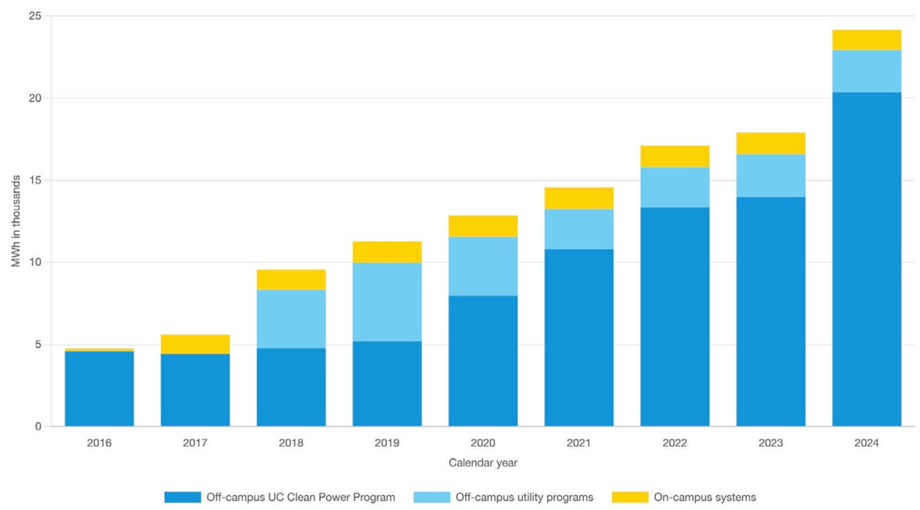
EMISSIONS



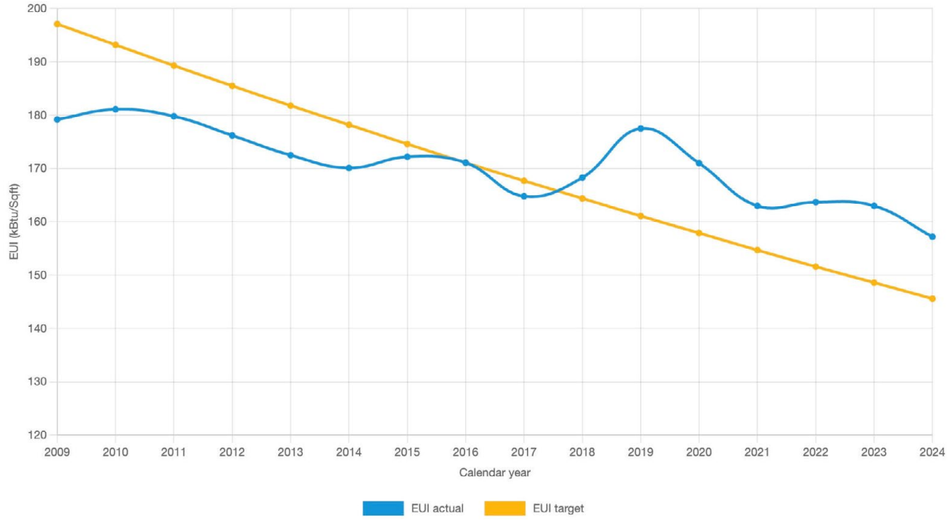
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

Emissions decreased by 8% compared to last year, primarily due to reduced natural gas use in both cogeneration and laboratory operations. Electricity-related emissions also declined significantly as a result of updated emission factors provided by PG&E and increased procurement of clean electricity through the UC Clean Power Program. Additionally, further reductions were achieved through increased recycled plastics waste diversion. A new methodology was introduced for calculating commuting emissions.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Berkeley saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

19%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($3.3M)

37%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($6.6M)

Spend on sustainable food was 6% below goal levels due to challenges with record tracking, supply chain consolidation and fiscal headwinds. However, plant-based food procurement has remained strong.

GREEN BUILDING

Two LEED Gold buildings were completed, Helen Diller Anchor House and xučyun ruwway Graduate Student Apartments. In addition, the campus completed one LEED Platinum building: Bechtel Engineering Addition (Grimes Engineering Center). In all, over 1.4 million square feet of all-electric structures are under construction. Finally, a Parksmart project for 66 electric vehicle chargers is under construction.

3 Platinum, 17 Gold, 10 Silver and 1 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

19%
healthy vending spend on food ($17K)

85%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($2K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Eighty-five percent of beverage vending sales were healthier options in fiscal year 2023–24, exceeding the 50% requirement. UC Berkeley requires 70% of shelf space in vending and retail spaces to meet healthier standards.

PROCUREMENT

$6.1M
green spend on electronics (72%)

$435K
green spend on cleaning supplies (31%)

$1.8M
green spend on indoor office furniture (66%)

$203K
green spend on office supplies (31%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (11), Furniture (6), Cleaning supplies (7), Office supplies (5).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

60
total assessed green laboratories

In summer 2024, the Office of Sustainability launched an incentive program to encourage participation in Green Lab certification. Green Lab certification is also required for participation in UC Berkeley's ultra-low-temperature freezer rebate program, which helps departments purchase higher-efficiency units for their lab spaces. This program has resulted in 28 new Green Lab certifications.

TRANSPORTATION

80%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

71%
of all vehicles and **78%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

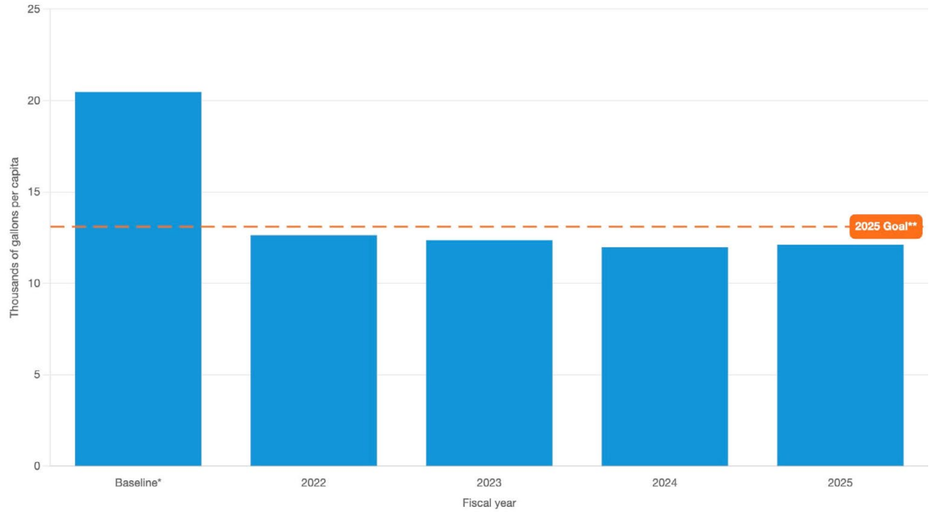
18%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

15
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Single-occupancy-vehicle rates dropped from 40% to 34% among faculty and staff. Student and staff alternative commute rates increased from 76% to 80% as the campus improves pedestrian access and telecommute options. In addition, 71% of all vehicles and 78% of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.

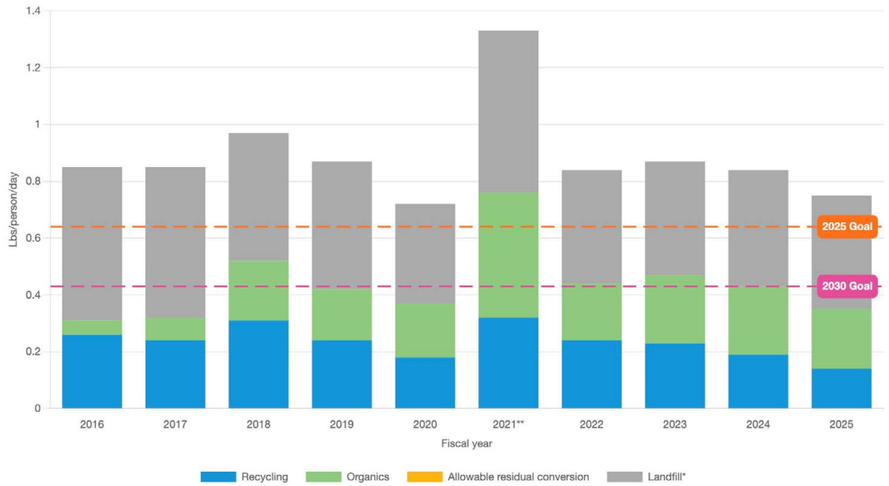
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Water use on campus was at 12,119 gallons per user, which outperformed the 2025 goal of 13,105 gallons by 8%.

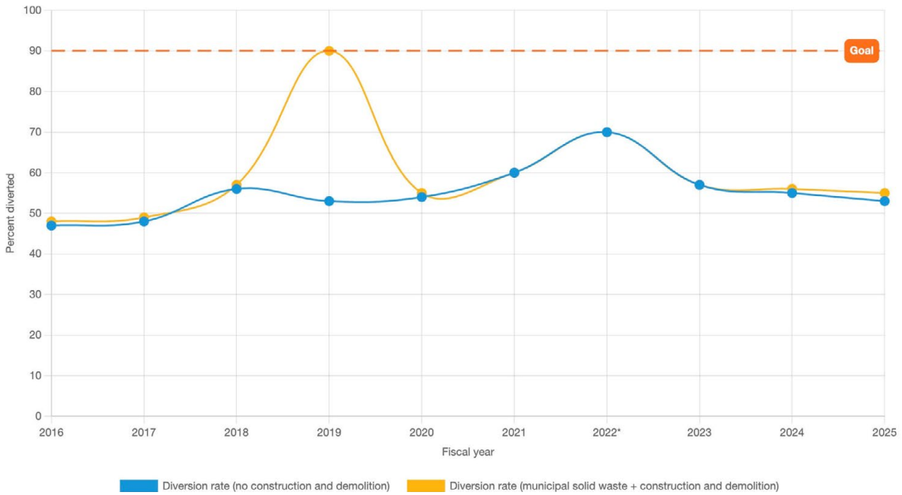
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

Overall waste generation on campus decreased by 718 tons compared with 2023–24, which is a 10% improvement. Recycled waste decreased by approximately 24% due to the successful elimination of single-use plastics in dining and vending, along with ongoing educational efforts targeting students, staff and vendors.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

Waste diversion, excluding construction and demolition (C&D), holds steady at 53% and with C&D remains constant at 55%. These numbers are still below the goal of 90%; however, the consistency of these numbers is mainly due to the decrease in recycled waste and compost at the same time that landfill waste also decreased slightly. There are also opportunities to improve C&D reporting going forward.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)
- Plastic bags

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

All single-use plastic beverage containers have been phased out except for Gatorade products. However, canned Gatorade products are being promoted at retail and vending sites in fall 2025, and there is a new method being rolled out for departments to purchase cans from Pepsi. As part of the Green Labs program, which more labs are joining over time, bins are being standardized, including for lab plastics, and the University is working with circular economy companies Polycarbin and Labcon to increase purchasing of their lab products.

AWARDS

UC Berkeley was the first university in the world to achieve a Platinum rating in STARS 3.0 and has been selected for the Institutional Highlights section of the 2025 Sustainable Campus Index. UC Berkeley is featured as a top performer in 10 categories.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Davis

UC Davis established ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets and strengthened campus resiliency through projects such as enhancements to the Arboretum Waterway, utilities control upgrades that will save 50,000 gallons of water each day and Phase 2 of the Big Shift.

The campus welcomed Eric O'Brien as the new sustainability director and launched a forward-looking community-centered vision for a sustainable transportation plan. Unitrans completed the first phase of its electric bus transition — making a third of its fleet zero emission.

Sustainable consumption is advancing through organic, farmer-owned coffee on campus, research for more sustainable coffee and a new beverage partnership phasing out plastic bottles. Custodial services adopted a new model, empowering the campus community to build waste sorting knowledge while reducing single-use waste liners.

Students continue to steer progress with waste audits and scope 3 emissions calculations revealing campus waste patterns. "Sustainably UC Davis," a student intern-initiated YouTube series, explored campus sustainability. The Redwood SEED Scholars program graduated its first class of students, supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Both the campus and community continue to serve as living laboratories, with students designing an innovative vermifilter wastewater pretreatment project for the teaching winery of the Robert Mondavi Institute, developing the first environmental justice framework for incorporation into the Davis City Council's General Plan update in Environmental Justice and Community Development, and contributing to the first-ever Voluntary Local Review on the SDGs for Sacramento, a partnership between UC Davis and the City of Sacramento.

STORIES

Helping Birds and Floating Solar Energy Coexist

Researchers from the UC Davis Wild Energy Center studied how waterbirds — like herons, cormorants and phoebes — interact with floating solar photovoltaic systems ("floatovoltaics") installed over reservoirs, irrigation ponds and wastewater facilities. Scientists observed largely positive waterbird behaviors, such as perching and nesting, and benefits to people, including water evaporation reduction, while recognizing the importance of designing these systems to avoid negative impacts and promote ecological benefits.

Read full article:

https://www.ucdavis.edu/climate/news/helping-birds-and-floating-solar-energy-coexist

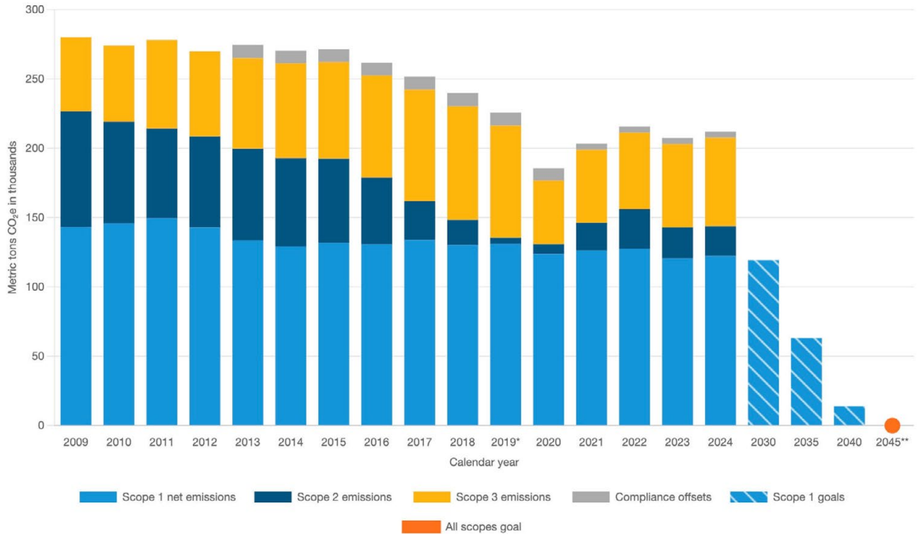
UC Davis GATEways Project: Where Nature Meets Learning

The GATEways Project (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment) at UC Davis transforms the campus into a living laboratory where student-driven Learning by Leading internships empower interns to design, maintain and interpret themed gardens — such as the Native American Contemplative Garden, California Rock Garden, Landscape Lab, Hummingbird Garden and Climate Adaptation Living Lab — fostering hands-on education, public engagement and collaborative environmental stewardship.

Read full article:

https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/blog/uc-davis-gateways-project-where-nature-meets-learning

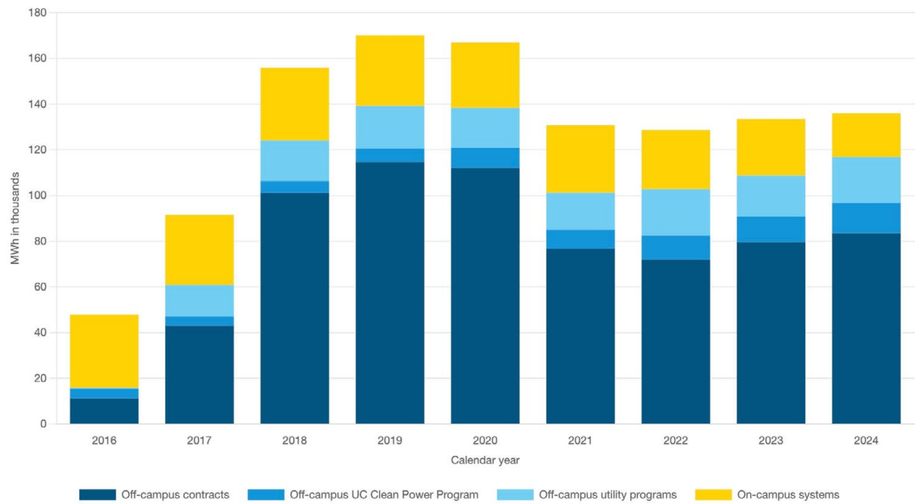
EMISSIONS



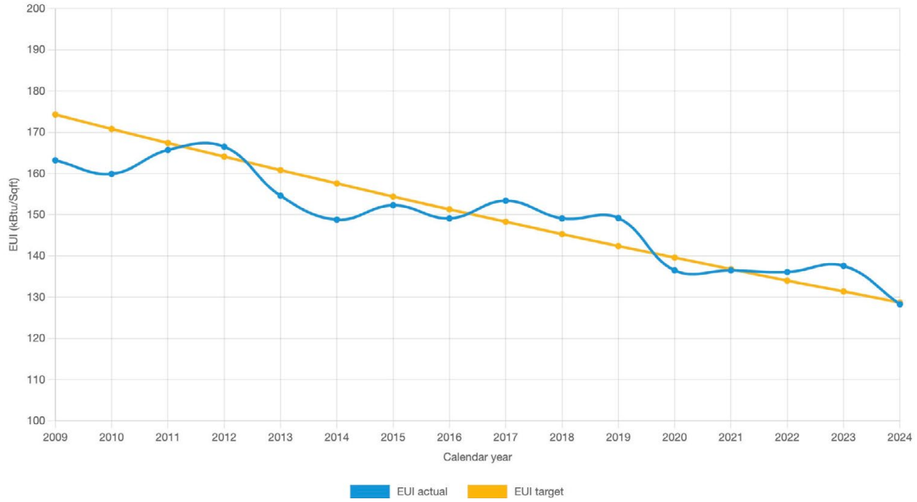
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

UC Davis's scope 1 and 2 emissions remained consistent with previous years. The Davis campus saw gas savings associated with the first phase of the Big Shift project due to inefficient and leaky steam pipes being replaced with new hot water pipes. While on-site solar electricity production was lower than the previous year due to system maintenance issues, receipt of more hydropower offset the difference. UC Davis began tracking scope 3 emissions associated with car rentals, personal auto travel for business and solid waste generation.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



Energy optimization projects contributed to the decrease in UC Davis's EUI in 2024.

FOOD

17%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($3.8M)

35%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($7.7M)

UC Davis spent approximately $3.8 million on sustainable food and beverages this year, an 8% increase from the previous year. Dining Services increased spending on sustainable meat products for beef, chicken and fish through partnerships with Cream Co. Meat, Mary's Chicken and Real Good Fish. Dining Services has been expanding spend with Clover Dairy organic milk products and Peet's organic, Rainforest Alliance or Bird Friendly coffee. The student-run Coffee House has also increased sustainable spend on coffee with its new vendor, Pachamama Coffee Cooperative.

GREEN BUILDING

The UC Davis main campus constructed two new Gold-certified LEED buildings, Shasta Hall and Edwards Family Athletics Center, and one Silver-certified LEED building, Orchard Park Amenity Building. The main campus has 12 occupied all-electric buildings and two under construction.

11 Platinum, 33 Gold, 9 Silver and 1 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

6%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($41K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UC Davis spent $41,000 on healthy vending beverages, 6% of total vending beverage spend. The spend includes data from Pepsi and Canteen. The campus has its own vending machines offering fresh food, for which data tracking will begin next academic year.

PROCUREMENT

$5M
green spend on electronics (74%)

$607K
green spend on cleaning supplies (44%)

$3.8M
green spend on indoor office furniture (79%)

$285K
green spend on office supplies (23%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (10), Furniture (6), Cleaning supplies (5), Office supplies (4).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

8
total assessed green laboratories

Currently, eight labs are certified through the Green Workplace program, including one that proactively recertified to achieve the highest rating. Six more certifications are in progress. The program partnered with the UC Davis Organic Chemistry Teaching Labs program manager to secure a $12,000 Green Initiative Fund grant for a pilot nitrile glove recycling program, projected to divert waste from over 5,000 students annually. Additionally, a lab coat reuse program was launched, recovering and laundering coats for redistribution through the UC Davis Bookstore.

TRANSPORTATION

74%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

40%
of all vehicles and **100%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

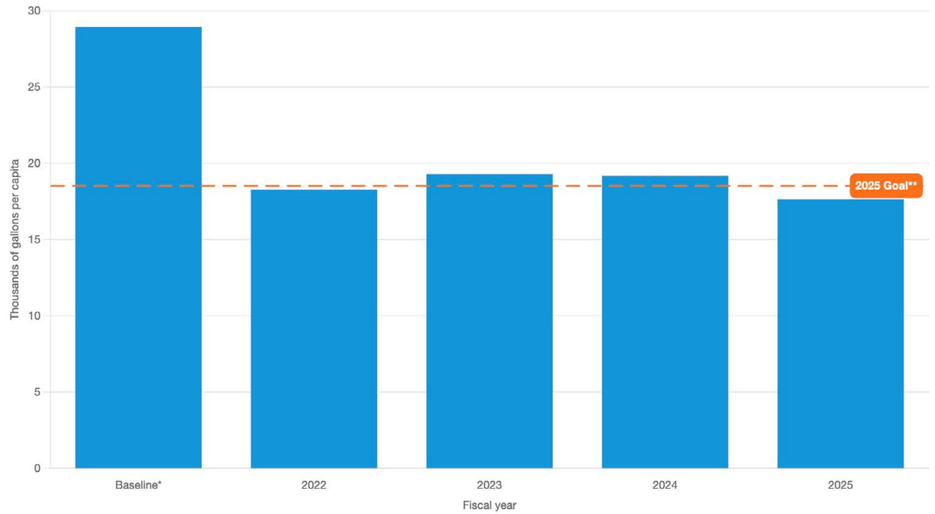
23%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

61
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

The 2024 UC Davis Travel Survey showed a 5% increase in single-occupancy-vehicle use by employees while student rates remained consistent with the previous year. While the measurement for the campus travel survey captured one week of commuting patterns in October, a busy time on campus for employees and students, parking meter data throughout the entire academic year suggested a significant reduction of vehicle demand. Transit use went up 5% campuswide compared with 2023 as the campus bus system, Unitrans, returned to full pre-pandemic service.

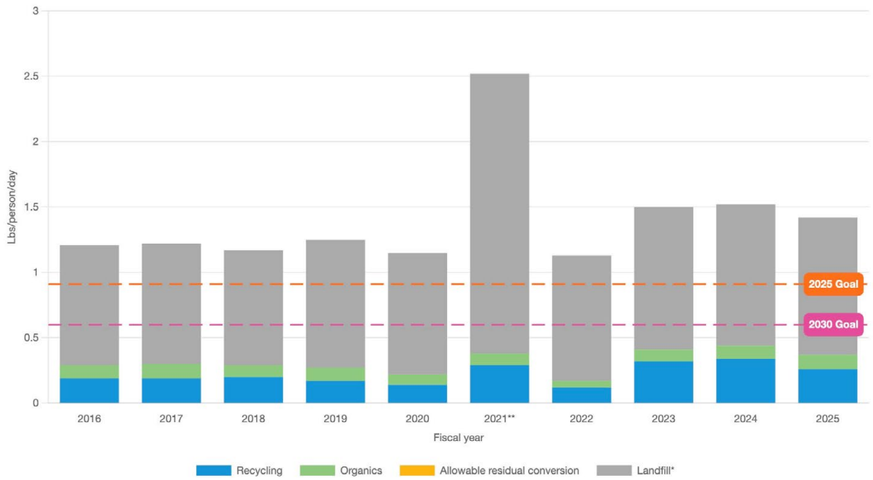
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

UC Davis potable water use went down by 27 million gallons while the campus population increased by about 1,500, resulting in a 1,500 gallon per capita reduction in potable water use compared with the previous year, a 39% reduction from baseline that surpasses the 2025 water goal. Water savings occurred in campus buildings and at the Central Plant, which is using less water due to the campus shift away from a leaky steam-operated heating and cooling system to one that uses hot water.

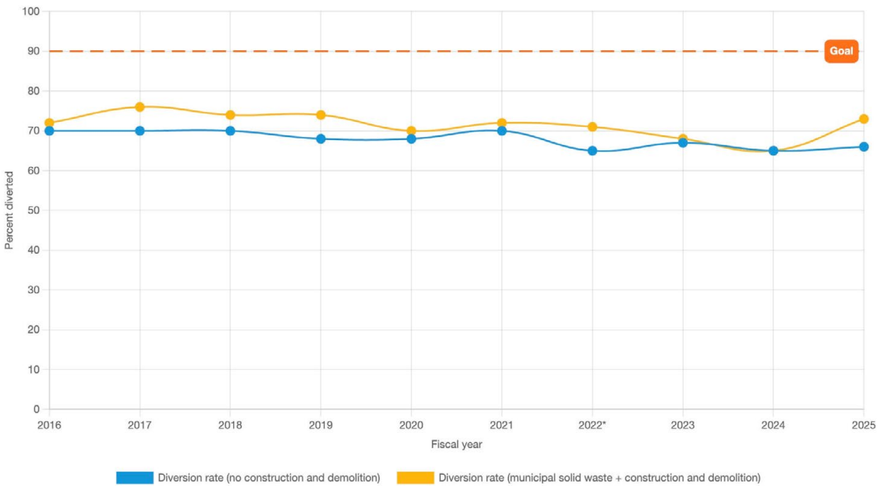
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

UC Davis generated 9,498 tons of municipal solid waste, or 1.43 pounds per person per day. Waste generation remained consistent to previous years, with 226 tons less generated in fiscal year 2024–25 compared with 2023–24. A reduction of 36% in per capita waste generation is needed to meet the 2025 goal of 0.91 pounds per person per day.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

UC Davis diverted 13,523 tons, or 66%, of all waste (excluding construction and demolition) in fiscal year 2024–25, a slight increase compared with 2023–24. C&D waste diversion increased this fiscal year due to several larger construction projects, such as the demolition of Solano Park Housing.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

The campus signed a new pouring rights contract with Pepsi requiring roughly 80% of beverages to be provided in non-single-use plastic containers. A few items, such as Naked Juice and Gatorade, are unavailable in non-plastic containers. These items will be available in sustainable packaging by 2030. UC Davis is also partnering with Polycarbin to develop circular economy solutions for lab plastics, helping the campus recycle 638 pounds of lab plastics in fiscal year 2024–25.

AWARDS

UC Davis maintained a Gold rating in STARS 2.2. The report is valid until 2026. For the ninth year in a row the campus was recognized as the greenest campus in North America in the 2024 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Davis Health

UC Davis Health (UCDH) reflects on a year marked by progress in sustainability. UCDH earned recognition from Practice Greenhealth with the Emerald Award, as an outstanding sustainable hospital in the top 20% of the nation as well as recognition in five Circles of Excellence areas: Food, Sustainable Procurement, Water, Transportation and Green Building.

UCDH made major strides in preparing for the impacts of climate change, including developing its first-ever climate hazard toolkit focused on protecting aging populations from extreme heat and launching an equity-focused decarbonization plan, bringing diverse staff into planning for a fossil fuel-free campus. From Earth Month to Clean Air Day, UC Davis Health organized events that featured walking tours, sustainability tabling and the Second Sustainability Summit. On Clean Air Day, nearly 100 bicycle helmets were distributed, five trees were planted and achievements were spotlighted.

As the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Clinical Practice Council grows, momentum in nursing-focused sustainability continues to expand. The implementation of unit-based sustainability champions has increased interest with a recent survey showing that 60% of nurses feel waste reduction is important to them. The Sustainability Suggestion Box, launched last year, resulted in more than 60 conservation ideas, from reusable bags for patients' belongings in mammography to adoption of reusable pillows. These suggestions inform clinical waste reduction efforts. The Emergency Department reduced paper waste by 370,000 pages per year and shifted to reusable splints, instruments and gowns, and the Radiology Department adopted reusable gowns, optimized scanner energy use and earned UCDH's first-ever Sustainability Champion Award. UCDH took actions to reduce waste across its enterprise. It implemented a standardized recycling program, which will divert an estimated 18 tons of waste annually. Additionally, UCDH launched a pilot program in partnership with MATTER Medical, an organization that collects opened or expired but still usable medical supplies and redistributes these supplies to underserved populations around the world. UCDH formed a project task force to launch this program in six nursing units and rescued over 800 pounds of supplies in just a couple of months. Finally, after assessing that up to 90% of the contents in bundled kits, such as comfort kits and admission bins, are thrown away, UCDH eliminated both kits and provided the option for items to be purchased individually on an as-needed basis. This change resulted in eliminating over 2,000 pounds of waste per month, on average.

STORIES

UC Davis Health Marks a Year of Sustainability Milestones

Through innovations in energy, waste reduction, transportation, purchasing, water reduction, design and construction, and clinical care, the health system has demonstrated a strong, ongoing commitment to advancing both human and planetary health — one impactful step at a time.

Read full article:

https://sustainability.ucdavis.edu/news/uc-davis-health-marks-year-sustainability-milestones

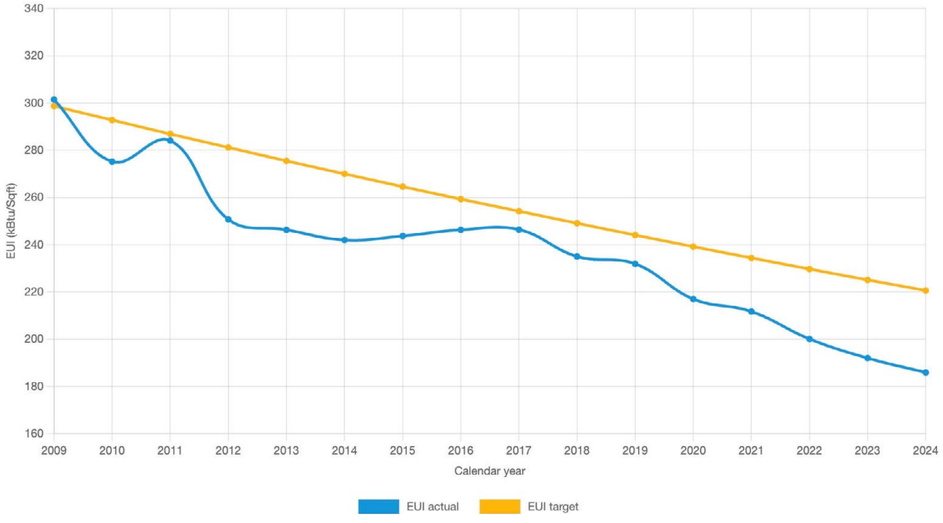
Sustainability Summit Spotlighted Sustainability Leaders and Impactful Programs

The second UC Davis Health Sustainability Summit, held on February 12, 2025, explored strategies to reduce the organization's environmental impact and highlighted recent successes and innovations across the health system.

Read full article:

https://sustainability.ucdavis.edu/news/uc-davis-health-summit-features-sustainability-leaders-impact-departmental-programs

ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Davis Health saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

37%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($3.9M)

34%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($3.5M)

Sustainable food and beverage spend remained relatively constant, increasing less than 1 percent compared to the previous year.

UC Davis Health has focused its efforts on reducing food waste. It partnered with Copia, an organization that accepts overproduced foods to feed communities in need. Additionally, the culinary team minimized overproduction opportunities, taking food donation totals down more than 4,000 pounds from the previous year.

GREEN BUILDING

UC Davis Health constructed one new Gold-certified LEED building, the UC Davis Pharmacy Shared Service Center, which earned 5 points for water metering and outdoor and indoor water use reduction. UC Davis Health has five occupied all-electric buildings and three under construction. The campus also has one Parksmart-certified parking structure.

1 Platinum, 10 Gold and 1 Silver

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

20%
healthy vending spend on food ($48K)

42%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($71K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Through a partnership with Byte Box vending machines, UC Davis Health can repurpose excess food, expanding its ability to feed more in a convenient way. Extra grilled chicken can be turned into chicken sandwiches to be sold in these vending machines in five locations throughout the medical center. This is not only a landfill waste diversion initiative but also provides busy staff an opportunity to purchase a healthy meal closer to their areas of work.

PROCUREMENT

$2.4M
green spend on appliances and IT hardware (90%)

$404K
green spend on office supplies (47%)

$133K
cost savings through medical device reprocessing (representing 17,120 pounds of waste avoided)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (4), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

UC Davis Health Procurement is committed to reducing waste through smarter, more sustainable choices. It partnered with clinicians to review plastic waste and identify items to reduce or eliminate. For office supplies, Procurement highlighted green alternatives and prioritized purchasing recycled paper products. Additionally, a partnership with IT hardware providers to use data to guide more sustainable decisions was another successful focus. In fiscal year 2025, UC Davis Health collected more than 17,000 pounds of equipment for reprocessing, diverting it from the landfill and saving more than $133,000.

TRANSPORTATION

29%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

33%
of all vehicles and **0%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

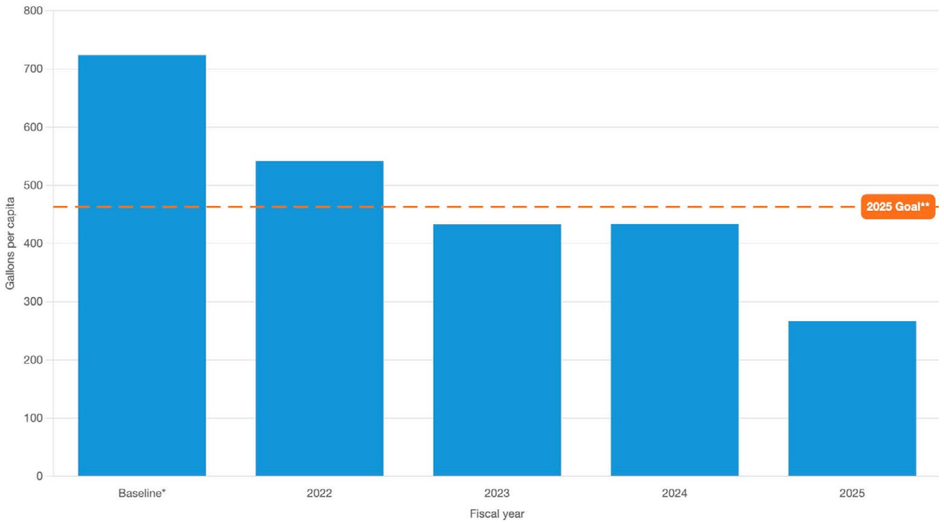
43%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

211
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

UC Davis Health invested in increasing bicycle ridership. It opened a newly constructed bike shelter with 120 bike parking spaces, accessory lockers and a water bottle filling station, held two bike riding classes and provided over 150 free helmets to employees and students. The Be Smart About Safety grant enabled production of a video informing riders how to use the bike shelter's new vertical-style racks. The overall campus's drive-alone rate decreased by 4%, correlating with an increase in reported telecommuting.

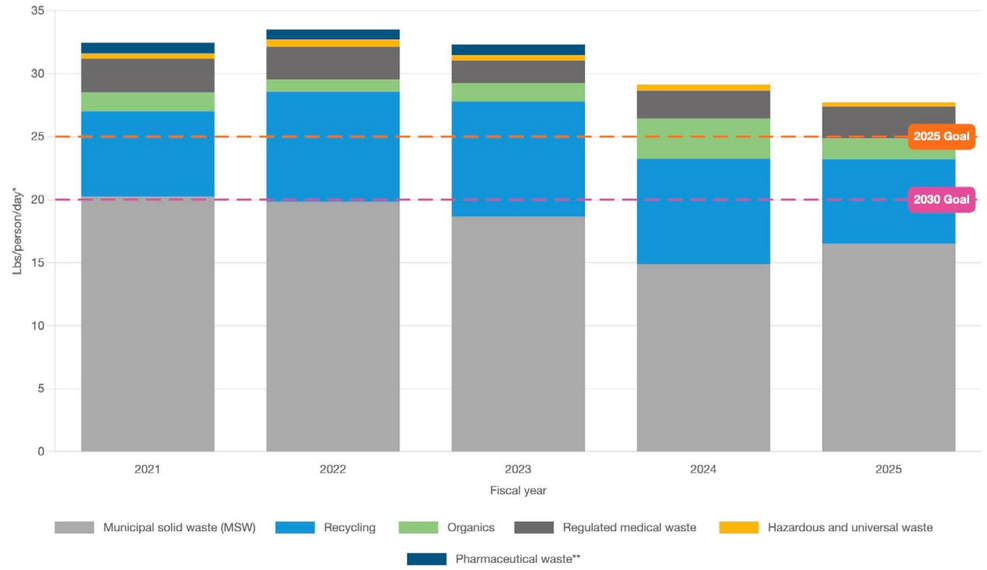
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

The 200,000-square-foot North South tower was vacated by mid-2024 and fully decommissioned in early 2025, leading to a substantial decrease of more than 65,000 in domestic water consumption. Seasonally lower temperatures also resulted in domestic water savings at the Central Utility Plant. UC Davis Health realized a 63% reduction from baseline in water use.

ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

UC Davis Health saw a reduction of more than 390,000 pounds of municipal solid waste, or about 28 pounds per adjusted patient day, a reduction of 1.4 pounds per adjusted patient day from the previous year. The health center expanded organic composting, implemented centralized waste stations and expanded recycling programs, including recycling items from patient rooms, resulting in the diversion of more than 23,000 pounds of surplus medical supplies from the landfill to underserved communities globally. UC Davis Health is now able to collect and compost an expanded food waste stream that includes various breads, pizza doughs and liquids like soups and sauces.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Beverage bottles (vending machines)
- Plastic bags

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UC Davis Health phased out all single-use plastic water bottles in retail locations, Byte Box vending machines and catering facilities. The next opportunity under exploration is to replace single-use plastic bottles in patient service areas with aluminum can products. Through a grant awarded by the UC Zero Waste Working Group, a single-use plastic utensil reduction project is underway, seeking to encourage staff to use reusable utensils in campus cafes. Nearly 3,000 complimentary reusable utensils kits have been provided to staff so far.

AWARDS

2025
Practice Greenhealth
GREENHEALTH EMERALD AWARD

UC Davis Health was honored this year with the Practice Greenhealth Emerald Award, which recognizes the top 20% of applicants (out of more than 500 hospitals) and is focused on advanced sustainability programs and exemplary scores in a range of categories. UC Davis Health was also honored with five Circles of Excellence Awards, including Food, Sustainable Procurement, Water, Transportation and Green Building.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

COMBINED DATA

Progress on the following policy areas for this Health System is reported by the campus location:

- Emissions
- Renewable Energy

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Irvine

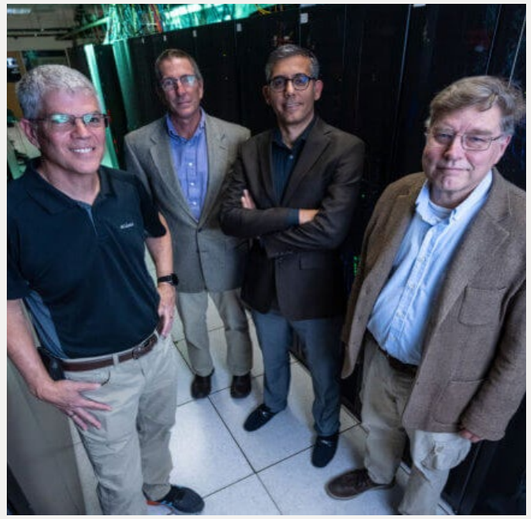
UC Irvine continued to collaborate with campus partners this past year with the goal of improving sustainable operations.

The campus fostered relationships across departments on the topic of sustainability through engagement with the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) submittal, the Long Range Development Plan and a variety of other projects.

One area of growth and success was sustainable transportation. This past year, UC Irvine reached an 84% sustainable commute rate, with walking, micromobility, transit and telecommuting as major contributors. This shift has also led to a decrease in the drive-alone rate, now down to 16%. UC Irvine also continues to be a leader in green building, with 42 LEED-certified projects. The newest additions to campus include the UCI Health Irvine Hospital, the first all-electric hospital in the nation, and the Joe C. Wen and Family Advanced Care Center. Both are anticipated to reach Platinum certification.

UC Irvine continues to evaluate decarbonization pathways while focusing on near-term greenhouse gas reductions through the replacement of fossil-fueled boilers. Climate resilience continues to be a focus as the academic campus and medical center develop adaptation strategies for the updated CAAP.

STORIES



UC Irvine Leads AI Initiative to Solve Geophysical Challenges

UC Irvine is leading a $6 million initiative, Geophysicist.AI, to revolutionize sustainability communication through artificial intelligence-driven geophysics. By integrating machine learning with vast real-world data, the project aims to advance clean geothermal energy, carbon sequestration and nuclear waste storage. The initiative unites experts across UC campuses and national labs, creating a novel AI ecosystem that mimics skilled geophysicists. This scalable, interdisciplinary approach highlights innovation in communicating and solving complex environmental challenges sustainably.

Read full article:

https://news.uci.edu/2025/06/09/uc-irvine-to-lead-use-of-ai-in-solving-grand-challenges-below-earths-surface

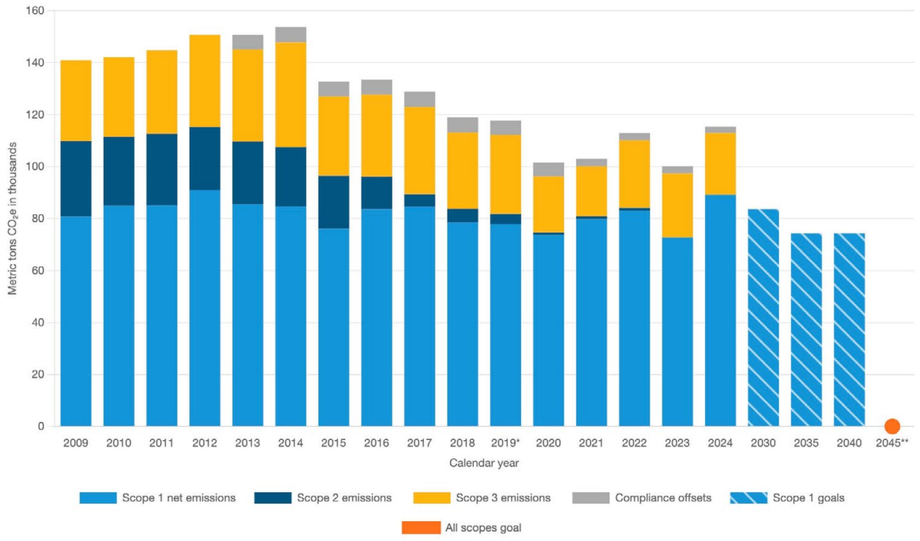
How Humanities Are Redefining Climate Communication

UC Irvine's WUICAN Climate Communications Internship pioneers innovative sustainability communication by empowering humanities students to craft compelling climate narratives. Partnering with community groups, students use creative media like zines, blogs and videos to engage diverse audiences and advocate for climate justice. The program blends academic training with hands-on experience, showcasing how storytelling, Indigenous knowledge and grassroots outreach can transform climate communication. It redefines career pathways in environmental work through humanities-driven, justice-centered approaches to sustainability challenges.

Read full article:

https://www.humanities.uci.edu/news/how-humanities-are-redefining-climate-communication

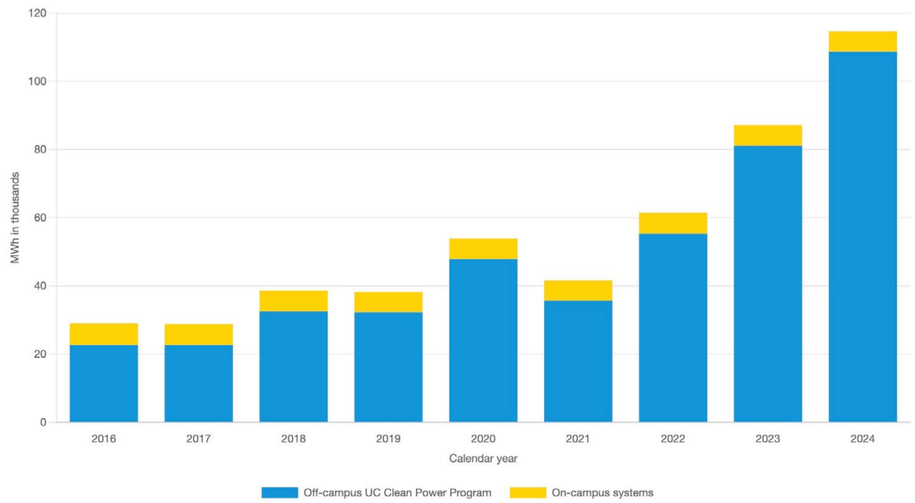
EMISSIONS



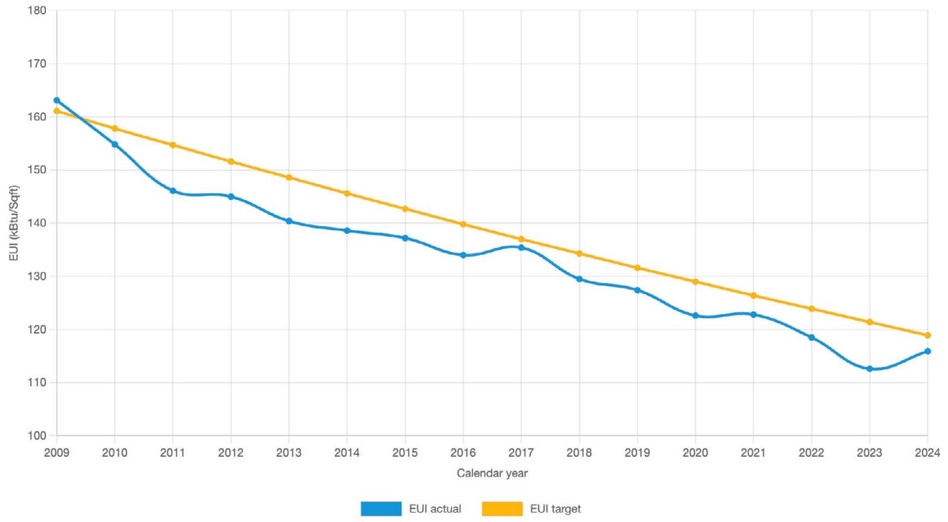
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

UC Irvine saw an increase of over 20% in scope 1 emissions in 2024. This was due in part to 2023 emissions being unusually low as the campus cogeneration plant was down for over two months. This year, UC Irvine returned to normal operations and experienced a significant refrigerant leak, contributing to the elevated emissions levels.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Irvine's EUI metric for calendar year 2024 was 3% greater than 2023 due to increased cogeneration activity relative to increased square footage. The campus's EUI is still 3% below the 2024 EUI target of 119 kBtu per square foot, exceeding the 2% annual reduction goal since 2011.

FOOD

31%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($2.7M)

26%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($2.3M)

UC Irvine spends just over 31% (around $2.7 million) of its total food and beverage budget on sustainable options. The campus continued to work with its dining partner, Aramark, to offer climate-friendly meal options that are defined as Cool Food Meals, which are certified by the World Resources Institute to have a lower impact on the environment.

GREEN BUILDING

UC Irvine recently earned a Gold rating from Parksmart for its incorporation of sustainability features at the new Health Sciences Parking Structure. It also achieved a Platinum LEED rating for a new medical facility, the Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care. The campus is also in the final stages of opening a new all-electric student dorm in Mesa Court.

23 Platinum, 13 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

27%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($89K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UC Irvine spent just over $89,000 in fiscal year 2023–24 on healthy beverages in vending machines on campus. This is around 27% of total vending spend. The campus is just beginning to work with Aramark, Pepsi and First Class Vending to report on healthy food spend and improve product offerings in the future.

PROCUREMENT

$4.4M
green spend on electronics (81%)

$64K
green spend on cleaning supplies (41%)

$3.3M
green spend on indoor office furniture (92%)

$112K
green spend on office supplies (21%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (12), Furniture (7), Cleaning supplies (4), Office supplies (4).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

7
total assessed green laboratories

This program was placed on hiatus for the past two years, thus no new labs were certified. The program is slated to resume in academic year 2025–26 with a streamlined certification and recertification process in addition to the continued disbursal of the Fisher Scientific grants. UC Irvine hopes to engage more labs in meaningful sustainability practices with the refresh of the program.

TRANSPORTATION

84%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

71%
of all vehicles acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

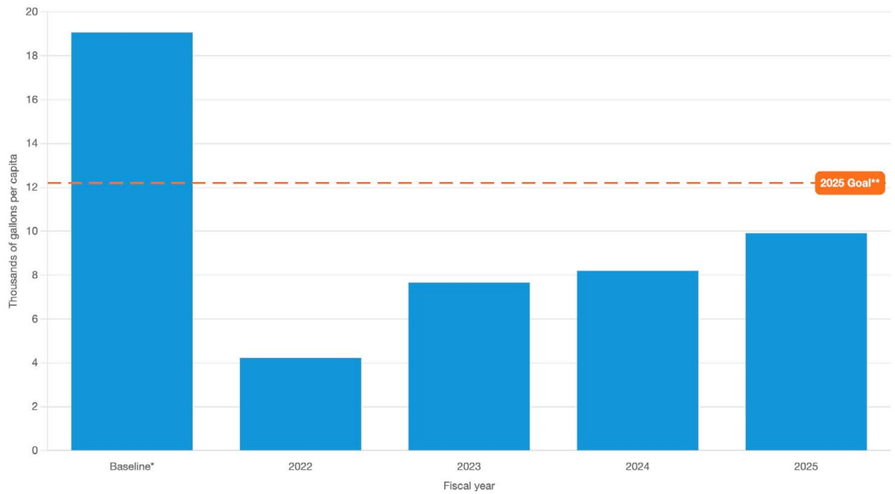
49%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

262
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

In 2024–25, UC Irvine reached an 84% sustainable commute rate, with walking (24%), micromobility (9%), transit (5%) and telecommuting (14%) as major contributors. The campus also met the UC Sustainable Practices Policy 2025 goal of reducing the drive-alone rate by 10% from the 2015 baseline of 30%, now down to 16%. In addition, 25% of the commuter fleet uses clean fuel, including 14% zero-emission vehicles, reflecting strong progress toward long-term sustainability goals.

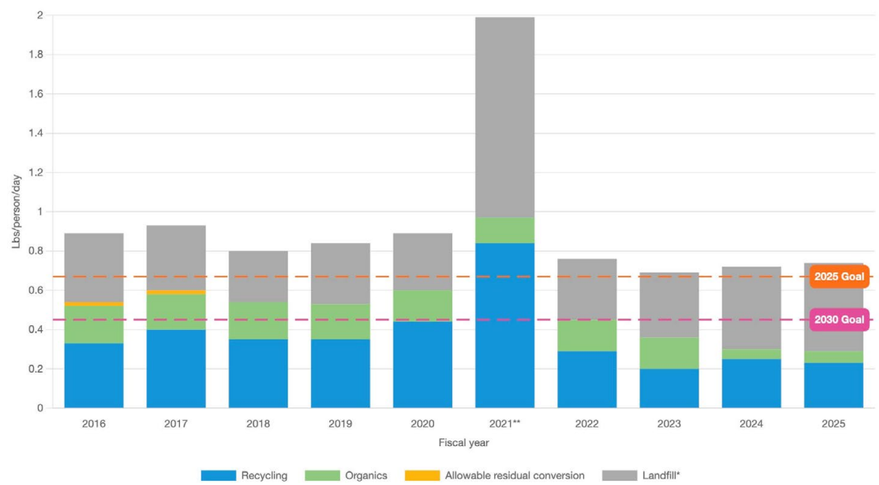
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Over the past year, the campus utilized 9,913 gallons of water per person. This is a 48% reduction from the baseline year of 2019 and well under the campus's 2025 goal of 12,197 gallons per person. Additionally, 37% of all water used on campus is reclaimed water.

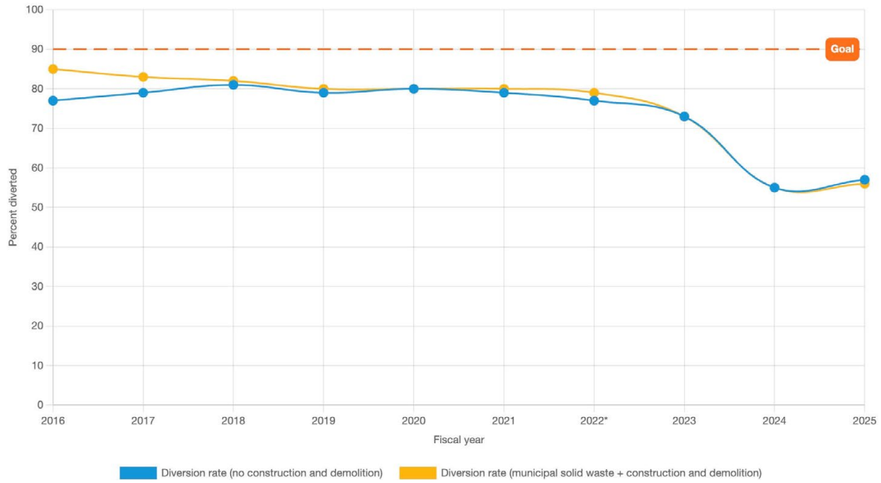
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

UC Irvine generated about 0.74 pounds of waste per person per day. This is a 17% reduction from the 2019 baseline year but does not yet meet the 2025 goal of 0.67 pounds per person per day. The campus is beginning to collaborate with campus partners to develop more programming around waste reduction in order to decrease waste generation rates.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

UC Irvine had a 57% diversion rate for the reporting period. The campus is collaborating with its waste hauler to pull more accurate data about compost diversion and to increase education and awareness in kitchens and across campus. UC Irvine Housing in particular has developed programs to recycle mattresses, reuse carpet textiles and donate to partners.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Plastic bags	• Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UC Irvine has completely phased out plastic bags across campus. It has also removed plastic beverage bottles and disposable foodware from its dining halls. It continues to work with third-party retailers to phase out single-use plastics at their locations.

AWARDS

UC Irvine was proud to maintain its status as a Platinum-rated Bicycle Friendly University for the 15th year in a row. In addition, it retained its status as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Foundation. UC Irvine was also awarded a Gold rating in STARS 2.2, valid until 2028.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Irvine Health

In fiscal year 2025, Practice Greenhealth named UCI Health (UCIH) one of the top 25 hospitals in the country for sustainability.

UCI Health

Construction on the nation's first all-electric medical center continued, completing the fully electric Joe C. Wen and Family Center for Advanced Care (CAC). The CAC and the new hospital are designed as LEED Platinum buildings, with the CAC having already received LEED Platinum certification.

UCIH has reduced its carbon emissions over 45% since 2019 and continues its decarbonization efforts to meet the White House Climate Pledge to reduce emissions 50% by 2030. In 2022, UCIH decommissioned a fossil fuel cogeneration plant, reducing natural gas consumption by more than 30%, and has significantly reduced its scope 2 emissions after transitioning to the UC Clean Power Program. Continued implementation of energy management strategies and efficiency projects resulted in a calendar year energy use intensity of 176. UCIH has achieved, on average, a 2.3% annual reduction in EUI from its 2013 baseline of 228.

UCIH added bicycle rack infrastructure to the main hospital campus and off-site clinics and added three new all-electric patient shuttles and 49 dual-port charging stations as part of its strategy to move to a clean energy fleet.

UCIH also focused on procuring healthy interiors that are free of chemicals of concern. The health system has been working with its suppliers to create and certify sustainable products and to raise the bar for quality and safety in health care furnishings. This year, UCIH spent $4.75 million on healthy interiors, representing 82% of its total spend on furnishings.

STORIES

UCI Health Earns Sustainable Healthcare Certification From Joint Commission

UCI Medical Center has earned Joint Commission's Sustainable Healthcare Certification. It is the first University of California hospital and fourth health care organization in the state to be certified. Recognition from Joint Commission demonstrates the achievement of UCI Health in establishing structure, rigor and accountability to accelerate its sustainability efforts. To earn this certification, UCI Health presented on three sources of greenhouse gas emissions: energy use, purchased electricity and anesthetic gas use.

Read full article:

https://www.ucihealth.org/about-us/news/2025/04/joint-commission-sustainability-certification

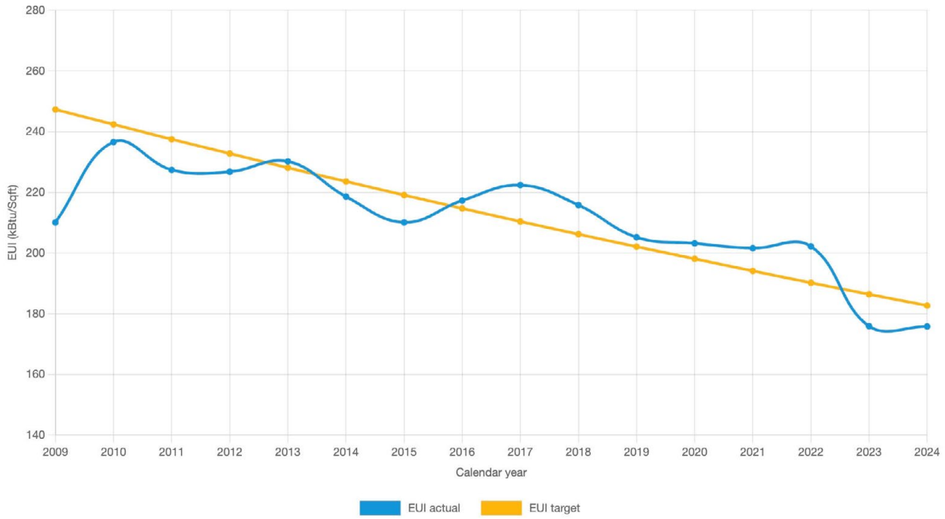
UCI Health Makes History With Nation's First All-electric Acute Care Hospital

UCI Health – Irvine is one of the first academic medical centers in the world to feature a noncombustion central plant with facilities that are 100% electric. This building is different from a traditional medical center in that it doesn't use any carbon fuels for its normal operations. All electricity used will be either generated on-site or procured through sustainable sources. Reducing energy consumption and emissions is part of UCI Health's commitment to community and environment.

Read full article:

https://www.ucihealth.org/about-us/news/2025/06/all-electric-hospital

ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Irvine Health saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

11%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($685K)

25%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($1.6M)

UCI Health continues to advance its sustainability goals through strategic improvements in Culinary and Nutrition Services. In 2024–25, plant-based food spend rose to just under 25%, up from 22% last year and slightly shy of the 25% target. Menu and product standardization efforts have supported this growth, alongside enhanced marketing for featured plant-based items. The team is also exploring new menu development technology to identify low-carbon options that can further reduce food-related emissions and strengthen UCI Health's sustainability journey.

HEALTHY VENDING

24%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($11K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UCI Health spent approximately $10,600 on healthy vending food, 24% of its total vending food spend. The spend includes data from Canteen and reflects the offerings in three snack vending machines located on the UCI Health — Orange Campus.

PROCUREMENT

$1.9M
green spend on appliances and IT hardware (97%)

$19K
green spend on office supplies (3%)

$1.8M
cost savings through medical device reprocessing (representing 31,779 pounds of waste avoided))

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (8), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

Compared to the previous year, UCI Health increased its cost savings through medical device reprocessing from just under $1.7 million to over $1.8 million and diverted over 16 tons of waste, demonstrating a commitment to both financial performance and environmental stewardship.

TRANSPORTATION

22%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

43%
of all vehicles and **0%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

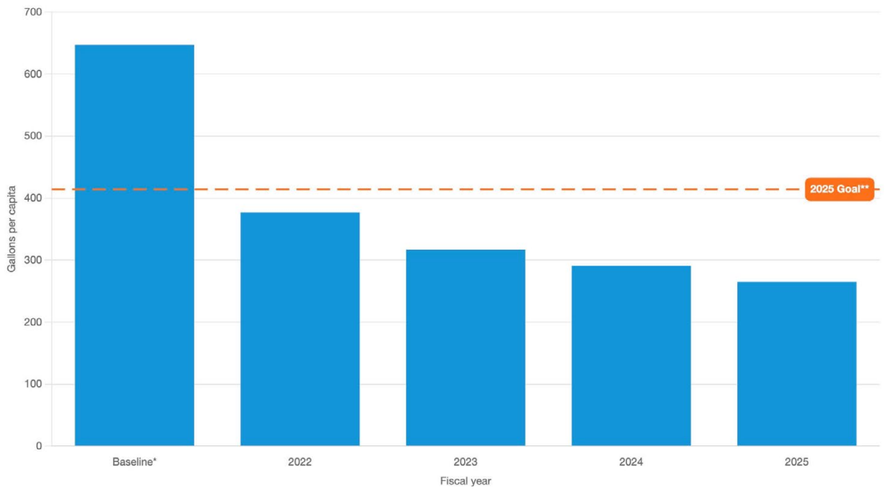
32%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

136
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

UCI Health expanded charging infrastructure, adding 49 Level 2 electric vehicle charging ports, increasing the total to 136. Clean transportation fuel vehicles made up 43% of the fleet vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2025, including three battery electric patient shuttles.

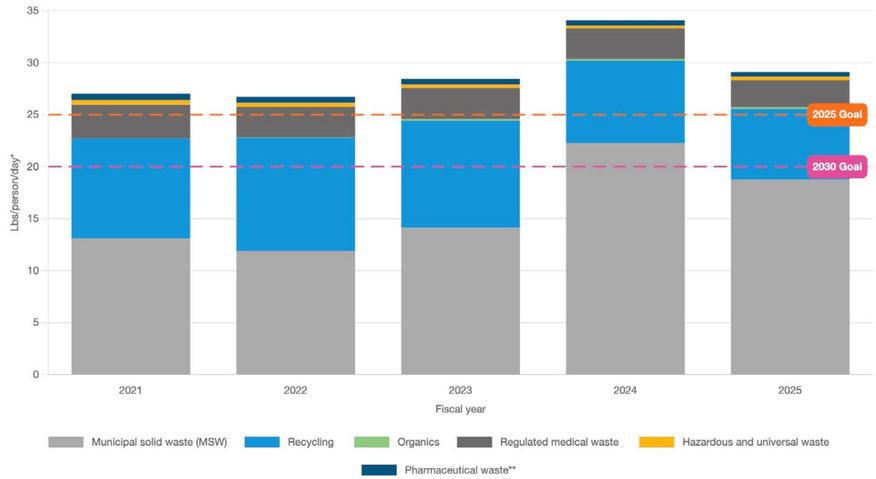
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Compared to last fiscal year, UCI Health's adjusted patient days increased by 10% but water usage only increased 1%. UCI Health exceeded the 2025 goal of reducing growth-adjusted water consumption by at least 36%, reducing water usage 59% from the policy-established baseline.

ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

UCI Health saw a decrease in total waste generated from 34 pounds last year to this year's 29 pounds per adjusted patient day (APD). It continues to find new strategies for achieving the 2025 zero waste goal of 25 pounds per APD. UCI Health is launching new diversion projects, including a blue wrap recycling program, and updating its clinician preference management cards to reduce waste and improve efficiency in the operating room. In May, UCI Health rolled out new waste bins to promote proper waste segregation, and is building an educational campaign to support these efforts.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Plastic bags
- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- N/A

STARTING SOON

- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCI Health continued making progress toward eliminating single-use plastics. It removed single-use plastic bottles from all retail spaces. Previously, more than 20,000 plastic bottles of water, juices, sodas and protein shakes were sold every month. Those beverages are now sold in recyclable aluminum cans and glass bottles.

AWARDS

2025 Practice Greenhealth ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

UCI Health was named one of the Top 25 hospitals in the country for Environmental Excellence by Practice Greenhealth. It also received the Circle of Excellence Award in both Transportation and Energy and the one-time Making Medicine Mercury Free Award from Practice Greenhealth. UCI Health's flagship hospital was the first UC and fourth health care organization in the state to receive the Sustainable Healthcare Certification from The Joint Commission.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

COMBINED DATA

Progress on the following policy areas for this Health System is reported by the campus location:

- Emissions
- Renewable Energy
- Green Building

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UCLA

In 2025 the fires in LA County posed immense challenges for the UCLA community.

Acts of kindness kept the community connected, and UCLA researchers provided soil testing for impacted residents, conducted air quality monitoring and contributed their expertise for resilient recovery as part of an independent Blue Ribbon Commission. UCLA continues to deepen engagement with Los Angeles, including developing a Latino Climate and Health Dashboard, launching a new partnership with the Port of LA and teaming up with USC and civic partners to cool the region through ShadeLA.

Students and staff work together at UCLA to recover and distribute food and supplies through the basic needs program and surplus programs like Sustainable Move Out. The top-rated campus for dining in the nation, UCLA fosters collaboration among researchers and chefs to understand how food choices can impact the Earth and develop new healthy and sustainable menus. Students and staff also collaborate on applied campus research through the Sustainability Action Research program, with projects this year ranging from developing sustainable audiovisual solutions to tracking native wildlife on campus. UCLA continues to lead in biodiversity and joined the California delegation to COP16. The Westwood campus became the first campus in California to receive a Gold level Green Grounds Certification for an ecological approach to landscape.

During Earth Month 2025, UCLA reflected on over 50 years of leadership in sustainability, from one of the first environmental studies programs in the nation to a massive multidisciplinary effort that stretches across schools, departments and units.

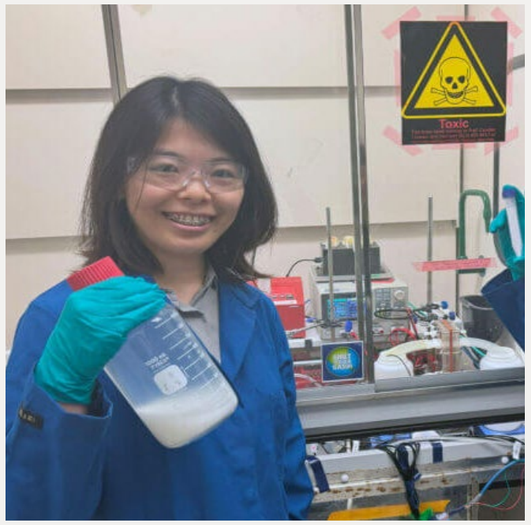
STORIES

UCLA Receives Nearly $20 Million for Electric Transit Projects

The award includes funds for the expansion of UCLA's BruinBus fleet and its expansion to 100% electric. The grant will also fund California's first electric road charging system. Inductive charging coils will be installed at UCLA, allowing electric passenger shuttles and heavy-duty buses to charge while in motion.

Read full article:

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-receives-nearly-20-million-for-electric-transit-projects



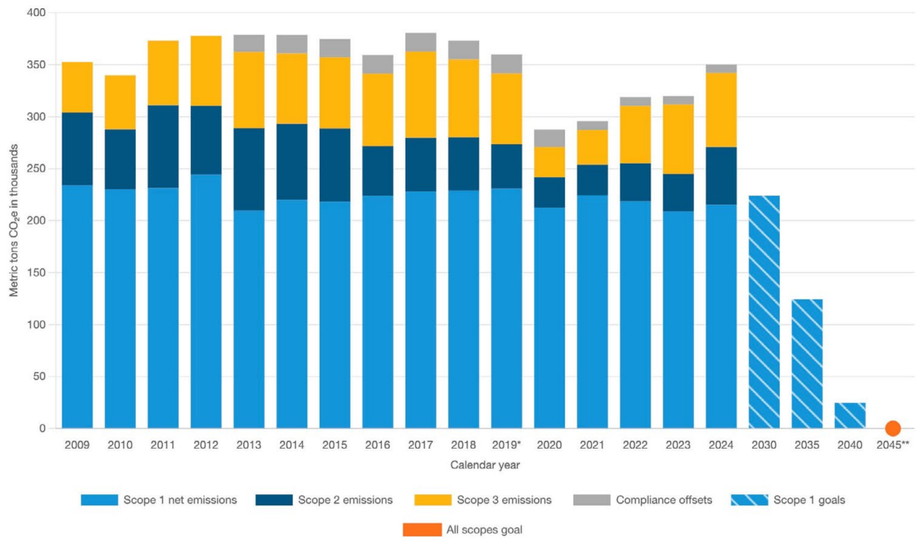
UCLA Engineers Develop Scalable Process to Decarbonize Cement Production

Researchers from UCLA's Institute for Carbon Management have developed a new method, called ZeroCAL for zero carbon lime, that could eliminate nearly all of the carbon dioxide emitted during the process of cement production, which accounts for about 8% of global atmospheric CO_2 emissions.

Read full article:

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-engineers-process-to-decarbonize-cement-production

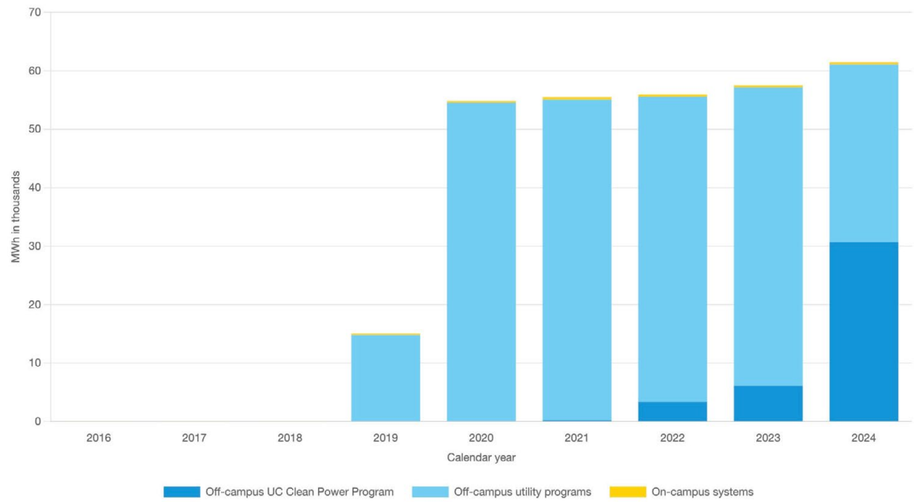
EMISSIONS



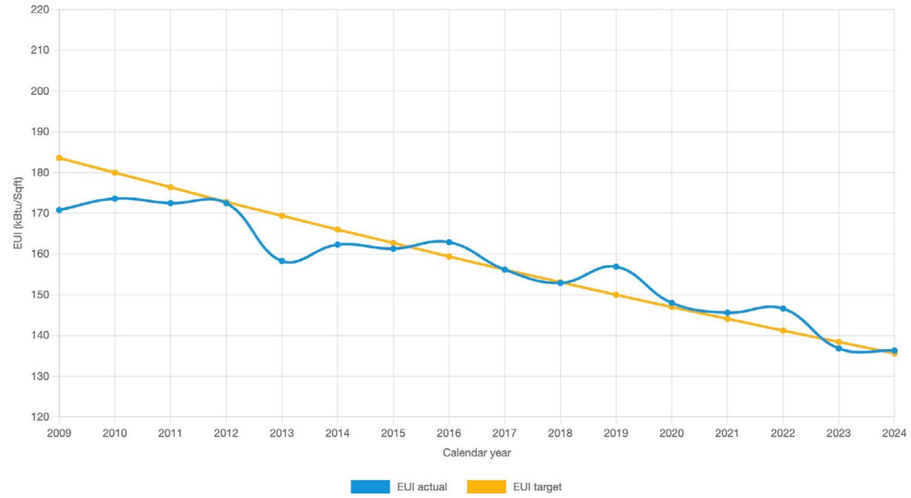
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

UCLA's overall emissions increased in 2024 due to a major project at the cogeneration plant that required the shutdown of one of the engines for replacement. While the plant was offline, UCLA had to purchase higher-emissions electricity and rely on a less efficient auxiliary boiler. When fully operational, the new engines will reduce emissions and water use.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UCLA saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

14%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($4.4M)

46%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($14.1M)

UCLA Dining's sustainable spend percentage declined due to fiscal challenges, supply constraints and changes in the definition of sustainable food in the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS program 3.0. At the same time, Dining is reducing animal protein purchases to prioritize whole-food, plant-based protein options.

GREEN BUILDING

UCLA's portfolio expanded to 68 LEED certifications by adding four in fiscal year 2024–25: the Platinum-certified renovation of Paul Revere Williams' LaKretz Botany Building and Gold-certified renovations of three medical facilities — Rosenfeld Hall, the Medical Plaza 100 MRI Suite and the Center for Advanced Biotherapies. UCLA was ranked fourth internationally in Green Building and Operations for 2024 by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS program.

18 Platinum, 38 Gold and 12 Silver

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

24%
healthy vending spend on food ($141K)

64%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($424K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

During fiscal year 2023–24, UCLA's Vending Services department fully transitioned all beverages from plastic bottles to aluminum cans. Additionally, the department started to increase the displayed selection of healthier items inside the vending machines, which in 2023–24 represented 64% of beverages and 24% of snacks.

PROCUREMENT

$6.7M
green spend on electronics (67%)

$749K
green spend on cleaning supplies (54%)

$6M
green spend on indoor office furniture (87%)

$540K
green spend on office supplies (16%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (12), Furniture (6), Cleaning supplies (5), Office supplies (5).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

4
total assessed green laboratories

After several years of dormancy, UCLA relaunched the Green Labs program in spring 2025 with a pilot of an Ultra-Low Temperature Freezer Sustainability Certification badge. Additional topical badges are being rolled out in fall 2025.

TRANSPORTATION

77%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

60%
of all vehicles and **100%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

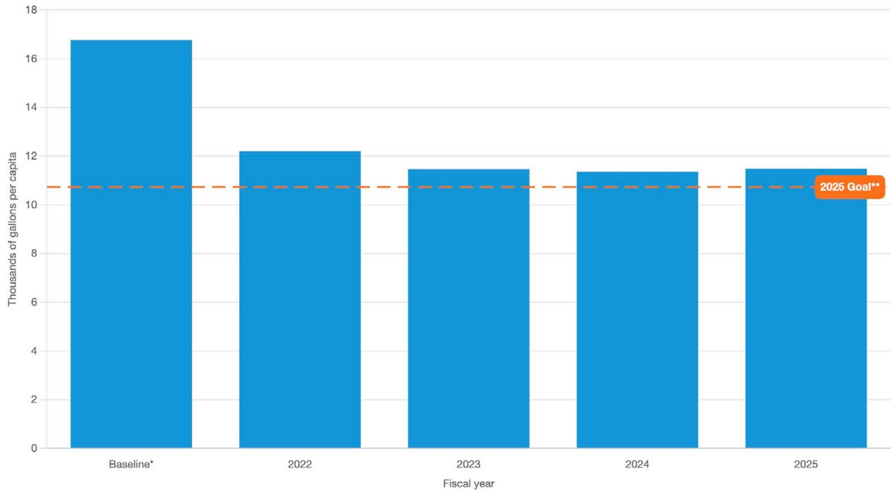
44%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

518
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

While the UCLA population has increased by almost 10,000 students, faculty and staff, automobile commutes declined in 2024, according to UCLA Transportation's State of the Commute 2024 report. UCLA employees have one of the highest zero-emission-vehicle commute rates of any U.S. college or university. Close to 19,000 transit U-Passes were distributed to undergraduates, with 35% of student residents reporting using transit much more often than before.

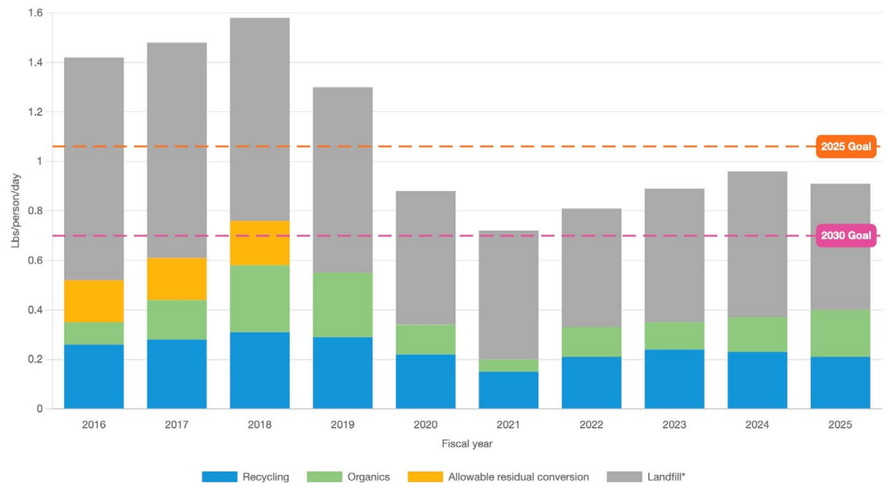
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*
Includes UCLA Health

While UCLA's water use reduction is significant at over 30% from the baseline, growth has still outpaced conservation, resulting in a reduction that falls short of the 36% target. The per capita normalization does not fully capture growth as much of the water use at UCLA is for building operations rather than population driven. However, the cogeneration engine replacement project that is underway will result in significant water savings next year.

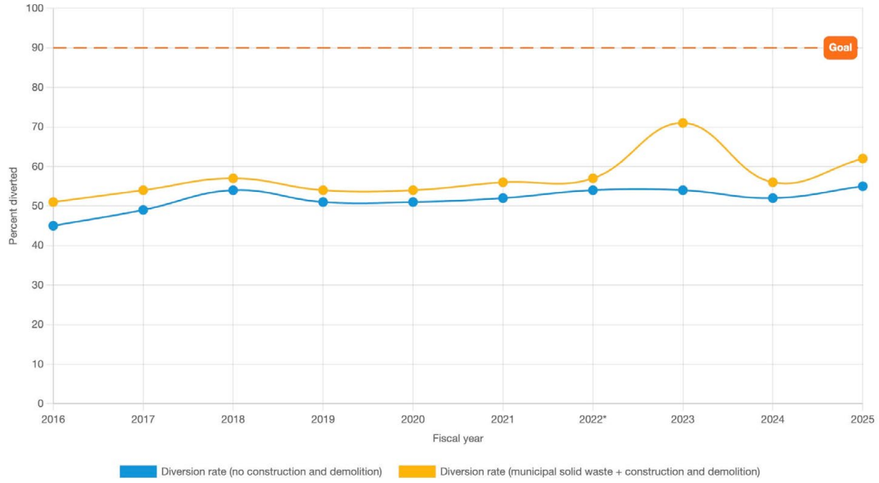
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*

Overall waste created by daily community members at UCLA dropped by 422 tons from the 2023–24 fiscal year to 2024–25. This feeds into the campus's goal of reducing the amount of waste produced by each person on site per day. UCLA's daily waste creation for the 2024–25 year was at 0.91 pounds per person per day, surpassing its goal of 1.07 pounds per person per day by 2025.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

The waste diversion for UCLA, without construction and demolition, rose from 52% in the 2023–24 fiscal year to 55% in 2024–25. This number is the highest diversion rate for UCLA since the 2015–16 baseline year. This is likely attributed to organics streams becoming available at some University Apartment locations, the increase in areas with food service providing sorting and space for large organic waste such as pizza boxes, as well as the right sizing of bins to ensure adequate space for divertable material.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Plastic bags
- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

The UCLA campus has food service operations managed by UCLA Dining, Associated Students of UCLA (ASUCLA) and third-party food operators. Leased/third-party food facilities have eliminated some single-use plastic items, and UCLA Dining and ASUCLA have made significant progress in phasing out single-use plastics. This year, ASUCLA Restaurants innovated a reusable foodware option at their Greenhouse buffet location, where guests choose between a compostable fiber bowl and a reusable bowl that is borrowed free of charge if returned to a designated QR code-enabled bin for washing within five days.

AWARDS

UCLA became the first campus in California to achieve a Gold level Green Grounds certification. The campus was also honored with a 2025 Sustainability Award for Energy Efficiency from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. UCLA was ranked 4th internationally in Green Building and Operations for 2024 by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS program.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UCLA Health

In January 2025 UCLA Health, as part of the UCLA and broader Los Angeles communities, experienced the devastating impacts of the Los Angeles wildfires.

Hundreds of employees were directly impacted, along with thousands of patients. Two ambulatory clinics were destroyed. During the events, and as part of its resilience planning efforts, UCLA Health performed real-time climate impact and vulnerability analyses with key stakeholders. UCLA Health teams collaborated to immediately donate and deploy over 150,000 masks and other supplies to community partners. The health system will continue to utilize the learnings and experience of the fires to prepare, plan and build capacity for climate resilience operations and clinical delivery.

UCLA Health's Sustainability team focused efforts on expanding engagement and communications across the health system and community network of over 30,000 employees. Clinical and Operations teams launched the UCLA Health Green Team, a collaborative interest-based group created to share best practices and ongoing initiatives, organize volunteering and community activities, and generate ideas for advancing sustainability at UCLA Health.

Synergies between Sustainable Procurement and Waste Reduction drove progress in both areas, as UCLA Health continued to expand collection and buyback through medical device reprocessing programs, achieving 41,393 pounds in waste reduction, $3,995,629 in savings, and 310 metric tons of CO2e avoided. Santa Monica UCLA Outpatient Surgery Center, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, implemented a conversion to reusable blood pressure cuffs, which will avoid over 900 pounds of waste annually and save $18,000.

STORIES

Paving the Way: UCLA Health Launches Systemwide Sustainability Certification in Clinics

UCLA Health launched a Green Clinic and Sustainability Assessment for its Ambulatory Clinic Network and completed over 50 assessments, tracking criteria over six topics and 100 elements. The new program certifies clinics based on sustainability metrics and is establishing reporting and recognition pathways for these areas. Drawing from policy goals and Practice Greenhealth standards, the assessment program allows for reporting, tracking and recognizing progress within UCLA Health's vast and diverse community clinic network.

LED Retrofits: Cutting Energy Use, Emissions and Costs Across UCLA Health

UCLA Health is in the process of an energy efficiency project replacing outdated fluorescent bulbs and fixtures with more efficient LED bulbs. During the 2025 fiscal year, UCLA Health replaced approximately 10,000 bulbs. This has resulted in annual reductions of electrical consumption for Ronald Reagan and Santa Monica Medical Centers of approximately 850,000 kilowatt-hours and annual emissions reductions of 210 metric tons of CO2e. Annual utility savings from these projects are $120,000.

FOOD

28%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($3.8M)

31%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($4.1M)

UCLA Health Food Services continues to lead in sustainable dining, expanding plant-based and sustainable offerings despite rising patient volumes. The sustainable food spend rose to 28%, up from 27% last year and nearing the 30% goal. Plant-based food spend reached nearly 31%, exceeding the 25% target. Highlights include sustainably sourced salmon meeting Marine Stewardship Council guidelines, meats from Cream Co. — a distributor committed to sustainable and regenerative ranching — and the inclusion of more organic produce and fruits.

HEALTHY VENDING

17%
healthy vending spend on food ($2K)

30%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($4K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Vending machines for Ronald Reagan Medical Center and Westwood campus buildings are jointly managed and reported by UCLA campus. At Santa Monica Medical Center, vending was managed by First Class Vending, acquired by Aramark in March 2025, resulting in no product-level data for fiscal year 2023–24. At West Valley Medical Center, acquired in April 2024 and managed by Sodexo, healthy food spend from April–June 2024 was 17%, and healthy beverage spend was 30%. Full data reporting capability for both sites is expected next year.

PROCUREMENT

$9.9M
green spend on appliances and IT hardware (100%)

$59K
green spend on office supplies (10%)

$4M
cost savings through medical device reprocessing (representing 41,396 pounds of waste avoided)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (6), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

The medical device reprocessing program was expanded systemwide, including at West Valley Medical Center. This effort yielded significant cost savings via the buyback of reprocessed devices, up 611% since last year, from $561,672 to over $3.99 million. This growth is largely attributed to the buyback of air transfer mattresses along with ongoing efforts to expand the categories of reprocessed devices purchased. Green spend on electronics and office supplies also remained steady year over year as a percentage of total spending, highlighting the environmental commitment of the procurement department.

TRANSPORTATION

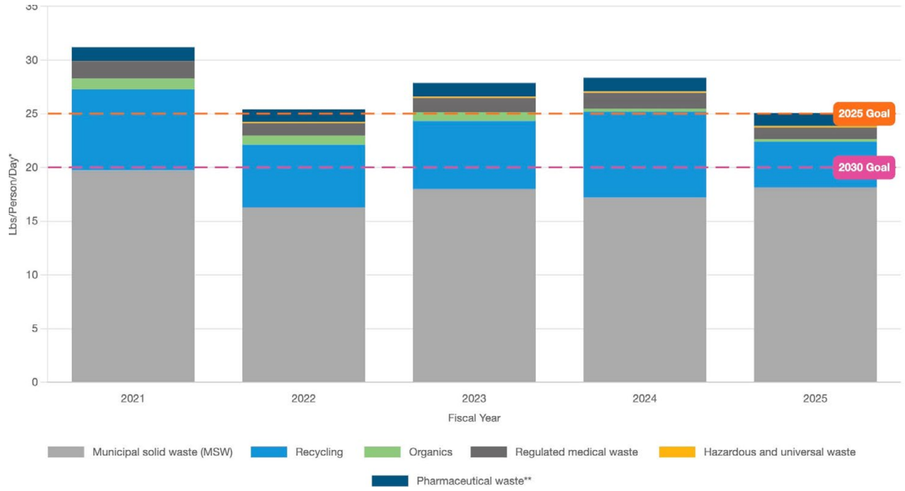
25%
of employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

26
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Santa Monica Medical Center increased parking capacity, from 1,825 to 1,943 spaces, while also expanding bicycle parking. The newly acquired UCLA West Valley Medical Center adds 2,000 more, supporting growing demand from patients, staff and visitors. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure expanded from 20 to 26 chargers, including two at West Valley and eight fleet-designated chargers at the Operations Center. Employee commute data shows 75% of commuters drive alone, 7% carpool, 4% use public transit, 3% walk and 1% bike.

ZRO WASTE – GENERATION



**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

UCLA Health achieved 25 pounds of waste per adjusted patient day this year, meeting the policy target. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center began onsite autoclave treatment of regulated medical waste, thereby reducing operational hauling costs and emissions generated, driving an increase in total municipal solid waste while reducing regulated medical waste volumes. UCLA Health diverted over 1.24 million pounds of material otherwise bound for landfill through donation and repurposing efforts and expanded reprocessable device collections by 22% over the previous year, an increase of 7,435 pounds.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Plastic bags
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCLA Health remains committed to environmental and human health by reducing single-use plastics across the system. Plastic bags and single-use plastic beverage bottles have been fully eliminated from dining facilities and vending machines. Plastic foodware has been partially phased out in dining facilities, with continued efforts underway. Conversations are also being initiated with third-party dining vendors to encourage a transition to sustainable alternatives. While corporate policies present challenges, many contracts are campus-specific, offering opportunities to further align with sustainability goals.

AWARDS

2025 Practice Greenhealth GREENHEALTH EMERALD AWARD

UCLA Health received recognition by Practice Greenhealth in 2025, with both Ronald Reagan Medical Center and Santa Monica Medical Center recognized in the top 20 percent of applicants with Greenhealth Emerald Awards. Both hospitals also received Circle of Excellence recognition in Climate, Transportation and Chemicals. UCLA Health was also recognized with a Social Impact Award by SustainableIT.org for its partnership and impact with Human-I-T, through which UCLA Health has donated thousands of pounds of IT equipment that is repaired and refurbished and then provided to communities in need.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

COMBINED DATA

Progress on the following policy areas for this Health System are reported by the campus location:

- Emissions
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Use Intensity
- Water
- Green Building

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Merced

University of California Merced works at the forefront of innovation as it continues to deliver on its mission to provide experiential opportunities in the sustainability discipline to help enhance the social mobility of its students.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED

Through hands-on, real-world opportunities combined with academic preparation, UC Merced students receive professional tools to enhance their post-graduation opportunities. For example, financial support to help initiate UC Merced's living lab pilot was provided by the University's Global Climate Leadership Council. Additionally, students gain invaluable experience through internships, fellowships and research opportunities.

As UC Merced completes its 20th year since it opened in 2005, the university's building portfolio has been at the forefront of green building innovation from its early beginnings. The campus has 19 LEED Platinum buildings, 11 LEED Gold buildings and 2 LEED Silver buildings that helped solidify UC Merced's position as a sustainability leader in higher education. The Medical Education and Promise Housing buildings are currently under construction with the expectation that each will be high-performing, high-efficiency green buildings in alignment with the University's decarbonization objectives. In the future, potential innovations include on-site renewable energy, stormwater management, and electrical and thermal energy storage.

UC Merced continues to prioritize its waste minimization efforts on campus. The University continues its work to establish an on-campus composting program for green waste. The program will serve as a demonstration site for student learning, faculty research and efficiency in the dining operation.

STORIES

From Strawberries to Smart Farm: Alum Adamaris Alvarez Grows Passion Into a Career Path

Growing up in Watsonville, a vibrant agricultural community on California's Central Coast, Adamaris Alvarez always knew she wanted to work in agriculture. She worked on her family's berry ranch, Alvarez Farms, where she grew a deep appreciation for the hard work agriculture demands. But it wasn't until she saw an Instagram post about an internship at UC Merced's Experimental Smart Farm that she realized she could help shape the future of farming.

Read full article:

https://www.ucmerced.edu/news/2025/strawberries-smart-farm-alum-adamaris-alvarez-grows-passion-career-path

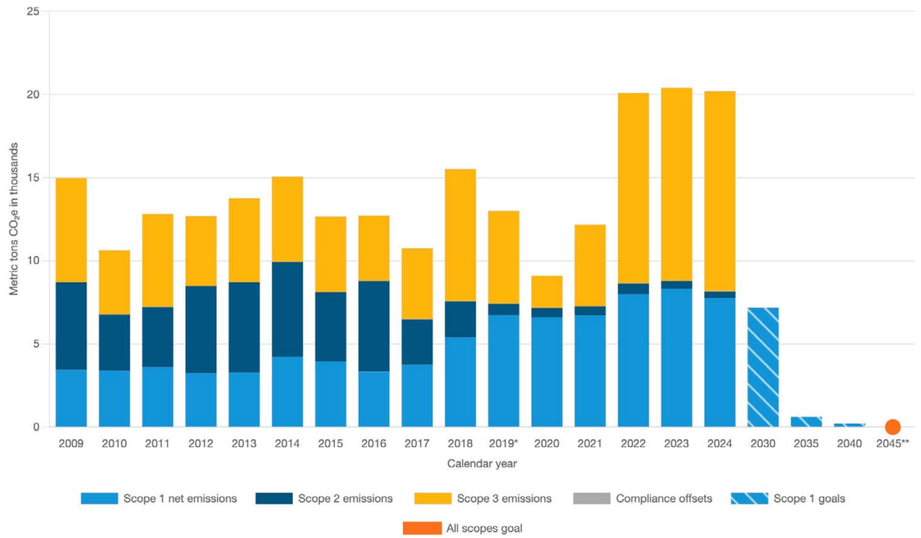
UC Merced Brings Climate Justice Course to Title I High School Students Across the Nation

Climate Justice, a UC Merced course, is offered through a unique partnership between the University of California and the National Education Opportunity Network. Climate Justice seeks to educate a new generation of high school students through transformative lectures centering on intersectional equity issues and using a holistic systems perspective. The course was designed by Professor Tracey Osborne, founding director of the UC Center for Climate Justice and Presidential Chair in the Management of Complex Systems Department at UC Merced.

Read full article:

https://news.ucmerced.edu/news/2025/uc-merced-brings-climate-justice-course-title-i-high-school-students-across-nation

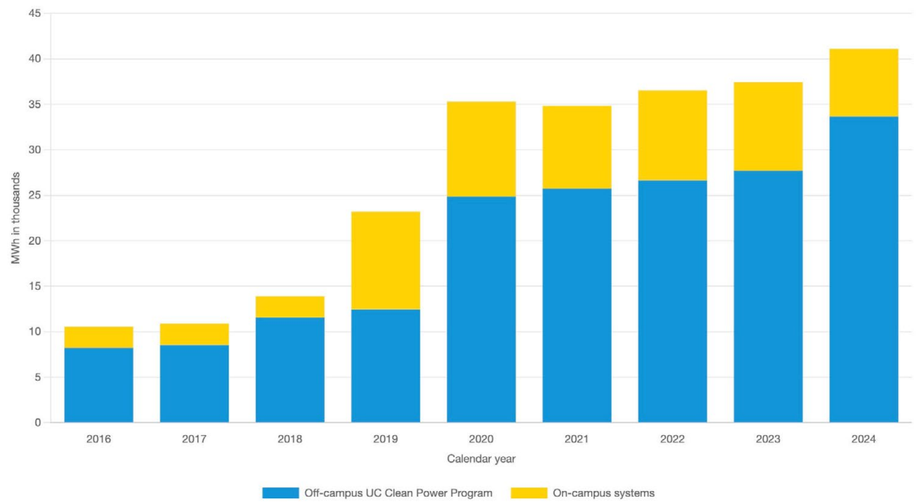
EMISSIONS



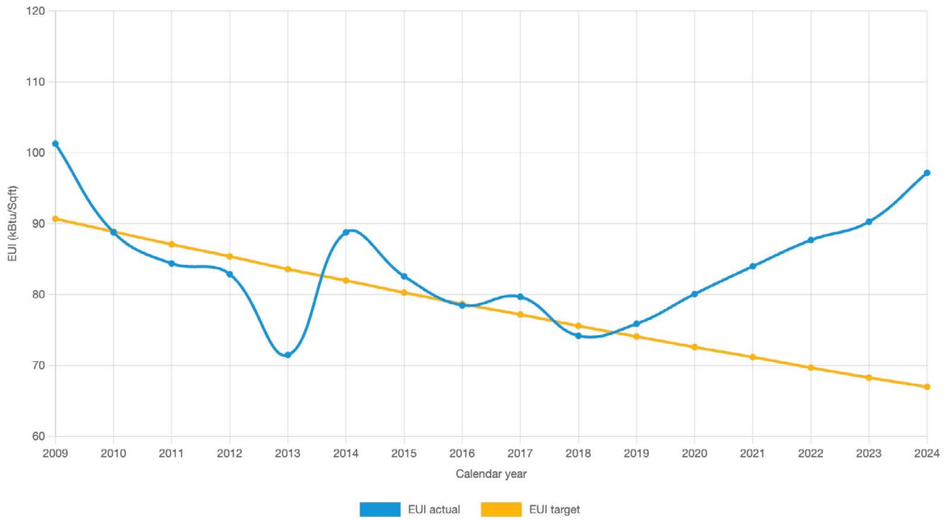
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

The recently completed decarbonization study has identified a pathway for UC Merced to achieve a 90% reduction in scope 1 emissions by 2045.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



Between 2018 and 2020, UC Merced's ambitious 2020 Project added approximately 1.2 million gross square feet of buildings. Almost a third of this new space consists of very energy intensive laboratories — at a much higher ratio than the rest of the Merced campus. Although substantially complete in 2020, steady increases in energy use through 2024 occurred as the laboratory spaces continued to be outfitted and the buildings progressively move towards full utilization.

FOOD

11%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($598K)

11%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($597K)

UC Merced's sustainable and plant-based food spend dropped significantly this year, reaching only about 11% each of total purchases. This means roughly one in every 10 dining dollars went toward sustainable or plant-based options — well below the 25% target. The decline was largely due to the Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center operating at only 60% capacity because of a hood system failure and the temporary pause of the campus food recovery program.

GREEN BUILDING

The number of electric and LEED buildings has not increased since last year. There are two buildings, Medical Education and Promise Housing, currently under construction at UC Merced. These buildings will be brought online in 2026 and 2027.

19 Platinum, 11 Gold and 2 Silver

- Total number of LEED certifications

PROCUREMENT

$731K
green spend on electronics (63%)

$287K
green spend on cleaning supplies (53%)

$120K
green spend on indoor office furniture (94%)

$16K
green spend on office supplies (9%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (8), Furniture (5), Cleaning supplies (4), Office supplies (3).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

0
total assessed green laboratories

The UC Merced Green Labs and Operations program was not active due to staff vacancies and leaves. The program will be reactivated in the 2025–26 academic year.

TRANSPORTATION

67%
of all vehicles acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

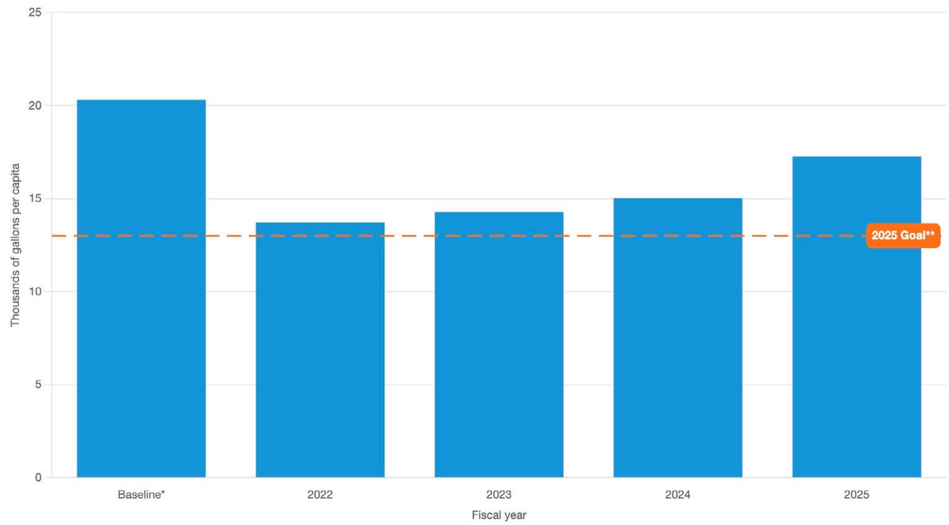
46%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

11
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Additional electric carts were added to the fleet. The gas-powered fleet is still significant, and the campus is working on increasing electric light-duty vehicles.

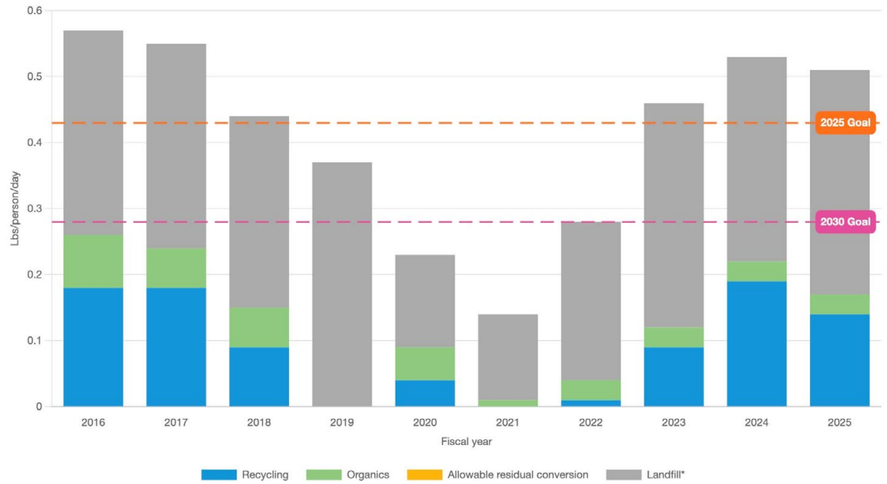
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Central Plant staff identified two major leaks in the heating hot water system, which were repaired late in the fiscal year. These leaks, combined with increased utilization of newer laboratory buildings, accounts for most of the water use increase in fiscal year 2024.

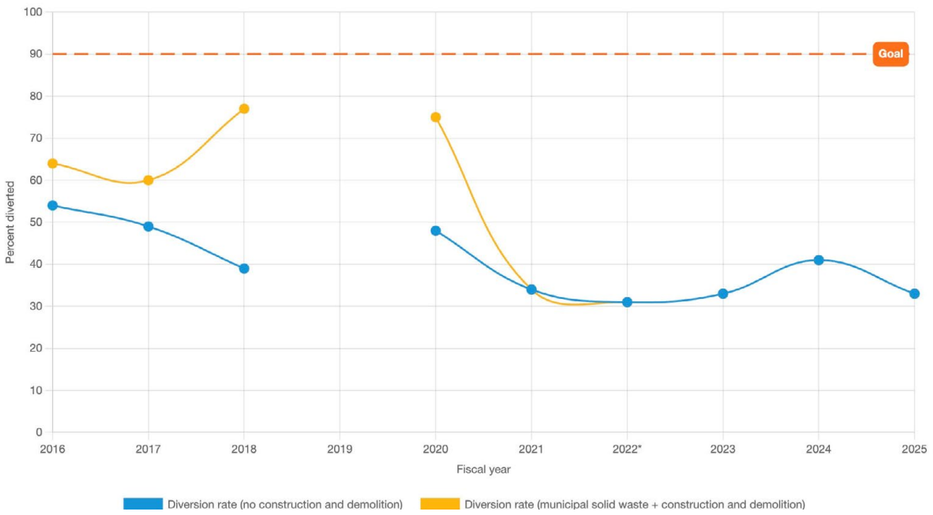
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*

The campus generated 864 tons of waste in 2024–25, averaging about half a pound per person per day. While this is above the campus's 2025 target of 0.43 pounds per person per day, it highlights the ongoing challenge of managing materials on a rapidly growing campus. Waste levels were influenced by increases in campus population and activities, combined with limited infrastructure for food recovery and composting.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*
No data is available for 2019.

UC Merced diverted 33% of its total waste this year, showing progress but still short of the UC systemwide 90% zero waste goal. Put simply, 1 in every 3 pounds of campus waste avoided the landfill through recycling or composting. The reduced diversion rate compared with prior years reflects limits in composting access and operational challenges, though recycling efforts helped stabilize the overall rate.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Plastic bags

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UC Merced continues to make strong progress in eliminating single-use plastics from campus operations. Plastic bags and beverage containers in dining facilities have been fully phased out, meaning students and staff no longer receive these items on campus. Foodware has been partially phased out, with many locations transitioning to compostable or reusable options. These changes reflect UC's single-use plastics policy and demonstrate the campus's commitment to reducing landfill waste and supporting a culture of reuse.

AWARDS

UC Merced's Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS Platinum ranking expired in May 2025, marking the end of its most recent certification cycle. While the expiration means UC Merced is no longer listed as Platinum, the campus remains committed to sustainability excellence. With greater staff capacity, UC Merced will begin preparing its next STARS submission in early 2026, ensuring that its achievements in waste diversion, sustainable food and related programs are fully documented and recognized.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Riverside

Fiscal year 2024–25 marked the first year of implementing the UCR 2030 Strategic Plan, which places sustainability and climate action at the core of campus growth and operations.

Guided by the plan's "Sustainability for Climate Action and Environmental Justice" pillar, UC Riverside advanced initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience and foster collaboration across the campus and broader region.

Another major milestone was the release of the Campus Decarbonization Study in November 2024, which outlines a pathway to reduce scope 1 emissions by 90% from the 2019 baseline. The study evaluates strategies such as electrification, thermal energy storage, biogas and hydrogen, while integrating climate justice and equity considerations, research opportunities and living-laboratory applications.

On May 15, 2025, UCR earned a Gold rating from the AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) program, recognizing campus-wide achievements across academics, engagement, operations, planning and innovation. This builds on prior recognitions in 2013, 2016 and 2021, with the current rating valid through 2028.

In parallel, UCR launched its inaugural Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, set for completion in 2025, serving as a roadmap for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience to reduce total emissions 90% by 2045. Regionally, the Inland SoCal OASIS Climate Action Conference convened researchers, policymakers and industry leaders to advance sustainability-driven innovation and regional climate resilience.

While total emissions rose slightly (3%) due to slightly higher temperatures, increase in the local utility's emission factors and construction under the 2021 Long Range Development Plan, UCR continues to implement strategies and collaborations to ensure that campus growth is environmentally responsible, resilient and equitable.

STORIES

UCR and U of Michigan Launch Hydrogen-Engine Alliance

In February 2025, UC Riverside and the University of Michigan launched the Hydrogen Engine Alliance of North America (H2EA-NA) to advance hydrogen as a viable fuel for internal combustion engines, complementing electric and zero-emission technologies. In May 2025, H2EA-NA hosted the inaugural North American Hydrogen Engine Conference, bringing together 150 participants from 90+ organizations to explore hydrogen-powered engines as a clean transportation solution. These efforts highlight UCR's leadership in hydrogen research and sustainable transportation innovation.

Read full article:

https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2025/02/27/ucr-and-u-michigan-launch-hydrogen-engine-alliance

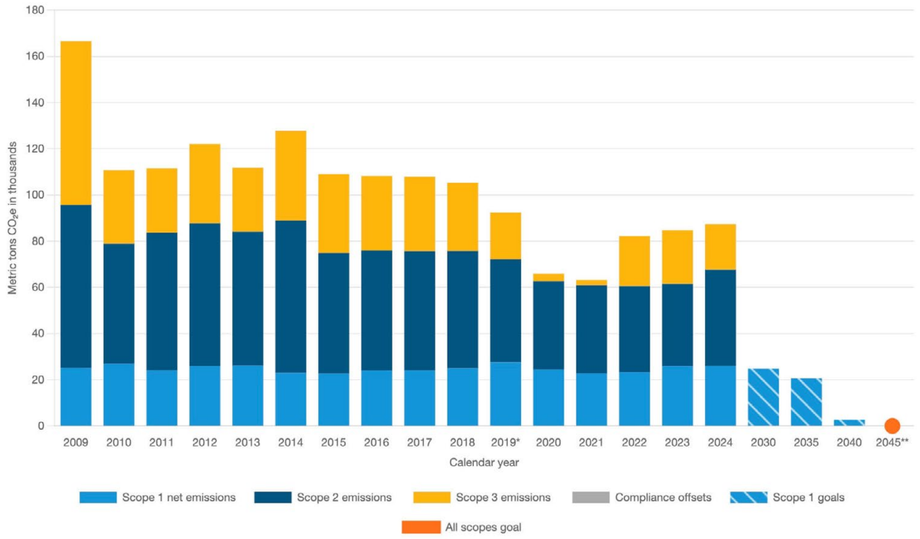
UCR Celebrates Groundbreaking for Innovation Park

On June 23, 2025, UC Riverside broke ground on SoCal OASIS Park, a 3.44-acre, $68 million research and innovation hub supporting economic growth in Inland Southern California. The 39,000-square-foot facility will feature laboratories, maker spaces, collaborative work areas and flexible offices for incubators and startups. UCR Extension and CE-CERT will occupy space, while the park fosters partnerships with industry and the community to advance clean and next-generation technologies.

Read full article:

https://insideucr.ucr.edu/stories/2025/06/27/ucr-celebrates-groundbreaking-innovation-park

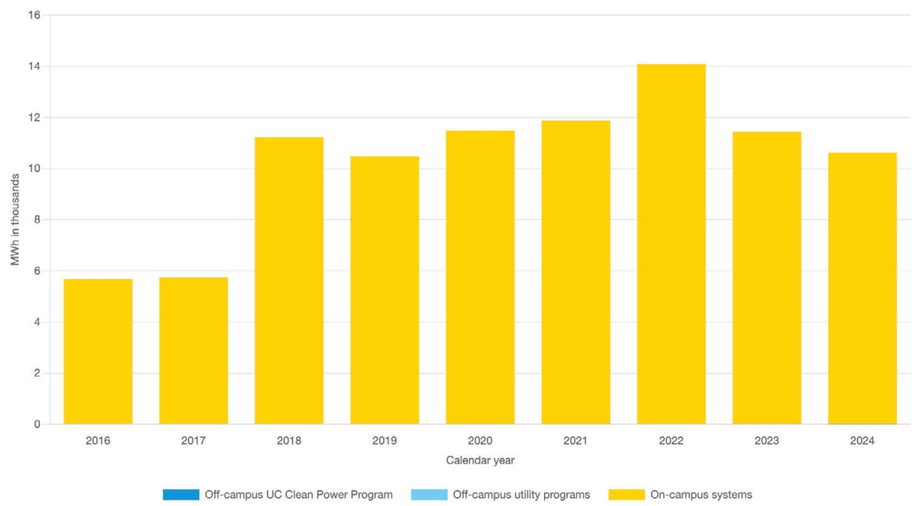
EMISSIONS



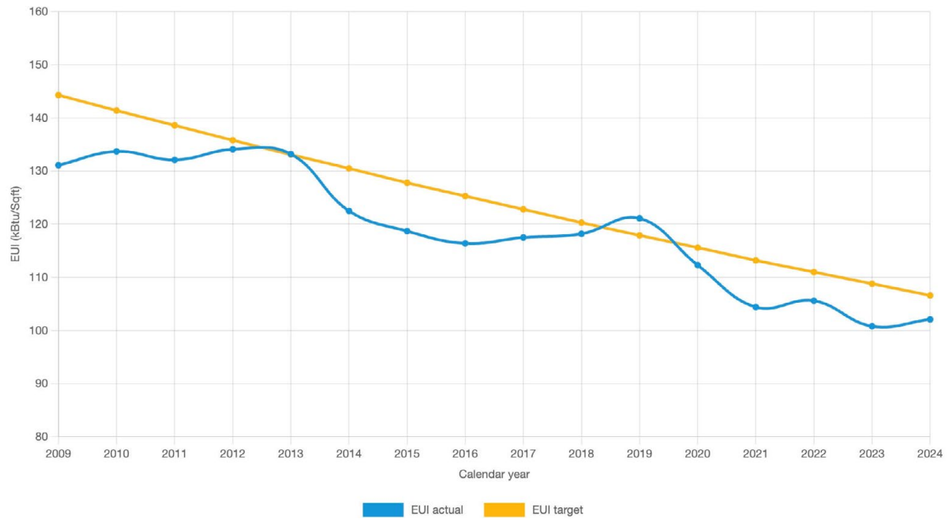
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

In 2024, UC Riverside's total greenhouse gas emissions increased by approximately 3% compared with 2023. Scope 1 emissions rose by 0.5%, scope 2 emissions increased by 17% and scope 3 emissions decreased by 15%. The increase in 2024 emissions was associated with higher electricity emission factors from the municipal utility combined with campus growth with the construction and completion of the School of Business Building, and the construction of the North District Phase 2 student housing and Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Facility.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Riverside's EUI increased slightly in 2024 due to new spaces coming online and becoming fully occupied, following a 12% increase in square footage in 2022–2023. New structures included the School of Medicine Education Building II and School of Business Building.

FOOD

7%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($653K)

28%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($2.6M)

Sustainable food spend increased from about 3% in 2023–24 to 7% in 2024–25. Plant-based food spend experienced a decline of approximately 6%; however, it remained above the 25% food spend goal. The increase in sustainable food purchases is largely attributed to the launch of new campus dining operations, including Noods, Scoops and the Biz Café. Additionally, food recovery efforts improved significantly, with a 32% increase in donations resulting from the introduction of the ScottyEats Program.

GREEN BUILDING

In fiscal year 2024–25, the new School of Business Building was completed and received LEED Platinum certification; this makes it the third LEED Platinum building on campus. The School of Business Building includes a 216-kilowatt solar array on the roof, which increased the campus solar photovoltaic capacity to over 9 megawatts.

3 Platinum, 11 Gold, 4 Silver and 1 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

32%
healthy vending spend on food ($22K)

20%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($18K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

The 2023–24 fiscal year marked the first cycle of reporting healthy vending data in alignment with policy requirements. During this period, UC Riverside spent approximately $89,000 on vending food and beverages, with about 32% allocated to healthy food options and 20% to healthy beverages.

PROCUREMENT

$1.2M
green spend on electronics (26%)

$449K
green spend on cleaning supplies (71%)

$2.3M
green spend on indoor office furniture (84%)

$73K
green spend on office supplies (21%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (8), Furniture (7), Cleaning supplies (4), Office supplies (4).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

8
total assessed green laboratories

In 2024–25, two UCR laboratories were recertified, bringing the total number of certified labs to eight, as efforts continue to renew certifications for labs that have reached their three-year expiration period. An additional six laboratories are currently undergoing the assessment process, with four labs replacing equipment over 10 years old with Energy Star-certified models through incentive funds from UC's partnership with Fisher Scientific. Eleven glove recycling boxes were also distributed across campus to collect and recycle one of the most common forms of laboratory waste.

TRANSPORTATION

66%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

90%
of all vehicles acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

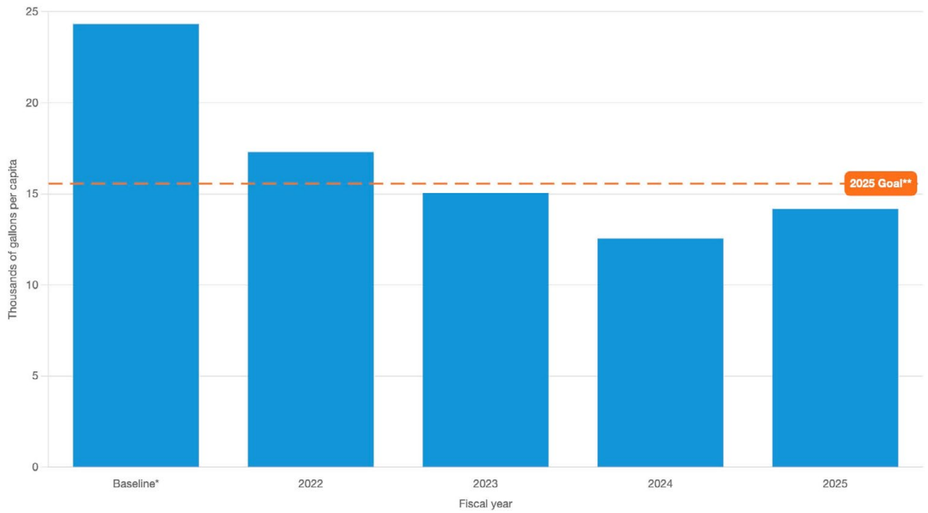
32%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

183
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

In 2024–25, 34% of campus commuters traveled by single-occupancy vehicle, while 66% utilized alternative commuting methods. UC Riverside supported zero-emission mobility by maintaining 183 active electric vehicle charging ports and 10 additional stub-outs for future expansion. Clean transportation acquisitions also advanced, with 32% of vehicles purchased through Fleet Services consisting of zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. In addition, UCR's health promotion department, in collaboration with campus partners, renewed efforts to promote micromobility safety through education and outreach initiatives.

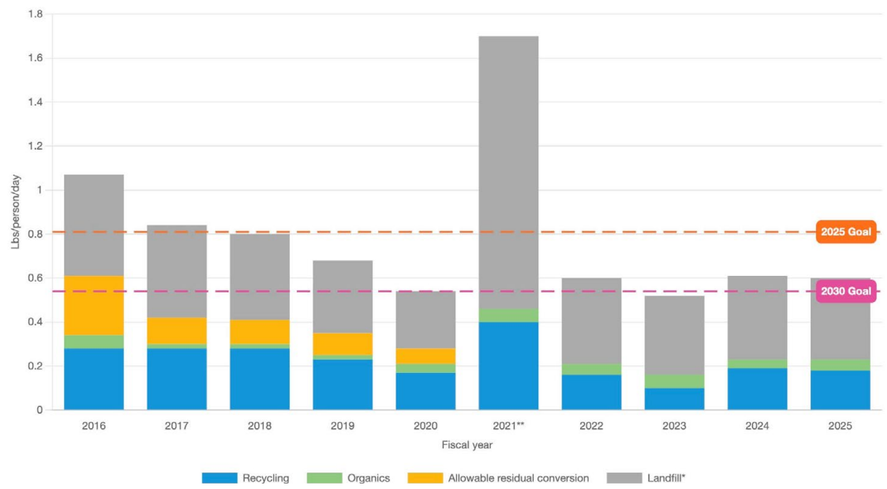
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

In fiscal year 2024–25, UCR reduced water use by approximately 42% compared to the baseline, surpassing the policy goal by 6%. This measurement reflects campus water usage within the 2021 Long Range Development Plan boundary.

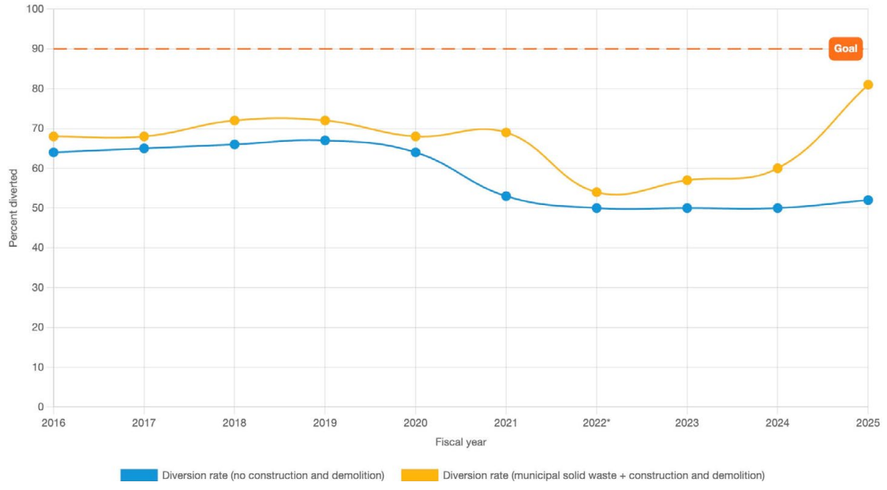
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

In 2024–2025, UCR generated 0.60 pounds of waste per person per day, an improvement from 0.62 in 2023–24 and well below the 2025 policy goal of 0.81 lbs per person per day.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

In 2024–25, UCR had a diversion rate of 52%, not including construction and demolition (C&D), an increase from the 50% diversion rate last year. The diversion with C&D jumped to 81% from 60% in the previous year. That increase was due to the removal and demolition of a building and parking structure.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCR Dining Services is committed to reducing single-use plastics and has successfully eliminated plastic bags and single-use plastic water bottles while continuing efforts with its beverage suppliers to eliminate more single-use plastic beverage bottles. About half of the disposable food packaging items used by Dining Services and third-party food vendors are compostable, and the department continues to work with suppliers to replace more single-use plastic items with compostable or reusable containers. Limitations on the compostable items that the waste haulers are able to accept make it challenging to eliminate single-use plastics.

AWARDS

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego

Over the past year, UC San Diego made significant strides in sustainability, driving institutional transformation through innovative practices, collaborative engagement, and a deepened commitment to climate action.

UC San Diego

The University earned its first AASHE STARS (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) Platinum rating, a milestone achievement reflecting over a decade of progress and the contributions of more than 150 students, staff and faculty across 75 departments. This recognition underscores UC San Diego's commitment to embedding sustainability into everyday operations, teaching and experiences.

Climate action was also formally included as a core strategy in the campus's updated Strategic Plan. The strategy outlines efforts to decarbonize operations, reduce research emissions and waste, integrate urban ecology throughout the campus and promote green transportation, all while leveraging the University's unique knowledge, history and resources to accelerate sustainable solutions.

In fall 2024, UC San Diego completed its decarbonization study to assess feasible strategies for reducing scope 1 emissions. The study emphasizes the importance of a flexible, resilient and secure energy system and explores ways to integrate equity, diversity and justice into climate solutions.

Campus dialogue also remained central to advancing sustainability efforts, with a decarbonization town hall and nine Climate Conversations fostering meaningful engagement. Building on this momentum, the new campus Green Labs Program launched, engaging 12 research groups in energy-focused efforts. Four achieved certification by year's end, with many others actively progressing.

The forthcoming Sustainability & Climate Action Plan will serve as a living framework to guide the University's ongoing sustainability and climate action efforts.

STORIES

Wildfire Science & Technology Commons Opens to the Public to Unite and Accelerate Wildfire Solutions

UC San Diego researchers have launched the Wildfire Science and Technology Commons, a groundbreaking platform designed to accelerate solutions to increasingly severe wildland fires. By integrating data, tools and research in a shared collaborative space, the initiative aims to drive real-world impact.

Read full article:

https://today.ucsd.edu/story/wildfire-science-technology-commons-opens-to-the-public-to-unite-and-accelerate-wildfire-solutions

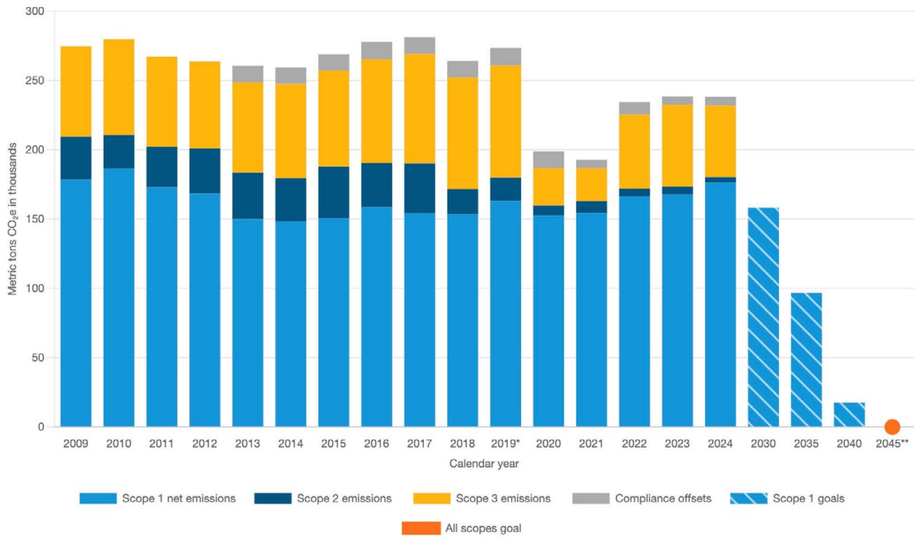
Taking Flight: UC San Diego Shaping Future of Atmospheric River Forecasting

UC San Diego researchers are advancing sustainable innovations in weather forecasting through the Atmospheric River Reconnaissance program, which uses aircraft, ocean buoys and artificial intelligence to improve predictions of powerful storm systems. These enhanced forecasts help water managers make smarter decisions, boosting water supply resilience and public safety in the face of climate-driven extremes.

Read full article:

https://today.ucsd.edu/story/taking-flight-uc-san-diego-shaping-future-of-atmospheric-river-forecasting

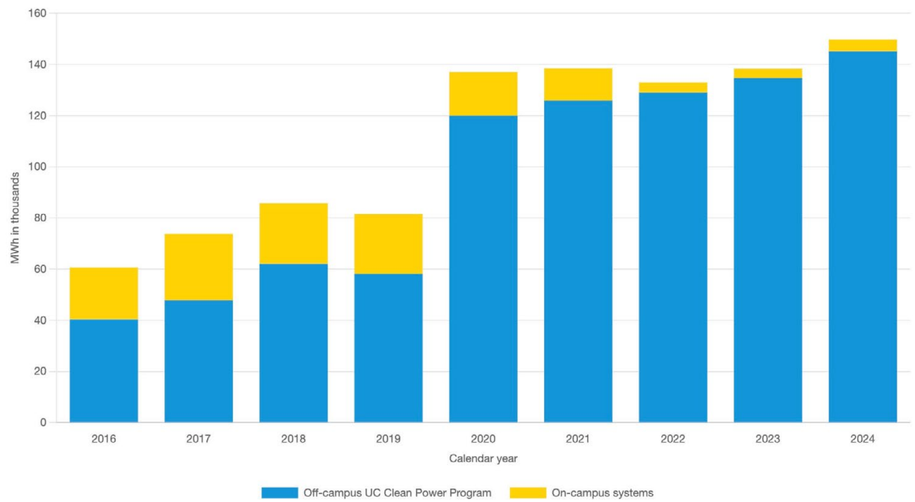
EMISSIONS



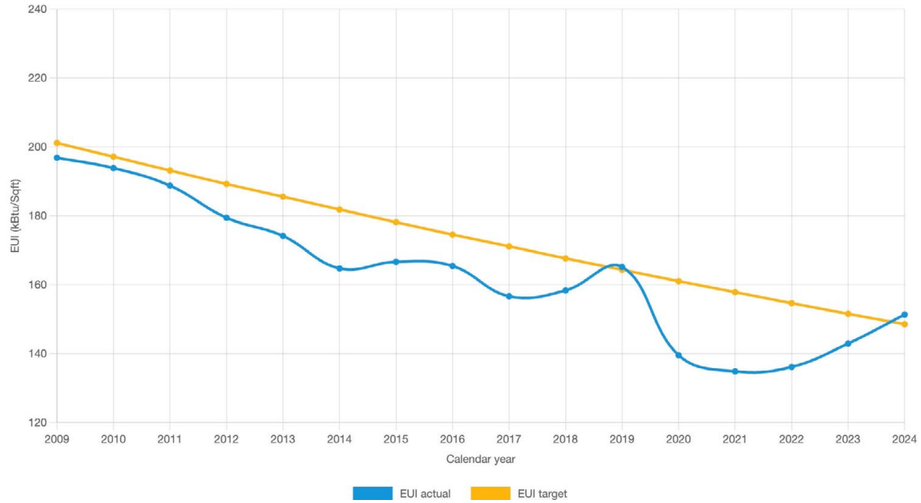
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

In comparison to the previous year, UC San Diego's scope 1 emissions rose by 5% due to increased boiler gas use, whereas scope 2 emissions declined 34% due to decreased purchased electricity. Scope 3 emissions declined 19% from the prior year, driven by increased trolley ridership and the addition of 3,000 on-campus student residents following new housing development.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



Acquisitions of older, less efficient facilities and the integration of new energy-intensive facilities caused an overall increase in EUI in calendar year 2024.

FOOD

18%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($5.2M)

23%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($6.8M)

UC San Diego's sustainable and plant-based food spend reflects total expenditures from Housing, Dining, and Hospitality (HDH) and University Centers. In fiscal year 2024–25, 18% of food purchases met sustainable criteria and 23% met plant-based criteria. This past year, HDH experienced a decrease in overall sustainable food spend due to departmental growth and shifting student behavior. Increased demand led students to favor more affordable market options, which resulted in reduced purchasing and sales of sustainable products.

GREEN BUILDING

UC San Diego has no new LEED-certified or all-electric buildings to report this year, as several construction projects remain underway. Upon completion, multiple additions are expected next year, including four all-electric buildings in the new Ridge Walk North Living and Learning Neighborhood.

11 Platinum, 29 Gold, 18 Silver and 5 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

12%
healthy vending spend on food ($29K)

29%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($38K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UC San Diego spent approximately $38,000 on healthy vending beverages, representing 29% of total vending beverage spend. This spend includes data from Pepsi and Canteen.

PROCUREMENT

$9.2M
green spend on electronics (61%)

$1M
green spend on cleaning supplies (57%)

$5.3M
green spend on indoor office furniture (92%)

$243K
green spend on office supplies (22%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (11), Furniture (8), Cleaning supplies (4), Office supplies (5).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

4
total assessed green laboratories

In fall 2024, UC San Diego launched a redesigned Green Labs Program, piloted throughout the academic year with the campus research community. Twelve research groups actively participated, with four completing certification by year's end. Each year, the program focuses on a specific sustainability theme, offering tailored education and support to help laboratories address sustainability opportunities. The 2024–25 theme — energy — guided participants in identifying energy-saving strategies, monitoring consumption and implementing efficiency improvements within their lab environments.

TRANSPORTATION

73%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

52%
of all vehicles and **0%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

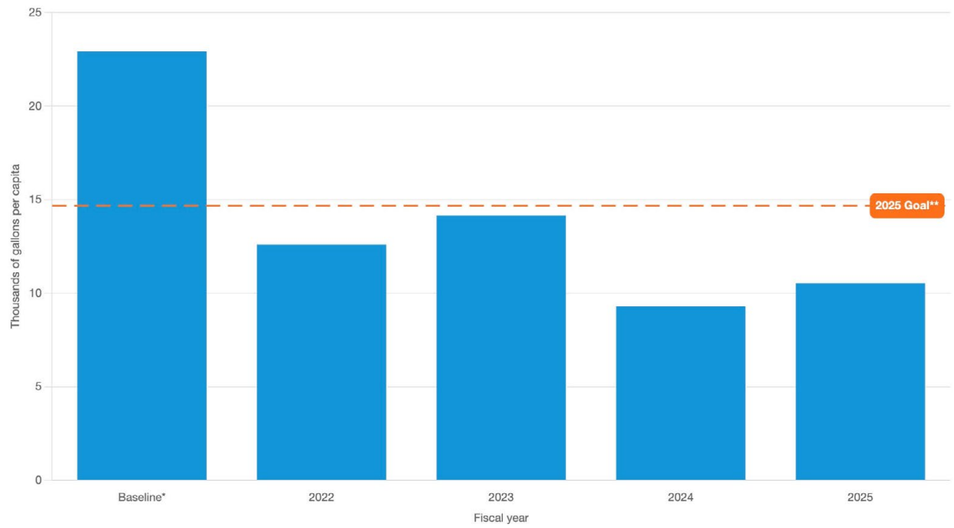
46%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

590
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

In fiscal year 2024–25, 73% of UC San Diego students, staff and faculty commuted to and from campus using sustainable transportation options. Active modes such as biking, micromobility and walking increased by 9% this past year. There remains opportunity to strengthen multi-occupancy vehicle use, which declined by nearly 12%. Additionally, UC San Diego continues to implement a multi-year initiative to install more than 900 electric vehicle chargers. Nearly 100 were added over the past year through funding from the UC San Diego EV Program, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the California Energy Commission.

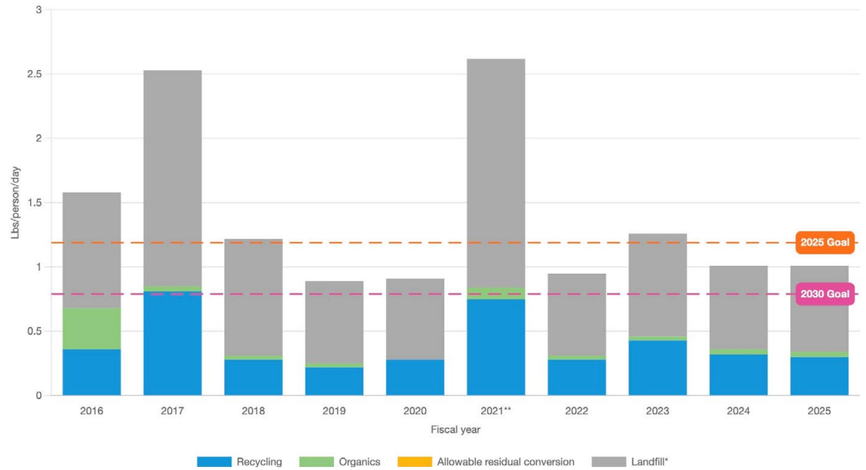
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*
Includes UCSD Health La Jolla Medical Center

In fiscal year 2024–25, UC San Diego's potable water use increased by 60 million gallons, while the weighted campus user population declined by over 500. This resulted in a per capita increase of approximately 1,250 gallons per capita compared to the previous year. Despite this shift, the campus has observed a 54% reduction in water use from its baseline and continues to meet UC policy goals.

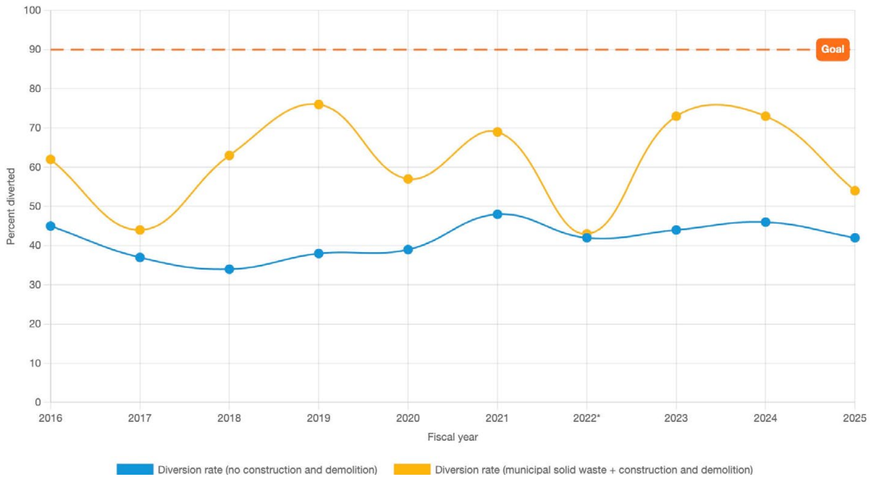
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

UC San Diego generated 9,863 tons of municipal solid waste in fiscal year 2024–25, holding steady from the previous year. While campus population has significantly increased since the 2015-16 baseline year, waste generation has decreased, leading to a 36% reduction in waste generation per capita. With sustained campus action and continued progress, UC San Diego is on track to exceed the 2025 UC waste generation goal.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

In fiscal year 2024–25, UC San Diego diverted 42% of waste, not including construction and demolition (C&D), a slight decrease of 4 percentage points compared to the previous year due in large part to sod-related landfill tonnage. A solution has been identified to address this issue and improve diversion outcomes in the future. UC San Diego's waste diversion rate with C&D decreased to 54% due to reduced recycling during the active project phases of several capital projects.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Plastic bags
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UC San Diego has completely phased out single-use plastics for foodware and beverage bottles across campus dining facilities. The campus continues to pursue opportunities to eliminate plastic bags at retail locations and remove plastic beverage bottles from campus vending machines.

AWARDS

In December 2024, UC San Diego earned its first Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education STARS Platinum rating, recognizing the campus's comprehensive sustainability achievements. The reporting effort, led by UC San Diego Utilities and Sustainability, involved over 150 students, staff and faculty from 75 campus departments.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego Health

UC San Diego Health is advancing holistic health care by integrating sustainability into its mission to create a healthier world. Recognized among the Top 25 hospitals nationwide for environmental excellence, the system is working toward a fossil-free future by 2045, reinforcing its commitment to climate-smart care and health equity.

UC San Diego Health

In late 2023, UC San Diego Health expanded access to care in eastern San Diego with the acquisition of East Campus, a 302-bed facility. This marks the first year East Campus data is included in the annual report.

Redevelopment of the Hillcrest Medical Campus continues, highlighted by the July 2025 opening of the McGrath Outpatient Pavilion, which reduces carbon intensity by over 90%.

A survey revealed that 85% of patients prefer care from sustainability-committed organizations, affirming the link between environmental stewardship and patient-centered care.

The Green Certification Program empowers departments to adopt sustainable practices that benefit both patient and environmental health. Recent efforts include hydration stations for vulnerable populations, waste audits, paperless systems and reusable alternatives to single-use items.

UC San Diego Health is also building climate resilience through Clinician Toolkits addressing extreme heat, flooding and wildfire smoke. Team members contributed to the federal Climate Resilience for Healthcare Toolkit, supporting others in their work.

Environmental responsibility is embedded across UC San Diego Health's Anchor Institution Mission. In collaboration with the Healthcare Anchor Network, the system advances its role as a community anchor via three pillars: Workforce, Purchasing and Environmental Impact.

These initiatives reflect a unified vision for healthier people, communities and planet.

STORIES

Where Climate Meets Care: Dr. Shira Abeles Champions Sustainable Health at UC San Diego

Dr. Shira Abeles, UC San Diego Health's medical director of sustainability, champions the connection between environmental and human health. She is bringing attention to how pollution, heat and ecological decline worsen health outcomes and deepen inequities. By integrating climate action into clinical care, UC San Diego Health is advancing a model of care that protects both people and the planet.

Read full article:

https://health.ucsd.edu/news/features/bridging-the-gap-between-health-care-and-sustainability/

Cool Food, Big Impact: UC San Diego Health Slashes Emissions and Costs Through Sustainable Dining

This year, Practice Greenhealth featured UC San Diego Health for its progress toward the Coolfood Pledge 2030 goal. In just six years, the organization reduced greenhouse gas emissions from food purchasing by 35% per plate, nearly reaching the 38% target. Through increased plant-based offerings, strategic menu language, operational changes and staff engagement, UC San Diego Health also achieved approximately $60,000 in annual savings while advancing its commitment to sustainability.

Read full article:

https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/food/uc-san-diego-health-serving-delicious-food-cutting-down-emissions

FOOD

20%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($2.0M)

20%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($2.1M)

UC San Diego Health supports healthier, eco-friendly food by choosing sustainable, organic, unprocessed and local options and more plant-based meals. Over 12,000 pounds of food were donated to local nonprofits. A new vendor improved meat sourcing, including antibiotic-free beef.

HEALTHY VENDING

18%
healthy vending spend on food ($30K)

27%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($1K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UC San Diego Health began tracking healthy food and beverage purchases in vending machines for the first time this year. Despite third-party management, nearly 30% of beverage spending met healthy vending standards. Efforts to phase out single-use plastic bottles are also underway, aligning vending operations with broader sustainability and wellness goals. These early results offer a solid baseline for measuring progress and shaping future strategies in nutrition and waste reduction.

PROCUREMENT

$6.2M
green spend on appliances and IT hardware (100%)

$162K
green spend on office supplies (22%)

$1.4M
cost savings through medical device reprocessing (representing 37,570 pounds of waste avoided)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (6), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

UC San Diego Health advanced sustainable procurement by expanding partnerships and reprocessing single-use medical devices, saving over $1.3 million and supporting a circular economy. The organization also prioritized environmentally responsible purchasing, earning the EPEAT Purchaser Award for the third consecutive year. Nearly all electronics and appliances purchased were EPEAT-certified and met Energy Star standards, reflecting UC San Diego Health's ongoing commitment to reducing environmental impact through thoughtful sourcing and operational practices.

TRANSPORTATION

57%
of all vehicles acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

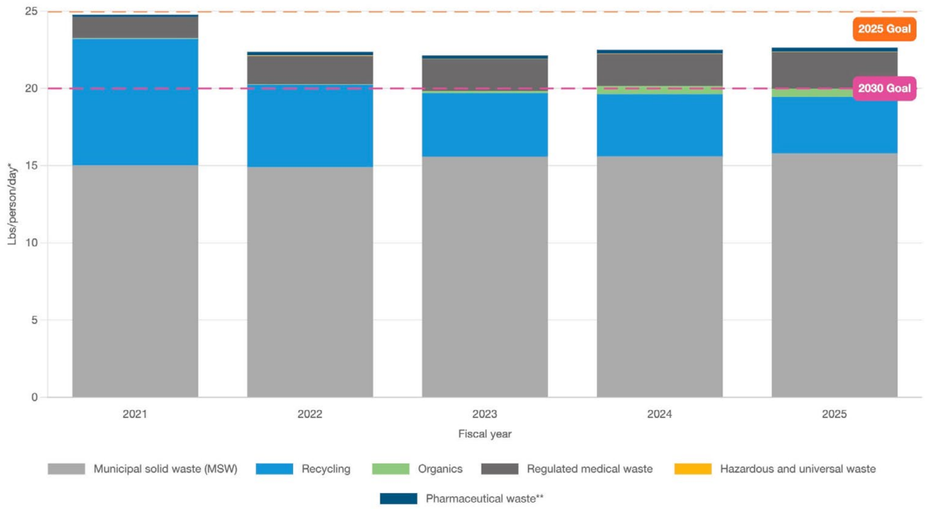
38%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

30
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel. Data from Hillcrest Medical Center. Jacobs Medical Center data reported by UCSD academic campus.*

UC San Diego Health is served by multiple mass transit options, including light rail, shuttles, buses and the Coaster train. To encourage sustainable commuting, staff receive discounted transit access. Currently, 38% of the fleet consists of zero-emission, plug-in hybrid or clean fuel vehicles. To further support staff and visitors, electric vehicle charging stations are available in all public parking garages, with extended-time spaces designated for employees working 12-hour hospital shifts.

ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

UC San Diego Health generated less than 23 pounds of waste per adjusted patient day, exceeding its 2025 goal of 25 pounds and nearing the 2030 target of 20 pounds. This year, the organization launched a medical supply donation program to repurpose unused items and expanded operating room recycling pilots to include clean packaging and soft plastics. Hospitals began composting meal scraps and leftover food from patient trays, diverting materials to vermicomposting facilities, which boosted organic waste recycling by 18%. Data collection is ongoing, and the full impact of these efforts will be reflected in future reports.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Plastic bags
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

In alignment with systemwide policy, UC San Diego Health has significantly reduced single-use plastics across its retail and food service operations. Key initiatives include switching to paper bags and plant-based foodware, expanding refillable hydration stations and transitioning beverage containers from plastic to aluminum. The health system is also working with third-party vending providers to eliminate single-use plastic bottles, further advancing its goal of fully removing single-use plastics from these areas.

AWARDS

2025 Practice Greenhealth ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Reflecting UC San Diego Health's mission to advance human and environmental well-being, Jacobs Medical Center and Hillcrest Medical Center were named among the Top 25 hospitals nationwide for environmental excellence by Practice Greenhealth. Each received a Circle of Excellence award, an esteemed national recognition, placing them in the top 10 for achievements in Transportation and Green Building. These honors emphasize the organization's commitment to integrating sustainability into daily operations, reducing environmental impact while supporting the health of patients, staff and the broader community.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

COMBINED DATA

Progress on the following policy areas for this Health System are reported by the campus location:

- Emissions
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Use Intensity
- Transportation
- Water
- Green Building

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Over the year UC San Francisco continued to deliver a breadth of best practices in sustainability and climate action.

UCSF produced a building energy decarbonization roadmap for its major sites that calls for multiple new electrified heating and cooling plants and thermal storage, distribution of hot and chilled water to plant-connected buildings and individual electrified plants for stand-alone buildings. Key projects from this study were prioritized in UCSF's 10-year capital financial plan charting an implementation course to a 90% reduction in carbon emissions by the 2045 target date.

UCSF's Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability published an e-course, Environmental Sustainability in the Lab, training researchers and learners on how to save resources in wet and dry labs. UCSF launched a new training, required of all employees, on indoor heat illness prevention as part of an ongoing response to the Bay Area's increasingly frequent high temperatures. To meet a surge in demand for sustainable commute options, the campus introduced new shuttle routes, added park-and-ride lots, launched a commuter bus program, and expanded the vanpool and free bus pass program. Learners in the School of Medicine assessed UCSF's performance in five environmental categories, including planetary health curriculum and support for student initiatives, earning an A for the institution.

Despite a more restricted grant landscape, the Office of Sustainability led efforts to secure over $2 million in funding for EV charging infrastructure, an electric shuttle bus and cybersecurity. UCSF also welcomed its inaugural chief sustainability officer and celebrated the retirement and achievements of its pioneering sustainability officer.

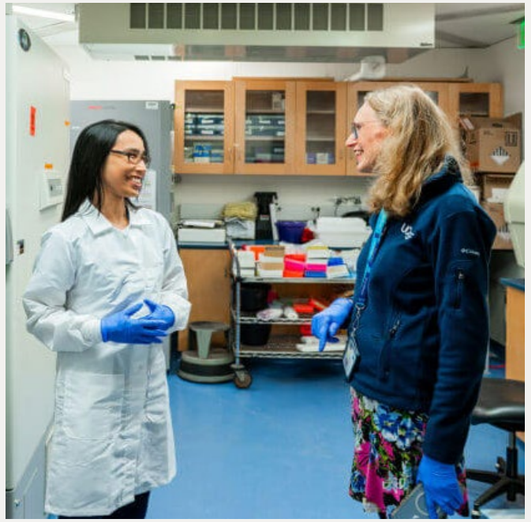
STORIES

The Plastic Inside Us

Every day people take advantage of the utility of plastic. But eventually these products turn into tiny fragments that infiltrate human bodies. UCSF experts are beginning to tease out what these microplastics mean for human health — and what can be done about it.

Read full article:

https://magazine.ucsf.edu/plastic-inside-us



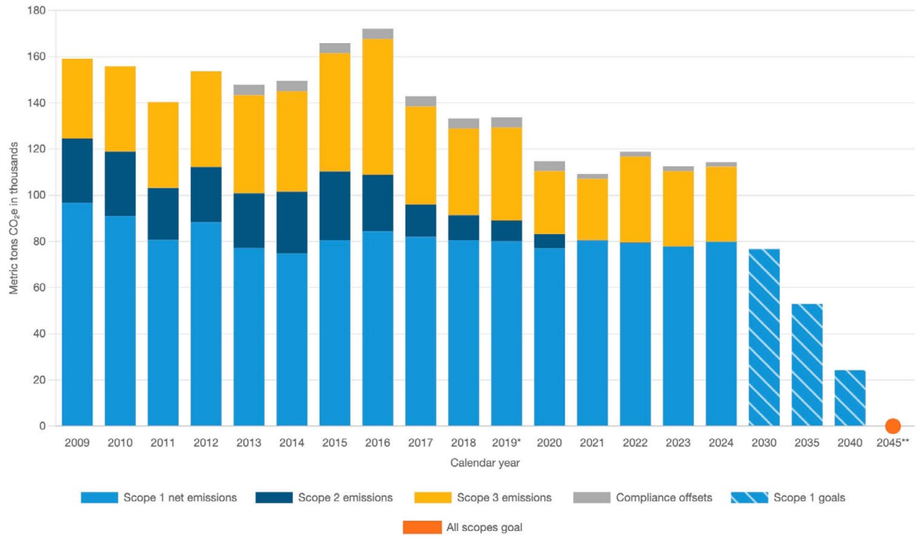
UCSF's Award-Winning Freezer Rebate Program Saves Utility Costs

Findings on the impact of UCSF's Energy Star freezer conversion program on energy use, costs and carbon emissions have been published so other institutions can replicate it. UCSF's approach makes a large-scale initiative to replace energy-inefficient ultra-low-temperature freezers logistically possible, reduces the carbon footprint and demonstrates an attractive return on investment while proactively protecting valuable research materials.

Read full article:

https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/bio.2024.0070

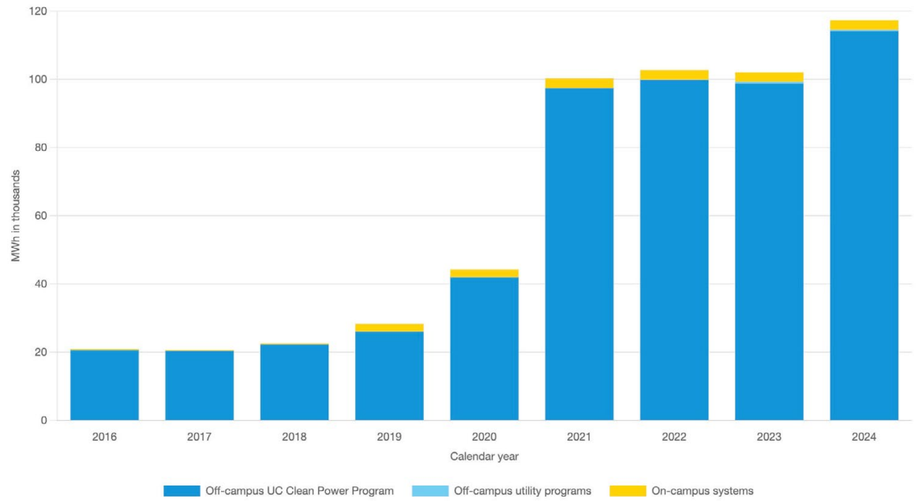
EMISSIONS



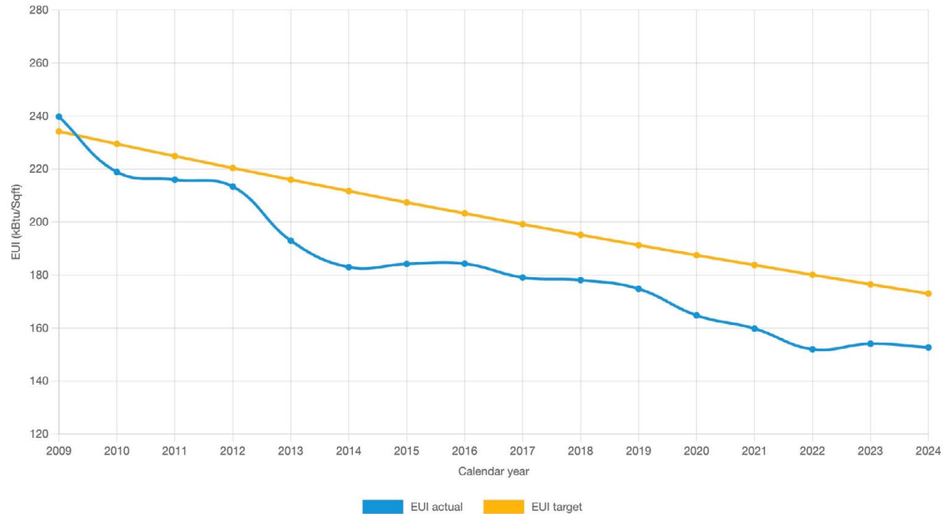
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

Scope 1 emissions rose by approximately 3% in 2024 due to building energy use associated with UCSF Health's newly acquired Hyde and Stanyan hospitals, plus increased fleet emissions from additional gasoline use in shuttle service to meet higher ridership demand. Scope 2 emissions remained zero. Scope 3 emissions rose with the incorporation of municipal solid waste emissions into the inventory.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC San Francisco saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

57%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($713K)

35%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($436K)

UCSF's sustainable food spend continued to exceed the goal, reaching more than 57%. Plant-based food spend decreased to 35% as a result of missing data but still exceeded the goal. Total food spending nearly doubled as a result of increased tenant business activities — from about $660,000 to more than $1.2 million.

GREEN BUILDING

UCSF achieved one LEED Gold certification.

16 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

46%
healthy vending spend on food ($103K)

64%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($112K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Fiscal year 2023–24 represented the first year healthy vending data was collected, providing an important baseline for measuring progress in the coming years. UCSF has made progress by eliminating regular Coke from vending machines and by working with Canteen, the University of California's contracted vending and micromarket services provider, to stock healthier snack alternatives. UCSF is working to align its offerings with campus health and sustainability goals.

PROCUREMENT

$17.4M
green spend on electronics (55%)

$407K
green spend on cleaning supplies (56%)

$541K
green spend on indoor office furniture (65%)

$163K
green spend on office supplies (30%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (10), Furniture (5), Cleaning supplies (5), Office supplies (5).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

40
total assessed green laboratories

The campus certified one new lab and engaged 112 labs to sign up for the ultra-low-temperature freezer rebate program.

TRANSPORTATION

72%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

6%
of all vehicles and **0%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

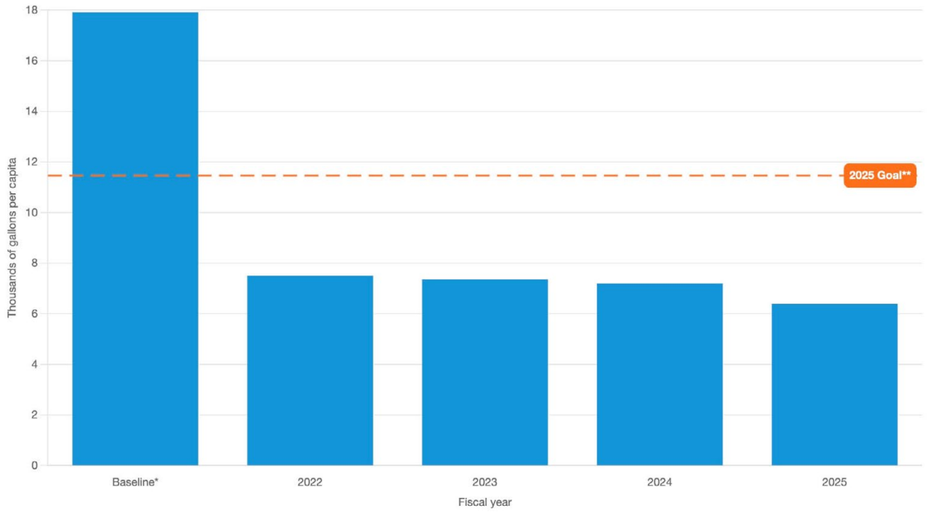
20%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

125
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Due to significant changes in UCSF Parking and Transportation policies implemented in June 2025, the campus did not conduct a new survey in 2024–25. A new survey is planned for launch in fall 2025.

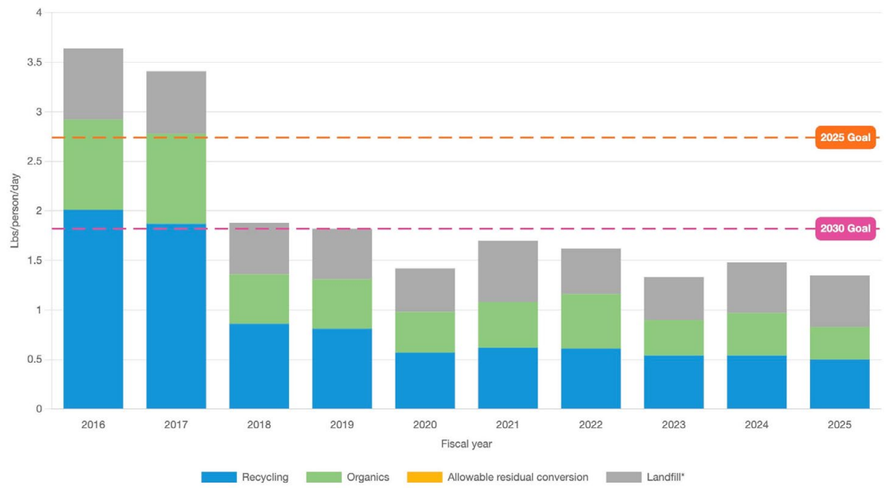
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Campus water consumption was 1.3 million gallons lower than the previous year, while weighted campus population increased. UCSF continues to meet the 2025 water reduction goal.

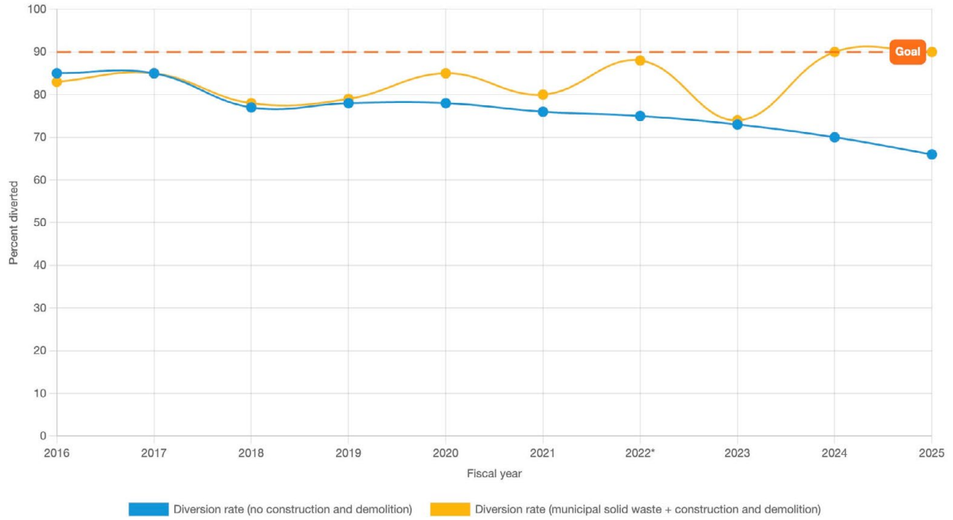
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*

With the return-to-work mandates in effect for faculty and staff and more teams on campus, as well as a new satellite campus in Fresno still ramping up its waste diversion efforts, landfill tonnages increased from previous years.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

The campus waste diversion decreased 4 percentage points from last year, with the amount of landfill waste increasing and recycling and compost staying relatively the same. This increase is attributed to more staff coming back on-site as well as the addition of an existing building.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

The bulk of the single-use plastics from UCSF's retail establishments have been transitioned to fiber-based/compostable replacements. The branded items from larger franchise establishments have been harder to transition, so efforts to phase out single-use plastics in these locations are ongoing. As for vending machines, the phase-out of single-use plastics is nearly complete, with just one type of drink (teas) still needing to switch over.

AWARDS

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

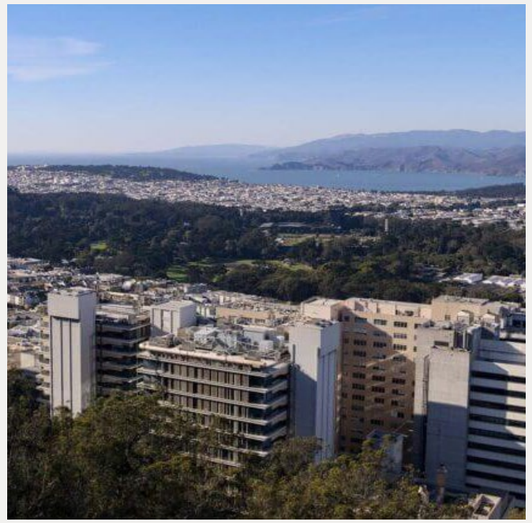
San Francisco Health

UCSF Health continues to innovate in medical sustainability and commitment to reducing landfill waste.

This year the organization implemented strategies to address waste and worked with the cross-departmental UCSF Health Zero Waste Working Group to establish a blue wrap recycling program, swap single-use patient positioning foam for a reusable gel product, and reignite the medical supply donation program and e-waste recycling collection. Community education was expanded with digital sorting signage to encourage proper sorting, and dashboards were developed and published that tracked metrics from energy and water conservation to transportation.

UCSF also began using multiuse anesthesia breathing circuits, devices that deliver oxygen and anesthesia gases to patients during surgery. These reusable circuits, also known as multiple patient circuits, can be used for up to 24 hours when paired with a modern filter system, rather than being disposed of after each patient. On a related front, UCSF Health Procurement worked with vendors to lower emissions from the transportation of purchased goods by decreasing weekly deliveries from seven to six and centralizing distribution locations. This led to a reduction of over 2,000 gallons of diesel use and related air pollution in the local community.

STORIES



Climate Ready Healthcare: Building Resilience with Collaborative Toolkits

As the climate crisis increasingly threatens health care operations, UCSF Health is advancing innovative strategies to strengthen system resilience. The newly published UCSF Health Climate Resilience Emergency Management Toolkit offers a proactive framework for health centers to prepare for and adapt to climate-related disruptions.

Read full article:

https://campuslifeserviceshome.ucsf.edu/sustainability/news/climate-ready-healthcare-building-resilience-collaborative-toolkits

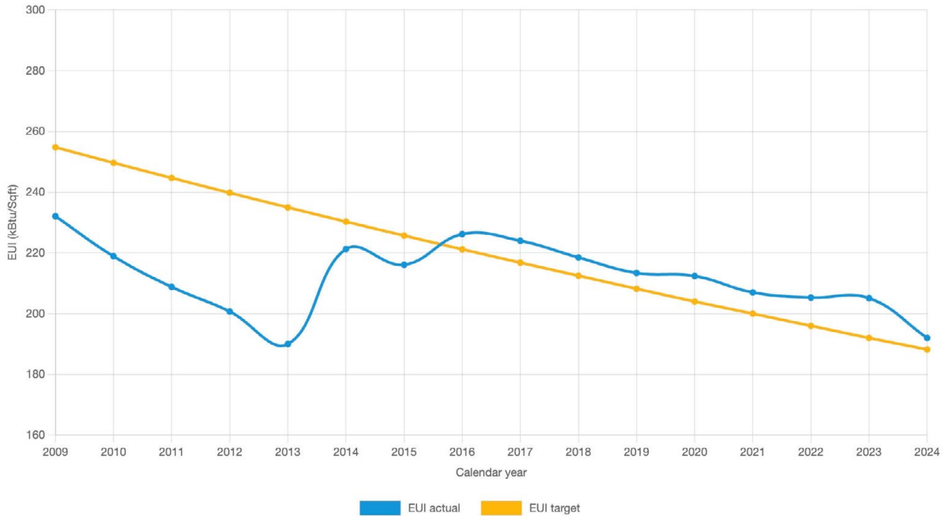
Setting a New Standard for Renewable Design

The opening of Bayfront Medical Building, UCSF Health's first all-electric facility, exemplifies UCSF's commitment to energy efficiency and carbon reduction. The building operates day-to-day wholly without the use of fossil fuels, using 100% carbon-free power from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Bayfront achieved LEED Gold certification and features an innovative heat recovery system that both increases efficiency and saves an estimated 64% of the building's annual water load compared to traditional systems.

Read full article:

https://campuslifeserviceshome.ucsf.edu/sustainability/news/ucsfs-bayfront-medical-building-sets-new-standard-renewable-design

ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC San Francisco Health saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

10%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($908K)

26%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($2.3M)

UCSF Health partnered with a new food donation vendor, allowing for a more robust edible food collection program.

GREEN BUILDING

UCSF Health's Bayfront Medical Building, a new outpatient surgery center in the Mission Bay neighborhood, achieved LEED Gold in 2024. Bayfront is all-electric and carbon-free and was built with a low-carbon concrete mix. UCSF Health now has eight LEED certifications. Two electric buildings, Bayfront and Peninsula Outpatient Center, were occupied during this cycle.

3 Gold, 4 Silver and 1 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

64%
healthy vending spend on food ($10K)

60%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($6K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

UCSF Health utilizes smart kiosk Byte vending machines, which are managed and stocked by the Nutrition and Food Services team, to offer fresh meals and healthy snacks and drinks to customers.

PROCUREMENT

$209K
green spend on appliances and IT hardware (98%)

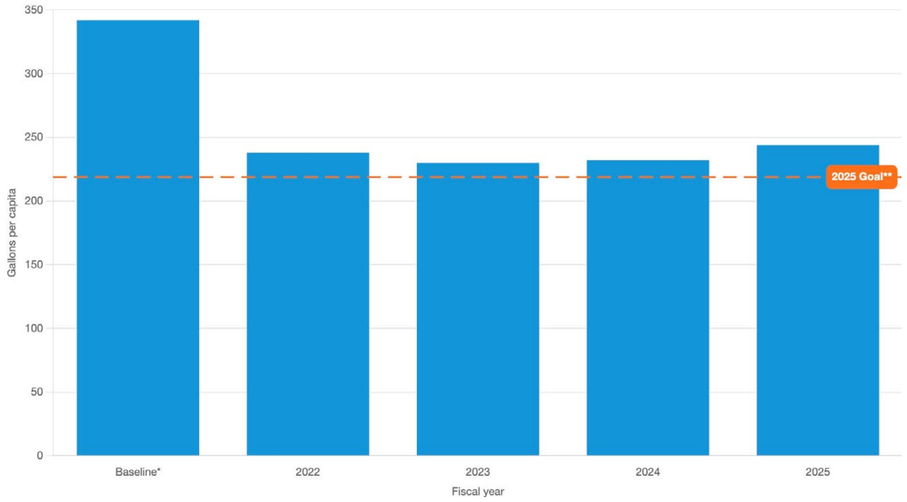
$149K
green spend on office supplies (26%)

$4.3M
cost savings through medical device reprocessing (representing 119,322 pounds of waste avoided)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Appliances and IT hardware (1), Office supplies (1).
"Reprocessing" refers to the FDA-approved re-manufacturing process carried out on a used device, including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, testing and related procedures to allow its safe reuse. This process allows health facilities to reduce their reliance on single-use devices.

UCSF Health Procurement works to increase green spend across categories and decrease the number of single-use devices used through reprocessing. Appliance and IT hardware green spend was lower in fiscal year 2025 compared with 2024 due to missing vendor data and purchases of several refrigerators in 2024. Additionally, the number of devices collected for reprocessing decreased because UCSF Health did not renew its contract with a vendor responsible for ligature collection.

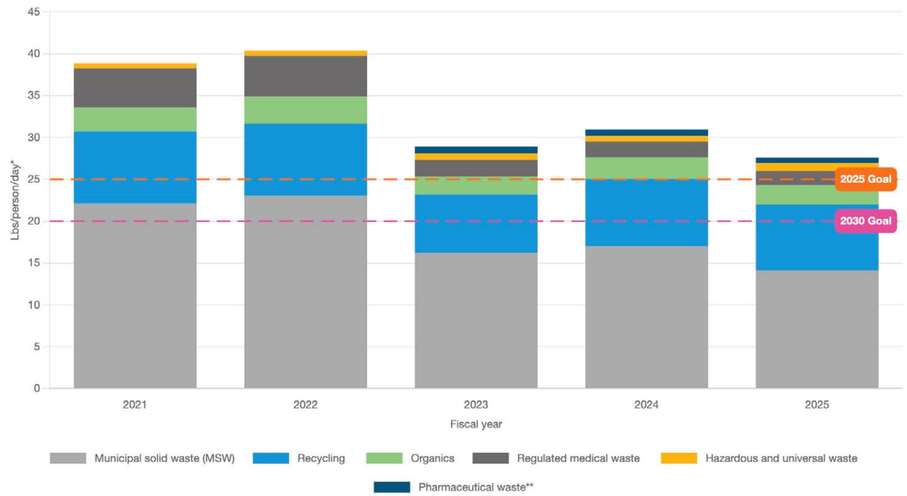
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

For fiscal year 2024–25, water usage increased due to equipment malfunctions, primarily caused by a malfunctioning MRI chiller in Medical Office Building 1 and issues with the irrigation valves at Mission Bay. An MRI chiller is a specialized cooling system that regulates the temperature of MRI machines, which generate significant heat during operation. When the chiller is not functioning properly, it can lead to increased water consumption as part of emergency cooling or temporary workaround systems.

ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**Per capita figures are calculated using Adjusted Patient Day (APD).*
***Data provided if not counted in other waste streams.*

UCSF Health launched new diversion projects, including the Medical Supply Donations Program, a blue wrap recycling program, and reusable dishware in the cafes. All UCSF Health sites are also in compliance with the San Francisco Refuse Separation Ordinance, which fines for excessive contamination of the municipal waste streams.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (vending machines)
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)
- Plastic bags

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCSF Health continued making progress toward eliminating single-use plastics. In addition to phasing out plastic bags and water bottles, the health center made strides on reducing single-use plastics by launching a reusable dishware program at two medical center cafes.

AWARDS

2025
Practice Greenhealth
GREENHEALTH EMERALD AWARD

UCSF Health was recognized for the 15th consecutive year by Practice Greenhealth with the Greenhealth Emerald Award. UCSF Health also received the Transportation Circle of Excellence award. UCSF Health Stanyan Hospital submitted its first Practice Greenhealth application and received the Practice Greenhealth Partner for Change Award.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

COMBINED DATA

Progress on the following policy areas for this Health System is reported by the campus location:

- Emissions
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Barbara

Since completing the Clean Energy Master Plan, UCSB has continued to make progress on planning for building electrification by launching the C·CHANGE project.

A detailed project program to electrify the main campus was completed in the fall of 2025, as was the first conversion of an existing building to all-electric. While efforts to reduce scope 1 emissions continue, UCSB has also successfully reduced scope 3 commuting emissions, which declined significantly for the second consecutive year, dropping 17% below 2019 levels. Per capita water use and waste generation also declined.

UCSB continues to increase the number of LEED projects on campus, receiving LEED Gold for Homes certification in June 2025 for Ocean Walk Phases 4 & 5, a public-private partnership that includes 70 new faculty homes.

UCSB also launched in fall 2025 the Greti U. Croft Center for Undergraduate Environmental Leadership (CUEL), which supports undergraduate students in transition from classroom to career through training opportunities and career resources. One of the programs run by CUEL is the Environmental Leadership Incubator (ELI), a nine-month program that supports student-initiated projects on and off campus. Through a 2024/2025 ELI project, two students launched FLOW (Facilitating Laboratory Optimization & Waste) to expand lab recycling. They worked with the administrative staff and lab managers to improve lab recycling. Their efforts included providing updated laboratory-specific signage and forming a no-cost partnership with Art From Scrap to divert non-recyclable materials for reuse. The UCSB Art From Scrap program is being piloted in two locations, Elings Hall and the Marine Science Building.

UC **SANTA BARBARA**

STORIES

A New Study in Science Maps Out a Comprehensive Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution by 2050

UCSB Researchers found that if policymakers adopted four policies, plastic pollution could be reduced by 91%. “The four high-impact policies that surfaced in this study include: requiring that new products be made with 40% post-consumer recycled plastic; capping new plastic production at 2020 levels; investing significantly in expanding waste management infrastructure, especially in lower-income parts of the world; and implementing a small fee on plastic packaging.” The study was released ahead of the United Nations (UN) international treaty to combat plastic pollution.

Read full article:

https://news.ucsb.edu/2024/021690/new-study-science-maps-out-comprehensive-plan-eliminate-plastic-pollution-2050

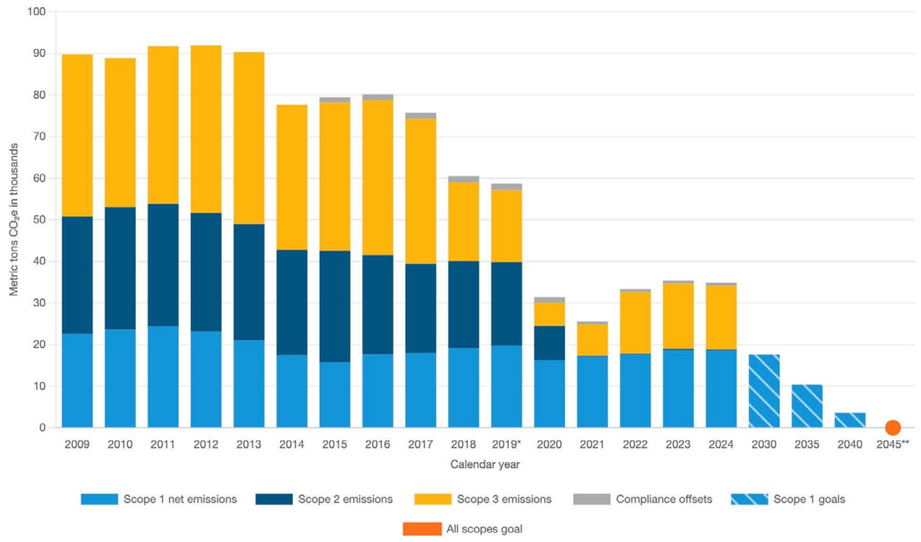
A Cheap and Easy Potential Solution for Lowering Carbon Emissions in Maritime Shipping

Scientists at the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory (BOSL) at UCSB found that maritime greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by 16–24% by adopting a new digital queueing system at ports that prevents congestion. According to Douglas McCauley, marine ecologist and director of BOSL, “Without needing to ‘hurry up and wait’ to secure their spot in line, ships are saving fuel by traveling at slower, more efficient speeds.”

Read full article:

https://news.ucsb.edu/2025/021895/cheap-and-easy-potential-solution-lowering-carbon-emissions-maritime-shipping

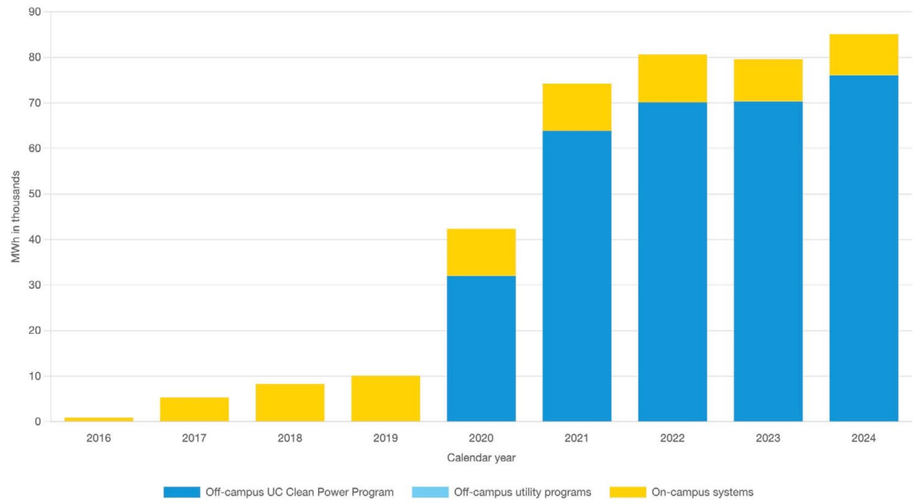
EMISSIONS



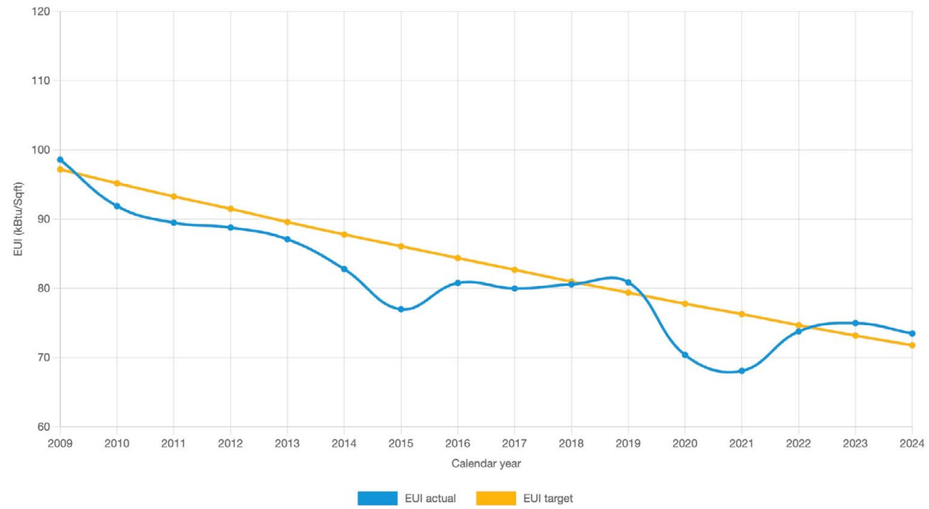
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

In comparison to calendar year 2024, scope 1 and 2 emissions remained relatively stable. Emissions from commuting, a segment of scope 3 emissions, declined significantly for the second year in a row, falling 9% below 2023 levels and 17% below 2019 levels.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Santa Barbara saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

FOOD

11%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($1.6M)

40%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($5.7M)

For the first year, Maetadata conducted a comprehensive analysis of UCSB's food spending, which led to some shifts in percentage breakdowns. One of the most notable changes was an increase in the spend on plant-based food. There was also a slight increase in spend on sustainable food and beverage options. Previous analyses were more conservative, but Maetadata's advanced tools and insights provide a more accurate picture.

GREEN BUILDING

A public-private partnership, Ocean Walk Phases 4 & 5, which include 70 new faculty homes, received LEED Gold for Homes certification in June 2025. UCSB is converting an existing building, Environmental Health & Safety, to all-electric. The project represents the first such transition undertaken by the campus and will be complete by the end of 2025. UC Santa Barbara has not built any new parking lots in years and therefore has not pursued Parksmart certification.

16 Platinum, 43 Gold, 15 Silver and 2 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

18%
healthy vending spend on food ($56K)

26%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($73K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Fiscal year 2023–24 represents the first year UCSB is reporting healthy vending data to the UC system. UCSB will be employing a student this year to help raise awareness on campus of healthy choices.

PROCUREMENT

$1.3M
green spend on electronics (61%)

$537K
green spend on cleaning supplies (58%)

$1.5M
green spend on indoor office furniture (85%)

$108K
green spend on office supplies (19%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (10), Furniture (6), Cleaning supplies (5), Office supplies (4).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

63
total assessed green laboratories

Last year, UC Santa Barbara's Green Labs team certified two labs and provided thousands of dollars in incentives for freezers, fridges and other sustainable lab equipment.

TRANSPORTATION

83%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

50%
of all vehicles and **100%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

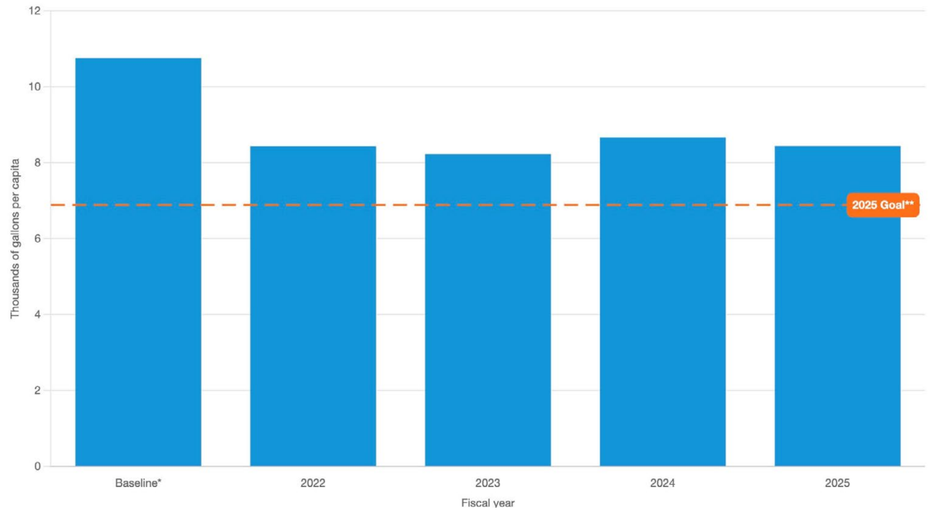
16%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

116
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Eighty-three percent of students, staff and faculty commute to and from campus using sustainable commuting options. Commute mode split stayed relatively the same compared with the previous year; however, distance traveled decreased slightly.

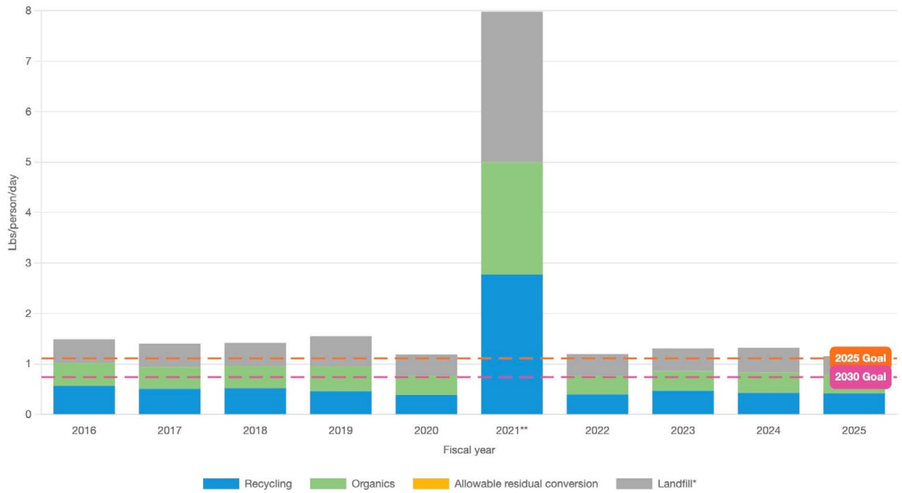
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

While UCSB did not meet the growth-adjusted potable water consumption reduction goal of 36% by 2025, water usage per person fell to approximately 22% below the 2005–2008 baseline, up from about 19% the previous year. Total water usage stayed relatively stable despite population growth.

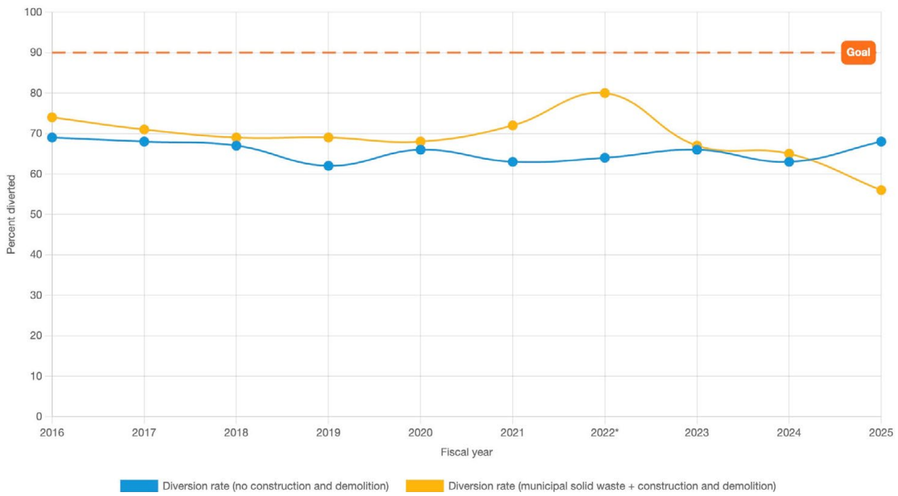
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

Total waste generation decreased in fiscal year 2024–25 compared with fiscal year 2023–24. Additionally, pounds per person per day also reduced from 1.3 to 1.2 in 2024–25. This puts the campus at a 22% reduction in waste generation from 2015–16 levels, falling slightly short of the 2025 goal of 25% below fiscal year 2015–16 levels.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

UC Santa Barbara's waste diversion rate, without construction and demolition, increased from 63% in fiscal year 2023–24 to 68% in fiscal year 2024–25. Better data collection of recycled and composted items was one of the primary reasons for the increase in waste diversion.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCSB made changes to the containers used at Ortega Takeout. Nearly all of the containers, condiments, cups and lids are now made from bagasse, a compostable material made from sugarcane. Only a few items — utensils, clear lids for salad containers — are made from PLA, a bioplastic. In retail operations, UCSB has transitioned to bagasse hot and cold cups and lids. Wherever possible, the switch has been made to bagasse to-go containers, condiments and lids. UCSB is still evaluating which items can be transitioned to plastic-free packaging and exploring changes to improve vending machine options.

AWARDS

UCSB received 5th in EPEAT's Purchaser Award for Sustainable Electronics Leadership.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Cruz

Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience is one of the five pillars in Leading the Change, the campus-wide strategic plan UCSC completed in 2022.

UC SANTA CRUZ

A plan goal is to decarbonize UC Santa Cruz to create an equitable, accessible and fossil-free future.

UCSC has made strong progress toward this goal. The Kresge College renewal includes the campus's largest all-electric academic and residential facility. UCSC has launched a major project to reduce natural gas use in its central heating and hot water systems. Grounds crews are transitioning from gas to electric-powered equipment. Design work has been completed for several campus microgrids — self-sufficient energy systems that support energy resilience and sustainability.

To advance conservation, teaching and research, UCSC and The Conservation Fund announced a collaboration that will conserve more than 200 acres of currently privately held land adjacent to the residential campus. In addition, the campus is pursuing a transformative plan to expand UCSC's research and education in sustainable organic agriculture through the acquisition of another 200-plus acres of private farmland that borders its coastal campus.

Additional accomplishments include:

- Launch of the Joint Academic Senate/Administration Committee on Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience to advance teaching, research and operational goals.
- Adoption of the Okanagan Charter, also known as Health Promoting Universities (UCSC is one of nearly 30 institutions of higher education around the nation to do so).
- Award of the 2025 Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award to the Grounds Department by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

STORIES

Chancellor's 2024 Innovation Awards Honor Excellence in Research and Impact

Jason Eshraghian, a UC Santa Cruz assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and his research team, received the University's Innovator of the Year Award. The team developed a computing approach that eliminates energy-intensive generative AI technologies, achieving comparable performance while consuming just 13 watts — roughly the power of a household light bulb. Their method underpins SpikeGPT, a spiking neural network for language generation that activates only when stimulated, greatly reducing energy use.

Read full article:

https://news.ucsc.edu/2025/05/chancellors-2024-innovation-awards-honor-excellence-in-research-and-impact

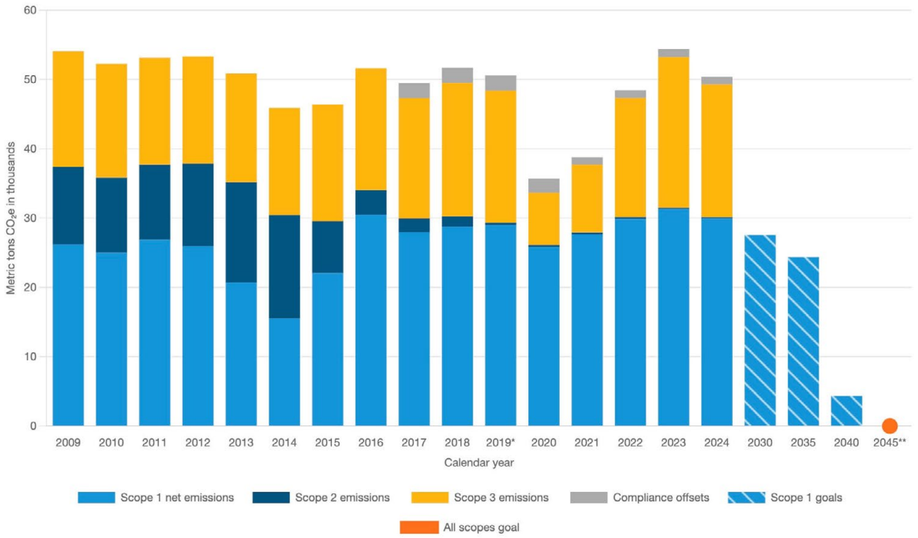
Research Project Shows How Aquaculture, Agriculture, and Restoration Can Work Together

UC Santa Cruz Professor Anne Kapuscinski led a collaboration with Pie Ranch and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust to repurpose backwash, filtered water from aerated, recirculating aquaculture systems housing 200 rainbow trout, to irrigate native plants. Researchers are investigating why this nutrient-rich water promotes plant growth. Select plants are being used to replace invasive eucalyptus trees and to restore landscapes burned in the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

Read full article:

https://news.ucsc.edu/2025/08/research-project-shows-how-aquaculture-agriculture-and-restoration-can-work-together/

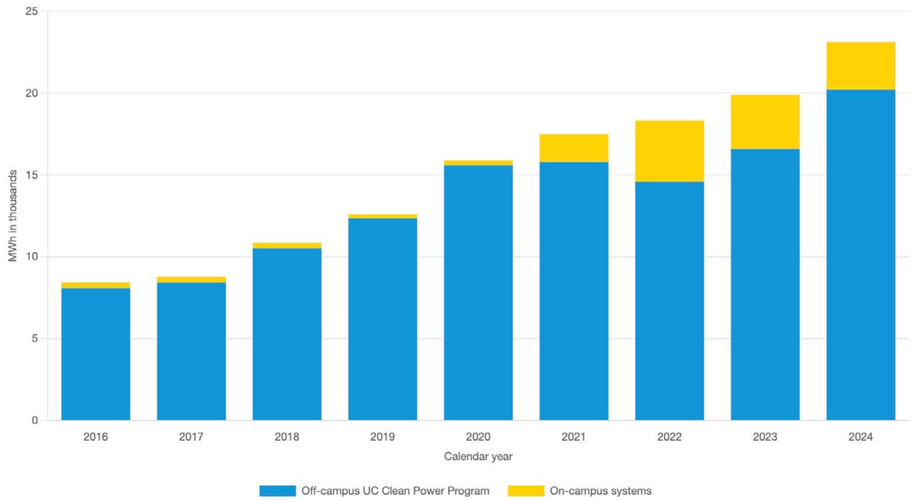
EMISSIONS



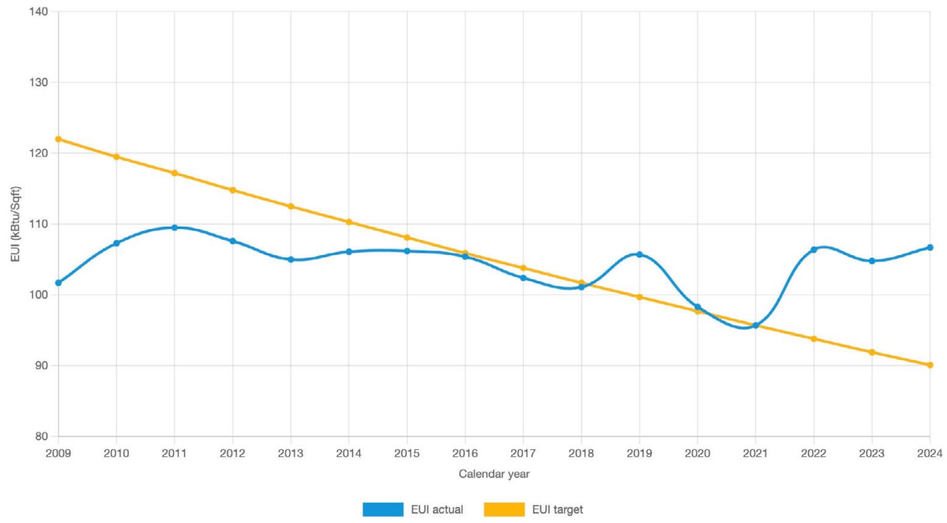
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

UCSC's scope 1 emissions decreased in 2024, but the reduction is primarily attributed to less heating due to warmer temperatures. Although UCSC has reported scope 3 emissions from commutes and air travel in the past, this was the first year the campus included scope 3 emissions from solid waste and other business travel like rental cars and personal mileage reimbursements.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC Santa Cruz saw an increase in its EUI in the calendar year 2024 as the campus increased density within existing residential facilities and academic buildings. Concurrently, UCSC is advancing its long-term building performance strategy through persistent commissioning, data analytics and utility partnerships to address inefficiencies and reduce EUI across the campus in future years.

FOOD

7%
of food and beverage purchases met sustainability criteria ($1.1M)

23%
of food and beverage purchases were plant-based ($3.5M)

There was a large rise in cost of animal proteins due to factors like the avian flu outbreak and the shift to higher-quality products through partners like Real Good Fish and Cream Co. This caused plant-based spend to decrease as a percentage of total spend, even though the amount of animal protein purchased actually decreased.

GREEN BUILDING

Three buildings were constructed, occupied, and received their LEED rating in 2025: Rachel Carson College Dining, Kresge Academic Building and Kresge Residential Halls.

10 Gold, 8 Silver and 2 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

HEALTHY VENDING

50%
healthy vending spend on food ($57K)

18%
healthy vending spend on beverages ($37K)

Healthy vending is defined as meeting UC's Healthy Vending Guidelines. Data is from 2023–24.

Approximately 50% of food and 18% of beverages met healthy vending criteria. The campus's MeFit vending machines include beverages and snacks. Beverage metrics include data from Pepsi and MeFit. Since MeFit did not provide cost data, the campus used averages from other data sets to estimate percentages.

PROCUREMENT

$2.3M
green spend on electronics (88%)

$553K
green spend on cleaning supplies (73%)

$692K
green spend on indoor office furniture (87%)

$22K
green spend on office supplies (14%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (7), Furniture (4), Cleaning supplies (3), Office supplies (4).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING & LABORATORY OPERATIONS

59
total assessed green laboratories

The Green Labs team recertified two labs, certified 15 new labs and provided thousands of dollars in incentives for freezers and fridges.

TRANSPORTATION

68%
of students and employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

24%
of all vehicles and **25%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

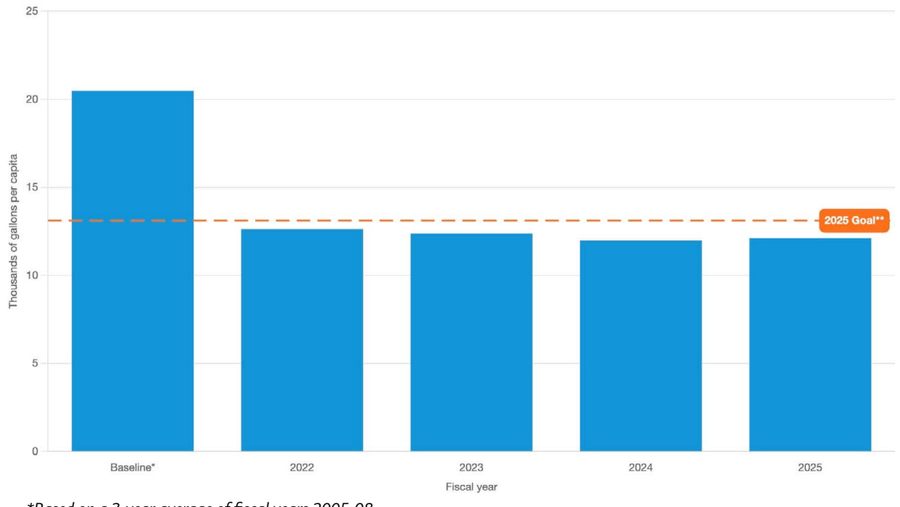
17%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

78
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

UCSC has focused on the installation of electric vehicle charging this year and will bring on multiple new ports to support the purchase of additional zero-emission vehicles next year.

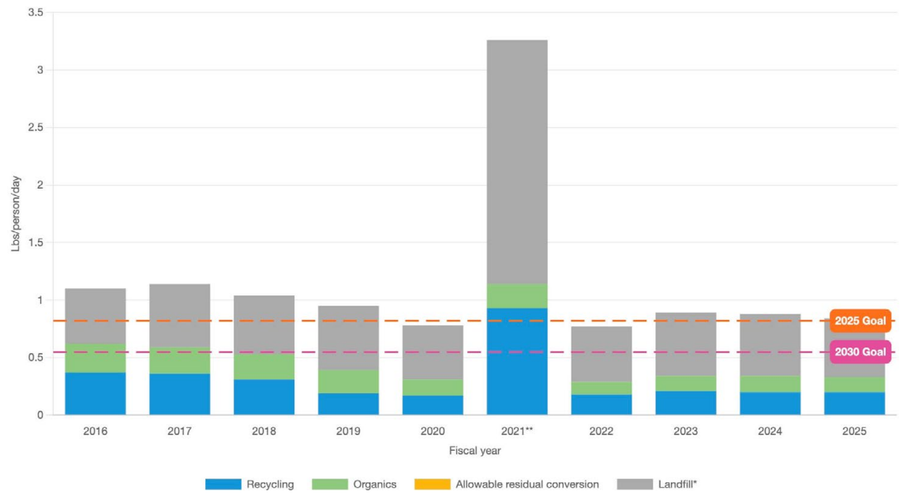
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

UCSC achieved the University's 2025 water reduction goals. Water use increased this year due to weather-related irrigation needs, new irrigation needs related to new construction, an increase in makeup water usage at the pool related to a malfunction with the effluent sensor, and shutdowns and issues in the two main cogeneration cooling towers that forced reliance on a third cooling tower that is less efficient.

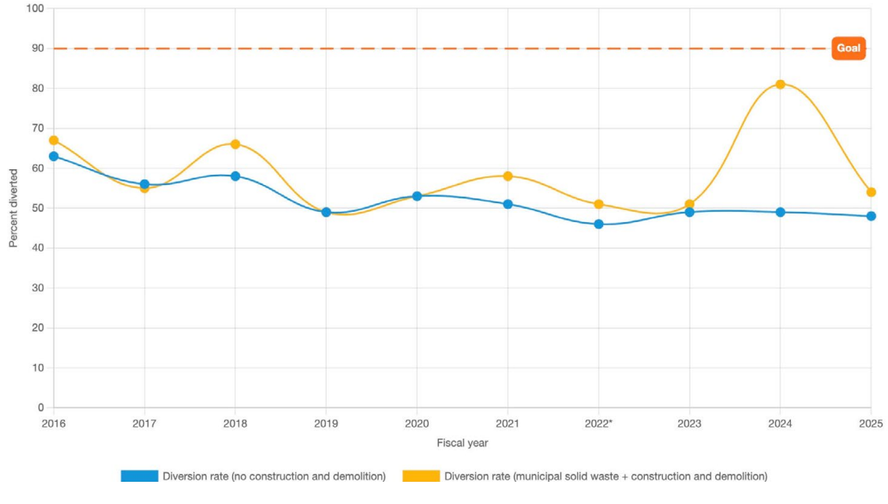
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

The campus's generation rate improved to 0.84 pounds per person per day, which is very close to the 2025 goal of 0.82. Total municipal solid waste generation decreased from the previous two years and is 7% below the lowest pre-COVID total municipal solid waste generation number. These improvements are likely due in part to deployment of organics containers and increased educational efforts.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

The diversion rate without construction and demolition remained relatively steady. Efforts to enhance diversion over the past year included adding organics bins to all dumpster locations, expanding the number of buildings with three-bin systems and taking initial steps toward centralized bins, and the Custodial and Grounds teams (waste collection operations) combining under common leadership. Sustainability staff have worked closely with custodial staff on improved handling of materials.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)	• N/A

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

UCSC has completely phased out single-use plastic bags and is in the process of phasing out single-use plastic non-water bottles and catering serviceware.

AWARDS

UCSC maintains a STARS Gold rating.

A full list of awards is featured on the UC Office of the President's website.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Agriculture and Natural Resources

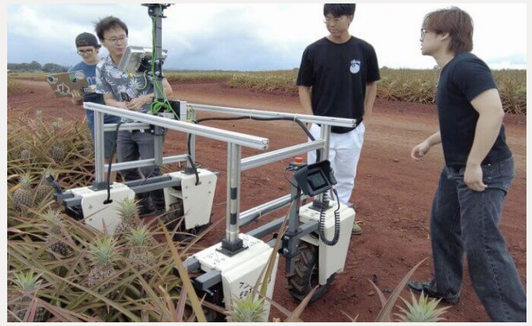
UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) delivers the land-grant mission for UC and California by developing and promoting practical, science-based solutions in agricultural production and food systems, natural resources management, ecosystem resilience, community and youth development, and nutrition and health.

UC ANR operates 11 facilities statewide: 10 Research and Extension Centers (RECs) and a central administrative building in Davis. Of these, one is LEED certified, and two new building projects at REC sites are designed to achieve LEED Gold certification. UC ANR personnel are also located at nine UC campuses and 59 county offices, serving all 58 counties in California.

UC ANR builds sustainability practices into work both on-site and in California's communities. When UC ANR evaluates procurement options, 15% of the criteria for selection relates to sustainability goals. Aligned with UC's zero waste goals, UC ANR is piloting centralized waste streams in the Davis building. UC ANR academics lead green-certified labs at all five Agriculture Experiment Station campuses.

Between 2024 and 2025, UC ANR's facilities reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 3.5%, from 875 to 844 metric tons, and increased natural gas use 0.7%, from 234 to 235 metric tons. Overall indirect greenhouse gas emissions, largely from purchased electricity, decreased by 9%. Potable water consumption stayed steady at about 16 million gallons. Hansen REC had a 258% increase in potable water consumption as operations ramped up at its new site. Across the other RECs, there was a 5.5% decrease in potable water use.

STORIES



Students in Farm Robotics Challenge Develop Novel Technologies to Improve Agricultural Resilience

For the 2025 Farm Robotics Challenge, UC ANR and partners supported 20 collegiate teams to develop robot and drone systems that increase the resilience of an array of agricultural and working lands. Winners included a robotic platform that helps growers minimize water and chemical inputs from University of Georgia's team and a robot-drone system that optimizes pineapple harvesting from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa team. Winners also receive support to commercialize their inventions.

Read full article:

https://ucanr.edu/blog/anr-news-releases/article/university-georgia-wins-top-honors-2025-farm-robotics-challenge

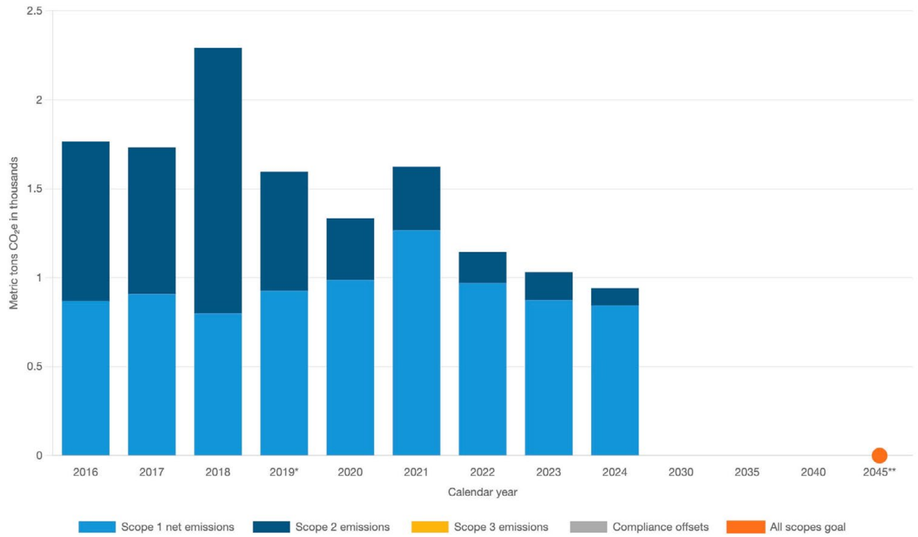
Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Experiment Station Researchers Develop AI-Powered Chatbot to Identify Weeds

About half the pesticides sold in California are applied in non-agricultural areas, targeting plant and animal pests in residential homes, gardens, schools and public landscapes. Being able to correctly identify weeds in non-agricultural settings supports the public to use fewer and less toxic solutions by tailoring treatment recommendations. WeedChat, an AI-powered chatbot developed by Agricultural Experiment Station faculty member Mohsen Mesgaran and Alireza Pourreza, a cooperative extension specialist at UC Davis, is a novel approach to help people do just that.

Read full article:

https://caes.ucdavis.edu/news/weedchat-ai-powered-chatbot-answer-thorny-and-weedy-questions

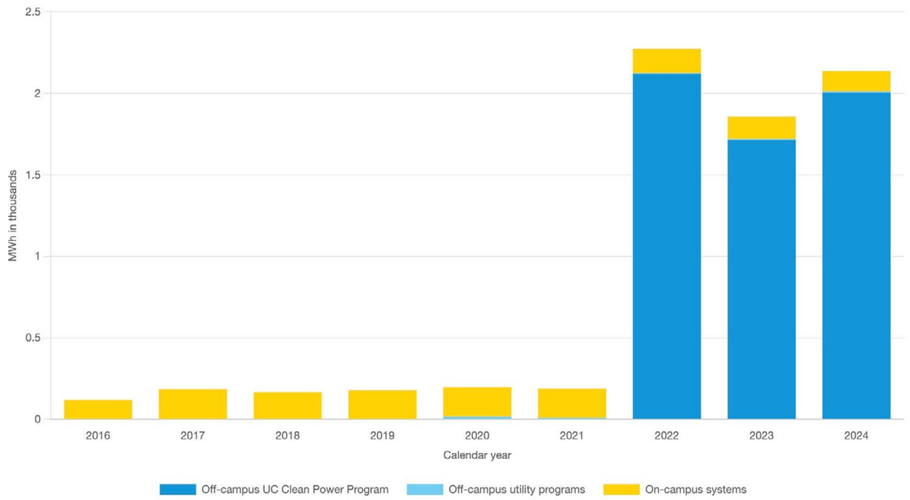
EMISSIONS



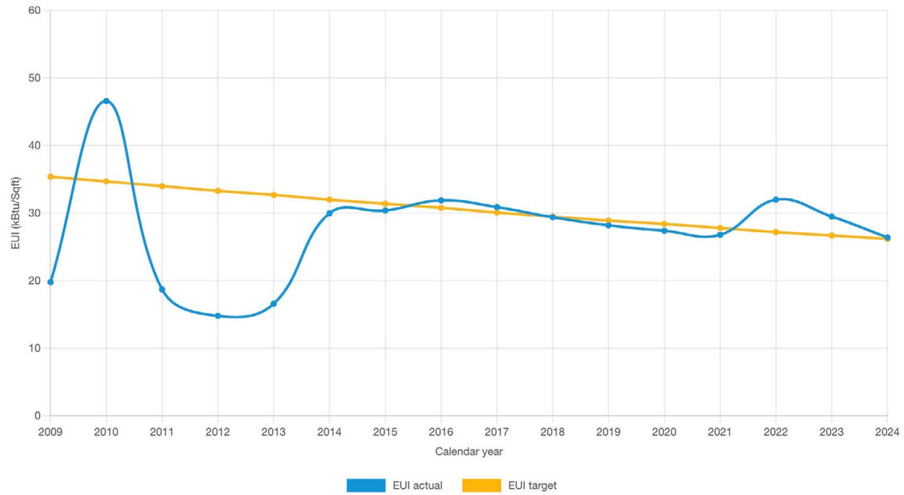
Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019
*** 90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal*

UC ANR had a reduction in scope 1 emissions from 875 to 844 metric tons. This was primarily due to a reduction in stationary fuel use from 592 to 556 metric tons.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



UC ANR saw a decrease in its EUI in the calendar year 2024.

GREEN BUILDING

The number of green buildings remained unchanged from last year.

1 Certified

- Total number of LEED certifications

TRANSPORTATION

4
EV charging ports

The fleet remained unchanged from last year.

WATER

16.2M
gallons of water used in 2025

UC ANR's potable water consumption increased from 15.9 million gallons to 16.2 million gallons. This was largely due to the ramping up of operations at the new site of the Hansen Research and Extension Center (REC). Other RECs achieved a slight decrease in potable water consumption.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) is a Department of Energy Office of Science research laboratory operated by the University of California.

The Lab continues to advance strong fundamental improvements in sustainability performance, with a focus on deep energy efficiency, improved building operations and advanced use of analytics.

Sustainability performance highlights include:

Energy savings: The Lab maintains a portfolio of energy and water savings that currently generates an annual utility bill savings of over $1.1 million, driven primarily by a dedicated ongoing commissioning (OCx) team. Annual savings exceed program costs.

Reductions in natural gas consumption: The Lab consumes 29% less natural gas (weather corrected) than it did in 2015.

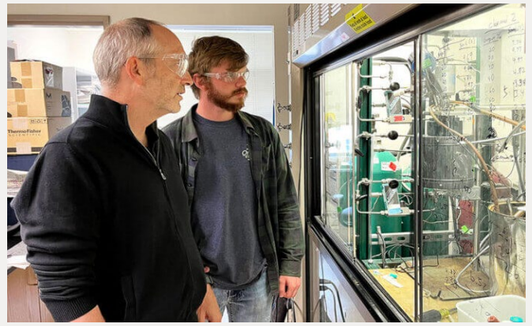
Electrified buildings: The Lab is continuing a tradition of all-electric space and weather heating in its new buildings. A new electrified laboratory building opened in early 2025, and a new all-electric multipurpose building, including an all-electric cafeteria, is under construction.

Low-waste generation: The Lab is maintaining a level below 0.5 pounds of municipal solid waste generation per person-day.

Dry cooling: The Lab has started construction on a new dry cooling plant, which will serve high-performance computing capabilities. The dry coolers are expected to reduce water consumption at the Lab's supercomputing facility by about 60% and save approximately $30 million in utility costs over 25 years compared to the use of traditional evaporative cooling towers.

Explore Berkeley Lab's sustainability data at sbldata.lbl.gov.

STORIES



New Process Vaporizes Plastic Bags and Bottles, Yielding Gases to Make New, Recycled Plastics

A new catalytic process, discovered by researchers at Berkeley Lab and UC Berkeley, efficiently reduces polymers to chemical precursors — bringing a circular economy for plastics one step closer to reality.

Read full article:

https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2024/08/29/new-process-vaporizes-plastic-bags-and-bottles-yielding-gases-to-make-new-recycled-plastics/

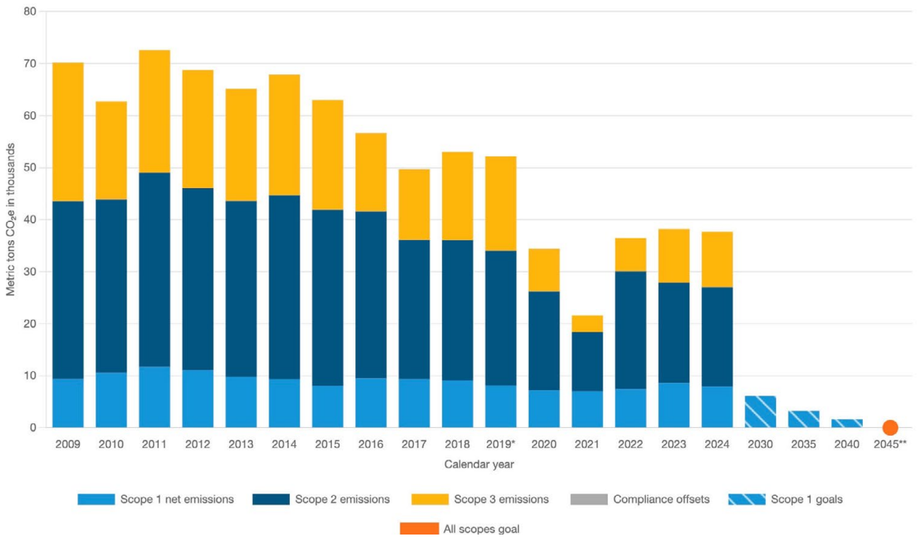
New Plant Engineering Method Promises to Dramatically Improve Biofuel and Bioproduct Development

Scientists from Berkeley Lab have contributed to new research showing that some simple changes to a bacterium called Agrobacterium can significantly improve the efficiency of introducing DNA into a genome, also known as "transformation." The work opens up new opportunities to more efficiently optimize crop plants and fungi for conversion into biofuels and bioproducts.

Read full article:

https://newscenter.lbl.gov/2024/11/07/new-plant-engineering-method-promises-to-dramatically-improve-biofuel-and-bioproduct-development/

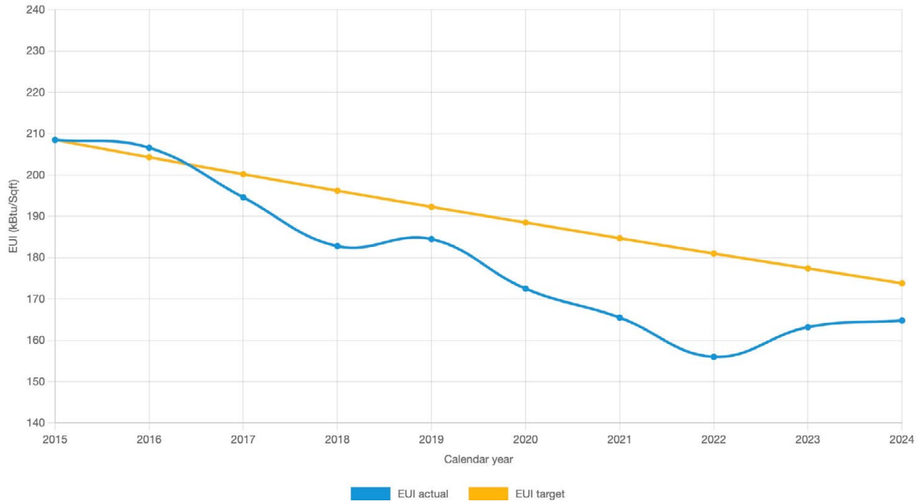
EMISSIONS



**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

Berkeley Lab achieved a 28% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in federal fiscal year 2024 compared to fiscal year 2019, with a slight decrease in emissions since the previous year. Emissions from use of natural gas are 19% lower than in fiscal year 2019 and decreased 20% since the previous year.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



Berkeley Lab saw an increase in its EUI in the calendar year 2024. Berkeley Lab's UC EUI metric for calendar year 2024 was 21% lower than in calendar year 2015, beating the 2024 UC EUI target of 174 kBtu per square foot. Natural gas consumption per square foot was 37% lower than in 2015, with overall natural gas consumption 29% lower.

GREEN BUILDING

Berkeley Lab opened BioEPIC, a new 73,000-square-foot laboratory building, in early 2025. The building achieved LEED v4 Gold certification with aggressive energy performance targets and sustainability features including all-electric space and water heating, heat recovery systems and passive design strategies. Construction continues on a new 47,000-square-foot cafeteria and conference center. This facility is also targeting LEED Gold and will be all-electric, including a commercial kitchen.

1 Platinum and 6 Gold

- Total number of LEED certifications

TRANSPORTATION

70%
of all vehicles and **57%** of sedans and minivans acquired in 2025 were sustainable vehicles*

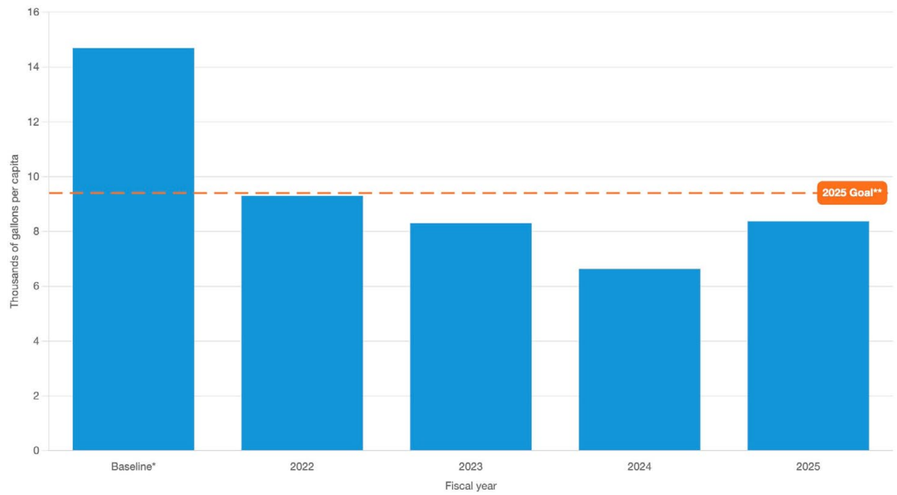
46%
of the fleet consists of sustainable vehicles*

29
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

Berkeley Lab has 29 employee electric vehicle charging locations, with two new Level 2 stations installed in early 2025. As of summer 2025, the Lab's employee EV charging program includes 450 members. This program growth follows the successful transition of all Level 2 EV charging stations in UC fiscal year 2024–25 to new hardware that enables accurate utilization tracking and direct payments. Plug-in hybrid vehicles accounted for 57% of all sedan and minivan acquisitions in federal fiscal year 2024.

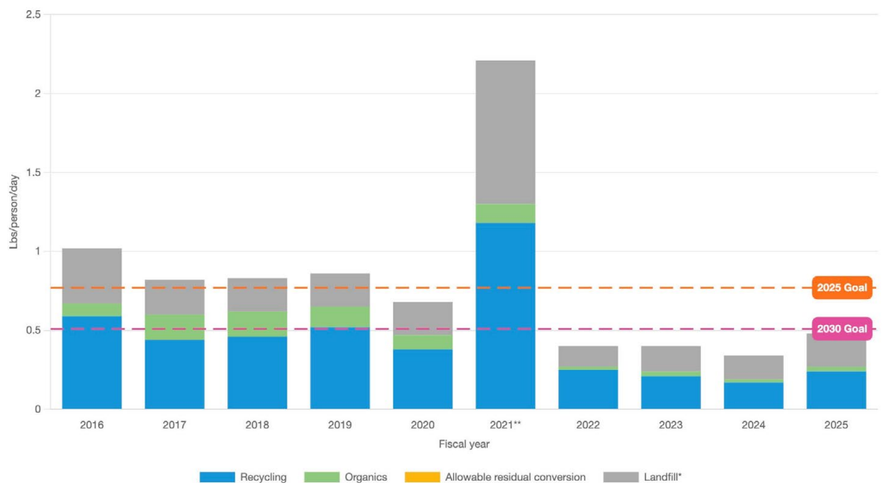
WATER



**Based on fiscal year 2007-08*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

Berkeley Lab's per person water consumption (not corrected for weather) for UC fiscal year 2024–25 was 43% lower than in 2007-08, but consumption per person increased over the last year. This is due in part to increased water usage for cooling of scientific loads, including high-performance computing systems and accelerators. The Lab has been actively enhancing the quality of monitoring for water consumption and single pass cooling, including rapid notification alerts for high water usage and leak incidents.

ZERO WASTE – GENERATION

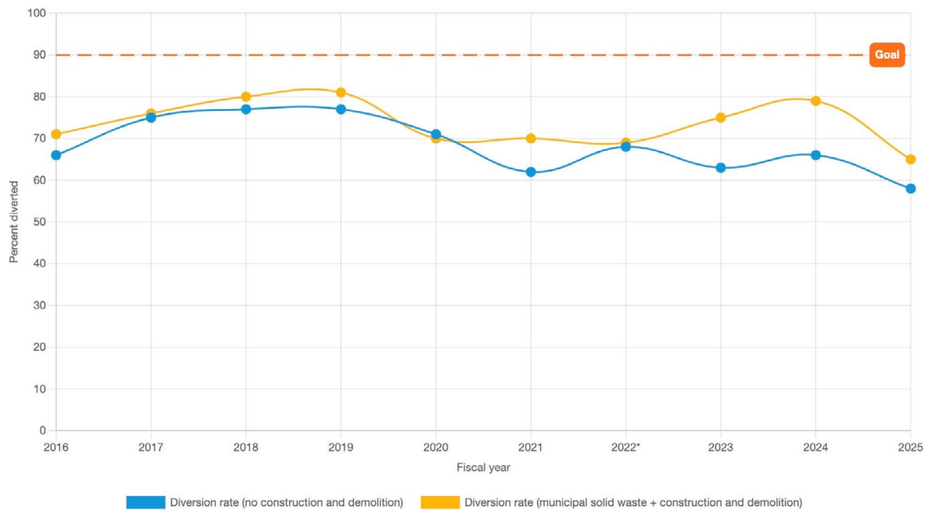


**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***In 2021, waste generation per weighted campus user spiked due to pandemic-related closures as base-level operations continued but the number of users on campus decreased.*

Berkeley Lab's waste generation for UC fiscal year 2024–25 was approximately 0.47 pounds per person per day. While this represents an increase from the previous fiscal year, waste generation remains 54% below the fiscal year 2015–16 baseline, meeting the 2030 policy goal. Organic waste generation remained low due to the temporary absence of an on-site cafeteria.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION

Berkeley Lab's diversion rate for UC fiscal year 2024–25 was 58% excluding construction and demolition (C&D) debris and 65% including C&D debris. The completion of a major laboratory construction project (BioEPIC) led to a decrease in C&D diversion activity. The Lab expanded a pilot circular economy program that turns used laboratory plastics into new sterile laboratory ware to a second laboratory building in early 2025. Diversion of organic waste remained low due to the temporary absence of an on-site cafeteria.



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*	PARTIAL PHASE-OUT	STARTING SOON
• Plastic bags	• Foodware (UC dining facilities) • Foodware (third-party dining facilities)	• Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities) • Beverage bottles (vending machines)

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

Berkeley Lab is continuing its partial phase-out of single-use plastics. While the new cafeteria building is under construction, the Lab's main food service vendor offers food trucks on-site. This vendor primarily utilizes fiber-based, locally compostable food service items, aligning with both the Lab's internal policy and the UC Sustainable Practices Policy. The new cafeteria is designed to operate as a zero-waste facility, with a strong emphasis on reusable food service items.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Office of the President

In fiscal year 2024–25, the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) sharpened its decarbonization plan by strengthening data quality.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Office of the President

UCOP completed waste audits at Franklin and UC Path/Intellicenter to verify tonnage and pinpoint diversion gaps and in March 2025 conducted its first Employee Commuter Survey since 2018, giving a clearer post-pandemic picture of commute emissions.

With fuller, more accurate data, reported scope 3 emissions rose significantly since fiscal year 2023–24, driven mainly by improved commuter accounting, even as the long-term trajectory remains downward. Compared to last year, transportation indicators show single-occupancy-vehicle trips up by under 3% and telecommuting down 12%, partly offset by higher transit, carpool, bike and walk shares. Waste generation fell in total and per capita terms, but diversion slipped by one point. Audits found contamination and missed capture, prompting initial operational changes, including adoption of improved paper towel composting. With this stronger baseline, UCOP will pivot from measurement to action — identifying, piloting and scaling solutions that close diversion gaps and cut travel emissions to advance our sustainability and decarbonization goals.

STORIES

UCOP Conducts Waste Audits

In March 2025, UCOP conducted an internal waste audit at the Intellicenter/UC Path facility to assess stream composition and improve diversion. The project involved UCOP and UCR facilities and Sustainability staff, custodial staff, students and waste hauler partners. The audit revealed operational gaps in bin lining and dumpster access, as well as lack of on-site separation by employees. UCOP is actively addressing these gaps to achieve stronger waste diversion and advance its sustainability goals.

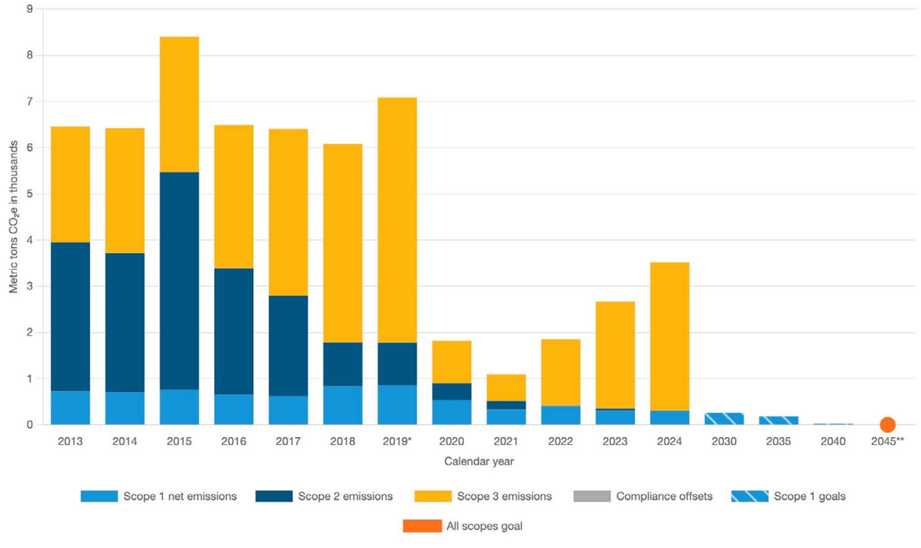
UC Tech Community Champions Sustainability and Energy Innovation

The UC Tech News Team brought together UCOP leaders to discuss the intersection between sustainability and technology at Earth Hour. UCOP Chief Sustainability Officer Matt St. Clair traced two decades of progress, and Hilary Steinman, strategic sourcing manager, spotlighted the 2021 Sustainable Procurement Guidelines and scope 3 reductions. The UCOP team offered both strategic and practical suggestions for tech professionals who want to contribute to UC's sustainability mission.

Read full article:

https://uctechnews.ucop.edu/news-uc-tech-community-champions-sustainability-and-energy-innovation-on-earth-day/

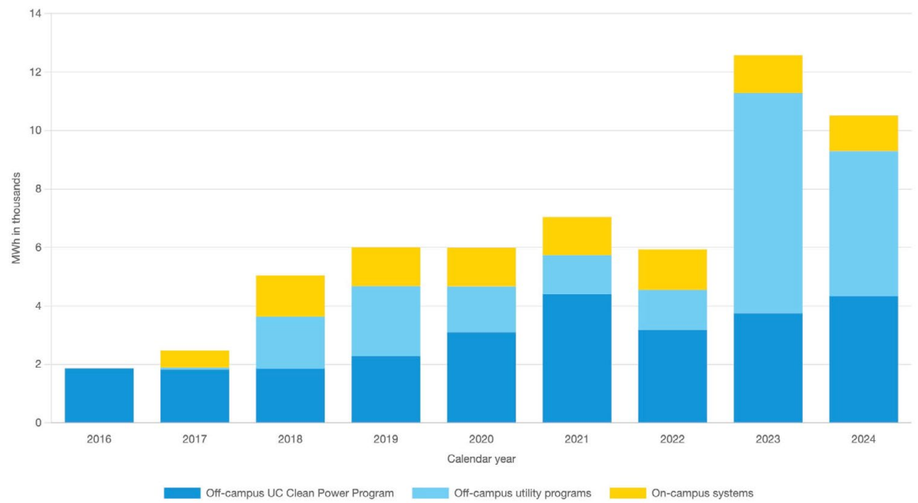
EMISSIONS



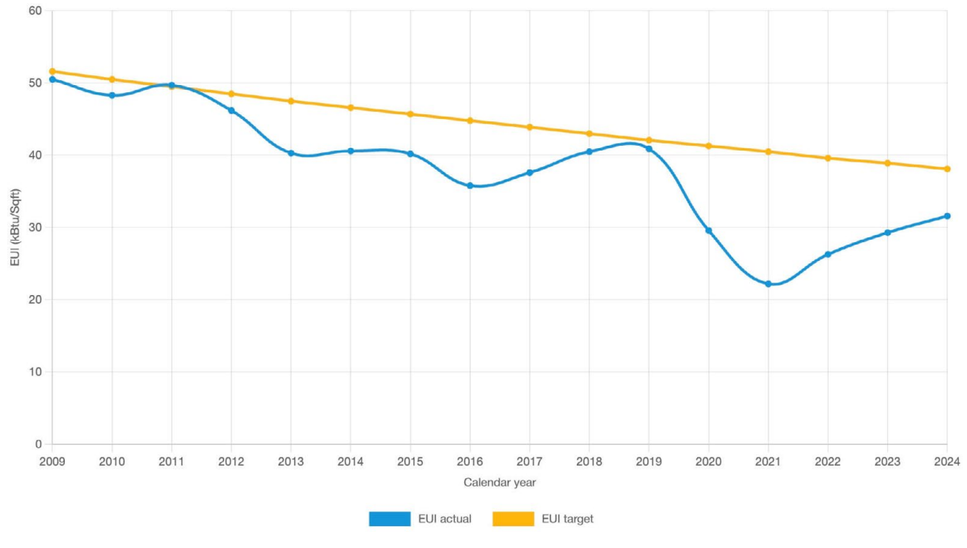
**Methodological changes in scope 3 accounting introduced beginning in 2019.*
***90% direct reduction of total emissions from 2019 levels with residual emissions negated by carbon removal.*

UCOP's scope 1 emissions remained steady compared to 2023. Scope 2 emissions decreased with UC Center Sacramento's enrollment in a green tariff electricity program. Scope 3 emissions rose by nearly 39%, likely as a result of more accurate commuter data due to methodological changes, in addition to post-COVID adjustments still happening. Despite this adjustment, UCOP continues to demonstrate an overall downward trend in emissions since 2018, reflecting sustained progress toward reduction goals.

ENERGY – RENEWABLE ENERGY USE



ENERGY USE INTENSITY (EUI)



The modest increase in 2024 EUI was primarily driven by two factors: an increased number of employees working across all UCOP facilities and a steady increase of students staying in UCDC residential units.

GREEN BUILDING

The number of green buildings remained unchanged from last year.

1 Platinum, 4 Gold and 2 Silver

- Total number of LEED certifications

PROCUREMENT

$887K
green spend on electronics (93%)

$319K
green spend on cleaning supplies (72%)

$319K
green spend on indoor office furniture (92%)

$6K
green spend on office supplies (13%)

Green spend is defined as meeting preferred or minimum criteria in UC's Sustainable Procurement Guidelines.
Suppliers reporting: Electronics (7), Furniture (4), Cleaning supplies (4), Office supplies (3).
UC Systemwide Spend Analytics category data provided by CalUSource.

The University reports on green spend, as defined in the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, and reached out to suppliers for spend data in four product categories for this year's report.

TRANSPORTATION

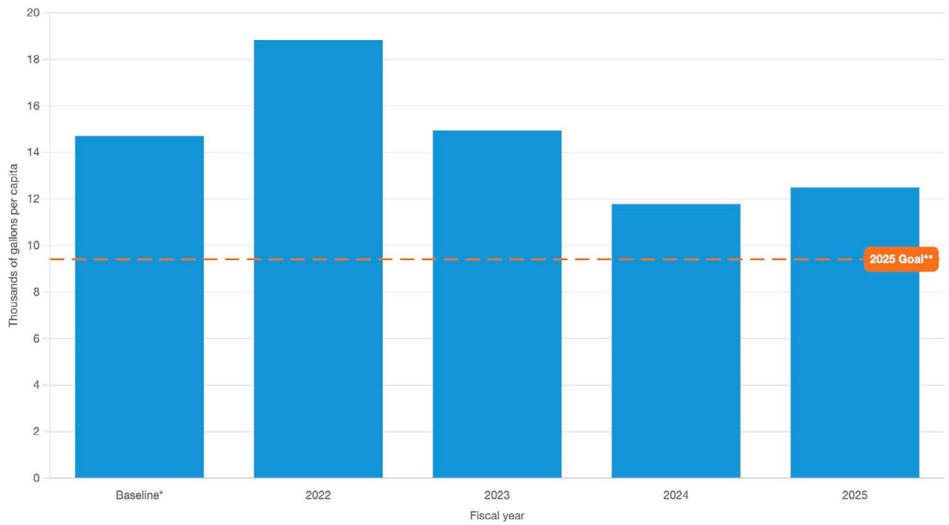
81%
of employees are utilizing sustainable commuting methods

25
EV charging ports

**Sustainable vehicles are defined as electric (zero-emission), plug-in hybrid or clean transportation fuel.*

In March 2025, UCOP conducted its first commuter survey since 2018, providing the most accurate picture of post-pandemic commute behaviors. Comparing fiscal year 2023–24 estimates with fiscal year 2024–25 survey results, single-occupancy-vehicle trips rose by under 3%, while telecommuting decreased by 12%. This is likely due to the gradual shift away from the elevated levels of telecommuting seen during COVID. Meanwhile, modest increases in transit, multi-occupancy vehicles, biking and walking (about 5% combined) suggest sustainable commute options remain relatively stable among UCOP employees.

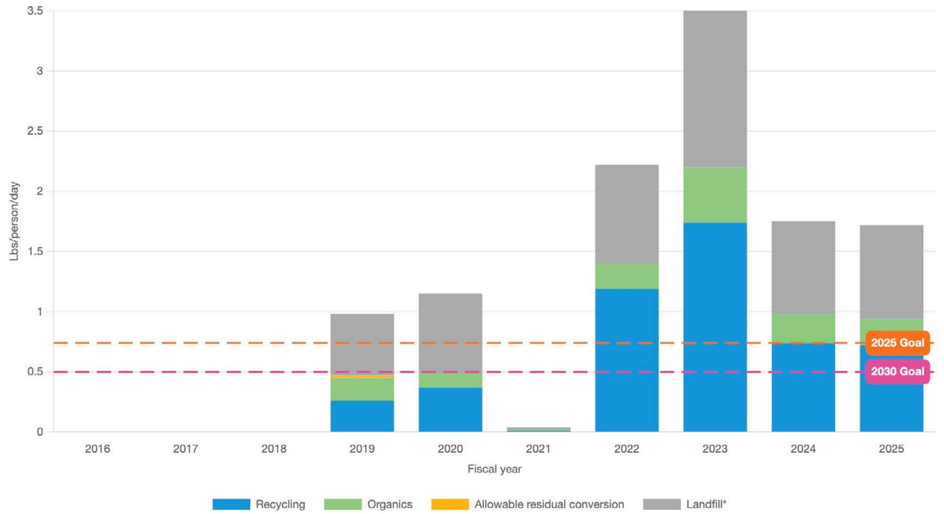
WATER



**Based on a 3-year average of fiscal years 2005-08.*
***2025 goal is a 36% reduction from baseline.*

UCOP's water use in 2024–25 shows mixed results against the 2025 goal of 9,414 gallons per person. Overall water use rose 2%, while the number of full-time equivalent staff on-site fell 4%, resulting in a 6% increase to 12,502 gallons per person. Despite efficiencies in some sites, overall UCOP water intensity remains above the 2025 target.

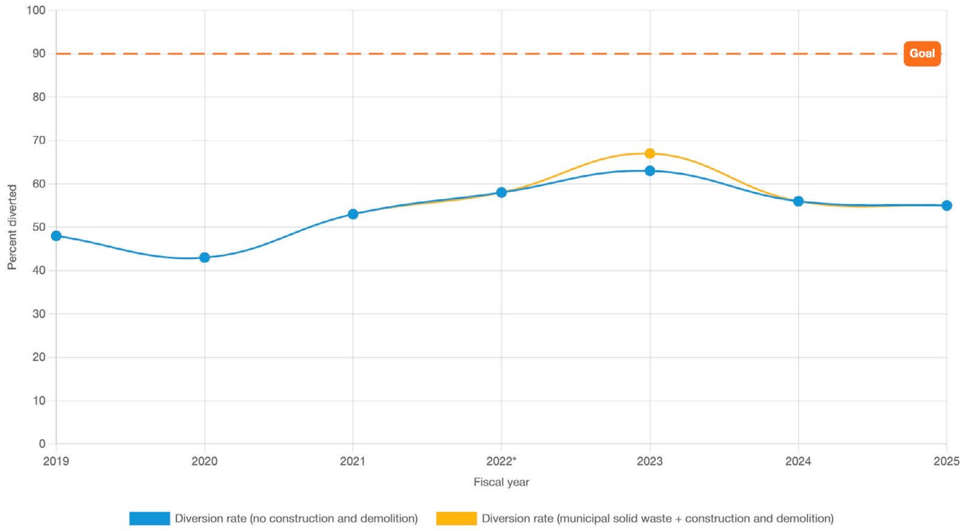
ZERO WASTE – GENERATION



**These numbers might include a small amount of incineration that is being phased out.*
***Boundary changes give cause to difference in values from previous years (i.e. leased buildings).*

In 2024–25, total waste tonnage decreased by 5%, with per capita daily generation down 2%. While progress continues toward UCOP's long-term goals, this year marked an important step in refining data accuracy. Waste audits conducted at two facilities provided a clearer picture of actual waste generation compared to prior billing-based estimates, laying the groundwork for more reliable reporting and targeted strategies in the future.

ZERO WASTE – DIVERSION



**Waste incineration was counted as diversion prior to July 2022.*

In fiscal year 2024–25, waste diversion decreased by 1 percentage point from 2023–24. Two waste audits clarified on-the-ground issues, including contamination and missed capture, and informed targeted fixes. Midyear changes, such as promoting more paper towel composting, are expected to improve results in the next cycle. UCOP will monitor these interventions through 2025–26 to verify increased organics diversion and reduced landfill disposal.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PHASE-OUT

COMPLETE PHASE-OUT*

- Plastic bags

PARTIAL PHASE-OUT

- Foodware (UC dining facilities)
- Foodware (third-party dining facilities)
- Beverage bottles (UC dining facilities)

STARTING SOON

- Beverage bottles (vending machines)

**Complete phase-out of single-use plastics may include exemptions where reasonable alternatives to plastic do not exist.*

Third-party dining and catering are partially compliant due to limited cost-effective compostable alternatives, particularly for hot beverage cups and utensils. Some municipalities prohibit bioplastics, and some waste haulers do not accept compostables requiring more than 15 days to decompose, constraining options. Reusable foodware adoption is underway but gradual.

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Contact us at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/contact-us

sustainabilityreport.ucop.edu/2025/