

Sustainable SCU: Leading Through Laudato Si'

Progress Update | April 2024



Our Efforts So Far

The Division of Mission and Ministry and the Center for Sustainability are proud to share this first progress update since the launch of *Sustainable SCU: Leading Through Laudato Si'* in March 2024.

The plan no longer simply represents our collective hopes for 2030; rather, it now guides our progress. These pages describe the sub-strategies already underway around campus and those coming next in our timeline. Each area also shares campus stories to showcase the many ways in which the SCU community is deepening its commitment to justice and sustainability.

The Jesuit School of Theology has embraced the Laudato Si' Action Plan as a critical strategy for the theological and ministerial formation of future leaders for a synodal Church. Read on to learn more about the updates occurring in this exemplary graduate school.

We are so grateful for all the ways in which the Bronco community continues to support SCU's efforts to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world. Thank you for your continued participation and interest on this road to 2030.

Executive Sponsors

These campus leaders provide quarterly high-level support and guidance for the implementation of the strategic action plan.



Academics

Daniel Press

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



Community Engagement

Alison Benders

VP, Mission and Ministry



Campus Engagement

Shá Duncan Smith

VP, Inclusive Excellence



Energy and Resources

Wilson Garone

VP, Finance and Administration



Campus Engagement

Zenobia Lane

VP, Human Resources



Operational Change Management

Lindsey Kalkbrenner

Director, Center for Sustainability

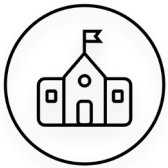
Our Goals

The main focus of this strategic action plan is these five areas, inspired by the criteria in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS), targets in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'* from Pope Francis.



Academics

Santa Clara University will be recognized for scholarship, research, and thought leadership around integral ecology, and equip all of our graduates to contribute to building a sustainable world through their academic experiences.



Campus Engagement

Santa Clara University will engage all students and employees in cultivating a culture of just sustainability by building a community who leads with a care ethic and applies an intersectional approach to care for our common home.



Community Engagement

Santa Clara University will use its platform in our local community, in the field of higher education, and in the global Jesuit network to scale climate resilience and regenerative practices through partnerships building environmental justice and an equitable economy.



Energy

Santa Clara University will position itself to be a climate positive university, accelerating the reduction of carbon pollution by driving down energy use through conservation and efficiency, decarbonizing our purchased energy and investments, and improving sustainable transportation options for our students and employees.



























Resources

Santa Clara University will model sustainable operational practices by minimizing harmful impacts on humans and the environment through ecologically managed grounds, sustainable procurement, waste minimization and recovery, and decreased water use.

Progress at a Glance

Key:  Upcoming  In progress  Modifying  Completed

These symbols are used throughout this update to indicate the level of progress of each sub-strategy.

Goal	Sub-strategies*						
Academics	 1.1	 1.2	 1.4	 2.1	 3.1		
Campus Engagement	 1.1	 1.2	 3.1	 3.3			
Community Engagement	 1.1	 1.2	 2.1	 3.1			
Energy	 1.1	 1.2	 1.3	 1.4	 2.2	 2.5	 4.2
Resources	 3.1	 3.2	 4.1	 4.2			

*The only sub-strategies identified in this progress update are ones already in progress or listed in the strategic action plan as a project ready for early adoption in 2025. Subsequent progress updates will reveal sub-strategies with farther timelines.



Academics

Goal

Santa Clara University will be recognized for scholarship, research, and thought leadership around integral ecology, and equip all of our graduates to contribute to building a sustainable world through their academic experiences.

Strategy Updates

AC 1: Learning Outcomes

By 2032, all undergraduate and graduate students will fulfill at least one sustainability learning requirement.



AC 1.1

Sub-strategy: By 2028, 100% of academic departments will offer at least one course that includes an assignment that integrates discipline-specific sustainability content.



AC 1.2

Sub-strategy: By 2028, 100% of undergraduate and graduate schools or programs will adopt at least one sustainability-related learning outcome to be implemented starting 2030.



AC 1.4

Sub-strategy: By 2024, the university will allocate ongoing funding for faculty development resources to support teaching toward the integral ecology curriculum goals.

AC 2: High-Impact Experience

By 2030, all undergraduate students will have at least one formational high-impact learning experience centered on sustainability and justice.



AC 2.1

Sub-strategy: By 2024, share a standard definition of sustainability high-impact practices and measure existing activities within each school/college.





AC 3: Thought Leadership

By 2030, all schools and 90% of all academic departments will be engaged in advancing integral ecology through scholarship, professional activity, partnerships, and/or thought leadership.



AC 3.1

Sub-strategy: By 2024, share standard definition of sustainability thought leadership and measure existing activities within each school/college.



Plan in Action

Success story: The Center for Sustainability's [curriculum development workshops](#) (Sustainability Across the Curriculum, Environmental Justice and Integral Ecology, and Pedagogy for Sustainability and Justice) have helped 312 faculty (including 221 from SCU) integrate new sustainability and environmental justice materials into their curriculum since 2007.



Campus Engagement

Goal

Santa Clara University will engage all students and employees in cultivating a culture of just sustainability by building a community who leads with a care ethic and applies an intersectional approach to care for our common home.

Strategy Updates

SCE 1: Sustainability in All Roles

By 2030, sustainability and justice will be integrated into all employee position descriptions and annual review processes.

↑
SCE 1.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, establish a plan for a phased approach to requiring annual training about sustainability/integral ecology for new hires, current employees, and student employees.

↑
SCE 1.2


Sub-strategy: By 2024, share standard statement/definitions of SCU's commitment to sustainability and justice for use in position descriptions & job postings.






SCE 3: Behavior Change

By 2030, at least 50% of students and employees at SCU, representative of the diverse make-up of our community, are practicing change agents to cultivate a culture of just sustainability.

 **SCE 3.1** **Sub-strategy:** Develop a system to track engagement in sustainability activities in order to quantify and expand inclusivity.

 **SCE 3.3** **Sub-strategy:** By 2024, launch the Sustainability Playbook program to give the SCU community tools and specific ways to be change agents for sustainability.



Plan in Action

New initiative: Erin Kimura-Walsh (Director, LEAD Scholars Program), Melissa Thiriez (Director, Employer Relations and Partnerships, Career Center), and Veronica Johnson (Academics and Engagement Program Manager, Center for Sustainability) have been awarded a grant from the Regents Experiential Learning Initiative for “Styling Success: Career Wardrobes.” This program aims to educate students on workplace attire and expand the Center for Sustainability’s thrift pop-up to a permanent store.



Community Engagement

Goal

Santa Clara University will use its platform in our local community, in the field of higher education, and in the global Jesuit network to scale climate resilience and regenerative practices through partnerships building environmental justice and an equitable economy.

Strategy Updates

CE 1: Advocacy

By 2026, develop and strengthen community-engaged research to amplify student civic engagement and sustainability advocacy that addresses environmental injustices and vulnerability.



CE 1.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, develop a shared sense of priorities and scale of key policy/issues, leverage priorities (Laudato Si' and SDG goals), and scale (local/state/national) to organize and prioritize resources.



CE 1.2

Sub-strategy: By 2025, create a coordination system for local and global community partnerships across the university's departments and centers, identifying existing relationships and key SCU contacts.

CE 2: Community-Engaged Research

By 2030, SCU will foster and scale inclusive pathways to resilient futures through community-engaged research partnerships to transform conditions that cause environmental injustice and vulnerability.



CE 2.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, create a coordination system to support the increase in breadth and depth of community-university research/action/learning outputs.





CE 3: Relationships

By 2030, engage with, invest in, and reconcile with local and regional indigenous tribes and other marginalized communities that are disproportionately burdened by environmental injustices.

↑
CE 3.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, develop a standing committee who facilitates and fosters reconciliation and restoration efforts.



Plan in Action

Success story: In Summer 2022, Santa Clara University and Silicon Valley Power announced a five-year [Silicon Valley Power Sustainable Futures Program](#) to enhance college access through scholarships and support project-based research fellowships for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds pursuing studies and careers in sustainability fields. So far, the program has awarded scholarships to eight students and has funded six research fellows.



Energy

Goal

Santa Clara University will position itself to be a climate positive university, accelerating the reduction of carbon pollution by driving down energy use through conservation and efficiency, decarbonizing our purchased energy and investments, and improving sustainable transportation options for our students and employees.

Strategy Updates

OPE 1: Reduce Energy

By 2030, reduce campus energy use per square foot by 35%.



OPE 1.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, develop SCU green building energy standards.



OPE 1.2

Sub-strategy: By 2025, conduct building assessments of buildings constructed prior to 2010 to identify energy efficiency upgrade opportunities.



OPE 1.3

Sub-strategy: By 2025, develop a 2025-2035 campus energy master plan.



OPE 1.4

Sub-strategy: By 2027, upgrade building management system (BMS) to allow for active building temperature management.





OPE 2: Decarbonize

By 2030, decarbonize campus energy use by 50%.

↑
OPE 2.2 **Sub-strategy:** By 2025, install gas meters on all possible buildings to allow natural gas consumption monitoring at the local level.

↑
OPE 2.5 **Sub-strategy:** By 2030, have funding and a strategic plan in place to transition SCU's entire fleet (carts, cars, vans, trucks, and buses) to all-electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles by 2050.

OPE 4: Funding

By 2024, identify recurring funding processes to operationalize sustainability projects, and ensure meeting sustainability goals.

↑
OPE 4.2 **Sub-strategy:** From FY2025 forward, dedicate ongoing funds in the University's annual budget for actions to operationalize sustainability projects, and ensure meeting sustainability goals.



Plan in Action

Success story: As of March 2024, construction of the [Bird Solar Project](#) is 2/3 complete! Dual-sided solar panels now provide shade to the parked vehicles in the Leavey Lot and cool down the roof of the Athletics Excellence Center. More importantly, they are supplying over 16% of SCU's electricity needs.



Resources

Goal

Santa Clara University will model sustainable operational practices by minimizing harmful impacts on humans and the environment through ecologically managed grounds, sustainable procurement, waste minimization and recovery, and decreased water use.

Strategy Updates

OPR 3: Water

By 2030, reduce water used per person by 30%.

↑
OPR 3.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, conduct a campus water assessment including current conservation measures, existing ability to monitor water use, current infrastructure, and current sq. ft. of recycled water irrigation.

↑
OPR 3.2

Sub-strategy: By 2026, develop a water conservation master plan to identify priorities for water conservation monitoring and system improvements to achieve water use reductions.

OPR 4: Landscaping

By 2030, achieve 100% ecologically managed landscaping to meet social, cultural, and ecosystem needs.

↑
OPR 4.1

Sub-strategy: By 2025, develop a landscaping master plan and commence implementation to transition all non-recreational/event/ceremonial/athletic lawns to sustainable landscapes.

↑
OPR 4.2

Sub-strategy: By 2026, create and implement a plan to identify and protect biodiversity and endangered/vulnerable species with habitats on campus.





Plan in Action

New initiative: Amy Lueck (Associate Professor, English), Becca Nelson (Manager, Forge Garden), and Maia Dedrick (Assistant Professor, Anthropology) received a grant from the Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative and the Miller Center for “Native Plants for Stewardship, Harvest, and Sustainable Use in Ohlone Cultural Projects.” This project will support sharing Ohlone cultural knowledge and public education in the local community and include teaching the SCU community about some new native plants at the Forge Garden.

Next Steps

Implementation Teams for each goal area will continue to meet monthly to make progress on this plan during the academic year, updating the Executive Sponsors quarterly.

The Center for Sustainability will continue to facilitate this process, and keep you in the loop! Stay updated by visiting the sustainability strategic action plan website <https://www.scu.edu/ourcommonhome/> to read campus stories, track data trends, and see other news.

Please join us for our next strategic plan update in October 2024 during the Fall 2024 tUrn week.

JST-SCU Update

The Jesuit School of Theology has been on a seven-year journey toward integral ecology since launching its Laudato Si' Action Platform Initiative in October of 2022. Each initiative outlined in [our plan](#) aims toward the goal of weaving this commitment to *Laudato Si'*; into the cultural, spiritual, and institutional identity of the JST-SCU community. Over the past eighteen months, significant progress has been made across a range of metrics. Several new courses have been developed, including "Food, Justice, and Eucharistic Eating" (Spring 2023), "Catholic Social Teaching in Action" (Summer 2023), "Environmental Ethics" (Fall 2023), and "Hope: An Experiment in Loving the Future" (Spring 2024). There have also been numerous opportunities for students to participate in the action plan through community-wide events. In the Spring of 2020, there was an all-school Environmental Justice Teach-In, and in the Fall of 2023, the First Annual Laudato Si' Symposium took place. This Spring, students participated in a Lenten 'Laudate Deum' Pledge that involved education about sustainable food practices and volunteer opportunities. In addition, there have been student learning opportunities in partnership with local nonprofits and student immersion experiences.

The Action Platform has provided an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to engage in community formation and civic engagement around our shared commitment to *Laudato Si'*. The plan has sparked important ongoing dialogue and action around sustainability and care for our common home.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the Executive Sponsors, Implementation Team Leads, Implementation Team facilitators, and the Implementation Team Members. We look forward to seeing the many ways in which your efforts help create a more sustainable future for SCU and beyond.

Implementation Team Members

Academics*

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Chad Raphael

Chris Norris

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Ed Maurer

Toby McChesney

Campus Engagement

Mo Lotif (*Team Lead*)

Anthony Sampson

Darcy Phillips

Jason Fitzer

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Sheila Javier

Community Engagement

Mike Nuttall (*Team Lead*)

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Lee Panich (*Stakeholder*)

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Maria Autrey

Ray Plaza

Energy

Sean Collins (*Team Lead*)

Dave Machado

Frank Tessier

Kevin Jenkins

Leah Nakasaki-Peterson

Michael Krautkramer (*Stakeholder*)

Resources

Dave Machado (*Team Lead*)

David Cajigas

Daud Haidari

Sam Florio (*Stakeholder*)

Sean Collins (*Stakeholder*)

*A Team Lead for the Academics Implementation Team will be appointed in the coming months.



On the occasion of her retirement, the Center for Sustainability would like to commend Alison Benders for her tireless championing of environmental efforts at SCU. We will miss her encouragement and wisdom but wish her all the best in her coming adventures.

Photo credit (in order of appearance)

- Front cover: Joanne H. Lee
- Our Efforts So Far – Executive Sponsors: Courtesy of Daniel Press, Shá Duncan Smith, Zenobia Lane, Alison Benders, and Wilson Garone; Jim Gensheimer
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- Community Engagement: Jim Gensheimer
- Energy: Miguel Ozuna
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