



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LACCD TRUSTEES TAKE BOLD ACTION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT AND ELIMINATE DISTRICT'S CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR ELECTRICITY BY 2030

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees this week took a bold, forward-looking step as pro-environment stewards to eliminate the District's carbon-energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect the vulnerable communities the District serves from the negative impacts of the climate change crisis with the adoption of its Clean Energy and Sustainability resolution.

The resolution calls for the District to eliminate all of the District's carbon-based electricity consumption by 2030 and to eliminate all other carbon-based energy use by 2040 with clean, renewable and/or sustainable energy sources.

"Our action reaffirms that this District can, and will, have a positive impact in the fight against climate change being caused by the use of carbon-based fuel and energy," said Board of Trustees Vice President Steve Veres, who chairs the Board's Facilities and Master Planning Oversight Committee.

"Since 2001, the District has committed to incorporating pro-environmental design concepts into our BuildLACCD capital improvement program and this resolution sets realistic goals to ensure all District operations are environmentally sustainable and responsibly managed assets while also dedicating \$75 million to support our efforts and help create hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs in the process."

The resolution calls for the District to

- Invest \$75 million towards energy efficiency and sustainability projects, programs and jobs that will help the District achieve the resolution's goals, including the increase of on-site electric energy generation and energy storage projects
- Direct staff to develop and implement a Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan for the District to achieve the 100 percent carbon-free energy goal by 2040
- Create a new District staff unit and positions to develop and implement the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan, to maintain any efficiencies and gains recommended by the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan and pursue further initiatives in support of the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan; positions may include a Chief Sustainability Officer, coordinators, analysts, student interns and additional staff

The resolution aims to address the root causes of the climate change crisis with commitments to convert 25% of existing parking stalls for Zero Emission Vehicles; install electric-vehicle chargers at District colleges and facilities; increase recycling and composting; eliminate single-use plastics and expedite storm-water capture and groundwater recharge projects.

The new goals would benefit the colleges and surrounding communities as well as expand educational opportunities for students, said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

"Our District is clear in our vision to provide the education and training necessary to address workforce demands and meet employers' needs of a clean energy and green future," Chancellor Rodriguez said. "This District is uniquely positioned to adapt and expand its existing career education programs for students for future jobs and to integrate new and emerging green technologies to achieve our carbon independence."

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Complete wording of the resolution is included with this news release and is also [posted online](#) as part of the Board's July 8, 2020 agenda. The resolution is listed under Agenda I.

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

Members of the Board

*Andra Hoffman, President | Steven F. Veres, Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., Second Vice President
Mike Fong | Ernest H. Moreno | Scott J. Svonkin | David Vela | Elias Geronimo, Student Trustee*

CLEAN ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommended urgent and immediate reductions in global carbon emissions, with targets of a 45% reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, in order to avoid disastrous and potentially irreversible environmental impacts associated with a failure to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 100, also known as The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018, establishes a goal for California to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045, including an intermediate goal of 60% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the California Community College Board of Governors Resolution 2019-11 establishes climate change and sustainability goals for California Community College Districts, and encourages each board of trustees to adopt a local resolution on climate change and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles approved Our County, a countywide sustainability plan, establishing a goal of carbon neutrality across LA County by 2050, including a goal of 100% renewable electricity to County facilities by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles released Sustainable City pLAn2019, establishing a goal for 100% of buildings to be net zero carbon by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Community College District purchases electricity from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, and third-party energy suppliers, all of which supply a mix of clean, renewable electricity and fossil fuel derived electricity, among other sources, and all of which have been and continue to increase the share of renewables in their supply mix, and all of which are bound by legislation to provide 60% renewable electricity by 2030; and

WHEREAS, renewable electricity is defined as electricity derived from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished, such as solar or wind; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Community College District is and has been a pioneering public institution in sustainability and renewable energy, and was among the very first public agencies to procure and install solar photovoltaic energy generating facilities; and

WHEREAS, transportation and building energy use are the highest sources of carbon emissions, and present the greatest opportunity for carbon emissions reduction; and

WHEREAS, daily campus uses and operations generate waste and require contracts with waste hauling companies to pick up and dispose of such waste; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to address and evaluate the economic and social impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, understanding that the duration or the full impact is yet unknown, and recognizing that communities facing higher levels of pollution and poor air quality have had disproportionately worse rates of illness and fatality from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Community College District provides education and training in energy efficiency, solar installation, water operations, alternative fuel, hybrid, electric, and heavy-duty vehicle operations, architectural programs with green building curriculum, and a climate change and sustainability A.A. degree program; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Community College District serves frontline, vulnerable populations and communities that have been and will be most disproportionately impacted by the ongoing climate crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District hereby commits to the goal of achieving 100 percent renewable, carbon-free electricity consumption at all District facilities by 2030, and a further goal of achieving 100 percent carbon-free energy consumption for all other energy uses, including but not limited to the electrification of equipment and systems that use fossil fuels, by 2040 or near the end of the expected useful life of each asset, whichever is earlier, and consistent with the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board direct staff to develop and implement a Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan for the District, which would establish a pathway to achieving the 100 percent carbon-free energy goal by 2040; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan include short-, medium-, and long-term goals and solutions on replacing all assets or equipment that use fossil fuels with electric equivalents, including, but not limited to, boilers, water heaters, landscape maintenance tools, generators, District-owned vehicles, and others, with an immediate goal of evaluating electric substitutes for any fossil fuel burning equipment scheduled to be installed as part of any project, an intermediate goal of replacing a minimum of 75% of all existing fossil fuel burning assets with electric equivalents by 2030 or earlier, and replacing remaining fossil fuel burning assets with electric equivalents by 2040 or earlier; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District may achieve the goal of 100 percent renewable, carbon-free energy by considering options to combine on-site generation with the purchase of clean, renewable electricity from utility providers, such that 100 percent of energy consumed comes from renewable, carbon-free sources; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan include an integrated energy resource plan that considers energy sources, micro-grid solutions, power reliability, and resiliency for each college campus and the District office; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan include input from faculty, students, and staff from each college within the District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, sustainability advocacy organizations, Labor partners, community members, and other interested parties; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan be presented to the Board for review and approval no more than twelve months from the date of the passing of this Resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan consider economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including budgetary impacts at the state level and subsequent impacts on LACCD budgets, an evaluation of air filtration requirements for health and safety, consideration of drastic social and behavioral changes to everyday norms in response to urgent crises, environmental impacts of "stay-at-home" orders, and the timeline to implement the phased-in plan for complete social and economic recovery, and related considerations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That staff present a plan for the Board's consideration to create a District staff unit and District positions to develop and implement the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan, to maintain any efficiencies and gains recommended by the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan, and pursue further initiatives in support of the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan; positions may include a Chief Sustainability Officer, Sustainability Coordinators, Administrative Analysts, fellows, student interns, and additional support staff; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District enhance its academic offerings that focus on sustainability, climate change, and related issues, and that the District integrate sustainability related learning outcomes throughout the curriculum; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District continue to offer and enhance technical training programs, apprenticeships, cooperative education, and other workforce development efforts related to sustainability and that will help the region reduce overall carbon emissions, and to do so in collaboration and cooperation with the District's Labor partners; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District commits to a fair and just transition for all workers impacted by clean, renewable energy projects and goals; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That District staff perform and maintain annual carbon emissions inventories at each college and property, post the results in a publicly viewable location such as an online dashboard, and present carbon emissions reports and recommendations for carbon emissions mitigation to the Board of Trustees annually; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District execute a comprehensive energy efficiency program, prioritizing the highest overall energy consuming buildings, and exempting any buildings currently on a demolition list; the energy efficiency program shall consider upgrades in lighting, HVAC systems, controls, plug-loads, and building envelope, and may consider additional energy efficiency measures as identified on a case-by-case basis; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District invest in additional on-site solar photovoltaic energy generating facilities wherever practical in order to achieve the carbon-free energy by 2040 goal, and additionally install energy storage systems wherever practical to take advantage of daily cost reduction strategies (through peak shaving) and resiliency capability (during emergency situations); and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District encourage the use of alternative transportation options and discourage single-occupant vehicle trips in internal combustion engine vehicles; that the District establish a goal of providing electric vehicle charging for at least 25% of all parking stalls at each college by 2030; that the District establish a zero emission vehicle goal for all vendors by 2030; that the District enact a moratorium on the further construction of parking structures at colleges, and divert any investment in potential parking facilities to enhance mass transit, active transportation, and alternative transportation options; that any staff receiving a car allowance be required to drive a zero emissions vehicle by 2022 or use alternative transportation options; and that any District-owned vehicles be replaced by zero emissions equivalents, if available, at the end of their current useful life or 2025, whichever is earlier; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District continue and enhance outreach and education efforts to students, faculty, and staff promoting sustainable practices, including best practices for energy and water conservation, optimizing building operating schedules, and providing additional training opportunities for maintenance and operations staff; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District adopt and implement a zero-waste strategy as an element of the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan, including consideration for eliminating landfill waste, increasing material reuse, increasing recycling, composting food and landscape waste, converting all food service products to biodegradable materials, eliminating single use plastics, reducing the carbon footprint of food service, and related measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all new construction and major renovation projects are designed to approach zero net energy performance by 2025, including immediate consideration for requiring a zero net energy life-cycle cost analysis study in the planning phase on all new construction and major renovation projects such that a fully informed decision may be made by the Board of Trustees and District staff on pursuing zero net energy on each project; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District continue to execute projects for stormwater capture and groundwater recharge, and enhance water use and capture efforts by investing in sustainable landscapes that enhance ecosystem service functions, health, and resilience, studying the implementation of gray water systems where appropriate, and utilizing recycled water where available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District forbid the installation or operation of fossil fuel extracting facilities or equipment on District property, and that the District work with local municipalities and advocacy groups to create a buffer of at least 2,500 feet between District property and any fossil fuel extracting facilities or equipment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District shall take steps to divest any holdings or investments in companies and firms whose primary business is or has been the extraction, refinement, or sale of fossil fuels, and that the District shall request the same of its pension plan partners, such as CALPERS and CALSTRS; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District establish a green revolving fund, whereby operational savings generated from energy efficiency projects and programs would be sequestered and reinvested into new energy efficiency projects, programs, and initiatives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District increase the procurement of sustainable products and services, where applicable; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District will consult with governance and steering committees as the District crafts and implements the Sustainability Vision 2040 Plan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That over the next ten years, the District shall invest \$75 million towards energy efficiency and sustainability projects and programs that will help the District achieve the goals set forth by this resolution.