



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

18-19 CAHS 1 amended
November 6, 2018

TO: The Executive Committee
FROM: Senate Sustainability Committee
SUBJECT: 18-19 CAHS 1 amended: Carbon Neutrality Education for all Cal State East Bay Students
PURPOSE: To fulfill the University's Commitment

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Executive Committee task CIC with identifying the best means to fulfill Cal State East Bay's commitments to carbon neutrality education for all students.

Background

This request is directly linked to the Senate Sustainability Committee's duty under Article III, Section 1(1) of the *Sustainability Committee Policies and Procedures for Committee Operation*, which directs the Committee to:

- (1) Make policy recommendations to the Academic Senate regarding means to achieve the University's sustainability commitments and goals. As part of that work:*
 - a. Review Senate Policies and Procedures as they relate to achieving Senate sustainability commitments and goals;*
 - b. Work with other Senate bodies, the Campus Sustainability Committee, and other campus entities to support the University's sustainability commitments and goals; and*
 - c. Report to the Senate annually on the status of sustainability affairs on campus, including but not limited to, monitoring progress toward meeting Senate Sustainability Resolution (06-07 BEC 9).*

Cal State East Bay Senate and Administration both have long-standing commitments to provide carbon neutrality education for all students; however, as noted in the Committee's [AY17-18 Annual Report](#), we have failed to fulfill those commitments for years. In 2007 the Academic Senate adopted our Senate

Sustainability Resolution ([06-07 BEC 9](#)) which: “Resolved that the Academic Senate of CSU East Bay supports actions to make *climate neutrality* and *sustainability* a part of the curriculum (including campus facilities and grounds as learning laboratories) and other educational experience *for all students*” [emphasis added]. In January, 26, 2015 President Morishita signed the American College and University Presidents’ Carbon Commitment (now simply called the [Carbon Commitment](#)) which among other provisions commits Cal State East Bay to: “Actions to make *carbon neutrality* a part of the curriculum and other *educational experiences for all students*.” While the university did finally institute a requirement for Sustainability Education for all students—the [Sustainability Overlay](#)—which came into effect this academic year, it has not taken any action for required universally required education on carbon neutrality.

The [recently released report](#) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) argues the urgency and viability of actions to avoid exceeding 1.5 C global warming over preindustrial time. Human activities (primarily fossil fuel combustion) have already warmed the planet by 1 C and without extremely aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally, we will exceed 1.5 C warming sometime between 2030 and 2052 (See SPM-4, A1). The upshot of the report is that, to avoid exceeding 1.5 C warming, we must achieve carbon neutrality globally sometime between 2040 and 2060, or greatly increase the risk triggering a runaway warming.

Recognizing this urgency, Governor Brown has committed the State of California to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 ([Office of the Governor, September 10, 2018](#)), and Cal State East Bay has committed to doing so by 2040. However, such local, state, or global goals will not be achievable without an educated populace who not only understand the issue, but have the knowledge to push rapidly toward solutions. There is no institution better positioned to remedy this knowledge gap than the CSU, and no CSU more important than Cal State East Bay, to make that remedy reflect and benefit the demographics of our State. Required carbon neutrality education is the essential first step.

We conclude that the time is overdue for Cal State East Bay to fulfill its commitments to provide carbon neutrality education to all of our students and it is urgent that we do so.

At our October 15th meeting, the Sustainability Committee unanimously approved the following requested action.

For the above-stated reasons the Committee requests that ExCom task the Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC) to work with the Senate Sustainability Committee this academic year to identify the best means to fulfill Cal State East Bay’s commitments to educate all students on the issue of carbon neutrality.