

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, October 30th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER at 3:45 PM**
- II. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** - We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.

It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the Jalquin/Yrgin on which we gather to learn and participate, but also recognize that the First People of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the Hayward and broader Bay Area communities today.

It is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this Holše Warep (hol-sheh wah-rehp) ~ Beautiful Land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who attends or visits Cal State University East Bay in Hayward, to be respectful of the aboriginal lands of the Muwekma Ohlone People, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are their guests.

III. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, David Teng, Mukhul Dhawan, Kartik Tripathi

Absent: -

IV. **ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to appoint **M. Dhawan** as vice chair for Sustainability Committee Meeting on October 30th, 2025, by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion to approve the agenda of Sustainability Committee Meeting of October 30th, 2025, by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**



V. **ACTION ITEM - Approval of the [Minutes of, April 16th 2025](#)**

Motion to approve the minutes of Sustainability Committee Meeting of April 16th, 2025, by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.**

No Public Comments.

VII. **UNFINISHED ITEMS:**

No Unfinished Items.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **INFORMATIONAL ITEM - [Updates from Sustainability Affairs Committee \(10 minutes\)](#)**

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates from the sustainability affairs committee on campus.

D. Lopez shared that he had attended a campus sustainability meeting earlier in the week and offered to invite others to join future sessions, noting that only they had been copied on the communication. He mentioned that the committee was in need of a secretary and encouraged anyone interested to volunteer, explaining that such a role would help with coordination between ASI and the sustainability group. **D. Lopez** explained that AI adoption on campus was accelerating rapidly, but expressed personal concern that it might not be a positive development. Referring to the draft policy, they highlighted a section emphasizing that the use of generative AI tools could negatively affect student learning outcomes and undermine the university’s role in promoting sustainable education. He elaborated that the policy aimed to examine how AI could either be integrated responsibly or avoided altogether to promote sustainability. They noted that AI technologies consume significant energy and may have environmental impacts, which the campus was seeking to mitigate. The resolution proposed prioritizing tools and methods with lower environmental impact when alternatives to AI exist. **D. Lopez** concluded by asking the group for their input on possible strategies or



initiatives that could be implemented to address sustainability concerns on campus without relying heavily on AI.

M. Dhawan expressed concern about the university's integration of ChatGPT into its system, stating that the rollout was too subtle and lacked sufficient oversight. He pointed out that the university's provision of premium ChatGPT access to students had led to instances of inappropriate use. He emphasized that such usage was not advisable and recommended that access to the tool be more limited and controlled.

D. Teng inquired about possible solutions to address the carbon emissions produced by AI technologies. He found the topic intriguing, especially considering the scale of major AI companies, and asked what could be done to make their operations more sustainable for the community.

06:37

D. Lopez clarified that ChatGPT was mentioned merely as an example and that the concern extended to other AI tools being adopted on campus. He referenced a section of the draft AI policy statement, which encourages faculty and university members to consider the environmental impact of AI when using such tools for teaching, research, or administrative purposes. He further explained that many professors had begun integrating AI into their course curricula, which made it important to explore and promote non-AI alternatives. He suggested that the committee attend the upcoming sustainability meeting on November 10th to brainstorm potential solutions and provide ideas that could be shared with the policy group.

M. Dhawan expressed concern that students might hold a biased perspective regarding the use of AI tools, as many rely on them for personal convenience and academic needs. He doubted that students would be fully supportive of limiting AI usage, noting that most are unaware of the environmental consequences tied to the technology. He emphasized that AI systems consume significant amounts of energy, much of which comes from non-renewable fossil fuels resources that are finite and increasingly strained.

D. Lopez presented the current draft of the campus AI policy, noting that it was still in progress and required further revision. He explained that the document contained numerous statistics, including one stating that AI already accounts for about 4% of electricity usage in the U.S., a figure projected to triple in the coming years. He expressed concern that continuing to expand AI usage on campus could worsen environmental impacts.



M. Dhawan added that this percentage might rise even faster than anticipated due to the rapid growth of AI technology.

10:25

D. Lopez agreed, mentioning that the data cited was from the previous year and needed to be updated. He suggested collaborating with **Jennifer** to refine the policy and asked if others were willing to assist, to which the group agreed. He noted that previous meetings had mostly included faculty members, with minimal student representation, and emphasized the importance of incorporating student perspectives to ensure their experiences with AI were considered. **D. Lopez** concluded by summarizing the policy's intent: the Academic Senate was being asked to consider and accept the proposed AI resolution. The policy also recommended that lengthy documents or bundles include a concise 100-word summary explaining their relevance, scope, and priority. He stated that the Sustainability Committee aimed to bring this resolution to the Academic Senate's attention so the university could fully examine the environmental consequences of widespread AI adoption on campus.

D. Lopez informed the group that Earth Week, a week-long spring event centered on sustainability, was being planned to promote environmentally friendly practices and raise student awareness about sustainable living. He explained that the event would take place along the campus walkway and would feature multiple tables and activities. He offered to share the event details so that the group could contribute ideas, emphasizing that their input could be presented as coming from ASI. **D. Lopez** elaborated that the goal of Earth Week was to encourage students and the campus community to develop plans that make the university more sustainable for the future. He mentioned an award related to campus sustainability possibly the one displayed in the CORE building and said she would share additional materials about it upon request. **D. Lopez** noted that updates on the event would be sent later, though she cautioned that there would be a lot of information to review. He then outlined key focus areas for the sustainability group, including understanding interstate contact, product and service design life cycles, environmental impact, standards compliance, social and ethical responsibility, and economic and market sustainability. **D. Lopez** also referenced the STARS Report, an annual assessment used to measure how sustainable the campus is. He stressed the importance of beginning work on the report early, as it is a year-long process. Part of the effort would involve collecting surveys from students to evaluate campus sustainability practices and identify opportunities for improvement. He concluded by noting that the report would provide recommendations such as implementing better low-



waste management and that it was part of a statewide initiative to enhance sustainability across campuses.

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Water Filtration Resolution (5 minutes)

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the progress of the Water Filtration Resolution.

D. Lopez shared that he and his team were eager to make a positive impact on campus water quality. He explained that she had been attempting to contact the Facilities Department to discuss improving water filtration systems specifically, to have filters replaced more frequently, ideally on a weekly rather than annual basis. He also expressed concern about unused water fountains across campus, suggesting that they be removed since they consumed unnecessary resources.

M. Dhawan agreed, noting that many of those fountains had accumulated dirt and fungus. **D. Lopez** confirmed this, recounting that she had recently drunk from one and found the water quality to be poor. He continued by outlining her plan for a resolution, stating that the first “whereas” clause would focus on establishing communication with Facilities to ensure regular filter replacements in specific campus areas, such as the Science Building and the RAW downstairs. He added that a more challenging component of the resolution would involve finding a way to eliminate the unused or malfunctioning “green mountain”.

17:29

D. Teng asked if it will be simple enough to contact Facilities about relocating or removing the unused fountains. **D. Lopez** explained that it would likely be a more complex process. He said they would need to collaborate closely with Facilities while drafting the resolution, noting that the resolution would probably be finalized and passed the following semester, with implementation expected the year after. **D. Teng** then proposed that conducting a survey next semester might be an easier starting point. **D. Lopez** agreed, saying they could begin with a survey focused on campus water usage. He suggested gathering data on how many students used on-campus water sources, how frequently they purchased bottled water especially considering that many water filters were showing red indicators and how often students brought their own water to campus. He asked the group whether that scope seemed sufficient or if the survey should include additional questions.

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - Sustainability Promotion Ideas (5 minutes)



The sustainability committee shall discuss different promotion ideas to get students to be more involved in sustainability.

D. Lopez proposed the idea of organizing a day where students could learn the basics of gardening around the music building. He explained that such an event would teach students how to plant and maintain gardens, helping them lead greener lives while picking up a positive, environmentally friendly hobby. He also mentioned wanting to make the group's Instagram page more active but admitted he didn't have many ideas for it yet, asking the others for suggestions.

D. Teng clarified, asking if **D. Lopez** was referring to the sustainability Instagram page, while **M. Dhawan** questioned whether there was a separate account for sustainability or if it was managed under the main ASI handle. **D. Lopez** said he wasn't sure but would check with **R. Munos** after the meeting. He added that if a separate account didn't exist, they could create one and ask the sustainability department to help promote it.

20:16

D. Lopez suggested visiting the science department to post flyers and engage students. He also proposed designing a simple two-page pamphlet that would highlight major events like Earth Week, provide recycling tips, and include information about resources such as the HOPE Pantry. He thought distributing the pamphlets during sustainability events would help raise awareness. **M. Dhawan** suggested collaborating with other departments to increase outreach, and **D. Lopez** agreed, saying the Welcome Center would be an ideal partner since it could help involve new students interested in sustainability.

M. Dhawan mentioned that he was part of a club with an upcoming large event and offered to promote sustainability initiatives there as well.

D. Lopez shared that he was planning a major spring event a sustainability-themed hackathon. His vision was to have students design apps that could help the campus improve its sustainability practices. He described one student's idea for an app that would let users scan an item to find out how to dispose of it properly. **D. Teng** asked whether the hackathon would be open only to CSUEB students or include other schools, **D. Lopez** said he planned to host it at CSUEB first. If the event proved successful, he hoped to bring it to his executive board's attention and potentially expand participation to other CSU campuses, though he noted he didn't currently have contacts at the other universities.

22:08



D. Teng asked whether a hackathon had already taken place that semester or if CSUEB had hosted one previously.

D. Lopez replied that he wasn't sure if there had ever been a hackathon specifically focused on sustainability. **M. Dhawan** clarified that while there hadn't been a sustainability-themed hackathon, there was one held the previous semester.

D. Lopez asked if that event took place in the MBR, and **M. Dhawan** explained that it had actually been held in the CORE building. **D. Lopez** mentioned the Innovation Fest, but **M. Dhawan** corrected him, noting that it was a different event organized by a student club. He added that the hackathon itself had drawn participants not only from CSUEB but also from Southern California and other parts of the country.

D. Lopez suggested that they could open their planned sustainability hackathon to students from outside CSUEB as well, and **M. Dhawan** agreed that the idea was interesting.

D. Lopez asked if there were any other ideas on how to promote sustainability. When no additional suggestions were offered, he proposed that they begin working on the Sustainability ASI Instagram page, start designing the pamphlet, and begin reaching out to professors believing that faculty collaboration would be an effective next step.

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Classroom Green Visits (5 minutes)

The sustainability committee shall discuss the potential Classroom Green Visits.

D. Lopez introduced an initiative he called "Green Visits." He explained that the idea involved reaching out to professors and asking permission to visit their classrooms to speak about the committee's work, ongoing initiatives, and ways students and faculty could get involved. During these visits, the group would deliver a brief ten-minute presentation covering topics such as proper waste sorting like what belongs in the green bin and raising awareness about environmental issues connected to AI usage on campus. **D. Lopez** proposed that they could use these visits as an opportunity to distribute the water filtration survey to gather student input.

M. Dhawan suggested that the committee could collaborate with professors to visit lectures and talk about sustainability efforts. **D. Lopez** agreed, asking whether anyone had previously seen ASI members or other club representatives visit classrooms to speak about ASI or sustainability. **M. Dhawan** responded that he hadn't.



24:39

D. Lopez noted that such outreach usually happens only during freshman year, but he believed it would be beneficial to expand it to departments like Environmental Science and Biology. He asked for further discussion.

D. Teng inquired about which courses were most connected to sustainability, mentioning “environmental justice” as a possible example. Lopez added that Environmental Science, Ecology and Evolution, and another course he had taken that focused on environmental advocacy were relevant. **M. Dhawan** mentioned that there were many related classes, and emphasized that outreach didn’t have to be limited to sustainability-related subjects the message could be shared in any class, regardless of major.

D. Lopez agreed, saying he also wanted to engage Computer Science majors, particularly regarding the environmental impacts of technology. He explained that he would need everyone’s morning schedules to plan these classroom visits, as most students had classes during that time. He suggested holding these sessions once a week, starting within the next week or two, to introduce students to what ASI Sustainability offers and encourage broader participation.

E. DISCUSSION ITEM - Open space for Ideas and Comments (5 mins) The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss any ideas or topics regarding Sustainability on campus.

D. Lopez opened the floor for discussion, inviting everyone to share ideas about issues they believed the committee should address. He encouraged members to bring up any new topics, concerns within their majors, or sustainability-related matters affecting the campus community that hadn’t yet been discussed.

D. Teng asked whether new agenda items needed to be entirely new topics or if previously discussed issues could be revisited. **D. Lopez** clarified that unfinished items from prior meetings could always return to the agenda, while new discussion or informational items were also welcome. He added that he would send out the agenda outline next week, giving members the opportunity to suggest additions.

27:41

D. Teng proposed focusing on the student survey at the next meeting, suggesting they go into more detail about its design, questions, and answer options. **D. Lopez** agreed and asked



if he would like to take the lead or collaborate with him, **D. Teng** replied that he would work with him on it.

D. Lopez asked **M. Dhawan**, if he would like to help create the pamphlet. **M. Dhawan** agreed, and **D. Lopez** suggested they begin working on it the following Monday or Tuesday. He also mentioned that he had Canva Pro and could share access to it if needed for the project.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. STARS Report – Setup

Motion to postpone STARS Reports - Setup indefinitely by **M. Dhawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

K. Tripathi said that it was a great first meeting and looking forward to many more in the future. He thanked everyone for their participation.

29:45

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 4:23 PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez



Danny Lopez (Apr 22, 2026 15:26:20 PDT)

Minutes approved on:

02/26/26

Date:



Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - February 12th, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 02:13PM

- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.**

It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the Jalquin/Yrgin on which we gather to learn and participate, but also recognize that the First People of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the Hayward and broader Bay Area communities today.

It is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this Holše Warep (hol-sheh wah-rehp) ~ Beautiful Land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who attends or visits Cal State University East Bay in Hayward, to be respectful of the aboriginal lands of the Muwekma Ohlone People, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are their guests.

III. [ROLL CALL](#)

Present: Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, David Teng, Mukul Dawan

IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve of the Agenda of February 12th, 2025 by M. Dawan, Seconded by D. Teng, MOTION CARRIED.



V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of February 10th, 2025

Motion to amend the action item **approval of the minutes of February 10th, 2025 to approval of the minutes of October 30th, 2025 and December 4th, 2025** by **M. Dawan**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.

No Public Comment.

VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No Unfinished Items.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Bay Area Bargain Baddies 2.0”

The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez stated that he wanted to inform the committee about an upcoming event, noting that he did not yet have the document link prepared. He asked whether members were familiar with the previous “Bay Area Bargain Baddies” event held last semester. He explained that the event involved partnering with a local thrift store and a secondhand clothing designer to host a runway show along the University Union walkway. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about secondhand clothing, promote the reuse and recycling of garments, and reduce textile waste.

D. Lopez shared that the goal for this upcoming iteration is to expand the event and improve organization. He is tentatively planning to hold it in late March, around March 24 or 25, and is beginning discussions early to allow sufficient preparation time. He requested that committee members begin researching and



reaching out to local thrift stores to explore potential partnerships and donations. He suggested that each member contact one or two stores so the committee can move forward with more detailed planning.

In addition to the runway event, he mentioned a related initiative called “Thrift, Shop, and Drop,” which had not been included on the agenda. This would be a two-day tabling event where students could donate clothing and accessories and participate in a clothing swap. The purpose of the event is to support students by addressing clothing needs during the seasonal transition and to promote sustainability through reuse.

D. Lopez concluded by formally delegating the task of contacting thrift stores to committee members. He also noted that he is collaborating with Jennifer Sanchez, the lead of the campus Sustainability Committee (separate from ASI), who expressed support for the idea. They are currently discussing logistical details, including the appropriate location for tabling.

7:14

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Earth Week”

The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez explained to the committee that Earth Week is a campus-wide initiative consisting of sustainability-related events and programs held throughout the week. He noted that activities may include tabling, panel discussions, and educational programs hosted in spaces such as the MPR. The purpose of Earth Week is to educate students on sustainability practices, including reducing waste, conserving water, and adopting environmentally friendly habits. **D. Lopez** shared that, based on his own experience attending similar events, students can learn practical strategies such as using solar-powered devices and reducing plastic use by switching to reusable bottles.

D. Lopez further explained that Earth Week will involve collaborations with various campus partners and may include surveys to better understand student perspectives on sustainability and identify the types of initiatives students would like to see implemented. He mentioned that, based on conversations with Jennifer



Sanchez, conducting a campus-wide survey would require coordination with the Office of Institutional Research, likely at least one month in advance. Since Earth Week takes place in April, he suggested beginning that process immediately.

D. Lopez asked committee members if they would be willing to assist with coordinating the survey and offered to include them in email threads containing ongoing planning discussions. He clarified that these communications would provide updates and allow members to stay informed and contribute to the planning process.

D. Lopez expressed interest in inviting guest speakers to participate in Earth Week programming. He shared that he had been in contact with Professor Ben Judkins, who connected him with potential guest speakers involved in sustainability efforts, including individuals associated with major fashion organizations. These speakers may participate through campus visits or virtual sessions. **D. Lopez** noted that he would share those opportunities with committee members so they could attend and be involved.

11:49

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - Sustainability Committee Town Hall

The committee will be discussing the next steps on conducting committee town halls this semester.

D. Lopez stated that he wanted to request the committee members' availability to participate in a proposed town hall focused on sustainability issues on campus. He explained that the purpose of the town hall would be to create an open and accessible space where students could share their concerns, feedback, and ideas related to sustainability. He noted that, unlike formal public comment sessions, which often have low participation due to location barriers, hosting the town hall in a more visible and accessible area would encourage greater student engagement.

D. Lopez proposed holding the town hall in a high-traffic location such as the Innovation Hub or the Entrepreneurship Hub, where students would naturally pass by and feel more comfortable stopping to participate. He also suggested providing food, such as pizza, to encourage attendance and create a welcoming environment for open discussion.



M. Dawan agreed that the Innovation Hub or Entrepreneurship Hub would be an ideal location, specifically mentioning rooms 176 to 178 on the first floor near the library, which are commonly used for student orientation and are easily accessible.

D. Lopez clarified that the town hall would not need to be held weekly but instead could take place on a biweekly basis. He explained that feedback gathered during these sessions would be used to inform committee discussions and could be incorporated into future meeting agendas to guide sustainability initiatives.

D. Lopez added that the next step would be to coordinate with Destiny or the ASI Board Assistants to confirm room availability and finalize scheduling. He also noted that this item would be brought forward as a discussion and action item for formal approval, since the town hall would function as an ongoing program organized by the committee.

14:30

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Open Floor

The committee floor will be discussing any other issues regarding sustainability on campus.

D. Lopez informed the committee that he wanted to discuss the upcoming committee members, noting that he believed they were strong candidates. He first spoke about **Sri Charan Baka**, describing him as a qualified candidate with a bachelor's degree in architecture and currently pursuing a master's degree in construction management. He explained that **Sri Charan** previously held a leadership role in a sustainability-focused organization in India and was involved in projects aimed at improving waste management and sustainability practices. He also mentioned that **Sri Charan** reported improving a sustainability rating for certain projects from a silver to a gold level, although **D. Lopez** noted that he would need to verify this information.

D. Lopez then discussed **Srilekha Budithi**, highlighting her academic background in biochemistry and her interest in sustainability-related innovations. He explained that she shared ideas involving environmentally friendly materials and sustainable practices to improve soil health and reduce plastic waste. He acknowledged that



some of her explanations required further clarification but emphasized that she brought creative and innovative thinking to sustainability efforts.

Next, **D. Lopez** spoke about **Ruthvik Reddy**, noting that he is a sophomore who currently has less hands-on experience on campus compared to the other candidates. However, he emphasized that **Ruthvik** demonstrated strong ambition, motivation, and a desire to advocate for student voices. He explained that **Ruthvik** expressed interest in ensuring that student perspectives are represented in sustainability discussions and policies. He also mentioned **Ruthvik's** familiarity with artificial intelligence and his interest in understanding and reducing its environmental impact.

D. Lopez stated that he believed all three candidates would be valuable additions to the committee, as each brings different strengths. He explained that **Sri Charan** could contribute technical and logistical expertise, **Srilekha** could provide innovative sustainability ideas and hands-on solutions, and **Ruthvik** could contribute to policy discussions and student advocacy. He concluded by stating that the final decision would depend on board approval, which was expected to take place on Wednesday.

M. Dawan asked how Ruthvik would be a good fit despite his limited campus experience. In response, **D. Lopez** explained that Ruthvik's perspective as a newer student could be beneficial, as he demonstrated strong motivation to represent student concerns and advocate for sustainability policies. He emphasized that each candidate offers unique strengths that align with the committee's overall goal of advancing sustainability initiatives on campus

20:00

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Motion to postpone committee reports indefinitely by **D. Lopez**. Seconded by **M. Dawan**. **MOTION CARRIED**

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

No roundtable remarks



XI. **ADJOURNMENT AT 02:30PM**

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez



Danny Lopez (Apr 22, 2026 15:26:20 PDT)

Minutes approved on:

02/26/2026

Date:



Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - December 04th, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER at 3:49PM

- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.**

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III. ROLL CALL

Present: Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, David Teng, Mukul Dhawan, Kartik Tripathi

IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda of Sustainability Committee Meeting of December 4th, 2025 by D. Teng, seconded by D. Teng, MOTION CARRIED.



V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of October 30th, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes of Sustainability Committee Meeting of October 30th, 2025 by **D. Teng**, seconded by **D. Teng**, **MOTION CARRIED**.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.

No Public Comments

04:44

VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

A. DISCUSSION ITEM - Water Filtration Resolution (5 minutes)

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the progress of the Water Filtration Resolution.

D. Lopez reported that he had been researching how other CSU campuses addressed the Water Filtration Resolution, noting that the issue had previously affected SFSU, CSUSM, and CSULB. Those campuses had since implemented improved water quality systems. He emphasized the need for a campus-wide assessment of existing water fixtures. **D. Lopez** noted that during a recent visit to the RAW, he saw that the water fountains were functioning again, but he believed the outdoor green fountains remained out of service. He stated that while facilities could be consulted, he preferred to begin with a student survey and asked about its progress. After **D. Teng** indicated that nothing had been started, **D. Lopez** offered to help initiate the process. He outlined his intention to identify ways to reinvest in updated filtration systems, particularly touchless water bottle filling stations, citing health concerns related to traditional drinking fountains. He highlighted gaps in certain buildings such as the art building and hoped to ensure that each college building would have at least two accessible hydration stations. **D. Lopez** added that he planned to contact campus administration and also reach out to sustainability and environmental science leads from SFSU and CSUSM to learn from their implementation models. He noted that those campuses completed their programs by 2021, with CSUSM launching a campus-wide campaign to eliminate plastic bottles. He suggested that their campus



consider phasing out metal bottles as well. Referring to the resolution at hand, **D. Lopez** mentioned that there were seven key action points he intended to address. He proposed incorporating a brief hydration education segment into the upcoming green classroom visits and expressed interest in providing refillable water bottles to a small group of students. These visits would also include distributing the survey to gather feedback on water quality and placement of hydration stations. **D. Lopez** concluded by stating that preliminary work had already begun. The next steps included obtaining administrative approval and coordinating with facilities. He indicated that either **D. Teng, Mukul**, or a future committee member would assist with these tasks moving forward.

12:15

VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Updates from Sustainability Affairs Committee (5 minutes)

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates from the sustainability affairs committee on campus.

D. Lopez informed the committee that members were welcome to attend the monthly sustainability meetings, typically held on the first Monday of each month. He shared a brief summary of recent discussions, noting that the committee was currently seeking a secretary. Although he was unsure whether the role required an environmental science major, he encouraged interested members particularly **Mukul** and **D. Teng** working closely with sustainability efforts to consider applying. He added that participation would offer more direct collaboration with Earth Week planning alongside himself and **Jennifer Sanchez**.

D. Lopez reported that the committee had recently discussed classroom temperature issues. Students had raised concerns about classrooms being too warm or too cold, prompting the committee to assess how widespread the problem was. He expressed interest in speaking with the committee about the potential energy impact of upgrading heating and cooling systems, noting that new HVAC units could significantly increase power consumption.



He then described the ASI policy statement under development regarding AI usage in coursework. The goal, he explained, was not to eliminate AI but to reduce heavy reliance on it, given the environmental cost of AI outputs particularly the substantial water consumption associated with generating responses. With thousands of students using AI, the cumulative environmental impact was considerable. **D. Lopez** stated that the draft resolution had been shared with faculty and deans and was awaiting review before potential implementation next semester. He mentioned he had prepared his own ASI-specific draft, which he was willing to share, and asked for feedback on areas for improvement or points he could raise with **Jennifer** or **Evelyn** at their monthly meetings. **D. Lopez** also emphasized that AI models can demonstrate bias and discrimination, which raises civil rights concerns. He reiterated the importance of addressing both the environmental and ethical implications in future policy development.

Turning to Earth Week, **D. Lopez** reported ongoing planning efforts. He noted the event is a five-day program involving tabling, workshops, and educational activities focused on sustainability. The committee was concerned about limited funding, and Lopez mentioned he had \$200 remaining from his ASI budget that he might be able to contribute. He asked committee members for suggestions on workshops or events they would like to include, particularly those addressing electricity and water conservation, which he felt should be the focus this year following earlier discussions on waste management. He explained that Earth Week is a collaborative effort between ASI, external environmental organizations, and the campus Committee on Sustainability. He offered to introduce committee members to the sustainability team, noting that the current president is **Jennifer Sanchez** and that he could provide her contact information for anyone interested in getting more involved.

In response to a question from **D. Teng** about whether Earth Week was solely an ASI initiative, **D. Lopez** clarified that it was a partnership among several groups. **D. Teng** suggested incorporating presentations or lectures to streamline the event. **D. Lopez** responded positively, indicating that the idea sounded good and could be integrated into planning.



23:30

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - INFO 310W Survey

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the survey being conducted by sustainability.

D. Lopez presented a flyer to the committee and explained that it related to a new survey designed to assess how climate change is affecting the campus. He noted that the effort appeared to be coordinated with the Committee on Sustainability, as their goals aligned, but clarified that this was a completely different survey from the one previously discussed. Lopez strongly encouraged members to participate and emphasized that the purpose of the survey was to gather student data that could be shared with the Committee on Sustainability to guide future actions. He added that once he shared the flyer with both **D. Teng** and **Mukul**, the committee could consider different methods of promoting it such as conducting a small online campaign, printing and distributing physical flyers, or exploring other outreach options. While email was a possibility, **D. Lopez** expressed uncertainty about how frequently students check their inboxes for event-related information.

D. Teng suggested that campus email might actually be more effective than social media, noting that many students may not follow ASI or sustainability-related Instagram accounts. He felt the official student email system could reach a broader audience.

D. Lopez agreed that a mixed approach could be beneficial and said the committee could discuss distribution strategies further. He added that since social media had been brought up, the committee should consider creating a dedicated Sustainability Committee Instagram page to highlight ongoing projects and share progress with students.

29:15

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Roman Alcala Garden Support

The sustainability committee shall be informed on the updates for the garden with professor Alcala.



D. Lopez explained that although he had not yet received updates from the faculty member overseeing the campus garden who was likely finishing his semester, he had begun researching potential plants that could be incorporated into a broader campus initiative. He clarified that his vision extended beyond the existing garden, aiming to explore options suitable for the East Bay region. **D. Lopez** expressed interest in eventually transforming the current garden into a vegetation-based space that could support housing-insecure or low-income students by providing easy access to fresh produce such as carrots, beans, and other vegetables. While he acknowledged that such a project would take time, he emphasized that it could become a sustainable, long-term resource. He also shared a preliminary list of plants that could be introduced on campus, noting that while he had included trees like oaks, planting trees was optional. Those would be considered only if the university wished to increase greenery and reduce carbon emissions.

D. Teng agreed that planting trees might be simpler to manage than establishing a full vegetable garden. He noted that running a free produce program could be complicated and labor-intensive, whereas increasing tree coverage would still support sustainability goals with less operational strain.

D. Lopez acknowledged that creating a vegetation garden would indeed be more complex. Given the short timeline of the academic year, he stated that the project was not expected to be completed immediately but could instead evolve into a five-year initiative. He mentioned having peers and allies who could potentially support the effort.

D. Teng suggested that if the vegetable garden did move forward, the process might involve planting fruit-bearing trees or crops that could be harvested and distributed to students at no cost, which he viewed as more manageable.

D. Lopez responded that maintenance might already be partially in place, as the current garden is supported by faculty and student involvement. He suggested that reaching out to additional environmental science professors could provide extra support. Depending on their availability and interest, the committee could either work toward establishing a functional garden or adopt **D. Teng's** idea of harvesting and distributing produce directly to students, which could reduce the burden on those maintaining the space.



32:26

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - Classroom Green Visits (5 minutes)

The sustainability committee shall discuss the potential Classroom Green Visits.

D. Lopez asked what ideas had been considered so far, noting that the suggestions did not need to be extensive, and inquired about what should be communicated to upcoming students—freshmen or current sophomores—regarding sustainability.

D. Teng responded that he did not yet have a clear understanding of what the classroom green visit entailed.

D. Lopez clarified that, in a previous meeting, the committee had discussed visiting GE classrooms, briefly checking in, and sharing information. He asked Teng for his thoughts.

D. Teng suggested that collaboration with GE classes could make the process easier, as professors might already assign small sustainability-related projects. He explained that the committee could offer feedback, act as referees, or evaluate project competitions to identify groups with strong potential in sustainability presentations or projects.

D. Lopez then asked if **D. Teng** had any more specific ideas.

D. Teng replied that he was unsure of which GE courses the university would offer this semester or next.

D. Lopez explained that he envisioned promoting the ASI Sustainability Committee, but also hoped to explore external partnerships possibly with a local environmental science or environmental advocacy organization. He mentioned that Hayward has such an organization connected to the city's council or local office. He expressed willingness to build a collaboration that would support conversations about sustainability, allow guest speakers to visit classrooms, and inform students about how they could contribute not only to CSUEB but also to the city of Hayward.



D. Teng agreed and added that offering a free lecture within GE classes could be the most effective approach, as students might be more inclined to listen, and the format would be convenient for professors.

D. Lopez shared that, during his own freshman year, similar brief presentations were given in SOAR classrooms, where ASI representatives spoke for about ten minutes before leaving. He said that method successfully increased awareness and that he hoped to implement the same approach again.

35:40

- E. **DISCUSSION ITEM - Open space for Ideas and Comments (5 mins)**
The Sustainability Affairs Committee will discuss any ideas or topics regarding Sustainability on campus.

D. Lopez shares a preliminary idea for a “welcome back” sustainability tabling event during the first week of spring. He proposes two short tabling sessions on separate days (about one hour each), where the committee would distribute small “sustainability kits” to students. These kits could include:

- A note card with simple tips on how to live more sustainably day-to-day.
- Reusable wooden utensils (spoons and forks).
- Reusable metal straws.
- Potentially reusable or more eco-friendly toothbrush and toothpaste options.

He asks whether members would be interested in helping with the event. **D. Teng** says he might not be available for both days but would be willing to assist for one of the tabling sessions.

D. Lopez also introduces an upcoming collaboration opportunity with UC Santa Barbara. He explains that their environmental science team has reached out about implementing **laundry detergent dispenser systems** in housing areas at CSU East Bay. The goal is to reduce plastic waste and lower costs for students by providing detergent through centralized dispensers. He notes that, based on his initial conversation with Leo Brown (Environmental Science lead at UCSB), the proposed



model could add approximately **\$10 per semester** to students' housing charges as a one-time fee, in exchange for ongoing access to detergent through the dispensers. Students would still have free access to washing machines, as they currently do.

D. Teng points out that many student residents already use Flex Dollars at the campus market to purchase detergent, and that the market offers refill-style options that reduce plastic usage. He questions whether there is broad student demand for an additional detergent subscription and suggests comparing the costs and benefits carefully.

D. Lopez agrees that these are important considerations and clarifies that the program is particularly aimed at supporting low-income and first-generation students, for whom recurring purchases can be financially burdensome. He adds that the dispensers would be stocked with products designed to reduce packaging waste compared to traditional plastic bottles.

He states that he will gather more information during a scheduled call with the CEO and Leo on the 8th and plans to conduct a student survey to gauge willingness to pay a small additional housing fee for dispenser access. The committee will revisit the topic after more data is collected.

40:13

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. STARS Report – Setup

D. Lopez reports that he has not yet received a new update from Jennifer Sanchez regarding the STARS report but notes that work is continuing. He explains that the committee is using a sustainability rubric to evaluate campus performance and that CSU East Bay has previously achieved Silver status. The long-term goal is to reach Gold.

He briefly shares a visual of the badge and rubric used to assess progress. A member raises an issue regarding missed ASI agenda emails; **D. Lopez** acknowledges the



concern and notes that follow-up will be needed to ensure all committee members receive necessary communications.

44:23

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

D. Lopez thanks committee members for their patience and flexibility, acknowledging that the meeting schedule had been delayed earlier in the semester due to conflicts.

He notes that he has been informed that payment matters for committee work are expected to be addressed by the end of the semester. One member mentions having already updated their banking information in the university system.

D. Lopez also shares that the committee is in the process of welcoming a new Sustainability Committee member and encourages members to spread the word to students who are passionate about sustainability. He mentions that he has one student lined up for an interview and is eager to see more interest so the committee can select the best fit for the role.


45:55

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 4:35 PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez


[Danny Lopez \(Apr 22, 2026 15:26:20 PDT\)](#)

Minutes approved on:

02-26-26

Date:








Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, October 30, 2025

Final Audit Report

2026-04-22

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