

MOORPARK COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT APRIL 2026

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE

Moorpark College continues to advance a comprehensive sustainability program focused on reducing environmental impacts, lowering long-term operating costs, and supporting climate-responsible practices across campus operations. The college's sustainability efforts emphasize energy efficiency, renewable energy production, water conservation, waste reduction, sustainable food practices, and student engagement.

Through a combination of infrastructure upgrades, operational efficiencies, and campus partnerships, Moorpark College has made measurable progress in reducing its carbon footprint and resource consumption while supporting broader state and regional environmental goals.

Key initiatives include significant investments in renewable energy, large-scale water conservation measures, implementation of waste reduction programs aligned with California environmental legislation, and expanded sustainability education and outreach.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Sustainability efforts are supported through participation in the **District-wide Sustainability Task Force Workgroup**, campus governance, student leadership, and educational initiatives.

An active Campus Environment Advisory Committee, which regularly reviews sustainability policies and initiatives.

A Director of Sustainability within the Associated Students of Moorpark College (ASMC), promoting student leadership in environmental programs.

The college's Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Operations holds LEED accreditation, supporting sustainable building and operational practices.



The Butterfly Project on the ANCT zoo campus supports conservation by raising and repopulating endangered butterfly species.

Annual Earth Day events and sustainability awareness programs.



Continued collaboration with the City of Moorpark on environmental initiatives including SB 1383 implementation.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Moorpark College has made significant progress in reducing campus energy consumption and increasing reliance on renewable energy systems. Together, these initiatives substantially reduce fossil fuel dependence and improve long-term operational efficiency.

MAJOR ENERGY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



E1 74.39% reduction in energy use compared to the 2002 baseline, representing a significant reduction in campus energy demand.

E2 Campus-wide lighting upgrades replacing older fixtures with high-efficiency LED lighting systems including Lighting controls, Motion sensors, and Improved energy monitoring

E3 Continued Upgrade of the campus Energy Management System (EMS) / Building Management System (BMS) to improve control and efficiency of HVAC operations across campus facilities

E4 Continued HVAC system modernization, including replacement of outdated mechanical equipment consisting of thirteen (13) new HVAC units and three (3) new boilers this year, with newer high-efficiency systems designed to reduce energy consumption and improve reliability.

E5 Solar photovoltaic energy installation completed in June 2023: Solar arrays installed on North Campus parking lots AA, A, B, and C. Total renewable energy capacity: 3.184 MW, Solar generation offsets a significant portion of campus electrical demand.

E6 UV-C lighting installed in campus HVAC systems improving cooling coil performance and increasing heat transfer efficiency, which enhances overall HVAC system performance.

E7 Restoration of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) consisting of: Two 250 kW inverters. 500 kWh of storage capacity per inverter. The system will improve energy management and supports load balancing during peak hours, potentially reducing energy costs.



WASTE REDUCTION & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Moorpark College has implemented several programs to reduce waste generation and increase recycling and material recovery.

KEY RECYCLING & WASTE INITIATIVES



R1

Continued Collaboration with the City of Moorpark and the local waste hauler to implement the requirements of California SB 1383, which focuses on reducing organic waste and methane emissions.

R2

Improvement of Campus-wide recycling infrastructure, including the separation/collection of recyclables in classrooms, offices, and public areas. **Converted 25** decommissioned outdoor trash receptacles to more easily identifiable outdoor recycling points.

R3

Continued use of a centralized trash compactor, which has reduced the frequency of waste hauling trips and **lowered the carbon footprint** associated with waste transportation by approximately **50%**.

R4

Continued Electronic waste (e-waste) recycling participation, ensuring responsible disposal of electronic equipment.

R5

Expanded Hydration stations across campus: 29 stations installed preventing more than **954,268** single-use plastic bottles from entering the waste stream.

R6

Green Waste Management of the Grounds Services Department: Mulch 99% of turf clippings back into the lawns feeding soil microbes and returning nutrients back to the soil. Utilize wood mulch from campus tree trimming for planter cover.

R7

Coordinate with zoo staff to divert appropriate species of plant material for animal 'browse'. Creating an **ANCT Organic Waste Collection program**



WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation remains a critical component of the college’s sustainability strategy, particularly given California’s historic drought cycles.

KEY WATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS



W1 64% reduction in irrigation water use compared to the 2013 baseline.

W2 In 2025 alone, the college saved 34,738,870 gallons of water through improved irrigation management and efficiency.

W3 Campus-wide sprinkler replacements with integrated pressure regulators to maximize sprinkler design efficiency and reduce water lost due to high pressure misting. Check valves that reduce low head runoff on irrigation zones with elevation differential..

W4 Dedicated irrigation technician, trained in irrigation management, responsible for Installation of 100% ultra-low flow restroom fixtures, which saved 3,624,500 gallons of water in 2024.

W5 Implementation of a computerized central irrigation control system capable of aggregating multiple data sources to calculate optimal watering schedules. Major functions of the system are: Constant flow sensing for leak detection.

- *Weather monitoring and automatic suspension of irrigation in the event of precipitation.*
- *Monitor soil moisture and temperature sensors in the landscaped areas on campus.*
- *Advanced hydraulic calculations ensuring the efficiency of the irrigation infrastructure.*
- *Remote irrigation monitoring and control utilizing cloud based mobile applications.*
- *Upgrade of all irrigation field controllers as part of the central irrigation system network.*



REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

The Grounds Services Department at Moorpark College manages the campus as a living ecological system that sequesters atmospheric carbon dioxide in soil, plant tissues, and organic mulch that covers bare ground. The 156-acre campus is an ecological asset to surrounding Ventura County communities. Our daily practices are designed to enhance the ecological function of the campus's landscaped and maintained open spaces.

Nurture living soil ecosystems to filter storm water, reduce erosion, store water, provide plant nutrients, sequester carbon, and help plants resist pests.

Grass-cycling as the turf is mowed, returning vital nutrients back into living soil through quick decomposition. Diverting green waste out of the landfill.

Integrated Pest Management that relies less on synthetic pesticides and more on mechanical weed abatement, no synthetic fertilizers, rodent management through organic birth control, and natural predation.

Phasing out gasoline powered landscape maintenance equipment and replacing with cleaner and quieter battery-operated equipment.

Multiple Grounds Maintenance Workers travel together in the same vehicle between assignments to reduce the department's energy footprint



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABILITY

Expanding use of proven drought-tolerant plants from the five Mediterranean climate zones in the campus landscape.

Incorporating passive dry bioswales 'Keylines' appropriate for the regional environment, to capture storm runoff and store it in the soil profile creating zero irrigation landscapes once established.

Developing regenerative landscape design practices that reduce water use while improving campus accessibility to capture storm runoff and store it in the soil profile creating zero irrigation landscapes, once established.

Continuing use of environmentally responsible cleaning products.

Continuing the replacement of fossil-fuel vehicles with more sustainable alternatives.



ENHANCEMENTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Completion of the installation of 156 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations to support the transition to electric transportation.

Continued upgrade of the campus EMS/BMS system to improve energy efficiency of HVAC equipment campus-wide

Recommissioning the battery energy storage system, allowing the District to capture 100% of the energy storage savings benefit

Transition from fossil-fuel powered maintenance equipment to battery-powered alternatives where feasible.

Replacement of fossil-fuel fleet vehicles with hybrid vehicles.

Installation of additional hydration stations across campus.

Two major landscape projects, focused on enhancing student experience and water conservation, are in the design phase (South Campus Center/Art Quad & the Amphitheater) that will reshape two large areas of the campus.



NEXT STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Utilize existing capital improvement funding to repair and upgrade critical infrastructure, including:

- HVAC systems
- Plumbing systems
- Roofing systems
- Complete the installation of more hydration stations.

Seek funding sources for major water-saving projects, such as artificial turf athletic fields.

Expand integration of sustainability topics into academic curriculum and learning.

Increase student participation in environmental and sustainability initiatives.

Expand healthy, sustainable food options for students.

Managing an ecologically regenerative landscape program requires a deeper understanding of natural sciences from the Grounds Maintenance Workers than conventional landscape maintenance practices. **Training of current grounds staff** is necessary to achieve the goals of the department. Likewise, future hiring metrics need to factor horticulture/ecology into the selection process of candidates.

MOORPARK COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS



CONEJO CHAMBER
MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH LEADERSHIP PANEL



IRA TURNS 12 CELEBRATION



HERSTORY LETTERS TO WOMEN



CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: BRIAN KOEHLER



ZOO SPRING SPECTACULAR



MESA CENTER RIBBON CUTTING



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP @MC TOWNHALL



MC FIESTA EVENT TEAM LEADERS



'INTO THE HEIGHTS' FOUNDATION EVENT

