

# Green Living Guide



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# INTRODUCTION

The Green Living Guide aims to equip you with knowledge and practical ways to implement sustainability into your everyday routine. Small changes, when compounded, can add up to create lasting positive impacts at Cal Poly and beyond. **Keep reading to learn about how YOU can make a difference through individual actions.**

In alignment with California's mandated Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, **Cal Poly is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels** (Cal Poly Climate Planning and Resilience\*). To aid in the achievement of carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2040, **Cal Poly has implemented sustainability-focused initiatives throughout campus** (Cal Poly Climate Planning and Resilience\*).

As a Cal Poly community member, you can contribute to a greener campus and community through easy, low-cost daily practices. **Implementing more sustainable decisions in your life will not only help YOU conserve energy, water, and money, but it can also enhance your relationship with the environment around you.**

\*SOURCE: [Cal Poly Climate Planning and Resilience](#)

# Community

An engaged and connected community plays a crucial role in addressing climate change and achieving sustainability goals. As climate change affects us all, there is a unique opportunity for individuals to leverage their diverse interests and talents to create positive change.



# At Cal Poly

San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly is comprised of a vibrant community with various groups dedicated to combating climate change, who use their expertise to implement sustainable solutions in their respective fields. These groups include community organizations and on-campus clubs like:

## ECOLOGISTICS

Ecologistics is a nonprofit that collaborates with organizations and people to create **healthier, more resilient communities that are sustainable and just.**

## SURFRIDER

Cal Poly's Surfrider Club is a branch of the larger Surfrider Foundation which is dedicated to **protecting the ocean including reducing plastic pollution.**

## THE SLO CLIMATE COALITION

The SLO Climate Coalition is a nonprofit that brings together community expertise, resources, and creativity to **create regional climate solutions.**

## ECO REPS

Eco Reps is an on-campus club **promoting sustainability and empowering students to lead greener lives.**

### NET IMPACT

The Net Impact club on campus focuses on the ways in which business can make **positive change for social and environmental challenges**.

### FUTURE FUELS

Future Fuels is a club that works with **alternative energy projects** including a biodiesel reactor, an EV solar charger, and a waste vegetable oil processor.

### ZERO WASTE AMBASSADORS

Cal Poly's Zero Waste Ambassadors are a club **committed to reducing waste** through clothing swaps, waste sorting, advocacy, and more.

Search on Cal Poly Now's [organizations page](#) to find all active sustainability-minded organizations on campus.

## With Green Campus

One of Green Campus's primary objectives is to **educate the campus community on sustainability**. We organize annual events and programs to connect Mustangs with **sustainability-focused organizations**, providing information and resources on how Cal Poly community members can lead more sustainable lives. Some of these include **Sustainability Month** in October, **Earth Week** in April, **Cal Poly Thrift** during moveout, **Tree Planting** volunteer events, **Grad Gown Reuse** program, **Swap and Shops**, and more. Stay updated on campus happenings related to sustainability by connecting with Green Campus through social media or our website:

- **Follow us on Instagram** [@calpolygreencampus](#) **or like us on Facebook.**
- **Check out the events calendar and announcements page on our** [website](#).

# What Can You Do?

## GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY

**Be open to meeting new people and learning new things.** Initiate the first hello and connect with classmates or strike up conversations with strangers. A connected and inclusive community **fosters the collaboration necessary to empower grassroots environmental action** such as organizing sustainability events, sharing eco-friendly habits, or participating in local green initiatives.



## GO ON HIKES AND SEE NEW PLACES

**Explore the hiking trails, outdoor spaces, and viewpoints** to develop a sense of place and a deeper appreciation for the environment. **Spending time in nature makes you more likely to value its preservation and become more mindful of your ecological footprint.** For resources on transporting around SLO, visit this Cal Poly page about [commuting sustainably](#).



## ATTEND COMMUNITY HOSTED EVENTS

Immerse yourself in the plethora and diversity of community gatherings, shows, and events to **broaden your educational and cultural experiences.** SLO has many events focused on sustainability and conservation, giving you the opportunity to **learn and support local climate efforts** while engaging with others in the community who care about the environment.



## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Contribute to the local economy by **supporting small businesses whenever possible.** Explore local shops, cafes, and restaurants to not only enjoy unique offerings but also **strengthen the community's economic fabric, reduce transportation emissions, promote ethical production, and encourage environmentally conscious business practices.**

## GET INVOLVED WITH A CAMPUS ORGANIZATION

Whether it's a club, team, association, or community service group, participating in campus activities **allows you to meet like-minded individuals and contribute to the active campus community.** Look into one of the sustainability minded clubs on pages 6 and 7 to **contribute to positive change while building your community and having fun.**



# Energy

Energy is a cornerstone of modern life, powering our homes, heating our water, and fueling our devices. Being mindful about the way we use energy is a critical step in curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Embracing alternative energy sources like solar, geothermal, and wind power can dramatically diminish our impact on climate change and air quality, thus fostering a healthier living environment. Even small, simple actions can yield significant reductions in energy waste and can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially when coupled with the larger, societal shifts to renewable energy sources.



# At Cal Poly

1

Cal Poly has a [Climate Action Plan](#) to reach **carbon neutrality by 2050**, meaning the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>eq) emitted by Cal Poly is equal to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>eq sequestered by Cal Poly (Climate Action Plan, 2016\*) .

2

**LEED Building Certifications** – Various buildings on Cal Poly’s campus have achieved **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)** ratings due to their sustainable design and operation. [Vista Grande Dining Hall](#), [yak?itʻutʻu Residence Halls](#), and various other Cal Poly developments have achieved **Gold LEED Certifications**, demonstrating a commitment to energy efficiency.

3

**Cal Poly High Performance Building (HPB) Policy** – Outlines sustainability goals for new construction and major renovations of campus buildings. Learn more [here](#).

4

Cal Poly purchases **renewable energy** (solar, wind and others) from across the state, resulting in **85% carbon-free electricity source** (Cal Poly Sustainability, 2019\*) .

5

Cal Poly has implemented numerous **energy conservation projects** including retrofitting buildings and equipment to be more energy efficient. Learn more about the type of upgrades and retrofits Cal Poly has done [here](#), which have **reduced energy consumption by almost 50%**, all while improving light quality and safety.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY ON CAMPUS

One of the most notable renewable energy sources on campus comes from the [Gold Tree Solar Farm](#), which **provides nearly 25% of the University's electricity demands.**

In addition to providing Cal Poly with a clean source of electricity, it is forecasted that the system will **save the university around \$17 million over the next 20 years.**

**Additional solar arrays have been implemented across campus,** including within student housing, which contribute significantly to annual electricity production and **help eliminate considerable amounts of carbon dioxide emissions.**

## ANAEROBIC DIGESTER

Campus produces significant amounts of organic waste from food and agriculture. These materials, when decomposing, produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Cal Poly waste is managed by San Luis Garbage and **organic waste is taken to SLO County's Anaerobic Digester Facility**, where organic waste is converted into useable biofuels. Learn more about the Kompogas Anaerobic Digester [here](#).



## Renewable Energy Clubs

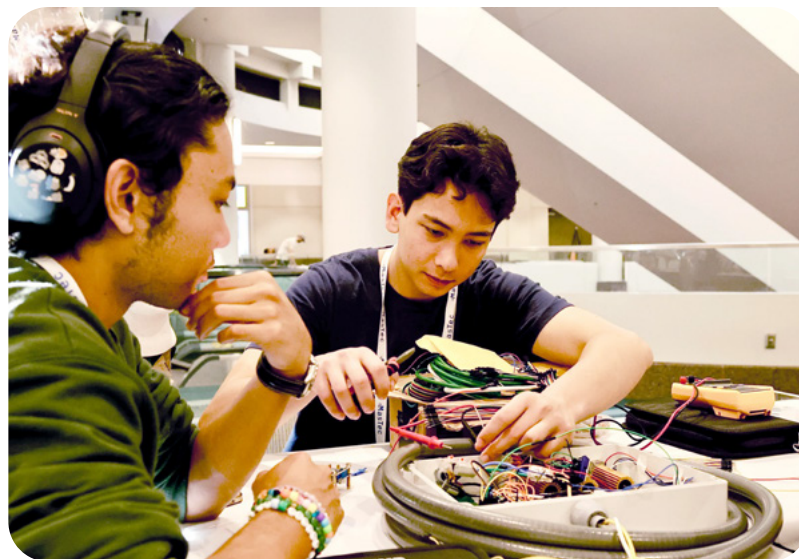
### FUTURE FUELS

**Future Fuels:** A student-based, Bioresources Agricultural Engineering (BRAE) club that works with **alternative energy solutions in a variety of different projects**, including a bio-diesel reactor, dynamometer, and fuel shed.



### WIND POWER

**Wind Power:** A student group that focuses on **wind energy and sustainable solutions**, exemplified best in their participation in the [Collegiate Wind Competition](#), in which they are tasked with developing a turbine while taking economic, legal, technological, and environmental factors in mind.



# With Green Campus

## SHUT THE SASH CAMPAIGN

This campaign aims to educate faculty, students, and researchers about the **importance of shutting the fume hood sash while not in use**. Fume hoods are one of the most energy intensive pieces of lab equipment, so **shutting the sash is an impactful way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. To aid in this, magnets were placed on every fume hood in labs to remind users of the importance of sash closure.

## SLO THE FLOW WATER AND ENERGY COMPETITION

Every year, the Green Campus team launches a competition in the freshmen living communities to **encourage students to be more conscientious about their water and energy uses**. The team hopes to expand this to other residential halls, such as PCV and Cerro Vista.

# What Can You Do?



## LIGHTING

Switch out incandescent bulbs for [LEDs](#), which are **90% more efficient** and can last up to 225 times longer.

Turn off lights and [unplug appliances or electronics](#) when not in use since **they still consume energy when not turned on.**

The Dept. of Energy found that 75% of electricity used to power electronics is consumed when they are powered off!



## WATER

Take shorter and colder showers—[heating water](#) consumes substantial amounts of energy.

Wash your laundry in [cold cycles](#) to reduce energy consumption. **Wash laundry in full loads** to save water!



## PLANTS

According to [NASA](#), **plants can alter the temperature of indoor areas** through photosynthesis and by producing large amounts of transpiration.

Plants can help keep the indoor area cool by improving the humidity in a room, providing oxygen, replenishing moisture in the air, and blocking any excessive sun.



## HEATING

If applicable, maintain the thermostat at the highest comfortable level during warm weather and the lowest comfortable level during cold weather to **reduce energy use**.

Ensure windows are closed and sealed properly to keep the indoor temperature comfortable without the need for heating/cooling.

Where possible, **avoid sleeping with your thermostat on**. Instead, wear sweats when it's cold, and silk or satin pajamas when it's warm.

**Close blinds before leaving to prevent indoor heating from sunlight.**

If using a heater, opt for one that **heats the entire home** rather than relying on a space heater, as these can consume substantial energy.

## Energy Myths — Debunked

1

Contrary to popular belief, leaving a light on uses **more energy than switching it on and off**. If you plan to leave a room for more than 15 minutes, it's more energy-efficient to turn off the lights.

3

**Closing vents in unused or unoccupied rooms does not save energy.** In fact, it increases energy output, as the HVAC system must work harder to maintain airflow, leading to higher energy consumption overall.

2

Using an appliance sparingly does not necessarily save energy or extend its lifespan. **Infrequent use can sometimes cause wear and tear**, reducing the efficiency and durability of the appliance over time.

4

Even when they are turned “OFF,” **many devices and appliances still draw electricity**, a phenomenon known as *phantom energy*. These appliances maintain an electrical load, contributing to unnecessary energy consumption when not in use.



## San Luis Obispo Programs

Get involved with the community in SLO to learn more about simple actions you can take to live a **more sustainable lifestyle and SLO's plans to become carbon neutral.**

- **SLO Climate Coalition**: A group focused on solutions that will positively impact the climate crisis while advocating for environmental justice and economic vitality.
- **Resilient SLO**: Flagship program which serves as a guide for climate change to create “resilient and sustainable neighborhoods” through simple actions.
- **Uniting the Central Coast for Action (UCCA)**: Program that partnered with SLO Climate Coalition that assesses areas in need to advocate for climate action.
- **SLO Green Transportation**: Working with SLO Climate Coalition, this program focuses on increasing modes of transportation that are carbon free.

# Food

The processing, production, and shipping of both plant-based and animal-derived foods generally result in significant greenhouse gas emissions. Adapting to dietary habits might seem challenging, but even minor changes in food choices and shopping habits can markedly lessen our environmental footprint and lead to other benefits, such as improved personal health and support for the local economy.



# At Cal Poly

**Campus Dining is incorporating multiple initiatives to increase its environmental sustainability and lower emissions on campus. Some of these initiatives include:**



**Supporting local farmers and artisans** by offering over 100 local, organic, and sustainable products for students to choose from.



**Sourcing produce from Cal Poly Farms** to use for various menu items at Vista Grande.



**Offering free, reusable tumblers** to all first years with a dining plan to reduce single-use plastic.



**Sending all back-of-house food scraps** to be composted at a local facility.



**Collecting all used cooking oil** and working with a local company who converts it to biodiesel.



**The implementation of a reusable container program, ReusePass,** at certain dining venues has saved over 30,000 single-use containers from the waste stream during the 2024-2025 academic year, the first full year of execution.



**Recycling paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans and tins, glass bottles and jars, and recyclable plastics** at all venues.



**Making efforts to reduce food waste** with the iWasteNot program and offering food donations to the Cal Poly Food Pantry.



**Offering plant-based items** across campus, which require significantly less resources than meat products.

**Keep updated with current initiatives that Campus Dining is incorporating [here](#).**

## FOOD PANTRY

**The Cal Poly Food Pantry** was created in 2014 in response to the growing number of students going hungry and without means to purchase food. It gives the Cal Poly community **access to fresh and nutritious food**. The Food Pantry receives food from the SLO Food Bank, the Cal Poly Crops Unit, and local grocery stores nearby, including Sprouts, Food 4 Less, and Grocery Outlet. The Food Pantry offers a robust inventory for staff and students and is **open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 6:00pm**.



## CALFRESH

Partaking in the **CalFresh Outreach program**, which identifies and helps eligible students apply to CalFresh, formerly known as California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), **gives students access to nutritious, local food**.

CAL POLY SERVICE PARTNER

**CalFresh**  
FOOD

## Book a CalFresh Appointment!

Chat with us to see if you're eligible for up to **\$281/month** for groceries!




Scan the QR code to sign up on our Calendly!

[calendly.com/calfreshcalpoly/45min](https://calendly.com/calfreshcalpoly/45min)

[calfreshcalpoly.org](https://calfreshcalpoly.org) • [calfresh@calpoly.edu](mailto:calfresh@calpoly.edu) • @calfreshcalpoly • (805) 399-0236

Funded by USDA SNAP known in California as CalFresh, an equal opportunity provider and employer, and the California Department of Social Services

# With Green Campus

**One of Green Campus' main goals is to encourage sustainability among food choices by increasing education and outreach focused on the impact of food on the environment. Below are some of the ways we provide outreach related to food and sustainability on campus:**

## EARTH WEEK EVENTS

Education events related to food sustainability, including a cooking workshop with Cal Poly Dining during Earth Week 2025.



## COLLABORATION WITH THE FOOD PANTRY

Encourage students to join garden workdays at Cal Poly's food pantry garden, where they can support the campus community by participating in planting, weeding, composting, and general garden maintenance.



## COLLABORATION WITH CLUBS

Support student clubs focused on food sustainability, such as the Garden Club and the Real Food Collaborative, which promote locally and sustainably sourced foods.



# What Can You Do?

There are lots of ways to integrate lifestyle changes into your food purchasing, preparation, and consumption. Below are some changes that you can make.

## PLANNING

Consider **altering your diet**. These changes can be big, like cutting out animal products completely, or small, like participating in “**Meatless Mondays**”.

**Plan your meals** to make the most of your groceries and lower your chances of ending up with food waste.

Begin **composting your food scraps**; composting helps curb the greenhouse gas emissions that are produced from food waste in landfills.

## BUYING

Adjust your shopping habits to include buying **seasonal, locally sourced foods** from farmer’s markets. This approach not only supports the **local economy** and can save money, but it also **reduces emissions** and provides the  **freshest, best-tasting produce**. Explore the wide range of farmer’s markets in San Luis Obispo County [here](#).

Check out the seasonal produce list in SLO [here](#) to see when the best time is to buy certain foods and maximize freshness.

## COMMUNITY

Consider enrolling in classes that are related to **food, agriculture, and sustainability** to empower yourself with knowledge through reading and research. Check out the sustainability course list [here](#).

**Subscribe to a veggie subscription box.**

Clubs such as the Real Food Collaborative offer subscriptions for students to receive seasonal, campus-grown produce.

**Get involved with community organizations** or on-campus clubs such as City Farm SLO, Real Food Collaborative, Cal Poly Garden Club, and Zero Waste Ambassadors.

Order fresh, Central Coast produce, and meals **delivered right to your doorstep** through [Harvestly](#).



# Reuse

Did you know that in SLO County, each person generates over a ton of waste per year? Often, we overlook the amount of waste we produce daily and disregard its final destination. Societal emphasis on mass consumption has fueled a significant increase in waste generation. However, there are opportunities at every stage of a product's life cycle and many aspects of our daily routines to minimize waste. Whether it is abstaining from purchasing new products altogether, opting to repair items rather than replace them, or adopting proper waste management practices to mitigate landfill growth, there are numerous avenues to reduce our environmental impact relating to waste.

# Big Issue

On college campuses like Cal Poly, mass consumerism is prevalent throughout the year, but it is most apparent during move-in and move-out. Incoming students and their families often empty the shelves of large department stores, like Target and Home Goods, while students leaving for summer often rid themselves of lightly used items, both of which lead to the formation of waste piles near housing areas. From an environmental and social justice perspective, the idea of consumerism alone is not the main issue so much as the methods with which it is carried out in the United States.



In making their products as cheaply as possible, many businesses have adopted the idea of ‘cradle-to-grave’ material use, in which **materials are extracted, refined and processed, transported, and ultimately discarded** when the product is at the end of its life.



Likewise, to cut down on labor costs, businesses often have their **products manufactured abroad in nations with loosely enforced labor and environmental laws**, exploiting workers and creating a series of social justice issues in the process.



Many businesses (mostly technologic companies) have promoted a strategy called ‘planned obsolescence,’ which involves the **creation of goods that quickly become obsolete and require periodic replacing**, as well as the cultivated sense of “needing” the newest products.



The **single-use mindset and culture** applied to material goods jeopardizes opportunities to repurpose and reuse materials in creative ways. This framework requires **intensive labor and dangerous material extraction practices, to maintain or increase production**. Additionally, most material manufacturers do not provide avenues to dispose of their used items and improper disposal of hazardous waste can cause **environmental degradation** in areas close to a factory.

## Solution

As discouraging as the issue is, **personal and community action can reduce the impacts of mass consumerism.** The solution lies in the concept of “zero waste”, which does not always mean the complete elimination of waste, but rather the **attempts to eliminate waste going to the landfill.** The CSU defines zero waste as “managing products, services, and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.” A zero-waste framework aims to **reduce consumption, maximize recycling, minimize waste, and ensure that products are made to be reused or recycled back into nature or the marketplace.**

## At Cal Poly

“In 2019 and 2020, Cal Poly achieved **83 percent diversion from landfill for all waste produced on campus**, including traditional recycling of cardboard, paper, bottles and cans, construction and demolition debris, scrap metal, surplus equipment, and collection of food scraps, yard waste, and animal manure for composting” (Cal Poly Zero Waste\*).

### RECYCLING

Cal Poly has a ‘co-mingled’ recycling stream, meaning glass, metal, and narrow-necked plastic water bottles go in the same bin. The San Luis Obispo Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) has a comprehensive recycling guide to help residents [here](#).



## COMPOSTING

“Campus Dining and Facilities Management and Development partner with San Luis Garbage to have our pre-consumer (Dining, back-of-house) food scraps composted. The materials are collected in green carts and taken to the local Hitachi-Zosen Anaerobic Digester to produce clean energy and compost for local farms. About 230 tons of food scraps from Campus Dining are composted annually” (Cal Poly Recycling and Composting\*).

## SURPLUS

“To encourage reuse of furniture, equipment, and other materials, Cal Poly operates a surplus program that gathers materials from offices when they are no longer needed, and distributes them, free of charge, to other campus departments” (Cal Poly Sustainability, Join The Movement\*).

# With Green Campus

- **Grad Gown Reuse Program**—Free graduation regalia rental program for students (gown donations accepted)
- **Flash Sales and Surplus Collaboration**—Free-item pickup at Surplus, Flash Sales, Bike Auctions, iMac Auctions
- **Lab Supply Exchange Program**—Program collecting excess lab supplies donations for faculty and students under faculty supervision to reuse. An up-to-date materials in stock list is kept and made publicly available
- **CP Thrift**—Move-out collection of items from departing students and distribution of items during move-in
- **Water Bottle Collection and Redistribution**—Recirculation of lost water bottles across campus
- **Bike Auction**—Recirculation of lost and forgotten bikes recuperated by campus police





and auctioned to students and staff for very low prices in Surplus auctions

- **Monthly Swap-n-Shops**—Collaboration with Sustainable Fashion Club, located on a central part of campus once a month, includes an area to exchange clothes for free and peruse selection of fashion accessories from student vendors
- **Assisting with the Biodegradability Testing of Campus Dining Cutlery and Containers**
- **Overseeing Zero Waste Ambassadors for Campus Events**—Volunteer force that help sort waste at Cal Poly sponsored events and provide sorting assistance in Vista Grande for the composting pilot project
- **Creating the Green Living Guide**—This document that you are reading!
- **Implementing iWasteNot Platform**—Online marketplace for campus community to exchange items
- **Advocating and campaigning for a Permanent Reuse Station**, a volunteer-operated hub to help recirculate usable items within the campus community

# What Can You Do?

## ON CAMPUS

1

[Participate](#) in **CP Thrift** during move-in/move-out

2

Volunteer for **Zero Waste Ambassadors**, a group of volunteers who help students sort their waste at on-campus events

3

Fill out the general [Interest Form](#) to be contacted when volunteering opportunities arise

4

Consult Cal Poly's Sustainability website for the most up-to-date **waste sorting guidelines** and **hazardous waste collection bin locations**

5

When it comes time to graduate, participate in the **Grad Gown Reuse Program**, tell your friends about it, or use/lend gowns from/to friends or family

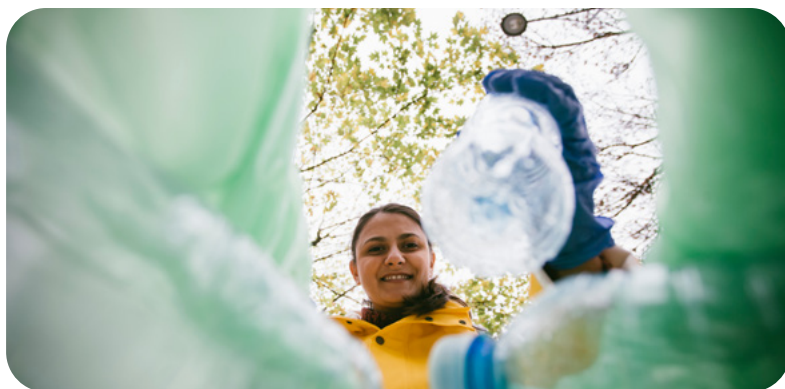


6

Check out **clubs on Cal Poly Now** and sort by “**sustainability**” and/or “**waste**”. For example, Eco Reps, a club housed within Green Campus, focuses on sustainability and offers students a chance to learn about their community through volunteer days and campus tours

7

Subscribe to Green Campus’ monthly **Sustainability Newsletter** for updates on unique Surplus auctions, reuse-related campus events, and more



## ON CAMPUS

1

**Consult SLO IWMA’s website** (and play their waste-sorting game) for the most up-to-date curbside bin item placement and hazardous waste drop off locations

2

Participate in the **SLO clean-up week** around spring finals week

3

Become a **RecycleRight volunteer** with the City of SLO to help the public sort their waste at Farmers Market

# Transportation

Our daily transportation often involves single-occupancy vehicles, with most transportation infrastructure designed for a car-centric transportation system. However, gas-powered transportation relies on fossil fuels and contributes to air pollution, resulting in both negative environmental and human health impacts. Shifting gears towards sustainable transportation options benefits the environment and promotes healthier lifestyles. By rethinking how we travel, we have the ability to institute positive change for ourselves and the communities that we live in.



# At Cal Poly... And Beyond

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Transportation is a **key part of student and Cal Poly employee life**, from daily commutes around campus, to trips home, or a weekly run to the grocery store. Whether you're travelling within San Luis Obispo or beyond county lines, your transportation choices have **direct impacts on the environment, public health, and your wallet!** Single-occupancy vehicles contribute heavily to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while car-centric infrastructure fragments ecosystems and can result in dangerous vehicle accidents. Vehicle ownership can be associated with high financial burdens related to fuel and maintenance costs, but thankfully Cal Poly and other local organizations provide a multitude of options for **economically and environmentally sustainable transportation modalities**. Opting for more sustainable transportation options, such as **walking, biking, carpooling, or using public transit**, not only reduces your individual carbon footprint but also supports a healthier and more connected community. At the end of the day, how you choose to transport yourself around SLO and beyond is a personal choice, and Green Campus Team simply wants to present you with accurate information of the various sustainable transportation options available to you.

# Opportunities For Sustainable Transportation in SLO

## CAL POLY CARPOOL

- 2–4 eligible members can carpool and split the cost of a parking permit while reducing vehicle emissions
- Benefits: Save money by sharing the cost of a parking permit, save on fuel and maintenance for your vehicle, secure a parking space on campus, priority permit allocation over regular commuter permit

## **MUSTANG EXPRESS/SHUTTLE**

- A free shuttle service around campus
- Download the app [here](#)

## BIKE SLO COUNTY BIKE SHOP AND BIKES FOR PUCHASE

- Affordable Bikes for purchase at Bike Kitchen in downtown SLO
- Affordable Bike Repair shop with personal assistance from dedicated staff who will educate you on how to repair your bike.





### **SLO AMTRAK STATION**

- Train and bus routes with 15% discount rate for students
- Pacific Surfliner—train route from SLO to San Diego
- Many other train/bus routes

### **ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING**

- Cal Poly offers multiple locations for EV charging

### **EMPLOYEE VANPOOL PROGRAM**

### **BUS SERVICES—CITY AND COUNTY**

- SLO City Bus services—Free with Cal Poly ID (Poly Card)
- Regional/County Bus services—Subsidized for students and Cal Poly employees

### **ZIPCAR**

- Hourly car rentals available on Cal Poly Campus. Carpool with your friends to reduce costs and travel more sustainably!

# With Green Campus and Community Organizations

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- Green Campus Sustainability Month Events
- Alternative transportation mode education events
- [County of SLO Bike Month](#) (May)
  - Free bike breakfasts for cyclists and pedestrians
  - Education and outreach events from organizations in SLO County
  - Bike repair events with Bike Kitchen and Cal Poly Cycling Club
- [Bike Night!](#)—An informal cycling event on the first Thursday of every month
  - Meet downtown at the Mission Plaza at 9 PM for a festive group ride around downtown SLO
- Stay up to date by following [@BikeHappeingSLO](#) on Instagram
- Be sure to wear a helmet and have functional bike lights!



# What Can You Do?

## RIDE A BIKE!

San Luis Obispo ranks in the [94th percentile](#) nationwide for bike infrastructure. We live in a really great place that is conducive to relatively safe cycling and efficient mobility around town via bike. Get out there!

Wear a helmet and use lights + reflective elements to maximize your safety. It's the law in SLO to have front and rear lights and it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk.

## USE CARPOOL AND/OR RIDESHARE SERVICES

Reduce the number of vehicles on the road!

## CITY OF SLO AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (RTA) BUSES

You can swipe your PolyCard for free rides around the City of SLO and get discounted rates across the county!

Download the SLO Transit app to view routes, schedules, and maps showing buses' current locations.



### MUSTANG SHUTTLE

Use the Mustang Shuttle to travel around campus more easily and safely throughout the day and night

Download the app to see current hours of operation and the shuttle's exact location



### AMTRAK

Take Amtrak trains and buses to travel long-distances.

### HELPFUL TIPS

- **Optimize your trips** so you can save gas money and lessen your carbon footprint.
- Make a habit of **carpooling with friends** to go to grocery stores and off-campus activities.
- Use short trips as an excuse to go for a **walk or bike ride**. This is good for your overall health and the environment

# Water

The finite nature of water makes its conservation a crucial responsibility. Despite seasonal rainfall, the future of water in California remains unpredictable and prone to drought. Water is integral to every aspect of our lives, sustaining our very existence. Daily habits such as brushing teeth, making food, or watering plants underscore the importance of clean water in our lives. Conserving this invaluable resource in all manners possible is essential for safeguarding and ensuring our future well-being.



# At Cal Poly

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Cal Poly's drought response plan includes actions to reduce water use throughout campus. Some measures taken include:

1

A campus-wide installation of **low-flow faucet aerators** and **low-flow shower heads** in University Housing

2

**Improvements to irrigation systems and practices** in Ag Operations

3

The elimination of existing turf or the conversion to **lower water use landscape plantings**

4

New, **wireless landscape irrigation control system** implemented campus-wide

5

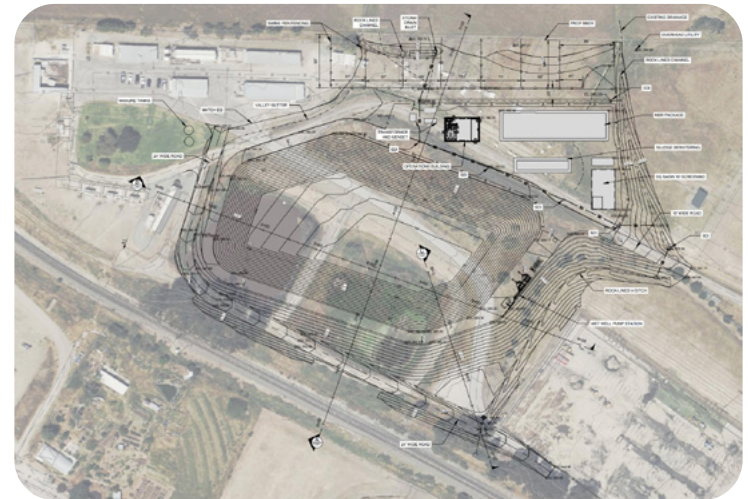
Improved control of **cooling towers and swimming pools**

6

The addition of an **on-campus water reclamation plant**, as stated in the 2035 Cal Poly Master Plan, will aim to conserve water, conserve energy, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce utility costs

7

The installation of **water-efficient plumbing fixtures**, which has saved over 17 million gallons, or approximately 425,000 bathtubs full of water in Campus Dining facilities



# With Green Campus

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## SLO THE FLOW CHALLENGE

A three-week competition during winter quarter that aims to educate students on ways to **conserve energy and water** and encourage their **sustainable use**.

## WATER CONSERVATION SIGNAGE

Educational materials are hung and distributed throughout campus buildings and University Housing to teach students about ways to **save water in their everyday lives**. Signage also includes how to **report leaks on campus**, which can waste up to 27 to 90 gallons of water a year if left untreated.

## COLLABORATION WITH FACILITIES

Green Campus members meet with the **Water Efficiency group** on campus, run through the **Cal Poly Facilities Department**, to focus on **campus water efficiency and water infrastructure projects**.

# What Can You Do?

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One of the easiest ways to reduce your water usage is by **shortening your showers!** Only turn the water on when necessary.

**Keep the faucet off** when brushing teeth or washing dishes.

Run your laundry when you know that you will have a **full load of clothes.**

**Use your dishwasher when full** as opposed to washing dishes by hand. This can use up to 9 times less water.

Practice being an active community member and **report leaks wherever you see them.** To report on campus, go to the Facilities Management tab in your portal or call (805)756-5555.

Use **low-flow plumbing accessories** such as low-flow faucets or shower heads. Residents of the city of SLO can pick up [complimentary water conservation items here](#).

Skip handwashing your car, and instead head to **commercial car washes**, where the water is re-used.

Plant **drought tolerant and native plants**; these species are adapted to California's climate and thus need less water to survive. This also brings back the central coast's biodiversity. Many counties, including SLO, offer rebate programs to help community members make this switch.

Keep a bucket in the shower or sink to **catch leftover water** that can then be used for plant maintenance.

## INDIRECT ACTIONS TO TAKE

- **Compost** improves water retention and soil permeability
- **Use public transportation** when possible. It takes 3-6 gallons of water to produce one gallon of gasoline! Carpool, drive less, or use public transportation to indirectly reduce your water use and emissions.
- **Eat meat less often**, especially red meat. It takes over 1,000 gallons of water to create one beef patty.

