



# Sustainability Institute

Los Angeles Community College District

Spring, 2019 Newsletter

March 22, 2019

Volume 5, Number 1

Don't forget to visit us at:

<http://www.sustainablelaccd.net/>

Check out the new [Events](#) section under Newsletters

<https://www.facebook.com/SustainabilityInstituteLACCD/>

- World Water Day, March 22
- April is Earth Month: Big calendar of events
- SI and the Mulholland Institute Upper LA River watershed project
- West LA College launches Climate Change and Environmental Studies AA
- Sierra Club on campus, DWP and coal
- Upcoming CHESC conference call for posters and awards
- SI working with Facilities at District level to promote campus education on climate goals
- Students attended Youth Climate Strike March 15, 2019

**Today is World Water Day** which stands as a reminder that the globe has failed to make safe drinking water a right. Millions face unsanitary conditions and disease. Safe drinking water is also not a right in the USA. See the [site](#) for ways to mark this important day.

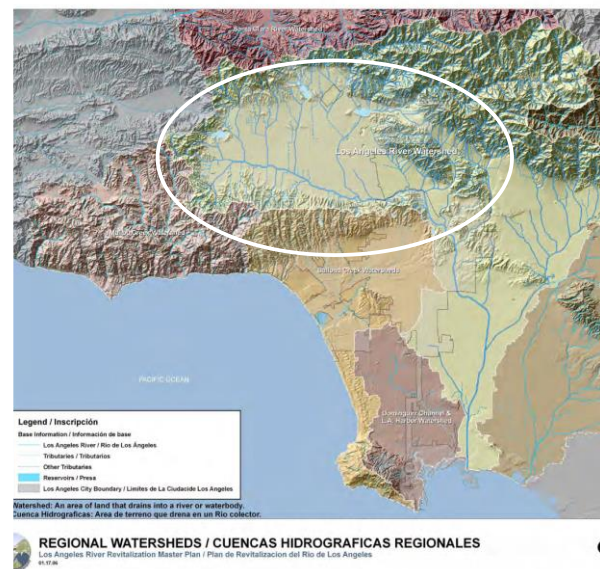
**April is Earth Month** but there are already many events throughout the region to improve environmental education. Our [new section on the web-site](#) lists many of these upcoming events. Feel free to let the SI know of events you want promoted by [contacting the SI](#).



SI to work with the [Mulholland Institute](#) on the LA River watershed. The Sustainability Institute is currently exploring ways to be partners in a very important hydrographic study of the upper LA River. We are cooperating with the Valley Economic Alliance and the Mulholland Institute to find

ways to involve our students in community outreach and data gathering. The Mulholland Institute is seeking to help fulfil the state mandate for the proper mapping and assessments of the upper LA River watershed.

The Legislature has found that the Upper Los Angeles River and its tributaries face a complex ecological and political history, with unique obstacles that local governments encounter when managing the river and its surrounding areas. As a result, the statutes provide that “on or before March 1, 2019, the working group will develop, through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, a revitalization plan” for the: Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, Aliso Canyon Wash (Aliso Creek). Our own Gold Creek facility and faculty can be part of this project.



The revitalization plan is required to involve a “master planning process that includes community engagement and a prioritization of disadvantaged communities, identified pursuant to Section 39711

*Our logo: The District learning tree is embedded in the “triple bottom line” of sustainable development: social justice, political equality and environmental sustainability. The SI endorses this approach to environmental education.*



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of the Health and Safety Code.” This is a great opportunity for our SFV campuses and for the District as a whole.



**Dr. Jennifer Cole at West LA College has launched an [AA degree in Climate and Environmental Studies](#).** “(The) Degree is a

unique degree offered

only at West Los Angeles College that is designed for two groups of students: those who plan to transfer to a four-year institutions, and those who want to add value to their current careers.” “The degree will become effective in the Spring 2019 semester. You can enroll in classes to fulfill degree requirements now.” Career opportunities include: Sustainability consultants, Environmental scientists, Green building/construction professionals, Climate adaptation managers, Air & water quality specialists, Renewable energy technicians, Science educators, Marketing & communications specialists and Environmental policy consultants.



**SIERRA CLUB**

**Sierra Club working on campuses to mobilize opposition to fossil fuel power plants under the LADWP.** [Katya English](#), organizing representative of the Sierra Club has been very active at Valley College helping students rekindle the EcoAdvocates student club and become more active in

the San Fernando Valley, [particularly on the issue of the natural gas fired power plant](#) in Sun Valley. LADWP is phasing out some of the plants in LA but keeping the SFV one running. For Sierra this is an environmental justice issue.



**CHESC Conference coming this summer at UCSB:**

The California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC), which will be July 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at UC Santa Barbara, is excited to hear about innovative

new practices and policy interventions, research related to campus sustainability, and new ideas for infusing climate change and sustainability into the curriculum. CHESC is especially excited to hear from staff, faculty, and students from colleg-

es and universities about how they are creating change on their campuses as well as lessons learned through their efforts.

CHESC brings in almost 1,000 attendees from California Community Colleges, California State University, University of California, and private colleges and universities in California. In operations since 2002, CHESC provides an important venue for cross-system best practice sharing, partnership building, and strategic conversations.

Please consider joining CHESC 2019 as a speaker, award winner, and/or poster presenter. To reduce the workload of our applicants and create an easier to navigate process, there is only one application this year. Through this one application, you can submit your work for an award, speaking opportunity, and/or poster.

Details of the Call for Proposals and topic areas for this year’s event can be found at the [UCSB site](#).

For questions, please contact Julia Feldman, [julia.chesc@gmail.com](mailto:julia.chesc@gmail.com) or call the CHESC office at 805-893-2166.



**SI to work with LACCD Facilities on educating the community on energy use on our campuses.**

Many faculty and staff in the LACCD know that it is not easy to coordinate goals and activities

between the educational mission of our colleges on the one hand, and the difficult work of facilities management at all our locations, on the other. We share sustainability goals in major areas such as the design and management of our buildings, and systems such as water use, energy, waste management, and the maintenance of green campus landscapes. Yet we perceive a gap between these two.

A new bridge exists now thanks to the work of Aris Hovasapian, utility program manager at the District office, and Natalie St. Claire working as a facilities and energy fellow at the DO and LA City College. They have planned several educational resources for the benefit of faculty and staff as well as managers of our energy systems and climate goals.



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One of these is the [Campus as a Living Lab Webinar](#). This will take place on Thursday March 28. RSVP is requested at the link for the webinar. City College will serve as the site.

The second is [Climate Change 101](#) and is hosted on Google Docs and has resources and graphic information on climate change. It works as a primer to acquaint the novice to the basics of understanding climate science.

Third is the [Energy Blitz Challenge](#) is exactly that. Hosted at LACC, this challenge is to bring facilities users closer to facilities managers. The challenge is based on points. Sign up for a Green Team to compete with a building you spend a lot of time in on campus. The biggest deciding factor in the competition is how much energy each building saves over the semester (compared to 2018's energy usage). A prize valued at \$1000 will be awarded to the team that earns the most points, along with individual prizes for highest points earned and most creative energy-saving projects!

Fourth is [Save Energy, Save Money](#) and is also hosted on Google Docs as an educational module that can be used for its graphic presentation of information on energy conservation. This is great for households and consumers.

Finally, [the Climate Corps](#) is site educating climate activists from a Bay Area organization called [Strategic Energy Innovations](#) that Natalie is working with to develop educational goals here in the District. "Climate Corps is a professional development program where Fellows are placed at leading organizations to implement climate change resiliency projects." So, we are happy to have Natalie here this semester as she works with Aris to make this Spring the most climate aware yet.

### Youth Climate Strike, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

Why did so many of our students attend the Youth Climate Strike March 15<sup>th</sup>? [They can say it best themselves following the outstanding leadership of the young Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg:](#)

"We, the youth of America, are striking because decades of inaction has left us with just 11 years to change the trajectory of the worst effects of climate change, according to the Oct 2018 UN IPCC Report. We are striking because our world

leaders have yet to acknowledge, prioritize, or properly address our climate crisis.



We are striking because marginalized communities across our nation—especially communities of color, disabled communities, and low-income communities—are already disproportionately impacted by climate change. We are striking because if the social order is disrupted by our refusal to attend school, then the system is forced to face the climate crisis and enact change. With our futures at stake, we call for radical legislative action to combat climate change and its countless detrimental effects on the American people. We are striking for the Green New Deal, for a fair and just transition to a 100% renewable economy, and for ending the creation of additional fossil fuel infrastructure. Additionally, we believe the climate crisis should be declared a national emergency because we are running out of time."

