



CLIMATE
CORPS

Campus as a Living Lab

College of San Mateo

Climate Corps 18-19

Integrating Sustainability at CSM

SMCCCD's Initiatives

At San Mateo County Community College District we look to prioritize learning in everything we do. This includes our sustainability efforts. Through our program *Campus as a Living Lab* we look to get students, faculty, and staff involved in our sustainability initiatives and be positive stewards of change.

Waste Signage Competition

Part of our sustainability initiative at the district is reaching Zero Waste by 2025. With generic signage on campus, we saw this as a opportunity to get students involved in helping create a more understandable and relevant signage. We teamed up with a graphic design class to create a signage competition between students. We were able to get students involved in our initiative and have them build their graphic design portfolio.



Facilities Utility Fleet Electrification

A big project I worked on was setting up a plan to convert most of our facilities fleet from gas to electric vehicles. As part of our first phase, I got to collaborate with GEM Polaris to add and replace 8 utility vehicles for the custodial team. This was a huge first step into the electrification of our fleet. As the technology advances on utility vehicles we will be prepared to replace more of our gas vehicles to electric. Overall not only seeing saving in GHG emissions, but in upfront and operating costs as well.

Project Achievements

Campus as a Living Lab

- Was able to connect with over 25 faculty and staff members across the campus to work on integrating sustainability on campus through lectures, tours, and projects
- Helped host first World Water Day for the district by involving various students with sustainability projects focused around water security and social justice.

Waste Signage Competition

- 6 students from Graphic Design class participated in waste signage competition
- Winning student design is replacing over 500 signs across the district

Facilities Utility Fleet Electrification

- Adding 8 new electric vehicles to the facilities utility fleet
- Replacing 8 OTR vehicles with a GEM is the same as planting 168 full grown trees

Lessons Learned

Successful Strategies:

- Reaching out to faculty and staff members through email and division meetings
- Gamify sustainability projects for students
- Collaborating with facilities and faculty to create engaging projects with students

Recommendations for Improvement / Program Expansion:

- Keep a clear record of metrics and relationships with stakeholders in order to use time effectively with outreach efforts
- Create more projects that are replicable across classes

Luis Zavala LEED GA

Luis graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Economics from San Francisco State University. After the fellowship Luis will be working for a landscaping and construction company where he looks to gain project management experience. In the future he would like to work on consulting in the green building industry.

Acknowledgements:

Luis would like to thank Joe Fullerton, Madeline Willett, and Isaac Knipfing from the SMCCCD Sustainability team. The professional and life experiences I have gained from them is something I will carry with me the rest of my life. I would also like to thank SEI for providing me with this great opportunity.

