SDSU

University Library

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SDSU University Library Sustainability Policy

Goals:

- Become a Sustainable Library accredited by the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.
- Increase community engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- Develop and implement educational programs on sustainability for our community.
- Implement sustainable procurement practices, prioritizing recycled and recyclable materials.

Strategies, in line with the SDSU Senate Sustainability Policy:

- Energy Management: Implement energy-efficient technologies, upgrade lighting and HVAC systems, optimize energy usage, and adopt energy-efficient technologies and encourage limited use of unsustainable technologies with high environmental costs and consequences, including AI.
- Renewable Energy: Explore opportunities for solar energy generation and other renewable energy sources.
- Transportation: Encourage carpooling, biking, walking, and public transportation for faculty, staff, students, and community.
- Waste Reduction: Minimize waste generation, implement recycling programs, and compost food scraps.
- Sustainable Purchasing: Prioritize locally sourced, recycled, and recyclable materials when purchasing supplies and equipment.
- Facility Management: Use green cleaning products, conserve water resources, and maintain sustainable landscaping practices.
- Education and Outreach: Organize workshops, events, and educational programs on sustainability for all ages.
- Partnership and Collaboration: Work with community partners, including businesses, schools, and government agencies, to promote sustainability initiatives.

Financial Support:

The SDSU Library will commit funding as available to support its sustainability goals through:

- Membership in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and accreditation process.
- Implementing energy-efficiency upgrades and renewable energy projects where possible.

- Developing and delivering educational programs on sustainability.
- Purchasing carbon offsets for staff commuting and out-of-state travel.

Measurement and Evaluation:

The SDSU Library will monitor and evaluate its progress toward its sustainability goals by measuring the following indicators:

- Carbon footprint (greenhouse gas emissions) to aim for net zero emissions
- Energy consumption
- Water consumption
- Waste generation
- Recycling rate
- Number of participants in sustainability programs
- Community engagement in sustainability initiatives

Implementation and Review:

This Sustainability Policy will be implemented by a designated SDSU Sustainability Committee composed of library faculty, staff, and administration members. The committee will develop and implement action plans, monitor progress, and report results. This policy will be reviewed during the summer and updated annually at the start of the new academic year to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the latest sustainability best practices.

Conclusion:

By adopting this Sustainability Policy, the SDSU Library affirms its commitment to environmental stewardship, community education, social equity, and economic feasibility. We believe that by working together, we can create a more sustainable future for our community of students, staff, and faculty.

Policy adopted: January 25, 2024

Policy developed with inspiration from:

CSU Sustainability Policy
https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/11699668/latest/

SDSU Senate Sustainability Policy https://senate.sdsu.edu/06_policy-file/2023-08-25_policy-file.pdf

UCSD: https://library.ucsd.edu/about/library-sustainability/index.html

Curtis Memorial: https://curtislibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Sustainability-Policy-5-4-2022.pdf

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