

SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Each year approximately 40,000 people throughout San Mateo County attend one of the three colleges in the San Mateo County Community College District: Skyline College in San Bruno, Cañada College in Redwood City, and the College of San Mateo. The academic and vocational programs offered by the Colleges are designed to meet the educational needs of the community: quality transfer programs, more than 80 vocational degree and certificate programs, upgrade training for working professionals, and developmental education to prepare students for college studies.

Carbon Emissions

The District saves \$1 million annually through energy efficiency and cogeneration. Those savings are achieved as a result of many efficiency improvements at dozens of buildings across the three campuses, and they occurred as a result of very cost-effective upgrades of existing equipment rather than replacing entire systems outright. The improvements were funded by utility rebates and voter approved bonds, reducing the District's annual electricity usage by 22 percent and natural gas use by 15 percent. Cogeneration systems were also installed at Skyline College and the College of San Mateo. Together these savings translate to avoided local electric utility emissions of roughly 3,200 tons of carbon dioxide annually, the equivalent of planting more than 900 acres of trees or 628 cars not driven for a year. The District was recognized in 2005 with a Pacific Gas and Electric Flex Your Power Award, and in 2006 by the Environment California Research and Policy Center in "Greening the Bottom Line: California Companies Save Money by Reducing Global Warming Pollution."

Housing and Other Facilities

Green building

The Board of Trustees of the District has adopted the following two goals in support of sustainable building practices:

- As new buildings are brought on line, District operational plans need to incorporate appropriate staffing and resource efficiencies in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the new structures. The District must also leverage to the greatest extent possible available state and local resources to reduce operational costs.
- Investigate green building design guidelines and standards, such as the *San Mateo Countywide Sustainable Buildings Guide* and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to determine the applicability to District projects.

Affordable faculty and staff housing

On a parcel of District owned land in San Mateo adjacent to the District office at CSM drive, the District has constructed and

provided to faculty and staff 45 units of affordable housing in a project called CollegeVista. In addition, the Board of Trustees has adopted the following two goals in support of additional affordable faculty and staff housing:

- The District will continue its efforts to assist employees with the high cost of housing in the area, including offering a second loan program for first-time homebuyers.
- The District will explore additional program options that make the program even more valuable and useful for faculty and staff.

Following the first year of operations of CollegeVista, the District will evaluate whether a second residential community should be constructed.

Water

The District has implemented the following water saving programs:

- Changing the kinds of plants used in landscaping to reduce trimmings. For example, instead of grass the District uses more groundcovers that do not take as much maintenance effort and do not generate grass clippings. Also, the District chips tree trimmings and places the chips as mulch, thus reducing the amount of organic material entering the waste stream as well as creating healthier landscaped areas.
- Conversion of many of the colleges' natural turf athletic fields to synthetic turf, resulting in a dramatic decrease of water usage, grass clippings, and maintenance; as well as creation of fields available in all weather conditions.

Waste Management

The District has consistently exceeded state mandated waste reduction goals, using measures including the following:

- Placement of copiers that have the ability to make double-sided copies.
- Placement of recycling containers throughout the campuses, and modifying waste collection activities to keep recyclables separate from garbage.
- Development and encouragement of the use of information technology for electronic processing of business transactions and communications.
- Development of a donation and resale program to identify downstream users for unwanted furniture and equipment, including a District online auction site for sale of unwanted assets with residual value, and development of a network of nonprofit agencies that need and appreciate the District's old items.