



DOMINICAN’S COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

(“GREEN STATEMENT”)

Preamble:

According to a majority of the world's experts, there is overwhelming evidence that the biosystems on Earth are headed for environmental catastrophe. Leading scientists tell us we have arrived at this crisis point because of the way we have organized our society from a social, cultural, economic and technological perspective that relies on over-harvesting the common bounty of our planet for short-term gain. Historian Thomas Berry states that “The Great Work now, as we move into a new millennium, is to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period of when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner...This is our Great Work and the work of our children...No one is exempt.” (quote from the book “The Great Work”, page 3)

The Society for College and University Planning states: “There is no better place than on our college campuses to make the changes in policy, action, and learning that can set our entire society on a more sustainable path. Higher education’s primary function is to produce the graduates and knowledge that will result in a thriving, secure, and civil society now and in the future. Higher education institutions bear a profound moral responsibility to increase the awareness, knowledge, skills, and values needed to create a just and sustainable future.”

Dominican’s Commitment to Environmental Sustainability (“Green Statement”):

Dominican University of California will model and instill the values and theories of reverence, interdependence, sustainability, social justice and stewardship into the entirety of its learning environment. The Dominican learning environment encompasses the education programs as well as maintaining green working and living spaces, and adopting policies and business practices that minimize our environmental footprint. Dominican strives to increase the awareness, knowledge, skills and sense of purpose within our students, faculty, staff and community to best meet the needs of the present, while creating a future that is just and sustainable for all.

Guiding Principles:

- Sustainability is a way of thinking about everything that we do.
- Our educational programs speak to our impact on the environment as a university and as individuals.
- Our campus community members take personal responsibility for creating and using sustainable practices and principles in their daily work.
- Our present time decisions and actions consider the effect upon the larger global community and future generations.
- We strive to employ business practices that provide a balance of economic, environmental and social benefits.
- Our university master plan incorporates green building practices.
- We use resources efficiently and effectively (reduce, re-use, recycle).
- We reduce the use and production of hazardous materials in our living, working and educational environments.

Greener Dominican Task Force:

The purpose of the task force is to support Dominican University of California becoming an environmentally sustainable campus. Its role is to serve as a resource to the University's governance system by assessing environmental policies, procedures and practices leading to the development of plans of action that will help Dominican to become a model of environmental sustainability. The task force also collaborates with local and international partners making Dominican more known as an educational center for environmental sustainability. The task force is a recognized subcommittee of the university's Campus Utilization and Policy Committee (CUPC), with one voting member on the CUPC.

It is charged to: (1) draft and promote a "Green Philosophy Statement" for the university, (2) assess current sustainable practices, (3) communicate Dominican's existing green practices to our campus and the local community, and (4) draft both short and long term plans related to the following areas;

- environmental awareness and education,
- waste management including recycling,
- purchasing practices that give preference to recycled and fair trade products,
- landscape and grounds,
- use of technology to reduce the use of resources (e.g. energy, paper, etc),
- organic and local buying,
- transportation and parking,
- hazardous waste minimization,
- incorporating sustainability in Dominican's strategic planning,
- building and remodeling practices.