**Official SSPEAR Eco-Rep Guide**

2014-2015

Introduction

**What is Sustainability?**

The concept of balancing and harmonizing our structures and processes with the environment’s resources and limitations has remained an integral aspect of societal sustenance for civilizations from prehistoric to modern times. The term *sustainable development* was coined to capture the elements involved in this phenomenon by Thaddeus Trzyna in the 1970s, and later became popularized through the Brundtland Report, *Our Common Future* in 1987.[[1]](#footnote-1) While the exact components embraced by this concept may vary slightly depending upon who you ask, the Brundtland Report still stands to capture the most common definition of sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.[[2]](#footnote-2)

As this approach is applied to our society today, sustainable development has focused upon harmonizing efforts among what John Elkington referred to as the Three P’s: People, Planet, and Profit.[[3]](#footnote-3) Each of these refers to a focus on a domain such as social justice (including equitable treatment and rights, and political participation), environmental considerations (maintaining the health of biological systems), or economic feasibility (a balance of production, consumption, and the ways in which we may change to improve), with these three pieces coming together as we strive to preserve a healthy society in the long run.[[4]](#footnote-4) Since the United Nations’ first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the World Bank has embraced these factors as the “Triple-Bottom Line” for analyzing the stability and success of its projects and programs.[[5]](#footnote-5) These measurements of what, for millennia, have been the cornerstones of society’s operations and interactions, may then continue to guide us in the pursuit of responsible and well-balanced actions in the long run. “Sustainability in this instance is not an end point, not a resting place, but a *process*” which is essential for every society to continuously undergo.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**The Sustainability Movement on College Campuses**

Two years prior to the UN’s Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, college and university administrators from around the world took a major step by formally acknowledging the importance of incorporating sustainability in their institutions.[[7]](#footnote-7) Through what became known as the Taillores Declaration, these leaders committed to a ten-point action plan and gradually began shifting internal practices, incorporating sustainability in education, and engaging of students, experts, and community members in this effort. Today, the Taillores Declaration has expanded to include over 350 signatories in more than 40 countries. While the extent to which each of these institutions has followed through with its commitment to sustainability varies, the ways in which schools engage students, share information with those around them, and become more efficient internally, have strongly supplemented the role sustainable development is given in society.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Today, a variety of structures exist in order to help facilitate college and universities’ efforts to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum and operations. One particularly well-known example of this is the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), which to date has received 684 signatories who have recognized the need and agreed to act to increase sustainability efforts on their campus.[[9]](#footnote-9) ACUPCC signatories will establish policies and goals for sustainable improvements on campus, and regularly measure and publish their progress toward meeting these. Supporting the achievement of such standards and practices also includes a number of organizations. Some like AASHE, The Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, provide resources for colleges and universities to progress.[[10]](#footnote-10) Other organizations, like the US Green Building Council, offer expert guidance to identify best practices through green certifications like LEED building efficiency ratings, Energy Star efficiency levels, and labeling of local and fair trade sourcing.

Alongside the resources published by AASHE and the guided process facilitated by ACUPCC and many other organizations, each institution must customize their sustainability efforts in order to best meet their mission, values, and circumstances. There is no single correct means of incorporating sustainability into higher education, but rather a process of collaboration between experts, organizations, facilities management, staff, students, and administrators, in which each of these offers an open mind and a willingness to dedicate effort to bring together institutional social, environmental, and economic factors in order to establish and continue sustainable progress.

**A History of Sustainability at Claremont McKenna College**

The process of integrating sustainability into the various aspects of a college or university requires investments in time, research, and financial commitments. Sustainability is eased into facilities and curricula gradually, one study, class, department, renovation, or new construction at a time. Each of these endeavors stems from extensive planning, meetings, surveys, and reports, all scouting the best way to introduce the concept of sustainability into new areas.

Claremont McKenna College demonstrated its strong commitment to sustainability as President Pamela Gann signed the ACUPCC and published an accompanying campus action plan in 2007.[[11]](#footnote-11) The guidelines established through these initiatives have demonstrated CMC’s focus upon waste, water, and energy reduction, as well as sustainable construction practices. In recent years, CMC has seen significant, sustainable improvements throughout its facilities. Two new constructions, the Kravis Center and Crown Hall, have been LEED certified (Gold and Silver levels, respectively), in light of their sustainable building practices and efficient operations.[[12]](#footnote-12) Additionally, two dorms have been renovated to LEED Silver standards, and three more are in the process of being renovated to meet this level. The new Roberts Pavilion is also on track to be certified LEED Gold.[[13]](#footnote-13) CMC has also taken steps to reduce water use around campus by replacing some grass turf and high water-use plants with native and drought-tolerant species.[[14]](#footnote-14) Seventy-six new light poles have also been installed with LED lighting outdoors, which is estimated to have contributed to a 2.6% reduction in overall energy use over the past year.[[15]](#footnote-15)

Within its institutional structure, Claremont McKenna has built strong foundations through which sustainability efforts are carried out. One example of this is the Robert’s Environmental Center (REC), which provides support to students and faculty members in environmental endeavors, invites speakers to share their experiences, and employs students to address the economic and political factors of real environmental issues.[[16]](#footnote-16) Alongside the work done at REC, CMC also offers its students the opportunity to research among other Claremont Colleges students in the Bernard Field Station, a preserve featuring a variety of habitats within Southern California’s native landscape.[[17]](#footnote-17) Claremont Colleges students have also had the opportunity to incorporate sustainability into their studies through the new Environmental Analysis major, and multiple sustainability-specific courses leading up to it.[[18]](#footnote-18)

Students and faculty members have also led several initiatives to encourage sustainability awareness, activities, and improvements through clubs, committee groups, and service organizations. CMC’s Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) Club has organized participation in the Campus Conservation Nationals energy-saving competition for a number of years, as well as red cup recycling efforts, composting in student apartments, and Earth Day awareness activities to engage the student body. Alongside this, CMC has an ongoing Environmental Concerns Committee, composed of select students and staff who address campus air quality, water, and recycling plans. Service organizations such as Rotaract, and efforts through the Center for Civic Engagement including tutoring, serving meals to the homeless, and organizing donation drives, have also made headway in CMC’s effort to embrace aspects of social justice in the sustainability effort.

The Eco-Rep Position

Claremont McKenna College’s Eco-Reps are a group of residential students who help to raise awareness about ecological issues, encourage environmentally responsible behavior among their hall mates and peers, and assist in planning related events and activities alongside SSPEAR ("Sustainable Students Promoting Environmental Action and Responsibility").

Eco-Reps are self-starters, outgoing, eager to learn, comfortable teaching others, and not overly-committed in other areas of their lives. Through their dedication of time and their close connection with their dorm-mates they can make a big difference in their residence hall’s sustainability awareness, making this a part of their lifestyle!

**Eco-Rep Responsibilities:**

Eco-Reps must attend SSPEAR’s 30-minute weekly meetings and additional training sessions as needed. At each meeting Eco-Reps will be introduced to campus and community service projects, and asked to help plan activities and brainstorm actions to take in residence halls throughout the year.

Estimated Time Commitment: 2 hours per week, including events and meeting times.

**Within Their Dorm:**

* Eco-Reps Manage SSPEAR’s Materials:

**Recycling Information Signs:** Recycling Information signs have been placed by SSPEAR members above nearly all large community recycling bins in dorm hallways, laundry rooms, and restrooms. These signs are intended to clarify proper recycling habits, so it is important they remain directly above the recycling bins so that the arrow at the bottom points toward the bin. The signs have been laminated so that we can re-use them from year-to-year, and it is important we keep careful track of them as they’re an important resource and valuable SSPEAR property.

**Red Cup Bins:** Red Cup bins are also property of SSPEAR and ASCMC’s Campus Improvements Committee. These bins are intended ONLY for recycling of Red Cups, to be sent to Terracycle (<http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/solo-r-cup-brigade-r.html>).

* Encouraging Sustainable Behaviors:
  + Recognize individuals for their environmentally-friendly behavior, and remind others of good sustainability practices in case they may not know!
  + Demonstrate environmentally-friendly living yourself each day.
* Promoting and serving as a source of enthusiasm for events
  + Use Facebook groups, email, and dorm meetings to share information regarding sustainability events.
  + Attend sustainability events and invite your neighbors and roommates to join you whenever possible, as well!
  + Always encourage incorporation of sustainable practices (re-usable dishware, recycling, etc.) at dorm events!
* Serving as a resource for students with sustainability-related questions or concerns. Please use the resources below for help, and contact a SSPEAR Officer if you need any additional help!

Resources:

**Links to CMC’s Sustainability Information:**

* Sustainability in the Campus Master Plan: <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/masterplan/sustainability.php>
* ACUPCC Reports: <http://rs.acupcc.org/progress/756/>
* Green Report Card Information: <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/claremont-mckenna-college.html>

**General Sustainability Information:**

* The UN on Sustainability: <http://www.un.org/en/sustainability/>
* The Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm>

**Proper Recycling on Campus:**

CMC recycles in accordance with the [guidelines](http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/download.cfm?ID=26609) established by the City of Claremont. Recyclables do not need to be sorted or cleaned (just emptied) before being placed in blue bins or the silver, rectangular outdoor bins.

Batteries, electronics, and oils, may be recycled, but must be collected separately through the City. For more information and specifics, please visit: <http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/ps.municipalservices.cfm?ID=1759>

**Water Conservation:**

Saving water is everybody’s responsibility. We can all contribute to the effort to reduce water unnecessary water use by being careful and conscious each day!

* Learning about water conservation:
  + <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/ConserveWater.htm>
  + <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/>

**Energy Saving Strategies:**

* Learn how much energy YOU use and ways that you could reduce your demand on the grid using ASU’s Virtual Dorm Room: [http://cm.asu.edu/#](http://cm.asu.edu/)
* Can you follow all of these tips and pledge to conserve energy? <https://powerdown.wufoo.com/forms/pledge-form/>

**Biodiversity:**

* Bernard Biological Field Station—a local resource: <http://www.bfs.claremont.edu/>
* National Wildlife Federation: <http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Conservation/Biodiversity.aspx>

**Local and Sustainable Food:**

* CMC’s Garden Club!
* Pomona’s Farm: <http://farm.pomona.edu/>
* <http://collins-cmc.cafebonappetit.com/wellness/>
* Claremont Farmer’s Market, Sundays from 8am-1pm,

2nd Street between Indian Hill and Yale: <http://www.thevillageclaremont.com/market.html>

* Claremont Market Shares program: <https://www.facebook.com/claremontfarmshares>
* Eat Seasonally! Find out what is in season [here](http://www.cfaitc.org/seasonal/)!

**Sustainable Transportation:**

Walking/Hiking:

* Trails nearby: <http://www.everytrail.com/best/hiking-claremont-california>
* Claremont Hills Wilderness Park: <http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/ps.leisurerecreation.cfm?ID=2286>

Biking:

* Bike Shop: <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/dos/bikeshop.php>
* Pomona: <https://www.facebook.com/PomonaGreenBikeShop>
* Pitzer: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenBikeProgram>
* Claremont Cycling Trails: <http://www.mapmyride.com/us/claremont-ca/>

Car Options:

* Zipcar: <http://www.zipcar.com/claremontmckenna>
* Always consider Carpooling!

Bus and Metro:

* Take advantage of the amazing [Transportation Options](http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/ps.municipalservices.cfm?ID=1762) Claremont and LA have to offer!
  + Take the bus using [Foothill Transit](http://www.foothilltransit.org/)
  + Try the train with <http://www.metrolinktrains.com/>

**Social Justice:**

* CMC’s Center for Civic Engagement: <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/civicengagement/>
* Amazing articles on the role of social justice in sustainability:
  + <http://sustainability.blogs.brynmawr.edu/what_you_can_do/green_pledge/>
  + <http://web.missouri.edu/ikerdj/papers/StanfordJustice.html>
  + <http://www.neweconomics.org/blog/entry/we-cant-have-social-justice-without-environmental-sustainability>

**How to report a problem to Facilities:**

Lights, Plumbing, Room Temperature, etc. can be reported to Facilities online any time!

<https://www.maintenanceconnection.com/mcv18/rapp_v12/>

Sprinkler Issues-- Contact: Jose Huezo ([jose.huezo@cmc.edu](mailto:jose.huezo@cmc.edu))

SSPEAR Club Information

**Contacts:**

SSPEAR email: [spearcmc@gmail.com](mailto:spearcmc@gmail.com)

Facebook: Open Facebook Group “SPEAR CMC”

SSPEAR Co-Presidents:

Annushka Shivnani ([ashivnani17@cmc.edu](mailto:ashivnani17@cmc.edu); 909.301.9940)

Jessica Bass ([jbass17@cmc.edu](mailto:jbass17@cmc.edu); 480.458.8697)

Eco-Reps List 2014-2014:

Appleby: Anna Gurr

Auen: Devin Cavero

Beckett: Austin Gosch

Benson: Weronika Konwent

Berger: Judy Li

Crown: Carole Gao

Fawcett: Lizzie Carrade and Mira Liu

Marks: Annushka Shivnani

Phillips: Maya Guerrant

Stark: Amy Olarnsakul

Student Apartments: Sydney Stephenson

Wohlford: Jessie Capper

Position Currently Vacant: Boswell, Green

**SUSTAINABLE STUDENTS PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE**

**CONSTITUTION**

Adopted March 5, 2008

Revised September 1, 2014

**Preamble**

We, the Sustainable Students Promoting Environmental Action and Responsibility of Claremont McKenna College, in order to promote the ideals of sustainability through the education of persons, the encouragement of environmental discussion and service opportunities and the promotion of environmental activism and sustainable living within the community of the Claremont Colleges, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Sustainable Students Promoting Environmental Action and Responsibility.

**Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Sustainable Students Promoting Environmental Action and Responsibility, hereinafter referred to as the “SSPEAR.”

**Article II. Purpose and Goals**

Section 1. SSPEAR is a vigorous and aggressive yet non-violent and peaceful movement for the defense of the natural environment and the advancement of sustainability.

SSPEAR’s mission is to raise awareness of environmental issues, the impact of climate change and responsible uses of the earth’s ecosystems and resources by planning events that educate and enlist humanity to practice sustainability and to protect and restore the natural environment.

Section 2. Statement of Goals

To promote sustainability on the Claremont Colleges.

To increase awareness of climate change issues and sustainable ways of living.

**Article III. Membership**

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all students of the Claremont Colleges. Membership shall not be denied because of an individual’s age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender orientation, disability, or nationality.

Section 2. A Member shall be defined as any member of the Claremont Colleges who has attended at least two club meetings or functions and has expressed interest in environmental awareness and protection. A Founding Member shall be defined as any member of the Claremont Colleges who participates in the ratification of this Constitution. A Founding Member shall have all the rights and privileges of a member.

Section 3. Membership privileges shall include the opportunity to participate in all activities funded or sponsored by SSPEAR. All members have the right to vote. Any member may plan an event with the approval of the officers.

Section 4. There shall be no fee for membership.

Section 5. The officers may deny or remove membership from any individual who violates the Constitution or who engages in gross misconduct.

**Article IV. Duties of Officers.**

Section 1. Elected officer positions of SSPEAR shall be: President, Social Events Chair(s), Policy Chair(s), and Campus Events Chair(s)

Section 2. All officers shall be required to attend all meetings. In the event that an officer is unable to attend a meeting, the officer shall notify the President.

Section 3. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meeting of SSPEAR.
2. Act on behalf of SSPEAR and maintain the general well-being of SSPEAR.
3. Oversee the administration of SSPEAR.
4. Serve as the spokesperson for SSPEAR.
5. Preserve and safeguard the records and files of SSPEAR.
6. Appoint all committees.

Section 4. The Social Events Chair shall:

A. Plan all social events related to SSPEAR.

B. Recruit new members through school-wide events.

C. Assist in planning any Claremont Colleges social events that members of SSPEAR take part in.

Section 5. The Policy Chair shall:

1. Research and discuss issues from a legislative prospective that may be of interest to members of SSPEAR.
2. Head tabling, petitioning, and awareness efforts related to policies, ranging in scope from issues on campus to international issues.
3. Stay up to date on current environmental policy issues.

Section 6. The Campus Events Chair shall:

1. Plan events and activities on campus to increase awareness and involve the student body in environmental issues.
2. Research local community volunteer efforts to involve SSPEAR in the surrounding community

**Article V. Election Procedures**

Section 1. Elected officer positions of SSPEAR shall be: President, Social Events Chair(s), Policy Chair(s), and Campus Events Chair(s)

Section 2. Qualifications

1. Active members of SSPEAR who are in good standing and have attended at least three consecutive meetings are eligible.
2. Candidates may be required to submit a candidate statement for the office desired.
3. Any member seeking election for an EC officer position must be a full-time student of Claremont McKenna College.

Section 3. Elections

1. Officers shall be elected democratically, by direct voting of the members.
2. Elections shall be for positions for the following semester and held at the end of each semester.
3. Members will be notified at least one week in advance of upcoming elections.
4. Any active member may nominate him/herself or any other active member for office.
5. An officer shall be elected with the majority of the votes cast by the members present at the election.

**Article VI. Meetings**

Section 1. General meetings shall be conducted at least as frequently as one meeting per month from September through April.

Section 2. The meetings shall take place in Phillips Lounge each Sunday at 7pm, subject to change.

**Article VII. Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments may be proposed by the members of SSPEAR.

Section 2. A two-thirds vote of members as defined by the Constitution who are present shall be required for the ratification of this Constitution and any proposed amendments.

1. Peggy F. Barlett and Geoffrey Chase, “Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change,” Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2004, (p.6). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. R. H. Cassen, "Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development," *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944)* 64.1 (1987): 126, *UN-Documents*. United Nations, (p. 49). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "Triple Bottom Line," *The Economist*, The Economist Newspaper, 17 Nov. 2009, Web. 19 Aug. 2014, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSDNET/0,,contentMDK:22865936~menuPK:64885113~pagePK:7278667~piPK:64911824~theSitePK:5929282,00.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Barlett and Chase, 6-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. "Talloires Declaration," *University Leaders For A Sustainable Future*, ULSF, 1990.,Web. 19 Aug. 2014, <http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Barlett and Chase, 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment*, ACUPCC, n.d., Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment*, ACUPCC, n.d. Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. "About AASHE," *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*, AASHE, n.d., Web. 19 Aug. 2014, <http://www.aashe.org/about>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. "Claremont McKenna College Campus Master Plan," *Sustainability*, Claremont McKenna College, n.d., Web. 19 Aug. 2014, <http://www.cmc.edu/masterplan/sustainability.php>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. "Claremont McKenna College Green Report Card," *Green Report Card*, Green Report Card, 2011. Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/claremont-mckenna-college/surveys/campus-survey.html#climate>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. "The Roberts Environmental Center," *Roberts Environmental Center*, Claremont McKenna College, n.d., Web. 20 Aug. 2014, <https://www.claremontmckenna.edu/roberts-environmental-center/the-rec/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. "Claremont McKenna College Green Report Card," *Green Report Card*, Green Report Card, 2011, Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/claremont-mckenna-college/surveys/campus-survey.html#climate>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. "Claremont McKenna College Green Report Card." *Green Report Card*. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. "The Roberts Environmental Center," *Roberts Environmental Center*, Claremont McKenna College, n.d. Web. 20 Aug. 2014, <https://www.claremontmckenna.edu/roberts-environmental-center/the-rec/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. "About Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station," *Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station*, N.p., n.d., Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.bfs.claremont.edu/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. "CMC Faculty Handbook," *Claremont McKenna College*, Aug. 2012, Web. 20 Aug. 2014, <http://cmc.edu/dof/forms/pdf/Faculty_Handbook%20_Aug%202012.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. "Claremont McKenna College Green Report Card," *Green Report Card*, Green Report Card, 2011. Web. 26 Aug. 2014, <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/claremont-mckenna-college/surveys/campus-survey.html#climate>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)