



SUSTAIN OC

Foundation



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The Sustain OC Foundation encourages students and communities to consider how sustainability improves both the environment and the economy. The blend of community engagement and professional follow-through embedded in this organization is unlike anything in Orange County.

- Charitable 501(c)3 public benefit organization
- Operated and supported by **Sustain SoCal**
 - 501(c)6 business association
 - Over 4,000 stakeholders
 - 15+ years of impact
 - Extensive professional network

Sustain SoCal and the **Sustain OC Foundation** support one another, despite being entirely separate organizations with different EINs. Sustain SoCal partners are able to access a new talent pipeline and the Sustain OC Foundation can offer professional expertise to populations of interest.





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SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS CHALLENGE

Engaging students and communities toward actionable solutions in sustainability through our hands-on and mentorship-based approach. Accelerating sustainable thinking and a lifelong desire to collaborate and innovate resulting in tangible pathways in career development, workforce retention, and community involvement.

PREPARATION



Student teams establish a knowledge baseline using professionally-developed curriculum.

Sustain SoCal collaborators assist Sustain OC staff with the development of 5 educational **Modules**. To qualify for mentorship later on, teams must complete 3/5 of the below **Modules**:



What Students Do:

- **Research** California climate legislation
- **Define** common sustainability terms
- **Examine** utility bills for their campus & home
- **Inform** their guardians & community members
- **Survey** onsite staff & peers
- **Perform** hands-on sustainability audits
- **Measure** campus infrastructure using qualitative & quantitative guides

What Students Gain:

- **Education** on current sustainability goals & pain points
- **Tools** to inform their family & friends about sustainability
- **A Rudimentary Audit** to identify areas for improvement
- **Clarity** in their sustainability interests & potential career
- **Data Collection Skills** as they audit their campus
- **Agency** as they lead outreach efforts & communicate professionally with onsite staff

CHALLENGE



Student can now identify areas of improvement on their campuses.

Teams develop a full **Solution Plan** to address one to two major sustainability gaps or inefficiencies, focusing on the long-term environmental and economic impacts of their solutions.

Solutions Plans are developed as a pitch presentation:

1

WHY does your campus need to make a change?

2

WHAT solution(s) would you implement?

3

HOW could this solution(s) save your campus resources & money?

4*

WHO should you collaborate with to make your plan a reality?

* Based upon this, Sustain OC Foundation staff can match teams with an appropriate professional mentor for feedback.

FINAL PITCH & RESULTS



Student teams work to make real change!

Sustain OC Foundation staff connects each team with a Sustain SoCal professional to serve as a solution **Mentor**. This last step helps students imagine a realistic implementation of their solution plan, gives them an opportunity to learn about a green career path, and connects campuses to service providers.

Teams participate in an in-person **Competition** where they pitch their final solution plans. The best pitches are rewarded with mini internships and access to Sustain SoCal professional events.

2024-25 SUCCESS STORIES:

1. Brea Olinda High School explained their campus **HVAC system** was highly inefficient.
2. Sustain OC Foundation staff matched them with the International **Association of Heat & Frost Insulators Local 5** for feedback and a full assessment.
3. Students are hoping to get approval for a system upgrade this April.
1. Laguna Beach High School students realized they had room on campus for a **students garden**.
2. Sustain OC Foundation staff matched them with **OC Waste & Recycling** who provided compost and guidance.
3. Students opened their Break+Bloom garden in December 2025.

TESTIMONIALS



My experience with this project was great. It was truly eye-opening to see how much we, as a community, contribute to waste and how we can work to address this issue.

- **Faith** (Student)

I was very impressed with all four student teams and the extent of their campus sustainability inventories, the breadth of information they gathered at their campuses, and the diversity of solutions they proposed.

- **Linda** (Guest)

The Sustainable Campus Challenge provided me with an incredible opportunity to advocate for a greener future for our school campuses. It encourages innovative thinking and develops the confidence to pursue our passions.

- **Cara** (Student)

Thanks for the opportunity to communicate with students directly about green career/certificate opportunities!

- **Tony** (Guest)

My students had an incredibly educational time going through this entire process. Opportunities like this for students are invaluable!

- **Shelley** (Teacher)

I haven't seen my kid this excited about a school-related project in a long time! Who knew there was an entire field of sustainable careers waiting for these students to explore? The research and teamwork aspects of this program are amazing.

- **Susan** (Parent)

It was inspiring to see the passion and work all the students put into their audits, analysis and presentations. It was extremely challenging to select a winner, and I know that we all wished we could give the award to all four teams.

- **Suzanne** (Judge)



2025-26 MODULES



Energy

- Renewable Energy
- California Regulatory & Legislative Bodies
- Community Choice Aggregation
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Efficiency
- On-Site Energy Storage
- Energy Vampires



Water

- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Healthy Watersheds
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Drainage Safety & Upkeep
- Runoff Conditions
- Pollution Prevention
- Vegetation & Landscaping



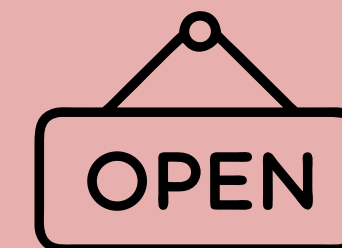
Waste

- Organic Waste Diversion
- Composting Initiatives
- Emissions & Food Scraps
- Waste Hauler Contract Assessment
- Local Hunger Concerns
- Peer Education
- Zero Waste Initiatives



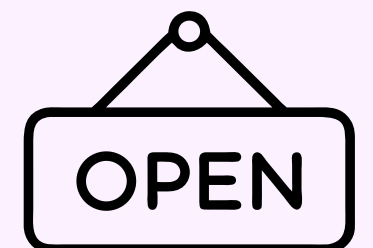
Transport

- Use of Public Transportation
- Active Transportation Plans
- Walking, Biking & Rolling Infrastructure
- EV Fleet Transitions
- Urban Heat Island
- Air Quality Concerns
- Traffic Flow & Safety



Health

- Nature Deficit Disorder
- Stress Management
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Access to Whole Foods
- Campus Gardens
- Mental Health Resources
- Outdoor Space Assessment



**Modules are updated annually to address topical issues and allow schools to participate multiple years in a row.

TIMELINE FOR 2025-26



Participating schools for 2025-26:

- Cypress High School
- Coastline ROP's Sustainability Course
- Laguna Beach High School
- Fullerton Union High School
- Capo Valley High School
- Corona del Mar High School
- Brea Olinda High School
- Los Alamitos High School

Our Winning Team from
2024-25:
Brea Olinda High School!



WHAT WILL YOUR DONATION DO?



The Sustain OC Foundation is a charitable 501(c)3 nonprofit. Donations, whether in the form of a personal gift or program sponsorship, will provide the following opportunities to Orange County high schoolers:

- Field Trips & Shadowing Days
 - UCI Nuclear Reactor
 - Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
 - Urban Garden Projects
 - Microgrid & Battery Projects
- Scholarship Money for Continuing Education or Campus Improvement
- Additional Advisors as the Sustain OC Foundation Staff Expands
- Fund Program Events (Professional Expos, Finale Competitions, etc.)
- Subsidize Student Attendance at Sustain SoCal Gatherings



SUPPORT TIERS

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

\$20k + Founding Partner

- Price **Grandfathered** in for 5 Years
- **Leadership** Opportunities within Sustain OC
- Organization Logo Displayed at Sustain OC Foundation Events
- Organization Logo Included on **Student Awards**, Competition Rubric, Certificates, Modules, Recruitment Items, and at the top of our Website
- Opportunity to Speak at Schools and Local Events
- **Judge** at End of Year Competition
- ONE Sponsored **Field Trip**

\$10k + Competition Sponsor

- Welcome Opportunities Available at Sustain OC End of Year Competition Event
- Organization Logo Included on Competition Rubric & Participant Certificates
- Organization Logo Included on Website Under "Competition Sponsor"
- Module Sponsor Benefits Included

\$5k

Module Sponsor

- Help Sustain SoCal update a module (Energy, Water, Waste, Transport, Health)
- Organization Logo Included on Module Guidelines & Recruitment Items
- Organization Logo Included on Website Under "Module Sponsor"



SUSTAINABLE
CAMPUS
CHALLENGE



THANK YOU TO OUR
INAUGURAL YEAR SPONSOR!



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDISON

BE PART OF OUR FIRST FULL YEAR

- Show up for OC students!
- Highlight your organization as a champion of sustainability
- Promote green career options to the next generation
- Flexible time commitments—engage as often as you'd like!

What would you like to see?

Modules are being updated now for 2026-27!



**“THIS IS THE ONLY
PROGRAM OF ITS
KIND IN ORANGE
COUNTY. WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT.”**

- GLORIA HARWOOD

COORDINATOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY,
LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

THANK YOU

Contact

foundation@sustainoc.org

Website

sustainsocal.org/community-benefits-organization/