

Proposal for Changes to Strategic Initiative 5

Proposal/Recommendation

Reframe Strategic Initiative 5 of the Butte College Strategic Plan from “Modeling Sustainability” to “Modeling Climate Resiliency” and replace existing Objective and Action Items. The intent is to preserve current institutional commitments to sustainability while expanding it to encompass the broader framework of climate resiliency, inclusive of workforce development, curriculum, regional partnerships, and community resilience in alignment with state sustainability framework, guidance, and education code.

Background/Rationale

The current language of Initiative 5 establishes Butte College’s commitment to sustainability through institutional practices, professional development and curriculum. Much of this work remains relevant and is carried forward in the proposal.

However, the California Community College system’s sustainability framework has become considerably more developed since the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was adopted. System guidance regarding sustainability has grown to center the concept of climate resiliency. Examples of the evolving sustainability guidance include:

- Board of Governors Climate Action & Sustainability Goals;
- Vision 2030 Roadmap;
- Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan;
- Title 5 requirements/frameworks.

Centering climate resilience is intentionally broader than sustainability as it acknowledges that climate action alone is no longer sufficient, nor is action decoupled from the impacts of a changing climate. Climate resiliency emphasis adaption, preparedness, education, recovery, community partnerships, and student engagement together as part of the same environmental reality and community-focused solution.

By sharing this framework and adopting the proposed changes to Strategic Initiative 5, Butte College is reaffirming its commitment and leadership role within the community, recognizing that infrastructure, workforce preparation, disaster recovery, community partnerships, and student engagement all contribute to regional resiliency.

Summary of Major Changes

<u>Current Initiative 5</u>	<u>Proposed Initiative 5</u>
Institutional sustainability practices	Measurable climate and sustainability goals
Sustainability awareness and professional development	Institution-wide understanding and implementation of climate goals
Sustainability in curriculum	Climate literacy, curriculum, programs, and career pathways
—	Climate-resilient workforce development
—	Green-industry and work-based learning partnerships
—	Regional climate-resilience partnerships
—	Resilient infrastructure and community preparedness/recovery

Alignment with State System Priorities and Existing Initiative Language

This proposal is informed by system guidance, including the Board of Governors’ Climate Action and Sustainability Goals, the Vision 2030 Roadmap and Climate Action Workplan, and applicable Title 5 regulatory requirements. (See Appendix B)

The Board of Governors’ goals provide a framework for establishing and advancing measurable sustainability targets across institutional operations, including greenhouse gas emissions, buildings and grounds, energy, water, waste, procurement, food systems, and transportation.

Vision 2030 broadens this work by identifying facilities and operations, workforce development, curriculum integration, and community engagement as interconnected fields of climate practice. The Climate Action Workplan supports implementation through benchmarking, professional development, workforce and industry partnerships, curriculum development, infrastructure, and community engagement.

However, guidelines are not a prescription, and it is important that the proposal reflects the continued work of Butte College. The current language for Initiative 5 was mapped to the proposed language. Most of the action items in the current Strategic Plan are included, expanded or implicitly retained.

The proposed language also includes significant expansions in our institutional commitments. These include:

- Measurement-driven climate planning and accountability;
- Climate-resilient workforce and career pathways;
- Green-industry partnerships and work-based learning;
- Climate literacy and climate-related professional development;
- Regional climate-resilience partnerships and locally designed solutions;
- Resilient infrastructure;
- Disaster preparedness and recovery workforce capacity; and
- Student/community engagement in climate-related resilience and emergency response.

The proposed language was deliberately crafted to provide Butte College flexibility to adapt and evolve its work as new opportunities and realities arise. This allows the college to approach the work critically and in a responsive manner.

See Appendix A for a crosswalk of existing and expanded efforts to their relationships to system guidance and initiative language.

Implementation Considerations

Adoption of the proposed language does not imply that every action identified within Initiative 5 will be implemented simultaneously. Specific activities would proceed through the College's established planning, governance, curriculum, facilities, budgeting, and resource-allocation processes. It should be acknowledged that resources will be needed, and significant inter-campus coordination will also be required for meaningful progress towards these goals to be achieved through the duration of the Strategic Plan.

The current Initiative 5 Action Items included reviving the Sustainability Committee and charging College Council with advancing sustainability. With this structure taking shape, the proposal does not further address governance or goal leadership. Additional leadership may be warranted considering the vast scope of work outlined in the proposed language. It needs to be recognized that many of the objectives in the current plan were not accomplished in large part due to a lack institutional prioritization and accountability.

How we hold ourselves accountable to correcting these realities is not outlined in the proposed language. This is an important acknowledgement as the outlined work is significant: responsible areas or governance structures; baseline/benchmark development; identification of existing work already satisfying objectives; prioritization and

sequencing; resource implications; assessment/reporting; and incorporation into annual planning/resource allocation as appropriate. This will not happen in a space devoid of clear leadership and institutional will.

It is nonetheless recommended that the proposed changes be reviewed for considered adoption and incorporated into the revised Strategic Plan.

Appendix A: Proposal Crosswalk

Strategic Initiative 5 – Continuity & Regulatory Alignment Crosswalk			
Current Inclusions			
Current Strategic Plan	Where it appears in proposal	Regulatory / CCCCCO / Vision 2030 Alignment	Continuity Flag
5.1 Identify and improve institutional processes toward high levels of sustainability	Proposed 5.1, especially 5.1.1–5.1.2	BOG Climate Action & Sustainability Goals: Proposed 5.1.1 uses the BOG goal areas of GHG emissions, green buildings and grounds, energy, water, waste, food systems, transportation, and procurement/sourcing.	Covered/Expanded
5.1.1 Develop a student transportation plan	5.1.1 includes Transportation among the BOG Climate Action & Sustainability goal areas.	BOG Climate Action & Sustainability Goals: Transportation is an explicit goal area.	Partial/Implicit
5.1.2 Revitalize Sustainability Committee for environmental issues	N/A	N/A	COMPLETED
5.1.3 Charge College Council with addressing and advancing institutional sustainability	N/A	N/A	COMPLETED
5.1.4 Advance the three pillars: environmental, social, economic sustainability	Environmental, economic/workforce, and social/community dimensions appear across 5.1–5.5 but are not explicitly identified as the three pillars.	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Connects climate action with facilities/operations, workforce and curriculum, community engagement/benefits, and resource development.	Covered/Implicit
5.1.5 Implement new strategies addressing emerging sustainability practices	5.1.1 and the broader climate-resilience framework	BOG Climate Action & Sustainability Goals: The framework progresses from benchmarking toward institutionalization, improvement, and reassessment as practices and targets evolve.	Covered/Implicit
5.2 Provide ongoing institution-wide professional development in sustainable practices	5.1.2 addresses stakeholder understanding of benchmarks, goals, measurement methodologies, and adoption of best practices, but does not explicitly require professional development.	No discrete alignment: The proposed language supports implementation and institutionalization.	Partial/Implicit
5.2.1 Train staff to use sustainable products	5.1.1 includes Procurement and Sourcing; 5.1.2 addresses stakeholder best practices.	BOG Climate Action & Sustainability Goals: Procurement is an explicit goal area.	Partial/Implicit
5.2.2 Increase student and staff awareness of sustainability practices	5.1.2 explicitly calls for all campus stakeholders to understand benchmarks, goals, and measurement methodologies so they can adopt best practices.	No discrete alignment: The proposed language supports implementation and institutionalization.	Covered
5.3 Embed sustainability into curriculum	Proposed 5.3, especially 5.3.1–5.3.4	Title 5 §55061(c)(5): Appropriate Natural Sciences GE coursework must include learning about effects of human activities on climate and the environment. Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan — Strategic alignment: also emphasizes climate curriculum and workforce preparation.	Covered/Expanded
5.3.1 Academic Senate identify/embed sustainability in curriculum	5.3.1–5.3.4 address the curricular work, but Academic Senate is not named.	Title 5 §55061(c)(5): Applies to resulting Natural Sciences GE curriculum. Local academic and professional governance processes govern curriculum development and approval.	Partial/Implicit

Proposed Expansion Based on Review of Vision 2030 and Regulatory Landscape			
Regulatory / Expansion Theme	Where it appears in proposal	Regulatory / CCCCC / Vision 2030 Alignment	Continuity Flag
Facilities/energy conservation planning	5.1.1 Energy, Water, Green Buildings and Grounds; 5.5.1 microgrids and climate-resilient infrastructure	Title 5 §§57050–57063: Establish an Energy and Resource Conservation framework. §57052 links state-supported energy-conservation projects to the district Five-Year Construction Plan and educational planning.	Covered/Implicit
Environmental review for facilities projects	5.1.1 Green Buildings and Grounds; 5.5.1 climate-resilient infrastructure	Title 5 §57121 / CEQA: Incorporates applicable environmental review into CCC facilities processes, including state-funded construction.	Covered/Implicit
Climate-resilient workforce development	5.2.1–5.2.2 and 5.3.3	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Connects climate action with workforce preparation and green/blue economy opportunities.	Covered/Expanded
Resource development for climate action	5.5.4 calls for fostering community resource support. Partnerships appear broadly in 5.2.2 and 5.4, while 5.5 calls for substantial infrastructure/program investment.	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Identifies resource development as a field of climate-action implementation.	Partial/Implicit
Performance measurement and institutional climate planning	5.1.1 establishes benchmarks, goals, targeted action plans, policies, and operational enhancements; 5.1.2 distributes understanding of goals and measurement methodologies across stakeholders.	BOG Climate Action & Sustainability Goals: Closely aligns with the framework's benchmark, institutionalize, improve, and reassess approach. This is an expansion beyond the existing Initiative 5 rather than a separate regulatory mandate.	Covered/Expanded
Green-industry partnerships and work-based learning	5.2.2 calls for local green-industry partnerships supporting internships, curriculum development, and other student opportunities.	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Supports climate-responsive workforce preparation and partnerships. This is an expansion beyond the existing Initiative 5, not a separate Title 5 mandate identified in this review.	Covered/Expanded
Regional climate-resilience partnerships and community solutions	5.4.1–5.4.2	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Community engagement and benefits are a field of climate-action implementation. The proposed co-design and knowledge-sharing role expands beyond the existing Initiative 5.	Covered/Expanded
Community resilience, disaster preparedness and recovery	5.5.1–5.5.3	Vision 2030 Climate Action Workplan: Supports resilient facilities and community-facing climate action. The proposed disaster-recovery workforce and emergency civic-engagement functions are expansions beyond the existing Initiative 5.	Covered/Expanded

Appendix B: Resources

1. Vision 2030 roadmap from Chancellor's Office <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/vision2030/vision-2030-report.pdf>
2. Board of Governors Climate Action and Sustainability Goals (linked from Climate Action Plan) <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/College-Finance-and-Facilities-Planning/Climate-Action-and-Sustainability/goals>
3. CCCCO Climate Action Workplan building off calls for climate action in Vision 2030 (linked from vision 2030) <https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/docs/vision2030/climate-action-workplan.pdf>
4. Board of Governors Climate Action and Sustainability Framework <https://www.cccco.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/californiacommunitycollegesboardofgovernorsclimateactionandsustainabilityframeworka11y-1.pdf>
5. Title 5 §55061 — Associate Degree Course Requirements [https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IFF9E5F60A09011F184DADB9D658BC82A?contextData=\(sc.Default\)&needToInjectTerms=False&originationContext=document&ppcid=c0ba9343dd2344439c6d271cb3367ec0&transitionType=DocumentItem&viewType=FullText](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IFF9E5F60A09011F184DADB9D658BC82A?contextData=(sc.Default)&needToInjectTerms=False&originationContext=document&ppcid=c0ba9343dd2344439c6d271cb3367ec0&transitionType=DocumentItem&viewType=FullText)
6. Title 5 §§57050–57063 — Energy and Resource Conservation [https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I697F4BF44C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3?contextData=\(sc.Default\)&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&viewType=FullText](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I697F4BF44C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3?contextData=(sc.Default)&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&viewType=FullText)
7. Title 5 §57121 — Environmental Quality: Application [https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I69A1A1034C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3?contextData=\(sc.Default\)&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&viewType=FullText](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I69A1A1034C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3?contextData=(sc.Default)&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&viewType=FullText)

8. CEQA — California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code §21000 et seq. Title 5 §57121 itself references Division 13 of the Public Resources Code, beginning with §21000, as the underlying CEQA authority.