

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Institutional Climate Action Plan

2025–2030

Mitigation, adaptation, stewardship and education for sustainable development

Institutional lead: Center for Built Environment and Logistics (CBEL),
through the Built Environment Unit (BEU)

WORKING DRAFT FOR INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Why Benilde is acting

De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde recognizes the importance of addressing climate change through institutional leadership, responsible resource management, environmental stewardship and community engagement. As an educational institution, Benilde has a responsibility to reduce its environmental impact while cultivating a culture of sustainability among its administrators, faculty, employees, students and external partners.

The Institutional Climate Action Plan sets out a coordinated framework for strengthening existing environmental initiatives and developing measurable climate action across campus operations, mobility, waste management, ecosystem restoration, environmental education and climate resilience.

Building on the College’s existing sustainability programs, the Plan integrates **climate change mitigation, adaptation, environmental stewardship and education for sustainable development** into institutional operations and community partnerships. It is anchored in the principles of *Laudato Si’*, the Lasallian mission, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the shared responsibility to care for our common home.

VISION

A climate-responsible and resilient Benildean community that integrates environmental sustainability into institutional operations, education and community engagement while contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future.

General objective. To establish and strengthen an integrated institutional framework for climate action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves resource efficiency, protects and restores ecosystems, builds resilience to climate-related risks, and promotes environmental awareness and collective responsibility throughout the Benildean community.

Strategic objectives

1 Cut emissions

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from institutional operations, energy use and transportation.

2 Waste less, recover more

Strengthen waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and responsible management of waste streams.

3 Restore ecosystems

Contribute to restoration, biodiversity conservation and nature-based climate solutions through long-term partnerships.

4 Build resilience

Integrate climate resilience, water conservation and sustainable food production into campus and community initiatives.

5 Educate and engage

Institutionalize environmental education, climate awareness and ecological stewardship through the Laudato Si' Program.

6 Measure and report

Set measurable targets, monitoring mechanisms and regular reporting to guide continuous improvement.

Where Benilde starts

Historical results the Plan builds on. These stay as baselines and should be validated against their reporting period and method before entering an official emissions inventory.

356,486

trees planted through OMTB, 2005–2026 (cumulative; not verified survivors)

9.1 tCO₂e

estimated emissions avoided by EV operations (about 416 trees by that report's method)

21,032 kWh

electricity consumed by the electric fleet

24,809 km

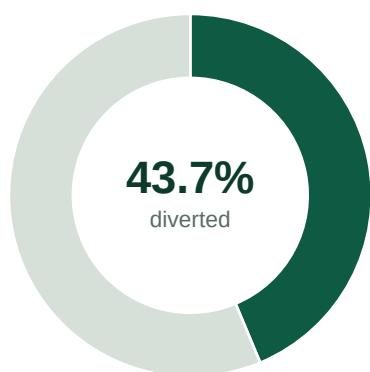
distance traveled by electric fleet vehicles

59.4 t

total waste generated, AY 2023–2024

33.4 t

sent to landfill, AY 2023–2024



Waste diversion: from baseline toward the first headline target

Target: at least 50% (AY 2026–2027)



Baseline 43.7% (AY 2023–2024) | gap to close: 6.3 percentage points

The target remains subject to validation of the baseline, the calculation method and the scope of waste.

Reading these numbers. The OMTB tree count is cumulative since 2005 and is not the same as annual planting or surviving trees. The EV avoided-emissions estimate uses the calculation method of the report it came from. The waste baseline covers AY 2023–2024 only.

Five strategic pillars

Each pillar has a flagship program, a set of initiatives, implementation priorities and indicators that feed the monitoring framework.

1	Climate mitigation and green mobility Flagship: Project Carbon Neutral
2	Sustainable materials management and waste reduction Flagship: Waste to Worth Program
3	Ecosystem restoration and nature-based action Flagship: One Million Trees and Beyond (OMTB)
4	Ecological stewardship and Laudato Si' institutionalization Flagship: Laudato Si' Program
5	Climate resilience, water stewardship and food production Flagship: Grow Peace at the Atrium Rooftop Garden

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PILLAR 1

Climate mitigation and green mobility

Flagship program: Project Carbon Neutral

Project Carbon Neutral is the overarching initiative for reducing emissions from the College’s operational fleet and advancing more sustainable mobility. It begins with awareness through Know Your EVs, then progressively replaces aging conventional vehicles with fuel-efficient hybrid and electric options as operations and lifecycle costs allow. Fuel, electricity, distance, utilization and estimated emissions are tracked so results can be verified.

The College’s reported electric-vehicle operations recorded 21,032 kWh of electricity consumption, 24,809 km traveled and an estimated 9.1 tCO₂e in avoided emissions, equivalent to about 416 trees under that report’s method. These remain historical indicators until validated.

Key initiative	Major activities
Green Mobility: Know Your EVs	Promote understanding of electric vehicles, their environmental benefits, operational considerations and role in low-carbon transportation.
Operational Fleet Transition	Progressively replace aging conventional vehicles with hybrid and electric alternatives, based on operational requirements and lifecycle considerations.
Fleet Emissions Monitoring	Track fuel and electricity consumption, distance traveled, vehicle utilization and estimated greenhouse gas emissions.
Low-Carbon Transportation Education	Encourage awareness of efficient transportation practices and the environmental impacts of mobility choices.

Implementation priorities

- Build a fleet inventory and baseline for fuel use and emissions.
- Assess replacement options on lifecycle cost, suitability, efficiency and emissions reduction.
- Monitor EV electricity (kWh), distance (km) and estimated tCO₂e avoided.
- Include charging electricity in Scope 2 where applicable; document avoided tailpipe emissions separately.
- Evaluate expanding electric mobility as replacement needs arise.

Performance indicators

- Annual operational fleet emissions
- Share of fleet replaced with lower-emission vehicles
- Fuel and electricity use per kilometer
- Annual distance traveled by electric vehicles
- Estimated emissions avoided through transition

Sustainable materials management and waste reduction

Flagship program: Waste to Worth Program

Waste to Worth is Benilde's institutional recycling and resource recovery program. It promotes segregation, recycling, composting and the productive use of recyclable materials to support sustainability objectives and scholarship initiatives. The program treats waste as a resource, while putting prevention and reduction ahead of recycling and recovery.

For AY 2023–2024 the College reported 59.4 metric tons of total waste, with 43.7% diverted from landfill and about 33.4 metric tons sent to landfill. The proposed target is at least 50% diversion for AY 2026–2027, subject to validation of the baseline, method and scope.

Key initiative	Major activities
Institutional Recycling Program	Strengthen segregation, collection, recycling and recovery across campuses and operational units.
Waste Characterization and Monitoring	Conduct waste audits and maintain the Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) database.
Organic Waste Management	Explore composting and other recovery for food and garden waste.
E-Waste Management	Maintain e-waste bins and partnerships with authorized environmental service providers.
Sustainable Procurement and Consumption	Encourage waste prevention, reusable materials and fewer single-use products.
Food Waste Monitoring	Track food waste from food services, including outsourced concessionaires.

Implementation priorities

- Standardize reporting of generation, diversion, recycling, composting and residual waste.
- Strengthen coordination with concessionaires, housekeeping, academic units and recovery partners.
- Continue Waste to Worth recyclable collection and recovery.
- Sustain e-waste collection with qualified or authorized providers.
- Reduce paper waste and digitalize operational records.
- Set waste prevention measures for events, procurement and campus activities.

Performance indicators

- Total waste generated per year
- Percent diverted from landfill
- Percent recycled, composted or recovered
- E-waste collected and properly transferred
- Share of food providers submitting food waste data
- Revenue from recyclables and the program support it funds

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PILLAR 3

Ecosystem restoration and nature-based climate action

Flagship program: Revitalization of One Million Trees and Beyond (OMTB)

The revitalization of OMTB strengthens Benilde’s long-standing tree-growing commitment through sustained partnerships with LGUs, NGOs, schools and local community organizations. Beyond planting, it emphasizes appropriate species, site suitability, community participation and the long-term survival of planted trees.

OMTB records indicate about 356,486 trees planted from 2005 through 2026. This is a cumulative historical figure, to be kept distinct from annual planting and verified surviving trees.

Key initiative	Major activities
OMTB Revitalization	Sustain and expand tree-growing with local and institutional stakeholders.
LGU and Community Partnerships	Work with LGUs, NGOs and communities to identify restoration sites and support long-term stewardship.
Biodiversity and Native Species	Prioritize site-appropriate native species and ecologically suitable restoration.
Campus Greening	Maintain gardens, green spaces and suitable vegetation as part of environmental management.
Tree Survival Monitoring	Record plantings, locations, species, survival rates and maintenance needs.

Implementation priorities

- Reaffirm OMTB as a continuing Lasallian environmental commitment.
- Develop a partnership pipeline for annual restoration activities.
- Maintain a consolidated record of trees planted.
- Shift reporting from trees planted alone to survival, growth and ecological outcomes.
- Continue the working target of about one hectare restored or supported per year, subject to sites, ecological assessment and partner capacity.
- Assess campus greening when off-campus planting is constrained by weather, site conditions or advisories.

Performance indicators

- Trees planted annually and cumulatively
- Survival rate at defined monitoring intervals
- Area restored or under active restoration management
- Active LGU, NGO, school and community partnerships
- Share of sites with monitoring and maintenance plans

Ecological stewardship and Laudato Si' institutionalization

Flagship program: Laudato Si' Program

The Laudato Si' Program is the framework for building ecological responsibility into the College's culture, operations and community engagement. It ties environmental management to the Lasallian mission: climate action needs education, solidarity, responsible consumption and care for vulnerable communities, not only technical interventions.

Benilde Season of Creation is the annual flagship celebration and main engagement platform of the program. It brings together academic and administrative units, student organizations, external partners and community stakeholders through advocacy, education and practical activities.

Lasallian Earth Day (LED) announcements run through the academic year as a continuing communication channel. They highlight environmental observances, institutional initiatives and practical actions. Themes: climate mitigation and adaptation; energy and water conservation; waste and recycling; biodiversity and ecosystem restoration; sustainable mobility and consumption; and everyday environmental responsibility.

Key initiative	Major activities
Environmental Advocacy Bazaar	Promote sustainable products, responsible consumption and environmentally conscious practices.
Environmental Learning Sessions	Environmental education through discussions, learning sessions and engagement with advocates and practitioners.
Biodiversity and Coastal Conservation Activities	Promote biodiversity conservation, coastal stewardship and awareness of threats to wildlife and marine life.
E-Waste Collection and Awareness	Encourage responsible disposal, reuse, refurbishment and recycling of electronics.
Campus Environmental Activities	Tree-growing, gardening, waste reduction and resource conservation aligned with institutional priorities.

Implementation priorities

- Institutionalize the Season of Creation as the principal environmental engagement milestone.
- Sustain LED announcements as a recurring awareness and behavior-change mechanism.
- Integrate the program into relevant campus and community activities.
- Document participation, activities, partner contributions and educational outputs.
- Collaborate across CBEL–BEU, CLM, PODO, academic units, student organizations and partners.

Performance indicators

- Environmental education and advocacy activities per year
- Participants and institutional units engaged
- LED announcements or materials released
- Active environmental partnerships
- Share of flagship activities with documented outcomes and evidence

PILLAR 5

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Climate resilience, water stewardship and sustainable food production

Proposed activity: Grow Peace at the Atrium Rooftop Garden (Benildean Mission Week)

This pillar strengthens the College’s capacity to respond to climate-related risks, including extreme heat, El Niño conditions, water scarcity and disruptions to campus operations. It complements mitigation by addressing how climate change affects people, facilities, landscapes and institutional activities.

Grow Peace at the Atrium Rooftop Garden, under Benildean Mission Week, would serve as a practical platform for urban gardening, sustainable food production, responsible water use and community learning, with simple gardening demonstrations and guidance for growing plants in limited spaces.

Key initiative	Major activities
Water Stewardship	Promote responsible water consumption, find conservation opportunities and monitor use where data are available.
Climate-Responsive Urban Gardening	Demonstrate food production methods suited to limited urban spaces and constrained water.
Campus Green Space Management	Maintain gardens and vegetation with appropriate maintenance and water management.
Climate Risk Awareness	Promote awareness of heat, water scarcity, extreme weather and environmental advisories.
Operational Preparedness	Work with relevant units to identify operational vulnerabilities and response measures.

Implementation priorities

- Identify key climate risks to campus operations and environmental programs.
- Promote water-efficient gardening and appropriate plant selection.
- Monitor water consumption and identify feasible conservation measures.
- Explore harvested rainwater or other alternative sources where technically feasible and compliant.
- Coordinate preparedness with administrative and facilities units.

Performance indicators

- Annual campus water consumption, where data exist
- Water conservation initiatives implemented
- Participants in resilience and urban gardening activities
- Areas or processes assessed for climate risk
- Adaptation measures implemented and monitored

Roadmap, 2025–2030

Four phases move the College from baselines and consolidation to evaluation and the next planning cycle.



Phase 1 | 2025–2027: Baseline and consolidation

- Consolidate historical data for Project Carbon Neutral, Waste to Worth, OMTB and other programs.
- Establish or validate climate and resource-use baselines.
- Implement the proposed 50% waste diversion target for AY 2026–2027.
- Document responsibilities, data sources and reporting procedures.
- Continue the Season of Creation and regular LED announcements.
- Identify priority climate risks and feasible adaptation measures.

Phase 2 | 2027–2028: Program strengthening

- Expand monitoring of fleet emissions, energy, water and waste.
- Strengthen recycling, restoration and education partnerships.
- Review progress against established targets.
- Improve data collection and evidence documentation across units.
- Develop further measures based on baseline findings and feasibility.

Phase 3 | 2028–2029: Integration and expansion

- Integrate climate considerations into operational planning and procurement.
- Expand successful conservation, recycling and resilience initiatives.
- Strengthen monitoring of restoration outcomes and tree survival.
- Assess opportunities for broader participation and community engagement.

Phase 4 | 2029–2030: Evaluation and next cycle

- Conduct a consolidated assessment of climate action outcomes.
- Compare performance with validated baselines and approved targets.
- Identify remaining emissions sources, gaps and climate risks.
- Prepare recommendations for the next planning cycle.

Governance and monitoring

Effective implementation needs coordination among operational units, academic departments, institutional leadership and external partners. CBEL–BEU may coordinate the Plan, while responsibility stays shared with the offices that manage fleet, facilities, procurement, food services, communications, academic engagement and community partnerships.

Institutional leadership

Provides policy direction, approves targets and supports resource allocation.

CBEL–BEU

Coordinates planning, programs, data consolidation, monitoring and sustainability reporting.

Relevant administrative units

Provide operational data and act on fleet, energy, water, procurement and facilities.

Academic units and student organizations

Support research, environmental education, participation and community engagement.

External partners

Contribute expertise, recycling and recovery services, restoration sites and community action.

Institutional Climate Action Monitoring Framework

Area	Core indicator	Reporting frequency
Climate mitigation	Greenhouse gas emissions and fleet energy consumption	Annual, with periodic operational monitoring
Waste management	Total waste generated and percentage diverted	Monthly or quarterly, consolidated annually
Ecosystem restoration	Trees planted, survival rates and area restored	Per activity, with periodic follow-up
Ecological stewardship	Environmental activities, participation and communication outputs	Per activity, consolidated annually
Climate resilience	Water use, risk assessments and adaptation measures	Periodic, consolidated annually
Institutional reporting	Completed indicators, supporting evidence and annual progress report	Annual

Reporting and accountability

An annual Institutional Climate Action Progress Report should document accomplishments, indicators, challenges and planned improvements. It may feed the College’s sustainability reporting and be made publicly accessible through appropriate channels.

Historical accomplishments Previously documented activities and results.	Current performance Measured outcomes during the reporting period.
Proposed targets Future goals that need institutional review and approval.	Estimated environmental benefits Calculations supported by clearly stated assumptions and methods.

Where data are available, the report should cover greenhouse gas emissions, waste diversion, resource consumption, restoration outcomes, program participation and progress toward approved targets. Evidence may include annual reports, validated spreadsheets, activity documentation, partner certifications, photographs and public sustainability communications.

Expected outcomes by 2030

- 1 A more systematic and measurable approach to institutional climate action.
- 2 Improved monitoring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from operational activities.
- 3 Stronger waste prevention, recycling and resource recovery through Waste to Worth.
- 4 Continued ecosystem restoration and stronger community partnerships through OMTB.
- 5 An institutionalized Laudato Si’ Program anchored by the Season of Creation and continuing education through LED announcements.
- 6 Improved preparedness for climate risks, particularly water scarcity and extreme weather.
- 7 More consistent sustainability reporting supported by documented data, clear indicators and continuous improvement.

Aligned Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 4 Quality Education	SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13 Climate Action	SDG 14 Life Below Water	SDG 15 Life on Land	SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Conclusion

The Institutional Climate Action Plan brings Benilde’s existing environmental initiatives under a coordinated, measurable and mission-oriented framework. By connecting Project Carbon Neutral, Waste to Worth, OMTB, the Laudato Si’ Program, the Benilde Season of Creation and Lasallian Earth Day announcements, the College can strengthen its contribution to climate mitigation, ecological restoration, environmental education and climate resilience.

Institutional climate action is a continuing commitment that requires collaboration, reliable data, appropriate resources and sustained engagement. Through these efforts, Benilde can advance a culture of care for creation while contributing to the Lasallian mission and the broader pursuit of sustainable development.

Note on this draft. This is a working draft for institutional review. Proposed targets, governance assignments and the 2025–2030 implementation roadmap should be validated with the appropriate College offices before formal adoption. A complete institutional greenhouse gas inventory and quantified emissions-reduction target will require verified baseline data and an agreed accounting methodology.