

Associated Students, Inc.  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #25-08

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CAL POLY PERMANENT REUSE STATION

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, and
- WHEREAS: The California State University Sustainability Policy states, “Campuses shall seek to reduce landfill bound waste to 50 percent of total campus waste by 2030, divert at least 80 percent from landfill by 2040, and move towards zero waste.”<sup>1</sup> As of 2023, only 39% of waste produced on the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus is being diverted<sup>2</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly has set the goal Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) through the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).<sup>3</sup> Though Cal Poly’s most recent score in 2023 (75.14%) marks an improvement over its score in 2019 (70.16%)<sup>4</sup>, the category of Waste with a rating of 5.85/10 leaves significant room for improvement, particularly in Waste Minimization and Diversion division, which is scored 4.13/8.0<sup>5</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: According to the 2023 AASHE Stars report, 18.6% of newly admitted students fell under low-income status<sup>6</sup>. It has been shown that students of this status struggle disproportionately with basic needs insecurities, which are strongly associated with increased likelihood of experiencing anxiety, depression, and poorer overall health<sup>7</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The California State University (CSU) system maintains that one way its campuses are addressing student needs is through the operation of professional development closets<sup>8</sup>. Given that professional attire represents only a fraction of student’s wardrobes, professional development closets may not wholly address students’ material needs, and
- WHEREAS: While Cal Poly’s Professional Clothing Closet has seen demand grow significantly since 2021, the program doesn’t “currently have the capacity to support a larger influx of students” due to limiting

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1 California State University Sustainability Policy: [https://www.csus.edu/experience/innovation-creativity/sustainability/\\_internal/sustainability-policy-2022.pdf](https://www.csus.edu/experience/innovation-creativity/sustainability/_internal/sustainability-policy-2022.pdf)

2 Cal Poly Sustainability Dashboard Campus Waste: <https://afd.calpoly.edu/sustainability/>

3 Cal Poly’s Path to Platinum: <https://inside.calpoly.edu/cal-poly-s-path-to-platinum/>

4 Cal Poly Earns STARS Gold Rating for Sustainability Achievements: <https://ucm.calpoly.edu/news/cal-poly-earns-stars-gold-rating-sustainability-achievements>

5 Cal Poly AASHE STARS Report, 2023, pg. 344: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:6d52fb0c-7929-42e7-924d-3c282346450b>

6 Cal Poly AASHE STARS Report, 2023, pg. 440: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:6d52fb0c-7929-42e7-924d-3c282346450b>

7 Basic Needs Insecurities Area Associated with Anxiety, Depression, and Poor Health Among University Students in the State of New Mexico: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-022-01073-9>

8 CSU Basic Needs Initiative, 2022: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Documents/Basic-Needs-Flyer-Nov2022.pdf>

factors such as minimal support sorting and removing non-professional clothing and space<sup>9</sup>, and

WHEREAS: On-Campus thrift stores at universities play a vital role in supporting students' basic needs and university sustainability goals<sup>10</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Thrift culture has “taken on a completely new life, especially among individuals of Generation Z, born between 1995 and 2010,” a rise that has accelerated via vast scrutiny of the fast fashion industry, the unethical treatment of workers, and a growing concern about climate change<sup>11</sup>. This growing popularity is uniquely identifiable at Cal Poly. Popular student-run clubs such as the Sustainable Fashion Club and Thrift Cal Poly support ethical consumption through consistent pop-up events that have become a defining characteristic of student life at Cal Poly<sup>12,13</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The demand for free or low-cost alternatives is exemplified through Green Campus' Graduation Gown Reuse program that lends out used gowns to graduates<sup>14</sup> and has served just over 400 students from 2023 to 2025<sup>15</sup> with demand continuing to increase, and

WHEREAS: University Housing's CP Thrift program, which distributes donated items from move-out to incoming students during move-in and saves around 6,000 pounds (2.72 tons) from local landfills each year of operation<sup>16</sup>, including over 2.17 tons of usable items in 2024<sup>17</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Special used items sales by the University's surplus department have received up to 200-300 students in one event<sup>18</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The Professional Clothing Closet has grown significantly, serving 172 students in 2021–2022 and increasing to over 905 students in 2024–2025<sup>9</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The success of thrift initiatives such as those of Green Campus, University Housing, and Surplus, as well as the steadily increasing usage of Cal Poly's Professional Clothing Closet demonstrate the popularity of a potential thrift store on campus, and

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9 Communications with Career Services Event Coordinator, Erika Wagner: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:us:c4d0a29d-2913-4db6-ae01-fc1e66193401>

10 UT Campus Thrift Store Helps Students and Sustainability: <https://tnjn.com/blog/2022/05/13/ut-campus-thrift-store-helps-students-and-sustainability/>

11 Rise of Thrifting: Solution to Fast Fashion or Stealing from the Poor: <https://econreview.studentorg.berkeley.edu/rise-of-thrifting-solution-to-fast-fashion-or-stealing-from-the-poor/>

12 Sustainable fashion and “thrift culture” on Cal Poly's campus: <https://mustangnews.net/sustainable-fashion-and-thrift-culture-on-cal-polys-campus/>

13 Bringing Thrift to Campus: How Cal Poly Students Guide Sustainability Efforts: <https://mustangnews.net/bringing-thrift-to-campus-how-cal-poly-students-guide-sustainability-efforts-to-campus/>

14 Grad Gown Reuse Program aims to reduce waste and make gowns affordable: <https://mustangnews.net/grad-gown-reuse-program-aims-to-reduce-waste-and-make-gowns-affordable/>

15 Grad Gown Reuse: <https://afd.calpoly.edu/sustainability/student/grad-gown-reuse>

16 Cal Poly to accept donations and volunteers for Mustang Move-in pop-up thrift stores: <https://mustangnews.net/cal-poly-to-accept-donations-and-volunteers-for-mustang-move-in-pop-up-thrift-stores/>

17 University Housing and Green Campus Instagram 2024 CP Thrift Recap: [https://www.instagram.com/p/DFJrIDGSBzZ/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DFJrIDGSBzZ/?img_index=1)

18 Green Campus Instagram on Surplus Free Item Giveaway Event: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CqvdiLprGJx/?img\\_index=4](https://www.instagram.com/p/CqvdiLprGJx/?img_index=4)

WHEREAS: On-campus thrift stores provide opportunities for students to actively contribute to and engage with their campus community<sup>19</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The Professional Clothing Closet<sup>20</sup>, University Honors Program<sup>21</sup>, Sustainable Fashion Club<sup>22</sup>, Cal Poly Inter Housing Council<sup>23</sup> have officially endorsed various proposals for an on-campus thrift store, along with over 780 students<sup>24</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The UC Davis thrift store, “Aggie Reuse,” has been operating successfully since 2012<sup>25</sup> and is currently operating under a zero-cost model, with Associated Students, University of California, Davis (ASUCD) student run teams in the divisions of sales, design, marketing, social media, and data analytics<sup>26</sup>, and

WHEREAS: UC Berkeley has a student-run reuse thrift operative, called the Berkeley “ReUSE” store that first launched in 2000. The program hosts “ReUSE Stations” in University Housing in addition to their ReUSE store, and operates on a low cost (under \$3) and a one-to-one trade model<sup>27</sup>. In 2023, ReUSE redirected 1,112.3 pounds of items, and donated \$2,971.51 from profits and additionally collected funds to charity<sup>28</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The University of Tennessee opened their “Free Store” in 2018, which has now served students, staff, and faculty successfully with access to clothing, kitchenware, accessories and appliances at no cost for over seven years<sup>10</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The long-standing campus thrift store operatives of UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and University of Tennessee may serve as examples models, and signify that a similar system at Cal Poly could be similarly successful, and

THEREFORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors encourages the university to establish a re-use station on campus, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The Permanent Reuse Station (PRS) will function as an on-campus thrift store by redistributing donated clothing and items such as school supplies at no to low cost to students, faculty and staff, and

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19 Welcome Touchdown Thrift - Building Community Through Sustainability: <https://www.oxy.edu/news/welcome-touchdown-thrift-building-community-through-sustainability>

20 Letter of endorsement from the Cal Poly Professional Clothing Closet: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:c6312975-6b04-41f4-b61f-1602c453af18>

21 Letter of endorsement from the University Honors program: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:us:e2d252cb-8220-4826-a23e-52b475292d72>

22 Letter of endorsement from the Sustainable Fashion Club: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:bb80cc0d-4982-4468-8d8d-1c229f8581f9>

23 Endorsement by official vote of Cal Poly’s Inter Housing Council: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:726655d2-492f-4024-ad30-8e7fb63d40a1>

24 Petition signatures in support of a permanent on-campus thrift store at Cal Poly: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:e4282e66-f6fc-44d9-b0b1-0fa6ff3fbe2c>

25 Aggie ReStore, where ‘waste’ isn’t really waste at all, 2012: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/aggie-restore-where-waste-isnt-really-waste-all>

26 Aggie Reuse Store - Who We Are: <https://aggiereuse.ucdavis.edu/about-us>

27 ReUSE Club History: <https://reuse.studentorg.berkeley.edu/about-page/>

28 ReUSE fundraising site: <https://crowdfund.berkeley.edu/project/38918>

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will abide by all campus regulations it will be bound to, including working with Cal Poly Partners to ensure no exclusivity clauses are breached, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will increase the accessibility of affordable material items such as clothing, housewares, and school supplies across campus, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will save Cal Poly approximately \$200 for every ton of materials that the PRS is able to divert<sup>29</sup>, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will improve Cal Poly's Waste rating in the AASHE STARS report by one point, contributing in the path towards a platinum rating<sup>30</sup>, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will provide a central and permanent location to run and expand upon existing systems such as the Professional Clothing Closet, Grad Gown Reuse, and CP Thrift, ensuring their longevity as successful sustainability and basic needs operatives, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: As a central hub for all campus reuse efforts, the PRS will enhance the visibility and accessibility of all reuse programs by clearly consolidating initiatives in one easily identifiable location, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will provide opportunities for students to actively contribute to meeting campus needs while fostering a culture of reuse and sustainability, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will distinguish Cal Poly as forward-thinking and the first CSU to launch a permanent on-campus thrift store, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS will be thoughtfully managed and staffed to ensure a steady, manageable flow of donations, supporting both efficiency and program sustainability, and

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29 Communications with Sustainability Data Analyst, Edgar Palacios: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:689b7364-8fa6-41a3-a744-acacf21a86b7>

30 STARS 3.0 Credit Checklist from ASHEE: "Institution has ... B) a reuse program through which employees and/or students can donate personal items for redistribution".

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19GE1dlFegFxluez3jNnNAAsrAYshRH-MsJ0lgIXqzmXc/edit?gid=1145550077#gid=1145550077>

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The PRS work with Green Campus, the Energy, Utilities and Sustainability Department, ASI, University Housing, the Professional Clothing Closet, Career Services, Health and Wellbeing, and other potential stakeholders to ensure long-term success of the center and the continued support of students' needs, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management Terrance Harris; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Jo Campbell; Executive Director Facilities Planning and Capital Projects Anthony Palazzo; Director of Equity Wellbeing Kari Mansager; Career Services Event Coordinator Erika Wagner; University Honors Director Jasna Jovanovic; Director of External Relations Kanani Makekau; Russell Monteath Director of Commercial Services at Cal Poly Partners; Andrea Burns Associate Executive Director at Cal Poly Partners; Michelle Crawford ASI Executive Director; Marc Cabeliza Chair of the University Union Advisory Board.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 30th day of May 2025.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 28th day of May 2025.

Attest:

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ASI Secretary

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Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

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Signed:

ASI President

Authored By:

Aaron Posternack, Board of Directors, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

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Haley Duran, 2023-2024 Secretary of Sustainability, College of Architecture and Environmental Design