

# University of San Diego

PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



*"Our partnership with SDG&E uniquely connects USD to San Diego's local governments and institutional partners, and offers opportunities to place students in forward-thinking internships that meaningfully engage them in energy conservation and sustainability work."*

**MICHAEL CATANZARO**  
DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY,  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

**Student ambassadors on USD's Be Blue Go Green Team champion sustainability as they fuel the campus dialogue around issues, actions and how students can become environmental stewards.**

**Annual Savings: 9,057,135 kWh; 129,708 therms**  
**SDG&E® Incentives: \$809,629**

## Highlights

- Only private university participating in a Partnership
- 20% energy reduction annually
- High-tech energy management training
- Student-driven initiatives
- 70 programs reaching 12,000 people
- \$8.5+ million in retrofits

## Shaping the next generation of stewardship

The University of San Diego (USD) and SDG&E® are working together to achieve USD's goal of creating a more sustainable campus with a smaller environmental footprint. It's a model collaboration not only in its status as the only private university in SDG&E's area to be part of the Partnership, but also in its goals to channel environmental stewardship and best practices on campus and in the community. The Partnership has helped to establish USD as leader in sustainability, gaining a seat at the table with initiatives like The Climate Collaborative, an alliance of public and private organizations to implement plans to address climate change. Being a part of the Partnership has also provided USD with the opportunity to connect and share best practices with their fellow Universities and Community College peers in the San Diego region. Through an innovative portfolio of conservation that has become a hallmark of its campus culture, USD has realized significant energy savings and is on track for continued success in sustainability.

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## About the University of San Diego

The University of San Diego is a nationally preeminent Catholic university educating students to be globally competent, ethical leaders. USD serves a campus community of over 9,000 and alumni population approaching 56,000. As a “Changemaker,” USD has made sustainability a priority by championing a dynamic portfolio of energy initiatives, including the second largest solar rooftop installation on a college campus. The culmination of their commitment is a \$1 million savings in electric consumption and 30,000,000 gallon water reduction.

◀ **The Green Office Certification Program conducts student-led energy and sustainability audits of campus offices to educate staff about how to green their workspace and be more energy efficient.**

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## Putting down sustainable roots

The most compelling aspect of the Partnership is that its funding rooted USD’s commitment to sustainability through the founding of the Office of Sustainability. Led by a dedicated team, this nerve center originates programs and initiatives that have led to energy savings of 20% annually. Central to the Partnership is education for both students and staff. High-tech training for USD’s full-time energy manager and other energy gatekeepers elevates core competencies around the operation of the campus energy management system and green building development. Student interns pursuing green careers also have the opportunity to learn industry best practices and get hands-on exposure through real-world experience, such as contributing to climate action planning for neighboring cities – one of the many ways the partnership has enabled USD to leverage its brain muscle on behalf of community enterprise.

## Students do the energy math

From the showers to the offices to the dorms, USD never misses an opportunity to mobilize student involvement to promote stewardship in their own lives and the world they live in. With SDG&E’s Emerging Technologies Program, USD contributed to the design of a smart shower timer that promotes sustainability by saving an estimated one million gallons of water annually plus related natural gas and energy use. Students conduct Green Office Certification audits that engage staff in greening their workspaces. The Dorm Energy Efficiency Pilot tracks and publishes energy use by room to encourage students to compete for the lowest meter

reading. Beyond campus, students reach out to their neighbors through programs like S.T.R.E.E.T. (Student Residential Energy Efficiency Team) where area residents receive energy-saving tips and assistance accessing SDG&E’s low-income programs. Overall, USD reached thousands through impactful educational programs, large scale events, film screenings, trainings and other initiatives.

## All the campus is a stage

Dramatic energy-efficiency results were achieved through \$8.5 million in retrofits made to USD’s signature Spanish buildings. Projects included replacing a boiler and air handling units, upgrading a laboratory fume hood, installing a chilled water loop modification, eliminating two heating ventilation air conditioning chillers, plant optimization and changing out 10,000 light bulbs. Engineering-assistance funding financed additional feasibility studies to delve into further savings, including a solar pool heating assessment.

## Efficiency = MoreConservation<sup>2</sup>

Already named Champion of SDG&E’s “Excellence in Energy Savings for Higher Education” and the California Center for Sustainable Energy’s “Outstanding Sustainable Organization of the Year,” USD is poised to take energy efficiency to the next level using its Energy Assessment and Utility Cost Reduction Plan as a blueprint for long-term savings. Future initiatives include creating benchmarks to monitoring-based commission/ retro-commission its beautiful facilities as well as establishing a Green Fund that banks earned incentives and savings to monetize future energy-efficiency projects.

California’s Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan is a roadmap to integrate cost-effective, energy- efficiency practices through 2020 and beyond. The Partnership program is a collaboration between regulated utilities and numerous organizations to help our local governments and institutional partners, including UC/CSU and California Community Colleges (CCC), become leaders in reducing energy use and emissions. USD is unique contributor to this energy solution through its partnership with SDG&E. Working together we lead by example by fostering an environment of sustainability through new initiatives.

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