

CalPERS' Annual Sustainability Highlights Memo

Calendar Year 2023

Operations Support Services Division

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Overview

The Operations Support Services Division (OSSD) is pleased to present the annual Sustainability Highlights Memo, providing a detailed look at CalPERS' green operations' performance and achievements for the prior calendar year in 2023. These achievements are based on the Governor's sustainability mandates and are the foundation for measuring the facility's performance and compliance. Complying with the mandates not only aligns CalPERS with the Governor's sustainability goals, but also serves to improve CalPERS' green performance as a state agency and contributor to environmental preservation.

CalPERS' journey to become a pioneer of energy efficiency and a key player regarding climate change policies remain a success. This year, our focus is on energy conservation through our recertification of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®), LEED® Zero certification, renewal of WELL Health-Safety, and annual reporting to Energy Star. CalPERS continues to work diligently to increase waste diversion rates and water efficiency. Other measures at Lincoln Plaza (LP) include tracking the data center's energy usage, and monitoring electric vehicle charging station use. Similar to most agencies, we continue to report our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for Scope 1 and 2 via The Climate Registry. CalPERS has also started working on a Headquarters Decarbonization Plan to eliminate almost all carbon emissions onsite. Part of the plan includes for the first time, tracking Scope 3 GHG emissions related to employee transportation. Additionally, we are making significant strides towards adapting more sustainable purchasing policies. In the coming years, we hope to increase our focus to biodiversity with the inclusion of a bee garden and micro-farm on site and increasing water efficiency on our campus.

Certain key performance indicators continue to fluctuate as team members return to office on a hybrid schedule. As the organization settles into a hybrid schedule, numbers are expected to stabilize and reflect the operations performance based on the new onsite schedule. Despite the changes, CalPERS has maintained and improved its high-efficiency operations, developed plans to upgrade Lincoln Plaza's water efficiency, improve biodiversity, and become decarbonized. The below sustainability categories outline the associated mandates, actions, and efforts taken by CalPERS to meet or surpass all sustainability legislative requirements for both Lincoln Plaza North (LPN) and Lincoln Plaza East/West (LPEW).

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®)

[Executive Order \(EO\) B-18-12](#) and [Management Memo \(MM\) 15-04](#) – Requires buildings over 50,000 square feet to obtain and maintain a LEED® Existing Building Operations and Maintenance certification.

- The LEED® Green Building Certification Program, administered through the United States Green Building Council and Green Building Certification Institute, was designed to help develop highly efficient sustainable buildings. The LEED® green building rating system is the most widely used globally and its certifications symbolize that a building is sustainable.
- Lincoln Plaza (LP) recertified under LEED® Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance version 2009 in 2018. The Certification levels are Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Certified. LPN earned LEED Gold® and LPEW earned LEED Platinum®.
- In 2023, CalPERS began the recertification process under the latest version of LEED version 4.1. As of 2023, LPN has kept LEED Gold and LPEW has kept LEED Platinum.
- CalPERS will be researching ways to electrify the LP buildings, increase waste diversion, increase energy efficiency, and decrease water usage for future LEED recertifications.

[Executive Order \(EO\) B-18-12](#) and [Management Memo \(MM\) 15-04](#)– Requires buildings over 50,000 square feet to obtain and maintain a LEED® Existing Building Operations and Maintenance certification.

- On January 30th, 2024, CalPERS was awarded LEED® Zero Carbon for 2023 performance and looks forward to renewing our certification in the next renewal cycle which occurs every three years.
- LEED® Zero Carbon means LP's buildings have a net zero carbon emissions from energy consumption through existing energy efficiency practices or emissions that were offset over a period of 12 months.
- This was partially aided with our participation in developing the Decarbonization Plan through the partial calculation of our Scope 3 emissions for employee commuting.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

[EO B-18-12](#) – Requires all state agencies to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 20% by 2020 based on a 2010 baseline.

- The sources of GHG that CalPERS reports on are electricity, natural gas, gasoline, diesel, propane, and refrigerant. These sources come from the LP buildings, Emergency Operations Center, parking lots, regional offices, warehouses, and fleet vehicles.
- Carbon offsets are purchased to zero out LP's non-electricity created carbon including natural gas, diesel, propane, and refrigerant.

- Since 2012, CalPERS has exceeded the reporting requirements by voluntarily having a third-party, The Climate Registry, verify the 2022 inventory to an accuracy of within 5%.
- In 2023, CalPERS completed the GHG inventory for the 2022 emissions year and achieved an emissions reduction of 83%, or 5,382 metric tons, of carbon dioxide equivalent, when measured against the 2010 baseline.
- CalPERS was awarded achieving Climate Registered™ All Star level status for reporting and verifying our 2022 GHG inventory as well as disclosing and achieving a GHG reduction goal and setting a public base year.
- CalPERS covers 50% of the GHG associated with LP's electric energy consumption with the SolarShares program and the remaining 50% with SMUD's Greenergy program by purchasing renewable energy certificates. Beginning January 1, 2020, Greenergy began providing LP with a mix of wind, hydropower, and solar RECs from California.

Energy Star

[MM 15-04](#) – *Requires that all existing state buildings meet or exceed an Energy Star rating of 75.*

- Energy Star Portfolio Manager is an energy and water benchmarking program for existing buildings led by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to provide a snapshot of a building's energy performance. Annually, buildings receive an Energy Star score based on its energy performance in comparison with buildings nationwide of similar construction and size.
- In 2023, LP continued to be Energy Star certified and exceeded the mandated Energy Star score of 75. LPEW received a score of 87 and LPN received a score of 81.
- These scores mean that LPEW is more energy efficient than 87% of similar properties nationwide and that LPN is more energy efficient than 81% of similar properties nationwide.

Energy Conservation

Grid-based Energy

[EO B-18-12](#) – *Requires a 20% grid-based energy reduction by 2018 with 2003 as the energy baseline. To date, Governor Newsom's administration has not released a future target.*

- Grid-based energy includes electrical and natural gas utilities. The water heaters and boilers use natural gas to produce hot water and heat the buildings. Although this goal has passed, CalPERS continues to strive for energy efficiency. The 2003 baseline did not allow for CalPERS to meet the 2018 goal due to the total building area having increased substantially when LPEW was added in 2005.

- In 2023, CalPERS' total grid-based energy was 24% greater than the 2003 baseline. Despite the increase in more onsite employees in the last two years, the total grid-based energy is 11% lower than before the mandatory telework schedule, which lasted from March 2020 – March 2022.
- The average site energy usage intensity (EUI), which measures energy per square foot based on the amount of energy produced onsite, was reduced by 41% in 2023 compared to 2003. From 2019 to 2023, LP used 7 kBtu/ft² less energy per square foot.
- In October 2022, CalPERS contracted with a third-party consultant to develop a Decarbonization Plan. This Plan was developed based on interviews, background documents review, and onsite assessment. It also included a carbon assessment, an ASHRAE Level II energy audit, energy end use breakdown, a list of energy efficiency measures, and costs associated with construction, labor, and equipment upgrades.
- This plan would increase energy efficiency of LP and electrify it so that CalPERS would be net-zero, therefore using 100% renewable energy and eliminating almost all carbon emissions onsite.
- In 2023, CalPERS took steps in implementing this plan by approving LED light retrofitting for the entire LP in the next three years. Future work may include the electrification of the Café and the elimination of natural gas on campus.
- Since 2018, CalPERS' landscapers have been using mostly zero-emission battery powered landscape maintenance equipment for the LP complex, further reducing GHG emissions.

Zero Net Energy

[EO B-18-12](#) – *Requires source Zero Net Energy (ZNE) for 50% of total existing building area by 2025.*

- Site ZNE consists of a building consuming only the amount of energy that it produces onsite. Source ZNE includes energy used onsite, plus energy consumed while extracting, processing, and transporting fuel, as well as energy lost during transportation and distribution to the site.
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) SolarShares program continues to offset at least 50% of LP's electric energy from a local solar field. In 2023, 60% of the source energy was from SolarShares. This is 10% higher than the mandate. This accomplishment is partly caused by the reduced load on the building due to the team members switching to a hybrid schedule.
- In 2023, the source EUI with SolarShares was 55 kilo British thermal units per square foot (kBtu/ft²), which is 52% more efficient than the pre-2020 average nationwide source EUI, which was 116kBtu/ft². This achievement is also influenced by the decreased building occupancy.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations

[MM 16-07](#) – *Requires an increase in annual light-duty Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) purchasing by 5% each year through fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, along with Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Requirements.*

- There are four main types of electric vehicles: pure electric, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell. Pure electric vehicles run only on an electric battery. Plug-in hybrid vehicles require that a plug is inserted to charge the battery and still offer a gas option. Hybrid vehicles charge the electric battery while idle and do not require a plug to charge. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles run only on hydrogen gas, which is converted into electricity. Electric vehicles are also called zero-emission vehicles because they do not produce any direct exhaust or tailpipe emissions.
- CalPERS currently has 28 light-duty fleet vehicles, including one pure electric vehicle and eight hybrid vehicles. Additionally, there is one internal combustion medium-duty fleet vehicle which is used by CalPERS' Property Management team. In 2023, CalPERS replaced two Dodge Caravans with two new Toyota Sienna hybrids.
- With budget approval, the Legal Division will replace one Dodge Caravan and one Honda Odyssey with two new Honda Odyssey minivans in FY 2023-24. Based on DGS' California Air Resources Board Original Equipment Manufacturer Purchasing Policy, there are currently no zero-emission passenger van options available. Additionally, the Operations Support Services Division will replace one Ford F-350 diesel truck with one new Ford E-Transit 350 electric cargo van in FY 2023-24.

[MM 16-07](#) – *Requires 5% of workplace parking spaces be designated for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) through FY 2020-21.*

- CalPERS surpassed this goal in 2019 by installing a total of 69 Level 1 and Level 2 charging stations, five charging stations above the requirement.
- CalPERS also provides infrastructure for ChargePoint® to offer Level 2 charging stations. These charging stations are equipped with charging cords that take approximately 3.5 hours to charge an 80-mile battery and eight hours to charge a 200-mile battery. The permitted charging time for Level 2 stations is four hours.
- Level 1 EVSE provides outlets for team members to plug in their own charging cord and takes approximately 16 hours to charge an 80-mile battery and 40 hours for a 200-mile battery. The permitted charging time for Level 1 stations is unlimited.
- In 2023, CalPERS considered the option of 30 additional Level 2 charging stations, which is pending approval for the budget year of FY 2024-25.

LPW Data Center

[MM 14-09](#) – *Requires efficiency in Data Centers and Server Rooms that exceed 1,000 square feet to achieve energy efficiency. Also requires that Data Centers and Server Rooms measure and report the annual power usage effectiveness (PUE) ratio which should not exceed 1.5. Data centers that exceed a PUE ratio of 1.5 shall reduce their PUE ratio by a minimum of 10% per year until they achieve a 1.5 or lower PUE.*

- The PUE ratio measures the efficiency of a data center. A high PUE ratio indicates a less efficient data center.
- The 2023 PUE ratio is 1.89. This is higher than both the 2022 PUE ratio of 1.83 and the MM 14-09 mandated PUE ratio of 1.5.
- From 2022 to 2023 the Information Technology (IT) load dropped 9%.
- As IT equipment is removed, its information migrated to the cloud, and then replaced with newer more efficient equipment, the PUE ratio will continue to increase. Since 2018, the IT load has dropped 55% and the PUE ratio has increased 20%. Past studies have shown that it is not economically feasible to significantly reduce the PUE ratio of the data center.
- CalPERS' Property Management team continues to maximize the energy efficiency of the data center through no cost measures, including monthly inspections, temperature monitoring, and efficiency air flow management. Additionally, the migration of equipment to the cloud allowed some equipment to be turned off, thereby saving energy.
- Without significant capital improvement projects, it will be difficult for CalPERS to meet the 1.5 PUE ratio due to the overall size of the data center and the energy consumed to run and cool the area. Unless the overall hardware utilized by CalPERS is reduced and IT infrastructure is migrated to the cloud, there are limitations to what CalPERS can do to limit the PUE ratio.

Water Conservation

[EO B-18-12](#) – *Requires a 20% water reduction by 2020 with a 2010 baseline.*

- Although the 2020 water reduction goal has passed, CalPERS continues to realize water savings and devise plans to advance LP's water efficiency.
- In 2023, CalPERS used 42% less water compared to the 2010 baseline, exceeding the 2020 target by 22%.
- In 2022, CalPERS applied for the WaterCAT Grant presented by the Department of General Services (DGS) and was awarded to receive \$700,000 of funding to upgrade and install new irrigation water sensors as well develop a Water Master Plan. However, in 2023 we were

notified that due to budget restrictions, the disbursement of this grant money is on hold until a more favorable fiscal environment.

[EO N-10-21](#) – *To preserve the State’s surface and groundwater supplies, to better prepare for the potential for continued dry conditions next year, and to join existing efforts by agricultural water users, public water systems, and governmental agencies to respond to water shortages, the Governor called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% from their 2020 levels.*

Governor Newsom signed this EO on July 8, 2021. This EO’s language does not indicate that this is a mandatory curtailment, although it alludes to the fact that state agencies have been mandated to help with this effort.

- In 2022, CalPERS’ water consumption was voluntarily reduced by 18% compared to 2020 in support of the drought efforts. This was possible due to CalPERS’ hybrid schedule.
- After March 2022, the facility operations resumed as usual to support the hybrid schedule. As a result of most team members coming back on site, the water consumption increased by 5.6% in 2023. This is compared to the 2020 baseline when most of the campus was working remotely. However, when comparing to pre-pandemic water consumption in 2019, LP had a total water reduction of 19.6%.
- CalPERS is committed to continued efforts to reduce water consumption and has researched infrastructure investments such as upgrading irrigation sensors and conducting a facility wide Water Master Plan.
- CalPERS’ Property Management team monitors CalPERS’ monthly water conservation percentage status and notifies CalPERS of any significant variations.
- Water savings measures implemented since the last drought are listed below:
 - Waterless Carpet Cleaning – The Janitorial team performs carpet cleanings using equipment that does not require water.
 - Water Feature Shutoff – The day care center’s water spray feature was turned off to prevent the unnecessary water expenditure.
 - Irrigation – Efficient drip irrigation systems were installed while a modified schedule following the City’s guidelines and best practices was implemented and all drip lines are regularly monitored for leaks.
 - Window Washing – The window washing schedule was reduced to twice a year.
 - Exterior Maintenance – All miscellaneous pressure washing was eliminated except on an as-needed basis.

- Interior Maintenance – The Janitorial team will only perform spot cleaning on carpets through office space upon request.

WELL Health-Safety Rating for Facilities and Operations

- CalPERS' first WELL Health Safety rating was received in January 2022. CalPERS has retained the 2023 WELL Health-Safety certification and will reapply this year for renewal.
- The [WELL Health-Safety Rating](#) consists of a subset of relevant features from the [WELL Building Standard™](#) (WELL™) adapted for facility operations and management. This certification serves as a symbol of CalPERS' extensive preparation and confidence for not only reopening the buildings but providing a healthy and safe workspace for its team members.
- The third-party review process ensures integrity and consistency, and results in a WELL Health-Safety seal, communicating leadership and a commitment to health and well-being.
- WELL Health-Safety encourages a healthy work environment. A study from Washington State University has shown that adding plants to a workplace boosts productivity and general wellness around mental health. CalPERS hosts hundreds of indoor and outdoor plants at our workplace to increase the wellness of our team members.

Climate Adaptation

[EO B-30-15](#) – *Requires integration of climate change initiatives into all planning and investment decisions.*

CalPERS hired a third-party contractor, Det Norske Veritas Germanischer Lloyd (DN VGL), to perform a B-READY Building Resilience Assessment for LP which identified the frequency and scale of climatic events.

The B-READY assessment covered a wide range of climatic events such as extreme heat, drought, precipitation, air pollution, flooding, wildfires, and earthquakes. The results showed that drought and heatwaves are the climatic events most likely to affect the CalPERS facilities. DN VGL provided a findings report which facilitated internal discussions to determine the actions that can be taken to mitigate damage or disruption and enhance the well-being of team members. The mitigation measures in the report raised additional questions and did not provide sufficient information for implementation since a majority of the measures were regarding flooding and critical equipment locations.

- In recent years, as a follow up to the B-READY assessment, the Cooling and Heating Systems Temperature Risk Assessment and Base Flood Elevation was conducted. The study allowed the mitigation measures to be further evaluated and determine the ability of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to provide occupant comfort under extreme climate conditions including flooding.

- The below Flood Evaluation and Temperature Extreme Evaluations results were provided:
 - Flood Evaluation
 - The LPN electrical room located in the below grade garage was identified as most vulnerable to flooding. There are measures in place, such as drains and supplies for a weir, to block waterflow if a major event were to occur. The recommendations are being evaluated to determine feasibility.
 - LPEW central cooling plant, located on garage level 2, was identified as the most vulnerable to flooding. There are provisions to install weirs to the parking garage entrances to block water in the case of a major event. It has been determined as impractical to move the existing equipment to a higher level.
 - Temperature Extreme Evaluation
 - LPN has sufficient excess heating and cooling capacity to handle extreme cooling or heating events.
 - LPEW has the heating and cooling capacity to handle typical peak temperatures but may struggle with extreme temperatures over 105°F or below 30°F. As the current equipment reaches end of life, replacement equipment and capacity will be further evaluated.

Waste Management

Organic Waste

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1826](#) – *Requires businesses that generate organic waste to arrange for recycling services. The requirements were expanded in January 2017 and 2019, becoming more stringent by changing the required amount from businesses that produce eight cubic yards or more to businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of organic waste or commercial solid waste per week to be recycled. The Bill also requires a statewide organic waste disposal reduction of 50% by 2020, compared to 2014.*

Examples of organic waste are food, landscape trimmings, and food-soiled paper.

- In 2023, LP created an average of 3.0 cubic yards (cy) of organic waste per week, which is recycled through Atlas Disposal and Carson Landscaping.
- Atlas Disposal hauled 158 cy of organic waste to an organics facility for composting into soil that can be used to improve plant growth. Since returning to the office on a hybrid schedule, Atlas conducts pickups on a weekly basis. Additionally, 140 cy was composted by Carson Landscaping and used for soil repurposing.

Commercial Solid Waste

Commercial solid waste includes all types of solid waste, organic and non-organic.

- In 2023, CalPERS created 4.6 tons of commercial solid waste per week, 57% of this was diverted from the landfill through recycling and composting.

Food Waste Rescue

- The Café vendor, Compass Group USA, continues their partnership with The Imperfectly Delicious Produce Program, which utilizes fruits and vegetables that are usually discarded due to slight cosmetic imperfections, but are suitable for consumption.
- Since 2019, due to weather and labor issues, a significant number of farmers have shifted their priorities and pushed their perfect produce to the market before the foods could be enrolled in The Imperfectly Delicious Produce Program. This change caused a decline in the supply and demand of imperfect produce and not as many items are available for purchase by the Café.
- In 2023, CalPERS saved 36,241.66 gallons of fresh water and 1393.91 pounds of produce that would have otherwise gone to waste had the produce been discarded.

Mandatory Recycling

[AB 341](#) – Declares a statewide goal of increasing waste diversion by 75% by 2020 and requires a waste management program to be in place.

- In 2023, CalPERS' waste diversion from landfill was approximately 57%.

[AB 2812](#) – Outlines guidance for the collection and recycling of materials in state office buildings of state agencies and large facilities.

- CalPERS continues to have a waste management program throughout the enterprise. The Café's recycling program was in place and waste disposal education is always available for team members on CalPERS' internal website. Additionally, recycling in the enterprise breakrooms includes compost waste.

[Senate Bill 1106](#) – Requires the designation of at least one solid waste reduction and recycling coordinator.

- CalPERS has a designated Sustainability Specialist, who continues to annually review the waste disposal process, including recycling materials, signage, education, and receptacles.

Environmental Preferable Purchasing

[The State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign \(SABRC\)](#) is a joint effort between the California Department of Resources and Recovery and the Department of General Services, requiring state agencies to purchase

and track recycled-content product purchases. Effective January 1, 2020, at least 75% of reportable purchases in each reportable category must have post-consumer recycled content and recycled products, a 25% increase.

- CalPERS reports on four categories: Metal, Paper, Printing and Writing Paper, and Plastic.
- For FY 2022-23, CalPERS continued to exceed the requirement. Total purchases for recycled content products were: 82% of Metal Products, 78% of Paper Products, 91% of Printing and Writing Paper, and 64% of Plastic Products.
- The lower percentage in plastic products was due to collaborating with Colliers' plastic purchases for the first time. Due to the various needs of Colliers' plastic purchases, a compliant product isn't always feasible and/or available. However, Colliers is actively working with CalPERS to increase their sustainable purchasing.
- With the assistance of Colliers, CalPERS now tracks procurement related purchases that are through Colliers' third-party vendors.
- In 2023, the SABRC Coordinator continued to monitor, educate, and encourage purchasing compliant items to ensure the goal is achieved.

Goals

- Finalize a decarbonization plan for Lincoln Plaza to have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop a Water Master Plan to increase water savings.

Next Steps

Overall, even with the changes in the working environment, CalPERS has maintained awareness and action of the latest green technology and opportunities. Providing educational engagement and sharing CalPERS' globally recognized sustainability initiatives and accomplishments empowers team members to practice green habits at work, home, and the community. The Sustainability Team will remain engaged with employees, stakeholders, as well as internal and external parties to do our part in protecting and preserving the environment.

For any questions regarding the initiatives and projects covered in this Sustainability Highlights Memo, please reach out to the [CalPERS Sustainability Operations Program](#).

Thank you.

Attachment: CalPERS' 2023 Sustainability Fun Facts

Attachment 1

CalPERS' 2023 Sustainability Fun Facts

The below 14 sustainability fun facts tie directly to information stated in the 2023 Sustainability Highlight Memo. They offer insight about CalPERS' sustainable efforts and how our contributions help to preserve the environment.

- 1. CalPERS' Lincoln Plaza headquarters are LEED® certified. As of 2023, Lincoln Plaza East/West (LPEW) is Platinum and Lincoln Plaza North (LPN) is Gold.**
LEED® certified buildings have 25% lower energy use and reduce operational costs by 19% compared to the national average.
- 2. LPEW received an Energy Star score of 87. This means that LPEW is more energy efficient than 87% of similar buildings nationwide.**
Energy Star certified buildings, compared to buildings that are not Energy Star Certified, use 35% less energy.
- 3. LPN received an Energy Star score of 81. This means that LPN is more energy efficient than 81% of similar buildings nationwide.**
Energy Star certified buildings, compared to buildings that are not Energy Star Certified, cost \$0.54 less per square foot to operate.
- 4. LPN and LPEW recertified for WELL and achieved the Health-Safety Rating for the second consecutive year. This shows CalPERS commitment to providing a healthy and safe environment for their team members.**
According to survey findings, a WELL certified building showed nearly a 30% improvement in overall satisfaction in the workplace.
- 5. CalPERS received a WELL Health-Safety Rating in 21 features that promote human health and safety, three more features than the previous year!**
A WELL certified building results in a 10% increase in improved mental health and 2% increase in better overall physical health.
- 6. Lincoln Plaza used 42% less water compared to the 2010 baseline.**
That's enough water to fill 490 average sized residential swimming pools or 17 Olympic sized pools.
- 7. Over 8.7 million kilowatt-hours, 60% of Lincoln Plaza's electricity, came from a local field through SMUD's SolarShares program.**
A Tesla Model Y could drive approximately 34.8 million miles on 8.7 million kilowatt-hours. You can go to the moon and back 18 times!

- 8. LPEW and LPN have a total of 69 Level 1 and Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations.**
An electric vehicle driver can save on average \$700 per year on gasoline compared to combustion engine vehicle drivers.
- 9. CalPERS' Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions were reduced by 5,382 metric tons or 83% when compared against the 2010 baseline.**
The reduction is equal to 1,170 cars driven 11,500 miles annually. In another example, the reduction is equal to 740 homes' electricity use for one year.
- 10. Lincoln Plaza created an average of 3.0 cubic yards of organic waste per week, which is recycled through Atlas Disposal and Carson Landscaping.**
Over a year's time, this is equivalent to 95,200 pounds of organic waste. GHG emissions from organic waste are reduced by more than 50% when properly composted.
- 11. CalPERS created 243.38 tons of solid waste and diverted 57% or 139.4 tons of solid waste from the landfill through recycling and composting.**
This reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 772 tons which is equal to GHG emissions from 17,562 gallons of gasoline consumed.
- 12. There were 158 cubic yards of organic waste hauled to an organics facility for composting soil that can be used to improve plant growth.**
Food and other organic materials sent to the landfill decompose and produce methane. Composting reduces the production of methane which is over 70 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year span.
- 13. CalPERS saved 36,241 gallons of fresh water and 1393.91 pounds of produce due to our enrollment in the Imperfectly Delicious Produce Program that would have otherwise gone to waste had the produce been discarded.**
Our Café vendor, Compass Group USA, continues their partnership with the Imperfectly Delicious Produce Program, which utilizes fruits and vegetables that are usually discarded due to slight cosmetic imperfections, but are suitable for consumption.
- 14. CalPERS hosts hundreds of indoor and outdoor plants at our workplace to increase the wellness of our team members.**
A study from Washington State University has shown that adding plants to a workplace boosts productivity and general wellness around mental health.