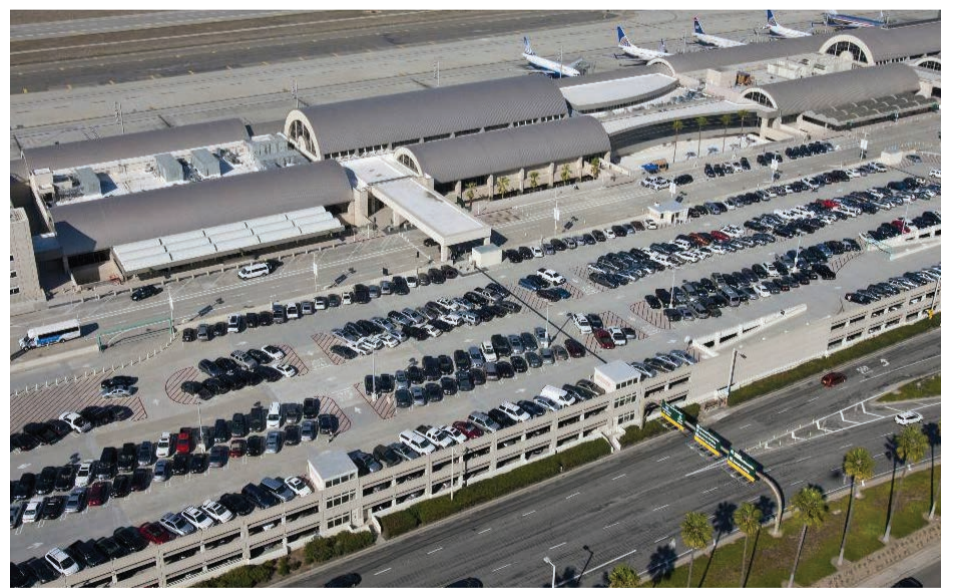


LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY



SAVING WATER & ENERGY AT
OC'S LARGEST EMPLOYER
PAGE 32

LPA DESIGNS SUSTAINABLE HEALTH
AND WELLNESS VILLAGE
PAGE 34



1

ELSEWHERE: JWA WORKS ON SUSTAINABILITY
BY CUTTING NOISE, EMISSIONS, WASTE

Saving Water & Energy at OC's Largest Employer

TOURISM: Disneyland Resort to electrify Autopia by 2027

■ By EMILY SANTIAGO-MOLINA

ANAHEIM — Disneyland Resort hit a new employment record this year reporting a local headcount of 36,000 as of October.

The Walt Disney Co. is the largest employer in Orange County (see list, page 24) and the recent milestone marks the entertainment firm's third time hitting a record high since the pandemic when the Anaheim theme parks and its surrounding retail and hospitality venues closed for over a year.

Disneyland recovered to 34,000 in 2022 surpassing 2019 levels for the first time then rose to 35,000 the year after.

Company officials attributed the growth to the past few years of development including the addition of new themed lands such as Avengers Campus in 2021, renovations to existing areas like Mickey's Toontown and updates made to both the Disneyland Hotel and the rethemed Pixar Place Hotel.

The 500-acre resort and its themed areas and rides are continually being updated, with several incoming projects announced at the Walt Disney Co.'s D23 Expo in August.

Besides new film-based attractions, Disneyland has also introduced a series of sustainability programs that help the existing parks, and any future development, keep the natural environment in mind.

"A sustainable Disneyland can bring magic and happiness to our guests while caring for our ecosystem – staying true to our core values," Senior Manager of Environmental Sustainability **Jake Raykhelson** told the Business Journal in a statement.

Raykhelson leads the resort's 10-person team with expertise that span climate science, materials engineering, renewable energy, waste management, agricultural systems and culinary arts.

These eco-friendly initiatives include energy and water conservation and waste minimization, which result in projects focused on keeping water supplies local, re-powering attraction vehicles and even creating a more sustainable culinary program.

"Environmental sustainability isn't just about reducing emissions, creating less waste or doing a little less of something," Raykhelson said. "Sustainability is balancing human needs and well-being with design principles, guest experience and environmental outcomes."

Recruiting Chefs to Sustainability Mission

Disneyland aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food systems by 30% by 2030 as part of Walt Disney Co.'s companywide environmental goals.

To accomplish this, the Anaheim resort last year launched a new sustainable culinary fellowship that invited chefs employed across Disney parks and hotels to learn about supply chain and sourcing, as well as focus on menu development.



The vehicles of the Autopia attraction in Tomorrowland will be electric by 2027.

PHOTO CREDIT: DISNEYLAND RESORT

The year-long fellowship included the creation of plant-based dishes and processes that reduce waste, designed by the participating chefs as part of the larger sustainable food systems program at Disneyland.

Some of the dishes were brought into the parks in 2024 and "early impact metrics indicate that new climate friendly offerings developed by these culinary fellows result in 20% to 80% less carbon emissions in their life cycle than traditional menu offerings," according to Disney.

One innovation was the Dinoco blue cheeseburger at Flo's V8 Cafe in Cars Land which includes a lower-carbon, Angus beef and mushroom patty. Another recent plant-based offering that's turning heads – a corn ribs plate at the new **Hungry Bear Barbecue Jamboree** restaurant near the soon-to open **Tiana's Bayou Adventure**, formerly **Splash Mountain**.

Last year, Disneyland Hotel Chef **Kameron Trevino** and his culinary team created a 50% plant-based buffet at the hotel's **Goofy's Kitchen** restaurant during the resort's holiday season. The buffet included Korean fried broccoli, corn cake and caramelized roasted pineapple.

The park's eco-conscious efforts earned Disneyland its fourth SEAL Business Sustainability Award this year.

Other local efforts related to food waste recovery include a food donation program where the Anaheim resort collects over 2,000 pounds of unused prepared food per month from restaurants and banquets for donation to **Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County** (see page 22).

Disneyland also has a food scraps program that diverts millions of pounds of food waste from landfills.

Theme Park Energy Saver

Since 2009, the **Disneyland Railroad** steam trains and **Mark Twain Riverboat** have been powered by biodiesel made from recycled cooking oil. This replaces approximately 200,000 gallons of petroleum diesel annually, according to Disney.

Earlier this year, Disneyland announced that it would be converting all vehicles of the **Autopia** attraction in Tomorrowland to electric by 2027.

Autopia, which opened along with the original park in 1955, is one of the resort's

Chef Kameron Trevino, at the Disneyland Hotel, innovated a 50% plant-based buffet for Halloween



Dinoco Blue cheeseburger with a lower-carbon, angus beef and mushroom patty at Flo's V8 Cafe



latest efforts in using energy more efficiently.

As part of Disneyland's energy and emissions program, over 40,000 fluorescent and incandescent lamps from parking lots to theaters and offices to backstage corridors have been replaced with LEDs.

The parks also enrolled in Anaheim's green power program this year, where the city matched 60% of Disney's electricity use from renewable supplies.

Disneyland has so far converted 10% of its 400-vehicle fleet to electric and is home to one of Orange County's largest destination EV charging networks as well. All parade

floats are also electrically powered.

These efforts led the resort to be recognized as the 2024 Sustainable Corporation of the Year at Sustain SoCal's 15th Annual Energy Event in October.

"In 2024, the resort's greenhouse gas emissions are projected to be 100,000 metric tons less than they were in 2019," according to the company.

The recently approved **DisneylandForward** development project will continue to implement these initiatives, including plans to promote alternative forms of transportation and reduce trips across the resort. ■

Disneyland Resort

- **HQ:** Anaheim
- **OPENED:** 1955
- **FOOTPRINT:** Approx. 500 acres
- **PRESIDENT:** Ken Potrock
- **EMPLOYEES:** 36,000
- **OWNERSHIP:** Walt Disney Co. (NYSE: DIS)
- **NOTABLE:** Hits new employment record with 36,000 people as of October



Now open in Irvine

Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care

Experience compassionate, expert care delivered by Orange County's only academic health system.

Our team of nationally regarded physicians, nurses, researchers and clinicians are ready to welcome you and your family.

To learn more or to make an appointment, visit ucihealth.org/wecenter

UCI Health

LPA Designs Sustainable ‘Health and Wellness Village’

HEALTH: Planning Hoag’s \$1B Sun Family Campus expansion

By YUIKA YOSHIDA

IRVINE — The design for **Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian’s** \$1 billion expansion of its **Sun Family Campus** takes inspiration from **William Pereira’s** original master plan for the city of Irvine.

The American architect’s vision of a collection of villages connected by regional parks got him on the cover of **Time Magazine** in 1963, characterizing his design as the “vistas of the future.”

The architecture firm behind Hoag’s major expansion is Irvine-based **LPA Design Studios**, which has distinguished itself from other firms with its environmentally-conscious designs and ranks as the second-largest architectural firm in Orange County with \$76.5 million in local billings.

“The goal on this project was very much about a wellness village connected to nature, really creating a healing environment,” LPA Chief Executive **Wendy Rogers** told the Business Journal.

The six-building campus, which broke ground last July, will have dedicated institutes for specialties among the most in demand, including women’s health, cancer and digestive health.

LPA’s design aims to balance indoor and outdoor elements with gardens, ranging from a serenity and relaxation garden to a therapeutic movement garden, geared toward each specific institute.

So far, a surgical pavilion is the first building, along with two completed parking



Rendering of restorative garden space connecting facilities

garages, to take shape in the campus. The first phase of the expansion is expected to be completed by spring of 2026.

Nature-Inspired Design Elements

LPA was awarded the project in 2019 after being selected from a design competition.

Out of 10 firms that were interviewed, five were asked to prepare a design concept.

Rogers said that LPA’s design stood out from the competition who mainly showed tall vertical towers, in line with how hospitals are typically modeled.

Towers lend themselves as efficient designs for healthcare facilities, allowing for elevator systems but doesn’t necessarily create a “human-centric approach,” according to Rogers.

“Our design is much more of a horizontal campus,” Rogers said. “Every building is tied to nature and is decentralized.”

In the pre-design phase, researchers at LPA worked with physicians to make more informed decisions when it came to the design process.

Their research found a direct correlation between how people feel and their medical out-

comes, inspiring them to create outdoor spaces for both patients and their families.

“It provides areas to find peace during a stressful time,” Rogers said.

All patient zones in the institutes were designed to have natural daylight and views for “human-scaled moments of respite,” Rogers said.

LPA’s landscape designers were particularly interested in the biomass that’d form as a result of the project.

They used biomimicry, the practice of emulating nature in human engineering, to influence multiple aspects of the campus.

“Our landscape architects had a huge play in coming up with a lot of the sustainable strategies for the project,” Rogers said.

Once completed, they estimate it will increase the permeable landscape of the area by about 45% and create microecosystems for birds and other pollinators.

Storm water will also be treated with modular wetland systems on the campus, filtering it of any pollutants.

Even a detail as small as picking lighter colored concrete was intentionally chosen to reflect more light and reduce the heat gain from the overall environment.

Commitment to Net Zero Emissions

One of the main aspects of the wellness village is walkability, prioritizing pedestrians over vehicles similar to Pereira’s design ethos.

“We made a very conscious decision to move the parking structures to the back and look at how we would make a different investment in pedestrians,” Rogers said.

There’s also an elaborate system of underground tunnels that connect the entire campus for greater efficiency.

Rogers said she’s most proud of the north campus possessing a 77% reduction in the predicted energy use intensity, compared to the national average of about 50% reduction.

LPA is currently working towards reaching net zero emissions as part of its involvement with the **American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2030 Commitment**.

LPA is one of 1,350 firms that have committed to creating sustainable designs.

Built environments currently make up 40% of the world’s emissions, according to AIA. It wasn’t until 2019 that the **California Green Building Standards Code** applied to health-care projects, according to Rogers.

“I was astounded by the fact because we’ve had to do that in public education and that health care hadn’t had to do that until so recently,” Rogers said.

“So, this is new behavior to understand how buildings that are very energy intensive can actually be smarter.”

Other local projects LPA is working on include the expansion of **Sage Hill High School** and a \$65 million facility for **Pretend City** at the **Great Park**. ■

LPA Design Studios LPA

- **FOUNDED:** 1965
- **CEO:** Wendy Rogers
- **HQ:** Irvine
- **BUSINESS:** Architecture firm
- **EMPLOYEES:** 294 local, 500 companywide
- **WEBSITE:** lpadesignstudios.com
- **NOTABLE:** Achieved 77% reduction in predicted energy use intensity for Hoag’s northern campus

Plant-Powered Cleaning

ECOS
Plant Powered Clean

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL
2024 LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY
HONOREE

MADE IN USA
with globally sourced ingredients

ecos.com | @ecoscleans | f | @ | t | v | in

Safer, Sustainable Cleaning

For over 50 years, ECOS has made laundry detergents and cleaning products that are safer for people, pets, and the planet. Based in Cypress, ECOS makes plant-powered cleaners in the USA using thoughtfully sourced global ingredients, zero-waste manufacturing, and 100% renewable energy.

ECOS is a leader in sustainable manufacturing and the first company to achieve carbon neutrality, water neutrality, and TRUE Platinum Zero Waste certification. It is the first manufacturer in the world to receive LEED Zero certifications in energy, carbon, and waste. After reducing its environmental footprint, ECOS offsets its remaining impacts with investments in clean energy and water restoration programs at 110%, making ECOS a Climate Positive company.

Since 1967, ECOS has been committed to safer green chemistry, using ingredients from sustainable sources like coconut without added dyes, formaldehydes, phthalates, or optical brighteners. Over 120 ECOS products are U.S. EPA Safer Choice certified, which means that every ingredient is the safest in its class, the product works great, and the manufacturer is continually innovating in safer chemistry and more sustainable packaging.

With four sustainable manufacturing facilities located across the U.S., ECOS is ensuring that its cleaning products are accessible and affordable for people everywhere.



#



Online Master's
**BUSINESS
PROGRAM**
in California

■ *U.S. News & World Report, 2023*



Cal State **Fullerton**

2024 LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY



Child Creativity Lab

Santa Ana

Education

Child Creativity Lab (CCL) has inspired eco-consciousness within students, educators, and corporations for the past 12 years. Offering a wide variety of programs, CCL only uses sustainable, recycled materials collected by individuals and companies to teach STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) to students across Orange County, 86% low-income/underserved.



Clay Lacy Aviation

Costa Mesa

Aviation

Clay Lacy Aviation, a national leader in private aviation services, developed its first corporate sustainability program in 2019 to radically change the business aviation industry by transitioning to more environmental, social, and economically sustainable practices. Guided by its values of Strive for Excellence, Thoughtfully Better, and Do the Right Thing, in just five years the company has received multiple industry-first sustainable accreditations, been certified a California Green Business, joined the EPA's Green Power Program sourcing one-third of its national electricity use from renewable resources, with its Orange County location operating on 100% renewable electricity.



Eco Now

Costa Mesa

Zero Waste Shop & Refill Store

Established in 2018 as the first zero waste refill store in Orange County, Eco Now is committed to sustainability. Annually, they refill over 35,000 containers, preventing single-use plastics from ending up in landfills. Their mission extends beyond refills; they host educational workshops on composting, support sustainable fashion through quarterly clothing swaps, and promote DIY self-care with classes making products like lotion bars, candles, etc. to encourage waste reduction. They also organize regular community clean-ups across Orange County, fostering environmental stewardship. As the first business in the region to receive green business certification, they set a standard for sustainability.



ECOS

Cypress

CPG Manufacturing

For over 50 years, ECOS has made laundry detergents and cleaning products that are safer for people, pets, and the planet. Based in Cypress, ECOS makes plant-powered cleaners in the USA using thoughtfully sourced global ingredients, zero-waste manufacturing, and 100% renewable energy. ECOS is a leader in sustainable manufacturing and the first company to achieve carbon neutrality, water neutrality, and TRUE Platinum Zero Waste certification.



Endemic Environmental Services

Fullerton

Environmental Consulting and Services

Endemic Environmental Services, a DBE and SBE-certified company, proudly sponsored the Prado Basin MAPS Station, actively participating in avian survivorship data collection alongside the CEO's non-profit, the Institute for Conservation and Research (ICRE), to conclude the 3rd year of MAPS research in Riverside County. MAPS, initiated by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), addresses avian population declines by collecting vital long-term data on population and demographic parameters for land bird species across various scales. This research helps illuminate when population changes occur, facilitating sustainable conservation actions and strategies.



Exemplis

Cypress

Manufacturing

Exemplis is dedicated to driving positive change through comprehensive ESG initiatives. Their ExemCare Responsible Sourcing Strategy is at the forefront of this commitment, emphasizing environmental and social factors through rigorous supplier audits and training on best practices. They have also made substantial progress in sustainability, achieving a 17% reduction in energy consumption and a 42% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions since 2013, and recycling efforts are tracked at Exemplis facilities to further expand on recycling opportunities.



Gensler

Newport Beach

Architecture

Gensler is at the forefront of sustainable architecture, committed to achieving net zero carbon impact by 2030 through rigorous and measurable strategies. As of 2024, they've reduced embodied carbon in projects by more than 29%, exceeding AIA 2030 Commitment targets. They've embraced adaptive reuse practices, cutting material carbon impact by 33% compared to new construction, which contributes to an annual reduction of over 9.67 million metric tons of CO₂ across projects.



Goodwill Of Orange County

Santa Ana

Nonprofit Employment Social Enterprise

For a century, Goodwill of Orange County has pioneered sustainability practices, maximizing the value of every donation. As an early adopter of the circular economy model, Goodwill OC has made substantial contributions in collecting, sharing, reusing, recycling, prolonging, maintaining, and redistributing goods. Operating more than 25 stores and donation sites, Goodwill OC provides convenient locations for the community to donate used clothing, textiles, and home goods. These donations are the first step in a comprehensive process aimed at keeping goods out of landfills and promoting a sustainable future. Goodwill OC's legacy as an environmental leader and commitment to sustainability is in the foundation of the organization.



JunkGrab

Rancho Santa Margarita

Waste Management, Renewables

JunkGrab is committed to sustainability through innovative junk hauling solutions that minimize waste and promote recycling. By partnering with local third-party haulers, they ensure that unwanted items are diverted from landfills and directed towards recycling and donation centers. Their gig economy platform empowers individuals to participate in the waste reduction movement, creating flexible job opportunities while fostering a sense of community.

A Legacy of Excellence. A Commitment to the Future.



Since 1968, Clay Lacy Aviation has been setting new standards in aviation. Our latest investment at John Wayne Airport brings a state-of-the-art FBO to Orange County.

Infrastructure

14-acre FBO, hangars, passenger terminal, office space, and electric aircraft charging

Sustainability

The world's first Envision Gold Certified FBO, with solar panel provisions and Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Local Economy

A conduit for economic investment attracting business leaders and major companies

Public Safety

A new home for the Orange County Sheriff's Air Support Unit

Exceptional people providing a legendary aviation experience

CLAY LACY

2024 LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY



KBS *Newport Beach* Commercial Real Estate
 KBS, one of the nation’s largest investors in premier commercial real estate, consistently researches new ways to implement ESG initiatives at its headquarters in Newport Beach and at its buildings across the country. The company’s ESG policy has evolved using best practices of the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark assessment (GRESB), the Department of Energy’s Better Buildings Initiative and ENERGY STAR’s Guidelines for Energy Management. KBS’ believes that offering greater transparency will help stakeholders form a more educated understanding of the company’s accomplishments and goals.



Orange County Power Authority *Irvine* Community Choice Aggregator: Energy Utility
 Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), a locally governed not-for-profit, launched in 2022 to offer Orange County cities, businesses and residents a choice in energy provider and the opportunity to purchase renewable energy at competitive rates to address climate change. OCPA offers renewable energy at affordable rates, including its Basic Choice (44% renewable energy) plan that costs 3% less than SCE’s equivalent generation rate.



S3 Recycling Solutions *Springfield* Technology & Recycling
 At S3 Recycling Solutions, their commitment to sustainability is one of their four core values. In 2023, they processed over five million pounds of electronic and technology devices, preventing more than 22,581 metric tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere. By optimizing logistics processes, such as reducing truck idling time, they cut their carbon footprint by 8%. As an R2v3 and e-Steward certified recycler, they maintain a ‘zero-landfill’ policy, ensuring all end-of-life devices are responsibly recycled.



Sustain It Global *Irvine* Intellectual Property Development
 Sustain It Global has three new divisions, each designed to tackle modern challenges with innovative, sustainable solutions. Towers 4 Power- Revolutionizing solar energy with patented towers featuring vertical solar panels that capture up to twice the energy of a flat plane solar field helping to reduce the strain on the power grid. Kwik Koffee-The Great Taste Zero Waste single serve pick-me-up - hot or cold! Their cutting- edge dissolving coffee solution delivers premium coffee, anytime, anywhere, with eco-friendly technology. Truck n Cover- Innovating advanced truck bed covers designed to safeguard your gear from the elements while enhancing your camping, hunting, fishing, outdoor lifestyle.



The Lukes Network *Aliso Viejo* Capital and Fundraising, Marketing, Public Affairs
 The co-founders of The Lukes Network, LLC (www.thelukesnetwork.com), a values-driven family-, woman- and minority-owned firm, established TLN to demystify sustainability and raise capital and funding for organizations and initiatives that are rooted in the Triple Bottom Line of People, Profit, and Planet. TLN also raises awareness and increases conversion through marketing and uses earned media to authentically tell their partners’ stories. The firm works in various industries, including real estate, health care, economic development, education, and technology. Its partners are in the for-profit, nonprofit, and public sectors throughout southern California and include middle-market mature organizations and small businesses in the growth and early stages of the cycle. TLN’s work has touched on or currently involves nine of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals.



The Pet Adoption Center of Orange County *Rancho Santa Margarita* Animal Welfare
 Since the opening of The Pet Adoption Center of Orange County’s (PAC-OC) Lake Forest Adoption Center, sustainability has been a priority. Former office spaces within the facility were modified to make dog bedrooms rather than purchasing dog kennels. Donations were used to furnish the facility. Other areas of the facility were created as flexible use spaces for multiple purposes. PACOC uses washable pee pads where possible. Repurpose, reuse and recycle are paramount in operations. From the beginning, a partnership was established with local sustainability leader, BeyondGreen Biotech, to use their biodegradable dog poop bags exclusively, with the vast majority of bags being seconds from their custom manufacturing.



Toshiba America Business Solutions *Lake Forest* Manufacturing
 Toshiba America Business Solutions honors and celebrates Earth Day year-round! Recycling empty toner cartridges and reforesting trees across ecologically sensitive global areas underscore its commitment to sustainability. Last year alone, Toshiba was responsible for recycling nearly 42 tons of empty toner cartridges and 1,778 tons of e-waste since beginning its EcoSmart Toner Recycling Program in 2008. Upon collaborating with PrintReleaf in 2016, Toshiba has been responsible for reforesting 187,864 trees in the United States, Ireland, France, Tanzania, Canada, Madagascar, Dominican Republic and Malaysia.



UCI Health *Orange* Healthcare
 As Orange County’s only academic health system, UCI Health believes that caring for its patients and the community also means caring for the environment. It also means building a healthcare model that is sustainable and resilient to the growing threat of climate change. As a forever organization, UCI Health is committed to investing its resources in areas that will improve the world today, but also advance the health of the people and communities of the future.



Transforming healthcare for a green and sustainable future

As Orange County’s only academic health system, UCI Health believes that caring for its patients and the community goes hand in hand with caring for the environment. It also means building a healthcare model that is sustainable and resilient to the ever-growing threat of climate change.

Recognizing the urgency of this threat, UCI Health joined the United Nations-backed Race to Zero in 2021, pledging to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. In April 2024, the health system also took the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Sector Pledge, committing to emissions reduction and climate resilience goals.

At the heart of this commitment is an equity-centered community engagement model, through which UCI Health assessed the unique needs, impacts and challenges faced by the community when it comes to the threat of climate change.

“Our efforts to integrate sustainability into operations not only demonstrate our responsibility to the environment, but also our dedication to the health and well-being of our community”

— Chad Lefteris, President and CEO of UCI Health

This commitment to a sustainable future was at the forefront of the design of the UCI Health — Irvine medical campus, which is the nation’s first to be powered by an all-electric central utilities plant. The innovative power plant uses no combustion or natural gas and instead employs localized boilers to generate steam, reducing the large carbon footprint of traditional central boilers. Chillers recapture heat to use for hot water and space heating, while solar panels atop the medical center’s parking structures supplement the power supply.

Through its “Greening the OR” initiative, UCI Health has eliminated the use of desflurane, which accounts for up to half of all hospital greenhouse gas emissions and has more global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

The facilities team at UCI Medical Center in Orange has transitioned from noisy, polluting gas-powered vehicles and equipment to electric. The switch keeps patients, visitors and the community safer by reducing the exposure to noise, emissions and dangerous chemicals.

In addition, UCI Health supports sustainable transportation methods, which more than 21% of employees use. There is also a shuttle between the UC Irvine campus and UCI Medical Center, both of which have an abundance of electric vehicle charging stations.

UCI Health has consistently received national recognition for its industry-leading sustainability initiatives. Since 2022, Practice Greenhealth, an organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in healthcare, has honored UCI Health with the Greenhealth Emerald Award and the Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Award for its dedication to improving its environmental performance. The organization also recognized UCI Health with two Circle of Excellence awards in climate and energy, and its Greening the OR Recognition Award.

Water Savers Solutions has recognized UCI Medical Center as a Conservation Champion since 2015 for water-saving efficiency and conservation efforts. In November 2023, Health Care Without Harm awarded its silver Climate Leadership award to the medical center.

“We are proud to lead by example in the transformation of healthcare toward greener and more sustainable practices,” says Lefteris.

HOUSE BEFORE SPOUSE?

HERE'S WHY JOINT TITLE IS YOUR BEST BET

By **Paul Nelson, Esq**



Buying a house together before marriage may seem like a romantic step, but as a divorce attorney, I advise caution. Here's why taking the house in joint title is crucial—before you say, “I do.”

AVOIDING LEGAL COMPLICATIONS

Without joint ownership, determining each party's share if the relationship ends can become a contentious, costly process. If you're not on the title, you may have no claim to the house despite any promises or oral agreements made. Joint title provides clear ownership delineation, preventing disputes and protecting both parties' interests.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

Joint title ensures that both parties are equally responsible for the mortgage and other costs, offering

a safety net. It simplifies selling the property or buying out the other party's share, reducing financial turmoil during a breakup.

SIMPLIFYING LEGAL PROCESSES

Joint ownership makes refinancing, property tax assessments, and property transfers easier. It streamlines these processes, avoiding unnecessary legal complexities.

CONCLUSION

While buying a house together before marriage is significant, opt for joint title to safeguard your financial interests and simplify legal matters. Consult with a knowledgeable attorney to ensure your rights are protected.

NELSON  KIRKMAN

Family Law Attorneys & Advisors

When the stakes are highest

NelsonKirkman.com



NELSON KIRKMAN

AGGRESSIVELY RESOLVING YOUR FAMILY LAW MATTERS



Nelson Kirkman is the law firm that discerning clients turn to when their family law issues are challenging and complicated.

We fervently prepare to move towards early settlement.

Opposing counsel and judges know our history of trial success. These facts often combine to force a speedy resolution.



NELSON KIRKMAN

Family Law Attorneys & Advisors

When the stakes are highest

4100 Newport Place Drive, Suite 250 | Newport Beach, California 92660
949.760.8888 | NelsonKirkman.com



2024 LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY | SPOTLIGHTS

Clay Lacy Aviation- Clay Lacy Aviation, a national leader in private aviation services, developed its first corporate sustainability program in 2019 to radically change the business aviation industry by transitioning to more environmental, social, and economically sustainable practices. Guided by its values of Strive for Excellence, Thoughtfully Better, and Do the Right Thing, in just five years the company has received multiple industry-first sustainable accreditations, been certified a California Green Business, joined the EPA's Green Power Program sourcing one-third of its national electricity use from renewable resources, with its Orange County location operating on 100% renewable electricity.

During this time, the company has more than doubled its number of employees (145% increase) while decreasing carbon emissions per employee by 54% and grown its facilities by 51% while decreasing its PSF emissions by 26%.

In Orange County, Clay Lacy Aviation's 14-acre development at John Wayne Airport will be the world's first ISI Envision Gold Certified FBO terminal, transitioned 90% of its ground equipment to electric or renewable diesel, one of the first four locations nationally to provide Sustainable Aviation Fuel, provided over \$150,000 in scholarships to students at OCC, and is installing electric charging infrastructure for future all-electric and hybrid electric aircraft.



ECOS- For over 50 years, ECOS has made laundry detergents and cleaning products that are safer for people, pets, and the planet. Based in Cypress, ECOS makes plant-powered cleaners in the USA using thoughtfully sourced global ingredients, zero-waste manufacturing, and 100% renewable energy.

ECOS is a leader in sustainable manufacturing and the first company to achieve carbon neutrality, water neutrality, and TRUE Platinum Zero Waste certification. It is the first manufacturer in the world to receive LEED Zero certifications in energy, carbon, and waste. After reducing its environmental footprint, ECOS offsets its remaining impacts with investments in clean energy and water restoration programs at 110% of impact, making ECOS a Climate Positive company.

Since 1967, ECOS has been committed to safer green chemistry, using ingredients from sustainable sources like coconut without added dyes, formaldehydes, phthalates, or optical brighteners. Over 120 ECOS products are U.S. EPA Safer Choice certified, which means that every ingredient is the safest in its class, it works great, and the manufacturer is continually innovating.

With four sustainable manufacturing facilities located across the U.S., ECOS is creating green jobs with great wages and family-friendly benefits and ensuring that safer ECOS cleaners are affordable and accessible for people across the U.S. and around the world.



Exemplis- Exemplis is dedicated to driving positive change through comprehensive ESG initiatives. The Exemplis Care Responsible Sourcing Strategy is at the forefront of this commitment, emphasizing environmental and social factors through rigorous supplier audits and training on best practices.

They have also made substantial progress in sustainability, achieving a 17% reduction in energy consumption and a 42% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions since 2013, and recycling efforts are tracked at Exemplis facilities to further expand on recycling opportunities. All SitOnIt chairs have earned BIFMA Level 2 sustainability certification and most meet Greenguard Gold's stringent certification standards around chemical emissions limits for indoor air quality.

Exemplis' focus on stewardship further extends to its team. They have developed a DEI&B roadmap, which includes training and Employee Resource Groups. Their beWELL program supports the wellbeing of employees through regular webinars and engagement activities, and they regularly provide opportunities for employee volunteering and giving. These initiatives reflect their unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive workplace.

Overall, Exemplis' ESG initiatives demonstrate their strong dedication to sustainability, social responsibility, and continuous improvement in the workforce, products, supply chain and operations.



Orange County Power Authority- Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), a locally governed not-for-profit, launched in 2022 to offer Orange County cities, businesses and residents a choice in energy provider and the opportunity to purchase renewable energy at competitive rates to address climate change. OCPA offers renewable energy at affordable rates, including its Basic Choice (44% renewable energy) plan that costs 3% less than SCE's equivalent generation rate.

OCPA's Power Content Label demonstrates it is one of the cleanest/greenest community energy providers in California. In 2023, OCPA's power portfolio reflected 86% renewable energy from 81% carbon-free resources. Since launch, OCPA has reduced CO2 emissions by 2 billion lbs. That's equivalent to 221,373 gas-powered vehicles taken off the road, or 40.4M+ trash bags of waste recycled instead of adding them to a landfill. By comparison, the largest three investor-owned utilities in California (SCE, PG&E, SDG&E) provided only 52% renewable energy.

OCPA helps its 175,000 customers reduce energy use and save money on their bills through energy efficiency programs, including the OCPA Marketplace that offers discounts on energy efficient products. Launching soon is OCPA's Incentive Finder that identifies all available state, federal, and local rebates on environmentally friendly products sorted by zip code, household size, and income.



UCI Health- As Orange County's only academic health system, UCI Health believes that caring for its patients and the community also means caring for the environment. It also means building a healthcare model that is sustainable and resilient to the growing threat of climate change. As a forever organization, UCI Health is committed to investing its resources in areas that will improve the world today, but also advance the health of the people and communities of the future.

By actively incorporating sustainable practices into operations, UCI Health is advancing that goal and building a healthier future for Orange County and beyond. Some initiatives and successes that have advanced this goal include opening the nation's first medical campus powered by an all-electric central utilities plant, reducing operating room emissions, switching grounds equipment from gas to electric power and joining the United Nations-backed Race to Zero, pledging to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. UCI Health has also procured 100% clean electricity, reduced overall demand for electricity and natural gas and has eliminated the use of desflurane, an inhaled anesthetic gas that has more global warming potential than carbon dioxide.





Increasing Opportunities for High-Achieving Students

Titans of Empowerment



“I never saw myself doing anything else.”

- Kelsie Whitmore

CSUF ALUMNA CHANGING THE GAME

Many professional baseball players launched their careers at Cal State Fullerton. Kelsie Whitmore is no exception. The former Titan softball standout made history when she became the first woman to play in the Atlantic League, one of four Major League Baseball partner leagues. The Class of 2020 and 2022 grad was empowered by her CSUF coaches, teammates, and professional development opportunities. “Their support helped me open up about my hopes for the future.”

Kelsie and Alexis are just two examples of graduates who experienced Cal State Fullerton’s commitment to advancing student success. This empowered them to pursue their passions and career paths.

From admissions through commencement, CSUF works to empower all Titan students to reach their fullest potential.

Learn more at <https://campaign.fullerton.edu/empowerment>



“She believed in me. She looked at me, heard my life story, saw my academic history, and said, ‘You made it to CSUF... you can be a doctor.’”

- Alexis Ruiz

FUTURE PEDIATRICIAN EXCEEDS HER OWN EXPECTATIONS

Alexis Ruiz always knew she would graduate from college, but she never imagined she could attend medical school. It was the words of an assistant dean at Cal State Fullerton that ultimately changed the first-generation college student’s path for the better. “You made it to CSUF. If you can make it here, you can be a doctor.” Empowered by the support that she received, Ruiz graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Childhood Adolescence and Development. Ruiz plans to pursue her goal of becoming a doctor in pediatric oncology.





Being a Sustainable Business Starts with Clean Energy

Achieving and growing a successful business is challenging, but making that business sustainable can be easy with the help of Orange County Power Authority (OCPA).

OCPA is part of the growing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) movement in California that provides electricity users in local communities with the choice to embrace a cleaner energy future. OCPA procures renewable energy on behalf of its commercial customers, who have the choice of three competitively priced renewable energy plans. From OCPA's Basic Choice plan with 44% renewable energy that costs 3% less than Southern California Edison's equivalent generation rate, to the 100% Renewable Choice plan for just 1.5 cents more per kWh, businesses that choose OCPA are making a measurable impact on their ESG goals with one simple action.

OCPA currently serves over 175,000 business and residential customers in the cities of Buena Park, Fullerton, and Irvine with renewable energy from sources including solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal. In two short years, OCPA has reduced over 2 billion lbs. of CO2 emissions through renewable energy procurement on behalf of its customers – the equivalent of removing over 221,000 gas-powered vehicles off the road!

In 2023, OCPA purchased an aggregate portfolio of approximately 86% renewable energy, with approximately 81% coming from carbon-



Orange County Soccer Club is a 100% Renewable Energy customer of the Orange County Power Authority, leading the way among sports facilities in reducing carbon emissions.

free resources. Recognized by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as the #2 CCA in the country for green power sales, and well-exceeding mandatory state requirements for the purchase of renewable energy, OCPA is one of the cleanest community choice energy providers in California.

Since OCPA and other community energy providers focus on renewable energy, they attract green technology firms, energy startups, and other industries that are aligned with corporate sustainability goals to their cities. These businesses bring with them not only innovation but also high-paying jobs, tax revenues, and local investment.

California's 25 CCAs have supported 30,000 construction jobs through clean energy power purchase agreements and saved customers \$760 million compared to investor-owned utilities.

What's more, leaders in the extensive CCA network will be gathering right here in Orange County for their annual conference in April 2025, bringing with them close to 800 visitors contributing tourism and county investment.

Sustainability is not the finish line, it is a way of being. More clean energy purchased by OCPA means a healthier and higher quality of life, and a stronger and cleaner economy. That just makes good business sense.

A new way to power your business

Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) offers businesses flexible, affordable clean energy options with competitive rates. By partnering with OCPA, businesses can reduce their carbon footprint, drive economic growth, and lead in the green economy.



If you are a business based in Buena Park, Fullerton, or Irvine and want to know more about how OCPA can help you become a net-zero carbon emission company, call us at [949-767-8715](tel:949-767-8715) or info@ocpower.org.

