

DATE: July 10, 2025
CONTACT: Shasta College President's Office
RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Shasta College Turns “Green” into Gold
with Composting and Clean Energy Efforts**

REDDING, CA – At Shasta College, “green” isn’t just a school color—it’s a commitment. From campus-wide composting to sun-powered classrooms, the college is digging deep into sustainability with new efforts to divert hundreds of cubic yards of waste from landfills and return it to the soil.

Building on its investment in two large solar arrays—providing nearly 80% of electricity needs for the main Redding campus—Shasta College is now composting both pre-consumer food waste and agricultural waste. The effort, launched in January 2025, diverts an estimated **635 cubic yards** (more than **128,000 gallons**) of material annually.

“As a teaching college, we lead our students by the example we set,” said Dr. Frank Nigro, Shasta College Superintendent/President. “Showing students how to contribute in a meaningful way to sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices is a role we embrace. Ultimately, taking the college towards a path of lower energy consumption and mitigating our carbon footprint is both fiscally responsible and will help teach our students, to be innovative in how they can positively impact the communities they serve.”

Food scraps from the campus kitchen are collected weekly—up to **60 gallons** during the academic year—and composted in affectionately nicknamed “worm bins.” The process yields nearly **2,000 gallons** of food waste compost annually.

Shasta College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Meanwhile, the college's Agriculture and Horticulture departments produce substantial organic waste from livestock barns and plant clippings. With over **625 cubic yards** of agricultural waste collected annually, composting this material plays a vital role in soil health on the Shasta College Farm, where students study sustainable ag practices firsthand.

Twice a year, all compost generated is spread on the farm's fields, turning waste into nourishment—and learning opportunities for students.

Whether through solar power, composting, or hands-on education, Shasta College continues to turn green values into real-world impact.

#

Shasta College serves students across Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties in rural far-northern California as one of the 116 campuses in the California Community College system. As the only public post-secondary institution in this 10,132 square mile area, Shasta College offers a wide range of programs including certificates, associate degrees, transfer options, and a fully online Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management. With campuses in Redding, Tehama, Weaverville, and Burney, as well as numerous online courses, Shasta College provides accessible, high-quality education in far-northern California. The college has been recognized with numerous grants for its innovative programs that contribute to the success of students and the broader community.

In November 2016, the passage of Measure H, a \$139 million general obligation bond, enabled significant advancements at Shasta College. These include the construction of an ultra-modern state-of-the-art Computer Information Systems (CIS) instructional center, a Public Safety Training Center for Fire Academy and interagency training, a new Veterans Support and Success Center, completion of the Industrial Technology/Machining center, an Athletic Field House, a new Student Services building at the Tehama Campus, and the Community Leadership Center (CLC) in downtown Redding. Measure H also funded an additional solar array on the Redding campus, which, together with an existing solar array, will meet 80% of the college's energy needs. Additionally, major technology infrastructure upgrades have been implemented, and the college is remodeling its Library, set to reopen in Spring 2025.

In 2025, Shasta College will proudly celebrate 75 years of service to the community. The college is especially proud of its innovative and community partnerships with industry leaders such as SHIELD, McConnell Foundation, CalFire, Sierra Pacific Industries, and many of our healthcare and dentist offices and providers. With a 337-acre main campus that includes a working farm, cutting-edge Early Childhood Education instructional and childcare center, heavy equipment and logging operations program, Shasta College continues to be a leader in higher education. It offers extensive student support services, including counseling, tutoring, financial aid, and veterans' services. Shasta College remains committed to fostering student success and community enrichment through its comprehensive educational offerings and robust community partnerships.

#

Shasta College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.