

Fact Sheet: UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative

The University of California has responded to the growing environmental crisis of climate change with direct action aimed at ending its reliance on fossil fuels. UC, long a national leader in sustainability, has pledged to emit net-zero greenhouse gases from its buildings and vehicle fleet by 2025, something no other major university system has done.

OPERATIONS

- Solar energy plays an increasing role in UC's power supply. UC campuses now produce over 36 megawatts of on-site solar energy (enough to power more than 10,000 homes for a year). The university recently purchased 80 megawatts from two solar farms in Fresno County — the largest solar purchase by any American university.
- UC's total greenhouse gas emissions have dropped to below 2000 levels despite tremendous campus growth, and three campuses are already below 1990 levels.
- In 2016, the university spent \$28 million less on energy than at the peak in 2006.
- Since 2004, UC has avoided >\$200M in energy costs thanks to energy efficiency projects.
- Each UC campus has developed a blueprint for achieving climate neutrality by 2025, addressing their unique challenges.

EDUCATION

- The entire UC community is involved in the carbon neutrality effort. Our campuses are living laboratories for new ideas, technological advances and cultural change.
- Climate change and sustainability concepts are being introduced into courses in more than 160 different academic areas. By including these issues in courses for non-science majors, UC expects to reach more than 11,000 new students every year.
- Every year we fund CNI student fellowships. Fellows have worked on a range of year-long projects addressing topics such as climate action plans, resiliency, carbon offsets, building efficiency data systems and student engagement.

GLOBAL REACH

- UC's Chief Investment Officer has committed \$1 billion over five years for investments oriented toward climate solutions. UC is also the sole university member of the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, led by Bill Gates. This influential group of global investors is committed to backing new technologies that can solve the planet's urgent energy and climate challenges.

- A group of 50 UC climate experts issued a report in 2015 called “Bending the Curve” outlining 10 scalable solutions for staving off catastrophic climate change. The report has been widely disseminated, including with global leaders at COP-21, the Paris climate summit.
- California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law in Sept. 2016 new restrictions on emissions from short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane, hydrofluorocarbons and black carbon. The new law was inspired by decades of research by UC San Diego climate and atmospheric scientist Veerabhadran “Ram” Ramanathan. If California’s example is adopted globally, it could cut the expected rate of global warming in half by 2050.