



Green Building Policy and Clean Energy Standard

On July 17, 2003, the UC Board of Regents adopted a systemwide policy for the design of “Green Buildings” and a standard for the use of “Clean Energy”.

The Green Building Policy and Clean Energy Standard calls for:

- The University to adopt principles of energy efficiency and sustainability in its capital projects to the fullest extent possible, consistent with budgetary constraints and regulatory and programmatic requirements.
- The University to minimize its impact on the environment and reduce non-renewable energy use by purchasing green power from the electrical grid, promoting energy efficiency, and creating local renewable power sources.
- The development and implementation of this policy for all proposed and existing University facilities. The Regents will be provided with an annual report that examines impacts of the policy on energy utilization and building design and on operating costs.

When the Board of Regents approved the Green Building Policy and Clean Energy Standard, it authorized the University of California Office of the President to finalize implementation guidelines for the campuses. The following are draft recommendations on how UC could implement the standards outlined in the Regents policy:

Green Building Design Recommendation Highlights

- UC will create an internal certification process that is based on the industry standard known as LEED™, which evaluates the environmental sustainability of buildings. UC will design and build all new buildings, except for laboratory and acute care facilities, to a minimum standard equivalent to LEED’s “Certified” rating. Campuses can ask for an exception to this policy if needed. Laboratories will be guided by an equivalent standard to LEED.
- Further study will be conducted before a similar policy for new acute-care facilities can be adopted.
- Campuses will strive to achieve a higher standard of LEED-equivalent certification, that of “Silver” or higher, whenever possible.
- All new buildings projects, other than acute-care facilities, will outperform the required provisions of the California Energy Code’s “Title 24” efficiency standard by at least 20 percent.
- Significant renovations of existing buildings will also apply sustainability principles.

Clean Energy Standard Recommendation Highlights

- The University will reduce consumption of non-renewable energy by implementing energy efficiency projects, incorporating local renewable power measures for existing and new facilities and purchasing “green” or renewable power from the electrical grid.
- The University will strive to purchase grid-provided electricity from renewable sources that will be similar to the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standard, which sets a goal of procuring 20 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2017.

- The University will develop a plan for placing on-site renewable power projects in existing and new facilities, with a goal of providing up to 10 megawatts of local renewable power by 2014.
- The University will develop a strategic plan for implementing energy efficiency projects for existing buildings and infrastructure to reduce systemwide non-renewable energy consumption, with an initial goal of reducing energy consumption by 10 percent or more by 2014.

What Comes Next

The UC Office of the President will finalize the “draft recommendations” for implementation. A report will be provided on an annual basis to update The Regents on the policy’s progress.