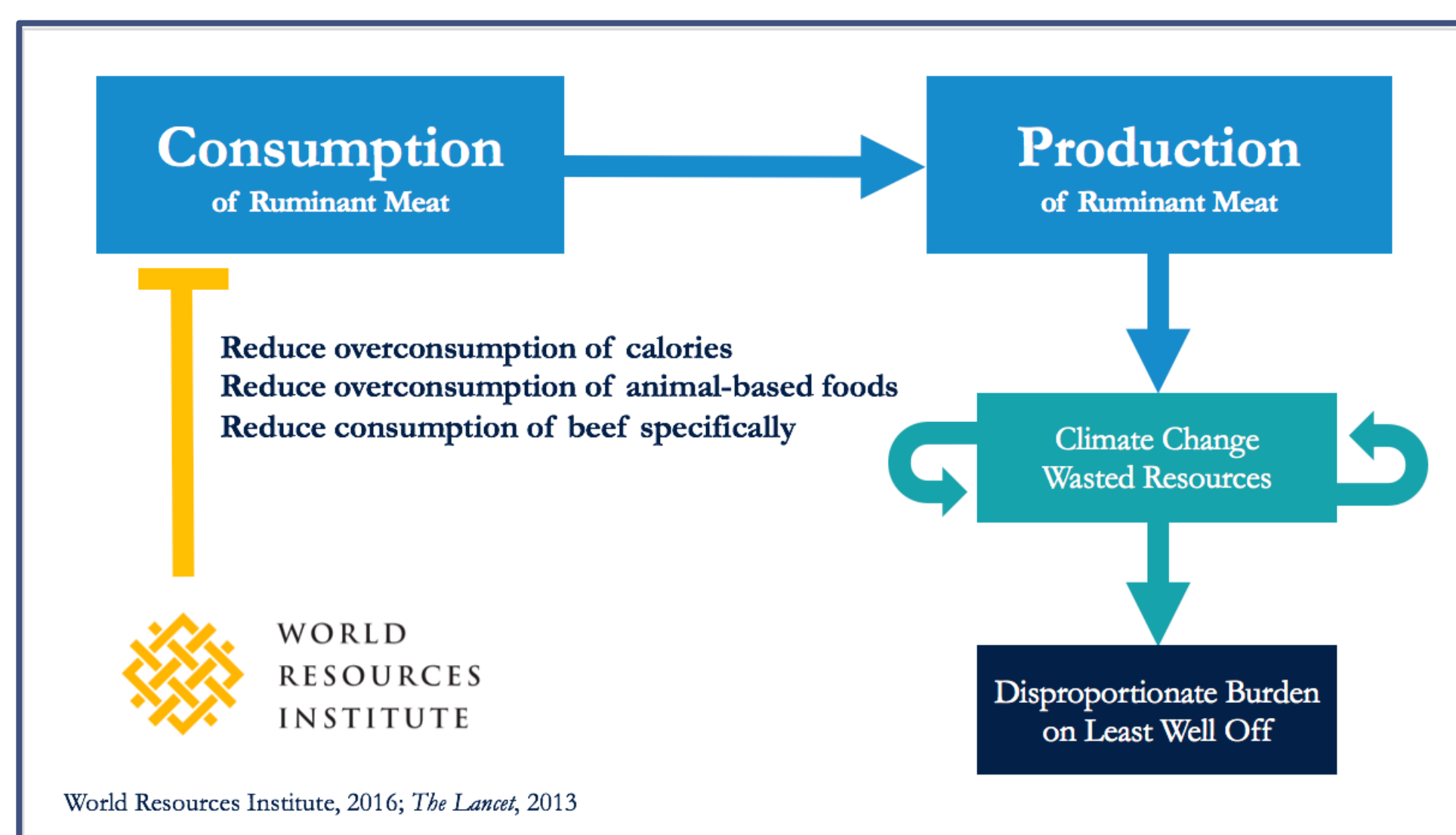


## GLOBAL CONTEXT

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates a 70% food gap between the crop calories currently available and those needed to nourish a population of 10 billion in 2050.
- To address this issue, a 2016 report by the World Resources Institute, *Shifting Diets for a Sustainable Food Future*, puts forth three recommendations:
  - **Reduce the overconsumption of calories**
  - **Reduce protein consumption by reducing the consumption of animal-based foods**
  - **Reduce the consumption of beef specifically**
- In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 and the UC Global Food Initiative (GFI) aim of feeding a population of 8 billion by 2025, closing the global food gap will necessitate local activism that advances the timely uptake of the above recommendations.



## LOCAL ACTIVISM

- Our team of four first-year medical students including Carolyn Rennels '20 and Gabriela Weigel '20 participated in a winter 2017 course on climate change as part of the inaugural Bridges Curriculum at the UCSF School of Medicine.
- Learning of the unsustainable impact of ruminant meat consumption on our resources and climate, our team went on to launch "Beef-Free UC"—a call for UCSF departments to not (a) purchase beef or lamb with departmental funds or (b) serve beef or lamb at departmental events.
- After a class-wide discussion, one-third of then-first-year medical students joined the campaign.
- Our team members were subsequently selected as 2017-18 UC GFI and Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) Fellows.

## CAMPAIGN LETTER

*Dear Department Chair,*

*As medical students at the University of California, San Francisco, we write to ask if your department will be a leader in sustainability and commit to going beef- and lamb-free.*

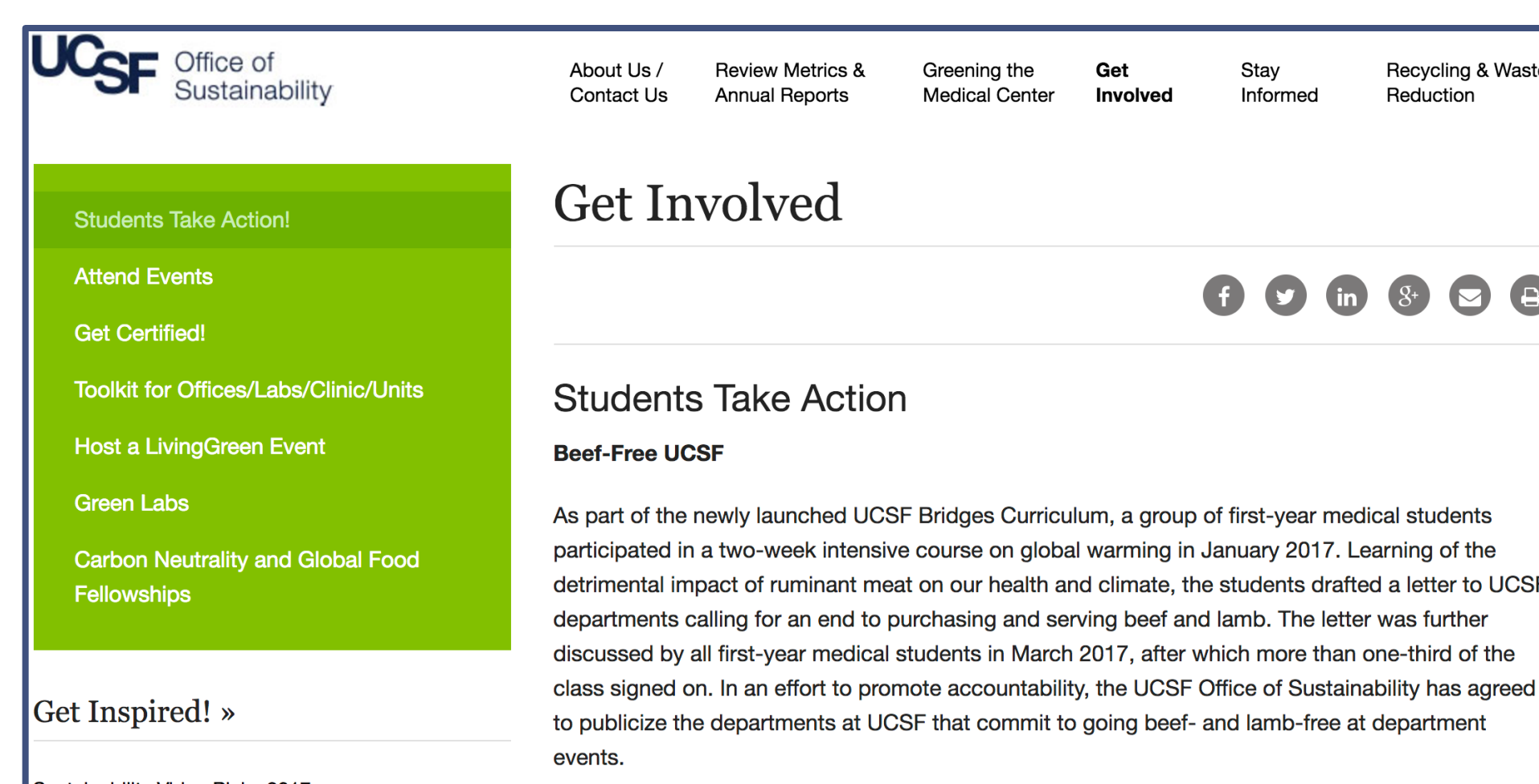
*The commitment is that your department (a) will not purchase beef or lamb with departmental funds and (b) will not serve beef or lamb at departmental events.*

*Ruminant meat including beef and lamb has staggering effects on global health. Beyond increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, and cancer, ruminant meat exhausts more than five times the land resources and emits more than five times the greenhouse gases as do other livestock like pork and poultry, per gram of edible protein produced ([World Resources Institute, 2016](#)). As such, reducing our consumption of ruminant meat is a critical step toward achieving a just and sustainable future.*

*This commitment also aligns with the goals of the [UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative](#) and the [UC Global Food Initiative](#) launched by President Napolitano in 2013 and 2014, respectively.*

*The UC Office of the President (UCOP) is publishing on its website the names of departments across the UC system that make the above commitment.*

*Please let us know if your department will be among them. We are happy to answer any questions and discuss this effort further.*



## SUCCESSSES

- We published our campaign letter on the webpage of the UCSF Office of Sustainability.
- We presented our work to the following bodies:
  - **UCSF Ob-Gyn & Reproductive Sciences**
  - **UCSF Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability**
  - **UC Global Climate Leadership Council**
- We emailed our campaign letter to all departments in the UCSF School of Medicine.
- The following departments have signed on:
  - **Anthropology, History & Social Medicine**
  - **Epidemiology & Biostatistics**
  - **Ob-Gyn & Reproductive Sciences**
  - **Ophthalmology**
  - **Urology**
- Nearly 100 GFI and CNI Fellows have also joined the campaign.
- We joined with student leaders at UCB (Anna Whitney) and UCD (Andrew Garcia).

## NEXT STEPS

- Present our campaign to other interested departments in the School of Medicine.
- Identify peers at UCSF in pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, and physical therapy to bring the campaign to their respective departments.
- Continue working with UCOP to identify UC campus sustainability leaders who are in support of our campaign.
- Work with student leaders and other GFI and CNI Fellows to email our campaign letter to all departments across the UC system.
- Evaluate any decrease in catered purchases of beef and lamb at the university level following departmental commitments to our campaign.

## GFI PROGRAMMING

- We launched the inaugural GFI speaker series at UCSF with talks on food labeling and sustainable meat purchasing.
- We galvanized systemwide student support for our campaign through the UC GFI Leadership Training Retreat at Asilomar Conference Grounds in October 2017.
- We refined our campaign message through GFI communication workshops at the UCSD School of Global Policy & Strategy in April 2018.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- <http://ucop.edu/carbon-neutrality-initiative>
- <http://www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative>