



Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP) kicks off initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from UC Berkeley campus activities.

BERKELEY, CA (May 5, 2006) – UC Berkeley has launched the Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP), an initiative that will develop a long-term strategy to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the UC Berkeley campus. With support from the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS) and the Berkeley Institute of the Environment (BIE), CalCAP brings together representatives from the entire campus community to develop a feasibility study to identify greenhouse gas mitigation, research, and funding opportunities. Upon its completion next year, CalCAP expects the feasibility study to outline how the university can commit to greenhouse gas reduction targets significantly more aggressive than existing State of California targets.

At last week’s Sustainability Summit, UC Berkeley Chancellor Birgeneau credited the student-initiated effort that has mobilized constituents from across the campus to take action on climate change and make CalCAP a reality. Over the past year, a group of UC Berkeley students, with guiding support from Vice Provost Catherine P. Koshland and Professor Daniel M. Kammen, assembled a steering committee to provide direction on developing a campus climate action strategy. The Chancellor announced his support for CalCAP and the steering committee’s preliminary recommendations, which include adopting the State’s greenhouse gas reduction targets as a minimum target and joining the California Climate Action Registry. The steering committee included faculty members, facilities staff, deans, campus administrators, student leaders, and representatives from the City of Berkeley, the University of California Office of the President, and KyotoUSA, a Berkeley-based nonprofit. “This diverse and committed group recognized both the grave challenges posed by climate change, and the unprecedented opportunity for UC Berkeley to take a prominent role in addressing those challenges,” said Brooke Owyang, a graduating senior in the College of Natural Resources. “They have the vision that’s needed to lead the way.”

An important part of CalCAP is the development of an innovative research program that will demonstrate UC Berkeley’s leadership in community-based action on climate change. The campus is proud to be home to many of the world’s leading climate change experts, and also a student and staff community that is deeply dedicated to environmental protection. “The academic opportunities in the area of climate change are endless,” said Dan Kammen, BIE co-director. “The government and public are increasingly calling on UC Berkeley for help in addressing the problems associated with climate change, and CalCAP provides a focal point around which we can serve that public interest.”

CalCAP will give students an opportunity to work closely with those faculty and staff to design and implement practical greenhouse gas mitigation projects throughout campus. “A great deal of progress could be made by simply raising awareness of energy consumption, said Sharima Rasanayagam, BIE academic coordinator. “We want to see what savings could be made using UC Berkeley ingenuity.”

The initiative will also support the nationwide movement for clean campuses. “Every educational institution should make it a priority to involve its students in developing a plan to reduce their impact on the climate,” said Scott Zimmermann, a law student at Boalt Hall and graduate student in the Energy and Resources Group. “As students of all ages begin to address climate change at the local level, they will develop the capability to incorporate sustainability into their future endeavors. We are here to encourage and support student leaders across the nation to initiate programs like this on their campuses.”

For more information, please contact Sharima Rasanayagam (sharima@berkeley.edu), Brooke Owyang (brooke@berkeley.edu), or Scott Zimmermann (scottz@berkeley.edu). Details will also be forthcoming on <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu>.

About Berkeley Institute of the Environment:

<http://bie.berkeley.edu>

The University of California, Berkeley has long been a leading environmental research center, with some 100 individual undergraduate and graduate programs with foci in the environment, in addition to dozens of top research centers. The *Berkeley Institute of the Environment* (BIE), established in 2005, brings together and helps enhance these diverse campus programs and research units in new and innovative ways. The Institute's goals are to:

- Link environmental researchers and students across the Berkeley campus with external partners and with each other
- Foster multi-disciplinary research collaboration aimed at solving critical environmental problems
- Train a new generation of environmental researchers, citizens and professionals.

Through its initiatives the BIE seeks to confirm Berkeley as the premier institution in environmental theory, understanding, actions and solutions.

About Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability:

<http://sustainability.berkeley.edu>

The purpose of the CACS is to promote environmental management and sustainable development at UC Berkeley. The Committee is charged with advising the Chancellor on matters pertaining to the environment and sustainability as it directly relates to the University of California, Berkeley. The mission of the Committee shall be composed of three central goals:

- To engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about reaching environmental sustainability
- To integrate environmental sustainability with existing campus programs in education, research, operations, and public service
- To instill a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design

About the Energy and Resources Group (ERG) and the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL)

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/erg>

<http://rael.berkeley.edu>

The Energy and Resources Group is an interdisciplinary research and teaching unit at the University of California, Berkeley that engages in local, national, and global issues of sustainability, energy, biodiversity, climate change, water resources, and other issues of resource use. The Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, founded by ERG Professor and BIE co-Director Dan Kammen, conducts scientific, engineering and policy research, and public policy engagement, on issues of clean energy systems. ERG and RAEL are both key affiliates of the BIE.