



Bright Green News

The Campus Sustainability Newsletter

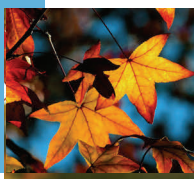
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The Office Update



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Have an idea for an article contact [Kira Stoll](#), BGN editor.

Contact us:
sustainability@berkeley.edu

Check out our website:
<http://sustainability.berkeley.edu>

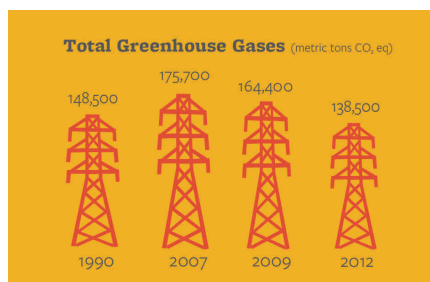
Meet our Team!

Two Years Early, Berkeley Meets Carbon Reduction Target

Excerpts from Press Release by **Gretchen Kell**, Public Affairs

Two years ahead of schedule, a pledge made by UC Berkeley to reduce its carbon footprint to 1990 levels has been met.

The achievement also puts UC Berkeley eight years ahead of meeting the University of California Sustainable Practices Policy guidelines and of observing the state's Global Solutions Warming Act of 2006. Both call for the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.



Berkeley sustainability leaders said greenhouse-gas emissions were reduced by:

- ◆ **Investing in energy efficiency and sustainable transportation practices.** Since 2006, the campus has saved 20 million kWh of electricity through building retrofits and reduced fuel use by more than 1 million gallons by increasing the number of bicycle, pedestrian and mass-transit commuters.
- ◆ **Buying greener power.** The campus is using electricity that includes more solar and wind energy and less coal through purchases from Pacific Gas & Electric, a utility that is required by state law to provide power that by 2020 will include 33 percent renewable energy.
- ◆ **Improving data and methods.** UC Berkeley has improved the accuracy of its emissions inventory profile by using the best data available about campus energy use and by staying current with the best reporting methods.



Chancellor **Nicholas Dirks** praised the Cal Climate Action Partnership ([CalCAP](#)), a coalition of faculty, campus leaders, staff and students that formed in 2006 to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions on campus, as well as its steering committee and the campus's [Office of Sustainability](#), for guiding this accomplishment.

"Climate change is an existential global threat," Dirks added, "and one that the UC Berkeley community is continually addressing through campus practices, teaching, research and public service."

He also vowed to set a new target in spring 2014 for further reduction of campus carbon emissions by 2020.

Kira Stoll, UC Berkeley's sustainability manager, said

the campus could not have set such an aspirational goal without its own faculty experts in the fields of climate science, policy, transportation, design and engineering. Undergraduate and graduate students' creative initiatives and research also contribute to campus carbon-cutting solutions, she said.

"Being at the world's top public research university is one thing, but doing research as a student to help it reduce its carbon footprint is really an honor. Berkeley is becoming a model for carbon reductions, and not just in higher education," said Autumn Petros Good, a Ph.D. student in the UC Berkeley Energy and Resources Group.

Read more of this press release that highlights how the campus and its dedicated faculty, staff and students have reduced the carbon footprint by greening building through hundreds of energy efficiency projects, engaging the community in energy saving actions, and incentivizing commute and fleet programs that reduce fuel use.



New LED lighting at Cesar Chávez Student Center. (Photo by Michael Drummond)

“24 Hours of Reality: The Cost of Carbon” Screening Event



Student Harjit Singh pledges to champion sustainability and inspire policy.

Entertainment, activism, and education blended together on Tuesday, Oct. 22, as a crowd of passionate Berkeley students and community members viewed and discussed a screening of **24 Hours of Reality: The Cost of Carbon**.

The event began with an introduction about [Building Sustainability at Cal](#) by class coordinators Jolie Law and Jhonie Martinez. Building Sustainability at Cal, founded in 2007, has grown into a student-led DeCal course offered every semester and several internship programs.

The introduction was followed by a presentation about the **Campus Climate Program** by Sustainability Manager Kira Stoll. The Campus Climate Program is an effort to track, monitor, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at UC Berkeley. The Office of Sustainability and Building Sustainability at Cal collaborated to host the event, in response to a need for more discussion about climate issues.

The screening was of a one hour segment of the Climate Reality Project's [24 Hours of Reality: The Cost of Carbon](#) about South America and the Caribbean, titled “Water is our Lifeblood”. It showed how **carbon usage is hurting humans and the environment** by causing coral bleaching in Belize, flooding and mountain slides in Brazil, and melting of glaciers in Bolivia, and only profiting gas companies. “The video was really well put together. It incorporated current talks, facts, and visuals. I really liked how they incorporated people from other countries into the talks, because it is really important to see that what one person does effects everyone,” said Berkeley student Bianca Juarros.

The film touched on a personal experience for Natalie Rossi, a biologist and volunteer in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. “I am from Brazil, and I was once in the middle of a flood, stuck in a hotel in the middle of the street. I couldn’t go to college, and I couldn’t go home. I see the climate changing – we are too young to understand [how much], but our grandparents can,” said Rossi.

After the screening, viewers discussed their opinions and ideas spurred by the film. Topics ranged from infrastructure investments to climate change mitigation versus adaptation to the affordability of green technology. A common theme was the necessity to increase **conversation about climate change** and to find comprehensive **local solutions**. Participants shared

ways to get more involved, through **Climate Corps Bay Area** and student groups such as **Fossil Free Cal** and **Berkeley Water Group**.

The event also featured a photo booth where participants could take a picture with a sustainability related pledge. Pledges ranged in intensity, from “**I pledge to sell my car and not buy a new one**” and “**I pledge to never eat meat**” to “**I pledge to cut down my shower time by 5 minutes**” and “**I pledge to turn off my power strip at night**”, but all were important actions that will have significant environmental benefits. Pledgers were entered into a raffle to win eco-friendly prizes including “Grow your own Mushroom” kits and energy efficient lighting.



Responses to the film screening, discussion, and pledging were very positive. “It was inspiring to see **global collaboration** on climate change initiatives,” said Amy Coach, a county employee helping to develop the Alameda County Climate Action Plan. “I pledged to educate children on the importance of the environment. Children in schools in Alameda make up 4% of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions, but they are 100% of our future.”

“I think it was a positive forum for a discussion of climate change on our campus,” said Jhonie Martinez. “It’s all about things we don’t see, things we do every day, like taking 40 minute showers or getting in the car when we can walk.”

Interested in further discussion? Email bsac.rsvp@gmail.com to participate in the follow-up event.

Article by **Lindsey Agnew**,
Photo by **Michael Drummond**

Berkeley – A Green Building Super Hero



Green Building SUPER HEROES

UC Berkeley was recently recognized alongside the UC system by the US Green Building Council as a [Green Building Super Hero](#).

UC Berkeley was specifically awarded for its sustainable campus design, construction and operations. **At Berkeley, all major building projects are designed and built to LEED**

standards. Also, new building and major renovation projects are required to beat the energy code by at least 20%.

To date, the campus has completed 11 **LEED-certified green building** projects that represent almost 7 percent of the campus’s total square footage. More projects are expected to be certified this year.



Learn more about LEED certified campus buildings [here](#).

Food for Thought: Campus Food Day a Success!

On October 24, 2013, students gathered on Upper Sproul to participate in Food Day. Food Day is a national event celebrating healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. Its goal is to **encourage healthy and sustainable diets** across America, **support organic and local farmers**, **educate the public** about worker and animal rights, and **reduce nationwide hunger**. At Cal, this celebration brought together a variety of student groups, each with a unique perspective on Food Day. Participants were encouraged to take the UC Eats Real Food Day Pledge, by which students pledged to consciously eat sustainable and healthy food for at least a day, or even better, as often as possible.

Food and environment-related clubs lined Upper Sproul, educating students and members of the

Berkeley community about their clubs and Food Day. The **UC Jazz Ensemble** and

DeCadence, a student a capella group, set the mood for food education with live performances during the event. In addition to student groups, vendors including Purity Organic Fruit Drinks, BreadSrsly Bakery, Ubuntu Coffee and more supplied participants with free samples and information about sustainable and locally grown food.

Molly James, an organic farmer representing Frog Hollow Farm in Brentwood California, applauded the event: "It is great to be here at

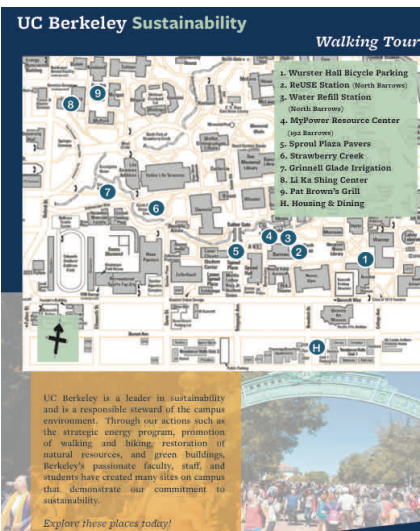


Food Day. Events like this are **critical to shifting food culture** and spreading food literacy is key to creating a

more sustainable food system." Club members representing **Berkeley Student Food Collective** and the **Student Dietetic Association** agreed with James, reaffirming the importance in students knowing where their food comes from, and what it means to them.

Congratulations and kudos to the **Cal Dining Sustainability Interns** for organizing the third annual Food Day at Cal, and to **Cal Dining** for sponsoring the fantastic event!

Article by **Ben Rushakoff**



Updated Campus Sustainability Walking Tour

Over the past three years UC Berkeley's sustainability growth has led to a measurable amount of new innovations, offering new sites to explore while touring the campus.

The updated **campus sustainability walking tour** includes a wider variety of locations to visit - offering more to learn about and experience.

The tour includes new areas such as the **reUse** and **water refill stations** in **Barrows**, the **LEED certified Li Ka Shing building** and **Pat Brown's Grill**, and the **myPower Resource**

Center. These exciting features and sites continue to exemplify Berkeley as a leader in sustainability and a responsible steward of the campus environment.

The tour still includes sites such as **Sproul Plaza Pavers**, **Strawberry Creek**, and **Grinnell Glade**. These sites decrease run-off pollution and increase the return of water to the ground.

So go out, take a walk, and experience great examples of sustainability brought to you by campus staff, faculty and students.

Article by **Kendra Wrightson**

Upcoming Funding Opportunities!



The UC Berkeley **Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS)** is providing funding for faculty, staff, and student groups to have paid student interns to assist with their projects. Awards are for the 2013-2014 school year, and are **up to \$2,000** per project. Projects which emphasize innovation and support goals identified by the 2009 Campus Sustainability Plan and the Cal Climate Action Partnership will be given priority. Proposals are due **November 22, 2013** by 5pm. For application information, please click [here](#).

The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley

The **Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)** provides grants of **\$500 to \$2,000** to support short-term projects to reduce UC Berkeley's environmental impact. Grants are open to students, faculty, and staff. The application deadline for fall mini-grants is **November 18, 2013**. TGIF aims to award \$20,000 in fall mini-grants. The program will continue in the spring for larger projects.

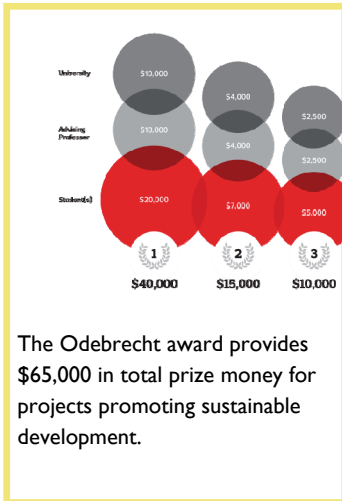
To view sample projects and more application information, please click [here](#).

Article by **Lindsey Agnew**

There is still time left to apply for funding for sustainability-related projects!



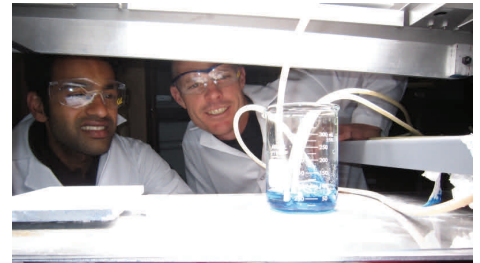
Berkeley Students Win Odebrecht Award



The **Odebrecht Award for Sustainable Development** recognizes and supports undergraduate students who are searching for and creating feasible, applicable, innovative technologies to promote sustainable development.

Berkeley graduate students Vivek Rao (Mechanical Engineering), Henry Kagey (Civil Systems, Civil and Environmental Engineering) and David Campbell (Architecture) were recognized.

Representing UC Berkeley, three graduate students advised by Professor Slav Hermanowicz received the 2013 second place prize of \$15,000 for their **Solar Photocatalytic Grey-water Recycling in Building Facades** project.



This project has been incorporated into Odebrecht strategies for sustainable development worldwide.

Groups of students no larger than three members are invited to submit projects that **push sustainability boundaries** and demonstrate the **holistic inclusion of sustainable principles**. Projects are

evaluated on five criteria: content, reasoning and depth, clarity and presentation, applicability, and technical contribution. Three winning groups are selected and collectively receive \$65,000 in prizes. A group of students from University of Cincinnati won first place in 2013 with their project: Using Trap Grease As the Raw Material for Biodiesel Feedstock Production.

To learn more about the Odebrecht Award and Odebrecht's progress in sustainable development, click [here](#). Entries for the 2014 Odebrecht Award may be submitted beginning **January 1, 2014** and until **May 31, 2014**.

Article by **Ben Rushakoff**



Reuse, recycle, refill: writing the future with green pens

While conducting a "waste audit" on select campus trash bins, sustainability-minded Berkeley students discovered not just to-be-expected coffee-cup lids but a surprising assortment of oddball plastic items, from plastic bags to pipette trays and contact-lens cases.

"I had a whole team of four trying to figure out what each plastic was," recalls fourth-year student Kristen Klein, coordinator of the Zero Waste Research Center, a project funded by students via a grant from The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF). "We separated the plastics out, Nos. 1 through 7," and wrote a "huge report" on the campus's plastics footprint, she says.

Read more of [Cathy Cockrell's Article](#) and learn about new plastic waste reducing measures.

Sustainable Careers

Whether you are just starting to explore career opportunities in the sustainability field, or if you are already job-hunting for after college, check out this useful [Job Resource List](#). This listing conveniently catalogs various organizations offering **career resources** and **job postings**.

This valuable resource was made possible by: U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium, and the Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability.

Article by **Amy Craik**



Bike Share Program Coming to Campus

The ASUC Transportation Department is in the midst of creating a **campus-wide bicycle sharing program**, and is seeking input on how the system should be structured. A bike share program would allow individuals to rent bikes from a campus location on a short term basis, allowing them to receive the benefits of bicycling without having the concerns of bike ownership.



To help the ASUC design the bike share program to best fit the needs of the Berkeley community, fill out the ASUC Transportation Department's short survey. Participants will have the chance to win a **\$50 gift card** to the Cal Student Store.

Share what features you would like to see offered in the bike share program by taking the **ASUC's survey** [here](#).

Article by **Lindsey Agnew**