



Bright Green News

The Campus Sustainability Newsletter

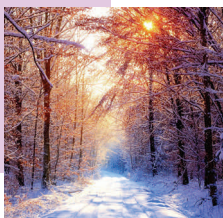
VOLUME 46

December 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2013 Campus Sustainability Report Released
- TGIF Spring Grants Available
- Curtailment Energy Saving Tips
- UC to be Carbon Neutral from Building Energy Use by 2025
- UC Berkeley Designated a Silver Bike Friendly University
- Berkeley Students Tackle Climate Change with the City of Richmond
- New Zero Waste Bins
- Warren Hall Goes Green
- Rachel Balmy—Graduating Senior's Perspectives on Sustainability
- Mock Climate Negotiations

The Office Update



Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join our [list serve](#).

Become a fan of our [Facebook Page!](#)

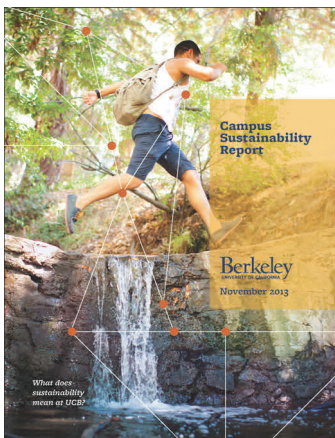
Have an idea for an article contact [Kira Stoll](#), BGN editor.

Contact us:
sustainability@berkeley.edu

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

2013 Campus Sustainability Report Released

The presence of significant global environmental, economic, and social challenges, from inequality to climate change, from food security to water shortages, compel us to help create a world that supports generations to come. Berkeley works to find solutions to these pressing issues and to make the world a better place. We set goals, take action, and share our work.



In the recently released [2013 Campus Sustainability Report](#), Berkeley tallies our progress toward our Campus Sustainability Goals. We have seen significant success this year, especially on greenhouse gas reductions, and have met many of our goals and are on track to achieve others. We have also added two new areas, Economic and Social Sustainability, as part of the process to prepare the report 'in accordance' with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines (Core). The Report also has information on a range of other projects and successes:

Six years ago the campus set out to reduce its carbon footprint by one-third – to bring Berkeley's

greenhouse gas emissions from campus operations back to the levels they were in 1990. Our most recent emissions inventory

reveals that Berkeley has met this target, two years ahead of schedule.

Per resident water use in residence halls has declined by over 35% in the last ten years. While new halls have been built to address af-

fordability concerns, efforts to install more water-efficient technologies and to encourage residents to use less water have also contributed to this dramatic and unexpected decline.

Staff and environmental design students teamed up to design a trash can that excelled in all categories: waterproof, vermin-resistant,

safer, and durable. With the first installation of the new bins, our campus moved another step forward in achieving zero waste by

2020. The total diversion rate for campus rose to 62%, while the diversion rate when construction waste is excluded dropped to 42%. The amount of solid waste

sent to landfills by the campus went down by 4% last year, and has dropped by 28% since 1995.

After a successful pilot in Foothill Dining Commons last semester, Cal Dining has expanded Chews to Reuse, their reusable to-go container program, to all dining halls and to include reusable silverware and cups. In addition, campus vendors have increased sustainable food purchases by four percentage points to 28%. The campus also monitors the percentage of spend on environmentally-preferable products by product category, which range from 38% for office supplies to 100% for computers.

Fuel use from fleet and commute is below 1990 levels by over 50%, and

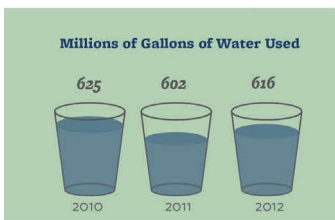
the percentage of green vehicles in the fleet has risen to almost 23%, almost to the goal of having 25% by 2014. Parking & Transportation has installed two Bicycle



Fix-It stations that are free and available for the entire campus community.

In 2012-13, 26% of undergraduates took at least one course focused on sustainability. The campus offers over 500 sustainability courses, of which 240 are directly focused on the subject. There are at least 200 faculty engaged in sustainability research in almost half of the departments on campus.

[See the Report.](#)



Report's Primary Author:
Lisa McNeilly
Photo: Michael Drummond

Apply now for TGIF Spring Grants

The [TGIF spring grant program](#) is geared to larger and longer-timeline campus sustainability projects.

Applying is a Two-Stage process and occurs during the spring semester. **Applicants must first submit an abstract form** by one of two possible deadlines. The TGIF committee reviews abstracts and then invites qualified projects to submit a full application. Not all abstract submissions will be invited to full application.

You are encouraged get advice from the TGIF coordinator – grant workshops are offered and well as individualized feedback.

Spring grant requests must be greater than \$2,000.

2014 Spring Grant Deadlines

Stage 1: Open to all Berkeley students, staff, and faculty

Early Abstract Submission:

Friday, January 31, 2014 by 5pm

Final Abstract Submission:

Friday, February 21, 2014 by 5pm

Stage 2: By Invitation Only, selected from the abstract submissions



The Art Studio goes green by using recycled clay and glaze in their pots. *Photo by Kira Stoll.*



The Berkeley Student Food Collective offers sustainable grocery shopping. *Photo by Nik Crain and Rachel Balmy.*

Curtailment Checklist

Ask the last person to leave to help complete this checklist.

Turn Off:

- Monitors
- Printers
- Copy Machines
- Coffee Pots
- Microwaves
- Toaster Ovens
- Power Strips
- Any other Appliances

- Make Sure All Windows are Closed
- Close All Hand-Operated Radiator Valves



Switch Off Lights:

- Office
- Hallway
- Conference Room
- Bathroom
- Task Lamps

Lighting accounts for up to 35% of energy use in offices.

If we all take a few simple actions...
We can save even more energy over winter break!

For more information:
myPower.berkeley.edu

UC to be Carbon Neutral from Building Energy Use by 2025

Last month - right after UC Berkeley announced it had reduced its greenhouse gas emissions below levels they were 25 years ago – UC President Napolitano announced the UC system will be carbon neutral from building energy use by 2025.

As Berkeley moves forward with planning and setting our next emissions reduction target, this ambitious and exciting goal of neutrality will guide our strategies of energy efficiency and energy supply. While transportation is not included in the president's commitment, Berkeley will continue to find strategic ways to reduce fuel use and the related climate impacts.

More information will be unfolding in 2014 – so stay tuned.

[Read More](#) about the Initiative.



“

Now, this is a steep mountain, and we have to figure out how to reach the top. But we are the University of California. And there is no reason that UC can't lead the world in this quest, as it has in so many others... The good news is that research universities like UC are in the business of breaking through barriers. That's why we call them breakthroughs. It is the essence of what research universities do.

”

UC President Janet Napolitano, announcing that UC will be carbon neutral by 2025

UC Berkeley Designated a Silver Bike Friendly University

Don't let the hilly terrain of UC Berkeley fool you- we were just designated as a silver bike friendly university!



The Bicycle Friendly UniversitySM (BFUSM) is a program that evaluates and recognizes universities that promote a more "bikeable" campus for students, staff and visitors. The bike friendly evalu-

ation is based on "the 5 E's": engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning. These elements holistically determine the ranking a university receives.



Obtaining BFU status provides technical assistance and roadmaps to help build an even more successful biking culture on campus. Promoting

a biking culture here at UC Berkeley is essential for environmental, economic and health benefits for students and the institution. BFU feels that UC Berkeley provides the opportunity for cyclists of all skill levels, to ride safely and comfortably. Congratulations UC Berkeley on the honorable distinction, lets continue to move forward and take home the gold next evaluation!

Article by **Amy Craik**

Richmond Students Tackle Climate Change



This mural in downtown Richmond depicts a green playground.

Students in associate professor Jason Coburn's "Environmental Policy and Regulation" class are putting their classroom knowledge to use in developing the City of Richmond's Climate Action Plan. Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay turned to the Berkeley campus for assistance in drafting a comprehensive Climate Action Plan that assesses Richmond's vulnerabilities, and comes up with proactive measures that the City can implement to both mitigate and adapt to climate change impact on Richmond's geography and health.

Coburn describes one of the goals of the program as: "We're teaching our students to be in

the world, not just of it." As such, students are going into the Richmond community, collecting citizen input, and assessing current transportation, health patterns, natural resource usage and management, and potential future conservation measures. Students realize that all of these qualities are important to promoting climate justice.

In late December, students will present their work to Richmond city officials for discussion and fine-tuning before Richmond finalizes the Plan in 2014.

Learn more about the class project [here](#).

Article by **Ben Rushakoff**

EPA P3: People, Prosperity, and the Planet Competition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications from higher education students and faculty proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society.



Winners of the first phase of the competition can receive up to a \$15,000 grant to develop their idea. Designs will then compete for the P3: People, Prosperity, and the Planet Award at the National Sustainable Design Expo in April 2014 and up to a

\$75,000 grant for real world application. **Applications will be accepted through December 17.**

Learn more about this national student design competition for sustainability [here](#).

New Zero Waste Bins

Thirteen custom-designed Max-R recycling bins are now stationed around campus. However, "recycling bins" is a misnomer. These innovative Max-R bins have increased signage as well as color and shape-coded features that allow students, staff, and visitors to easily sort their disposables into four categories: compost, mixed paper, landfill, and bottles & cans. The bins are made from recycled milk cartons and are funded

by PepsiCo as part of a 10-year contract signed in 2010 to contribute to campus sustainability projects, and ultimately to work toward Zero Waste in 2020. More bins will be making their way to campus in the near future, including custom-designed Cal Dining bins.

Learn more about the innovative bins [here](#).

Article by **Ben Rushakoff**



Warren Hall Goes Green

Warren Hall is a high-tech building that is home to several units of the campus's Information Services and Technology unit, a central facility for campus IT and computing as well as the Controller's Office. The building provides a stable and secure home for much of the campus's data infrastructure- and it is now going green!

The hall now participates in the zero waste initiative by reducing the outgoing waste from the offices. Some highlights of the project include: placing recycling and composting bins at key locations throughout the office, finding more opportunities to recycle paper products, promoting the use of biodegradable or reusable utensils, and encouraging staff to use water refill stations.

After having the opportunity to correspond with Shelby Song, a compliance coordinator who has been involved in this project, it is apparent that the transformation has been a team effort from the entire Warren Hall community. Song expresses that "[Delphine M. Regalia] has been the force behind it all. Without Delphine's vision and unyielding support, the composting and recycling program would never have happened at Warren. And, of course[...] it's a team effort." It all started when Song met with Regalia, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Controller at UC Berkeley, to "look into having recycling and composting bins installed at Warren Hall, as there were few recycling, and no composting, facilities in



the building, and most of the compostables and recyclables were simply tossed way in the trash." After series of meetings and obstacles, the Warren Hall recycling and composting project has successfully become established. The community of Warren Hall is one of the first departments to actively participate in the zero waste initiative and is influential towards meeting campus sustainability goals.

Article by **Amy Craik**

Mock UNFCCC Negotiations at Cal

UC Berkeley students participated in a mock United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation to debate issues such as greenhouse gas emissions

reductions, funding for climate adaptation, climate refugee protocol, and sustainable forestry via the REDD+ mechanism.

The two-day debate was the keystone

project of Professor Kate O'Neill's course ESPM 169: International Environmental Politics. Students were assigned a country to research their environmental policy throughout the semester and represent their interests during the negotiations. Results from the debate included binding emissions reduction targets, and the creation of a climate adaptation funding mechanism.

The mock negotiations timing coincided with the actual UNFCCC's 19th Conference of the Parties. Outcomes included progress on REDD+, no emissions reduction targets, a potential loss and damages mechanism, and a civil society walkout. See more on this class from the campus [News Center](#).

Article by **Lindsey Agnew**
Photo by **Steve Hockensmith**



A Senior's Perspectives on Sustainability

Office of Sustainability communications associate **Rachel Balmy** will be graduating this semester. Rachel began working with the Office during her sophomore year as a part of the Talking Louder about Sustainability campaign, and has been a pioneer in finding new ways for Berkeley to become more sustainable ever since.

"Working with Rachel is such a breeze - she is positive, smart, detail and team oriented, and is crazy for the environment - everything we need to make the world a more sustainable place," said Sustainability Manager Kira Stoll. "I want to particularly recognize Rachel for seamlessly producing the Office newsletter with creativity and efficiency month in and out, for being our lead campus sustainability tour guide and showcasing for our visitors the amazing environmental features and projects at Berkeley, and for conceiving of and implementing "visualizing sustainability" - working with her teammate Nik Crain to create Berkeley's photo gallery of [sustainability images](#)."

In recent times, Rachel has helped ensure that the Office tradition of student outreach continues and grows, by recruiting and training the new team of communications associates.

Working at the Office has helped Rachel develop her understanding of sustainability.

"Witnessing student and faculty environmental action, in all its forms, reminded me anyone has the power to promote change," said Rachel. "Sustainability is not just physical. For example, although installing low-flow plumbing and energy-efficient electricity are sustainable actions, sustainability can also translate into the generation of sustainable behavior through education and awareness. The more students that are educated and exposed to sustainability and environmental issues, the more successes that will follow."

After graduation, Rachel plans to pursue a career related to sustainability. "In the long run, I hope to work in the field of water management, and work to promote an equitable and sustainable global distribution of clean water. For the meantime, I want to take some time off of school to travel to new places and experience different forms of learning," said Rachel. "I want to thank the entire Office team for being such amazing role models and helping me engage in the sustainability community. I cannot wait to see what is in store for the future of the Office!"

Article by **Lindsey Agnew**

