

Carbon Neutrality Student Fellowship: UCOP Fellowships for 2017-2018

Applications Due: 5/31/2017

Eligibility: All currently enrolled UC undergraduate or graduate students

Location: UC Office of the President in Oakland

Duration: September/October 2017 – June/July 2018

Compensation: \$13/hour (higher rate for grad students, based on experience)

Program Description

The [UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative](#) grows out of a commitment by President Napolitano and the 10 UC campus chancellors to work collectively to intensify and expand the efforts of the world's premier public research university to emit net zero greenhouse gases from its buildings and vehicle fleet by 2025.

To ensure that students are engaged in this critical effort, President Napolitano created the President's Carbon Neutrality Student Fellowship Program. In addition to funding student fellowships at each campus, the UC Office of the President also received funding to hire 2-4 fellows to work on projects at UCOP and in support of system-wide Carbon Neutrality Initiative projects.

The selected student fellows will be expected to attend an orientation with fellows from throughout the UC system June 26th at UC Santa Barbara (travel expenses will be reimbursed). Fellows will also be invited to attend one of two leadership training retreats. Fellows are also expected to attend a symposium prior to the 2018 California Higher Education Sustainability Conference at the end of their fellowship.

All UCOP fellows will work within the UCOP Energy and Sustainability Department and will report to staff there based on their project.

Three UCOP fellowship projects are described below. Applicants should specify which project(s) they are interested in and how they are qualified for that specific position.

Position #1 – CNI and Waste Reduction

The UC has a goal of reaching zero waste by 2020 and carbon neutrality by 2025. UC's waste goal is defined with a minimum compliance of 90-95% diversion from landfill. Organic waste makes up approximately 40 – 50% of the waste generated at UC campuses (excluding construction and demolition waste), and poses a significant management challenge in progressing towards both carbon neutrality and zero waste diversion goals.

The diversion of organic waste can reduce carbon by displacing fossil fuels with biogas and/or sequestering carbon through soil remediation as demonstrated by the [Marin Carbon Project](#).

The CNI/Waste Reduction fellow would support the CNI program by working with the UCOP Associate Director of Sustainability to identify the highest and best use of UCs organic waste streams to support

CNI. In addition, the fellow would develop strategies to better link the CNI project with the UC Zero Waste goals. This would include (but would not be limited to):

- Researching opportunities for displacing fossil fuels with biogas from partnerships with waste water treatment plants and/or food waste bio-digesters (this will include documenting work already done within the UCOP office for an audience of waste and recycling managers)
- Researching sequestration opportunities for UC generated compost with partner land holders or Agriculture and Natural Resources Land
- Generating ideas and strategies linking zero waste and CNI efforts
- Supporting the development and implementation of leading edge waste reduction efforts across the UC system

The end product of the Fellowship will be a guideline document for Waste and Recycling Managers for integrating CNI and zero waste goals.

Position #2 – CNI and Utility Data Aggregation

The UC has a goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2025. Since the announcement of this goal, UC has undertaken many actions to reduce greenhouse gases. As a whole and individually, the UC system and its campuses are nationally recognized as being leaders in this effort. In areas such as wholesale electricity, energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas and biogas procurement, and sustainable self-sufficiency, UC has demonstrated its commitment and dedication towards the carbon neutrality goal.

The CNI/Utility Data Aggregation fellow would support the CNI program by working with the UCOP Program Manager in charge of the purchased utility database to improve tracking systemwide and campus results through the aggregation of utility data. In addition, the fellow would develop strategies to improve data collection and data quality.

- Reviewing campus utility database activity, identifying and researching data gaps. This is done by working with campus leads and learning the organization of the campus utility hierarchy.
- Generating ideas and strategies to improve data quality.
- Develop Excel based reports for campus use directly linked to the utility database.

The end product of the Fellowship will be a guidance document for utility database processors and users.

Position #3 – Student Engagement Fellow

The Student Engagement Fellow will support the work of the Carbon Neutrality Initiative's Student Engagement Working Group in the following ways:

1. Develop resources to help all campuses adopt identified best practices in sustainability co-curricular programs.

2. Perform analysis in support of the working group's objectives.
3. Develop collaboration and communication strategies for sharing information amongst engagement fellows.
4. Develop educational materials to be used by other engagement fellows to explain the CNI.

Learning objectives:

1. Understand the most effective and efficient ways to engage and educate all UC students about climate change and sustainability.
2. Acquire communications and organizational skills.

Candidate must have demonstrated strong writing and other communications skills and should have experience organizing and leading sustainability programs and projects with other students.

Selection Criteria

The ideal candidates will

- Be a student currently enrolled at a UC and located in the Bay Area (Note: UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz are eligible to apply if they are available to work in Oakland one day a week. However, the fellowship unfortunately does not include funding for commuting to Oakland)
- Have an understanding of climate change issues and mitigation strategies
- Be a self-starter who needs minimal guidance; leadership experience is a plus
- Is comfortable working as part of a team
- Is comfortable reaching out to people and has some communications experience
- Can commit to working at least 5 hours/week.
- Can commit to working through the end of the spring 2018 semester or quarter.

Please email Janika.mcfely@ucop.edu if you are interested in applying.