

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

## Fact Sheet: UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative

The Carbon Neutrality Initiative builds on UC's pioneering work on climate research and furthers its leadership in sustainable business practices. UC is improving its energy efficiency, developing new sources of renewable energy and enacting a range of related strategies to cut carbon emissions.

By 2025, UC is committed to emitting net zero greenhouse gases, becoming the first major university to achieve carbon neutrality.

President Janet Napolitano formed a Global Climate Leadership Council to advise UC on achieving the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality while also providing guidance for furthering its other longstanding sustainability goals. The council will also integrate the Carbon Neutrality Initiative and other sustainability goals into UC's teaching, research, and public service mission.

The council is comprised of scientists, administrators, students and experts from inside and outside UC and will engage the entire university community in its effort.

To achieve carbon neutrality, UC will need to take bold steps to expand its energy efficiency efforts and dramatically increase its use of energy from renewable sources. UC is moving forward on several different fronts:

- **Wholesale electricity:** The large-scale procurement of energy from renewable sources is key to reducing use of fossil fuels — a major source of carbon emissions. To that end, UC has entered an agreement for 80 megawatts of solar power beginning in 2017. A new shared-services center will manage the procurement of wholesale electricity from renewable sources such as UC's solar power purchase. Currently, five campuses are eligible for direct access to wholesale electricity. The center will explore ways to extend eligibility to other campuses.
- **Campus energy efficiency and renewable energy:** UC seeks to expand on pioneering energy efficiency programs that kept 112,000 metric tons of carbon from being emitted from 2006-2013. UC will continue a partnership with the state's investor owned utilities that has funded approximately \$300 million in energy efficiency projects. UC will explore ways to create even more energy efficiency programs by securing more funding from state sources such as cap and trade revenues. While the potential for onsite production of renewable energy is limited, UC has installed, or is in the process of developing and installing, 40 megawatts of renewable energy generation on campus sites.
- **Natural gas and biogas procurement:** UC will explore the large-scale use of renewable natural gas, or biogas, to replace conventional natural gas, which currently produces 73 percent of UC's power. These initiatives will include direct development of projects and purchases from outside vendors.
- **Management of environmental attributes:** UC will proactively manage its carbon allowances and offsets in compliance with California's cap and trade program. UC will work to maximize funding it receives from this program to support greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.