

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

CICS



FACT SHEET

A CRITICAL CHALLENGE

Climate change poses a threat to the health, economic well-being and quality of life of Californians and the nation. California policy makers are taking steps to address these challenges, including adopting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In support of those measures, the Californian Public Utilities Commission requested that the University of California prepare a proposal to create a California Institute for Climate Solutions (CICS).

The University of California eagerly embraced the request and submitted a proposal, while also working with other public and private California academic and research institutions including the California state university and community college systems, to refine a vision for an institute that can support the state's climate change mitigation efforts and carbon emission reduction goals.

The hub of the proposed CICS would be hosted by UC, but the majority of the institute's work would be conducted at partner institutions throughout the state, with projects selected through an open, competitive peer-review process.

Responding to the Call

CICS will play a significant role in addressing the enormous challenge of climate change by serving as a venue for coordination and deployment of research, education and training to advance statewide climate mitigation goals. In addition, the institute will develop a roadmap to identify those areas of research, technological innovation, policy and education likely to have the greatest impact on mitigating climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.



Key Benefits for California and the Nation

The CICS will be an exciting, energetic hub for promoting and education research results. CICS will be an important tool for state policymakers, private sector professionals as well as all Californians. CICS initiatives could include workforce development programs aimed at technical professionals, enhancement of graduate training and development of new programs and curricula in certain fields. Initiatives for teacher training and K-12 curricular development related to energy, environment and conservation will be developed as well.

Specifically, CICS will focus on:

- **Strategic Planning.** The CICS will develop a "Sustainable Energy Roadmap" (in coordination with other agencies and institutions involved in similar activities) to guide state decision makers and others in strategic planning and investment in those areas of research, technological innovation, policy and education likely to have the greatest impact on mitigating climate change. This may help avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Mission-oriented Research.** Potential CICS research areas include (but are not limited to) Buildings and Homes (Energy Efficiency and Conservation); Energy Supply, Sources and Technologies; Policy and Management; Climate Forecasts and Analysis; Quality of Life (Health & Environment); and, Measurement, Informatics and Analytical Infrastructure.
- **Education and Workforce Training.** Education initiatives supported by CICS will focus on training the next generation of researchers and professionals in areas critical to sustainability.
- **Dissemination/Transfer of Knowledge.** The CICS will integrate the knowledge gained from CICS supported programs and disseminate it widely to policy makers, private sector professionals and to the public in a form useful for guiding policy decisions, investments, business and product development, and citizen actions.

Working Closely with Partners

CICS will be a partnership between academia and the public and private sectors to benefit utility ratepayers and Californians by working to find practical technological and policy solutions to the problems posed by climate change.

The institute will engage a broad range of expertise by using a competitive merit-based peer review process to identify and support research and education/training projects to be conducted at academic and research institutions and laboratories throughout California, in addition to hosting conferences and workshops, developing newsletters and reports, and by facilitating internships and other programs to encourage communication and a cross-fertilization of ideas.

Next Step

The proposal, with a proposed budget of \$600 million over 10 years, is currently before the CPUC, which is conducting a formal proceeding to decide whether to authorize CICS to be established and funded via a ratepayer surcharge.

Caltech, Stanford, the University of California, the University of Southern California, CSU and California Community Colleges submitted a joint letter of support for the establishment of the CICS.

The CPUC is expected to hold a public workshop in early December and a decision could be made in early 2008.