

UC Progress in Green Building, Clean Energy and Sustainable Transportation Efforts

The University of California is continuing to achieve ongoing success in implementing its green energy and sustainable transportation policy. The three-year-old policy establishes a set of ambitious goals to advance sustainability practices at UC campuses, ranging from purchases of renewable energy to the proposed expansion of the policy into the areas of purchasing, waste reduction, sustainable operations and renovation projects.

As a result of its progressive efforts, UC has established itself as a leader in sustainable practices that include the efforts of staff, students and faculty members.

UC's accomplishments in green building and clean energy initiatives in 2006 include:

- Seven of UC's 10 campuses received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Best Workplaces for Commuters" designation.
- UC saved nearly \$5 million in annual operating costs as a result of its energy efficiency projects. UC and California State University recently completed a \$3 million program funded by the California Energy Commission to install thirteen pilot projects to demonstrate new energy efficiency technologies. Several technologies proved so successful that campuses are making plans to install them on multiple buildings.
- The Santa Barbara and Merced campuses were chosen by the U.S. Green Building Council to participate in a pilot program for leading green building organizations in the country.
- UC Santa Cruz now purchases 100 percent renewable energy. The EPA's College and University Green Power Partners, which promotes purchases of renewable resources, has named UC Santa Cruz its sixth-largest green power purchaser in the country.
- Alliance to Save Energy, a nonprofit organization, is managing student energy conservation programs on the Berkeley, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Irvine, Santa Cruz and Merced campuses. The Green Campus program provides opportunities for students to get directly involved in saving energy on campuses.

In the last three years, UC has received several grants for energy efficiency projects. It has also taken advantage of rebates from utility companies and has negotiated a special partnership program with the state's utilities. This partnership has provided nearly \$11 million in energy project incentives, with an additional \$10 million expected over the next two years.

Background

UC's systemwide green building and clean energy policy was adopted by the Regents in July 2003 to minimize the university's environmental impacts. In June 2004, UC issued its Green Building Design and Clean Energy Standards policy, requiring an annual progress report on the university's progress toward implementing the policy, the Regents extended the policy to include sustainable transportation efforts.

For more information on UC sustainability and clean energy efforts:
www.ucop.edu/facil/sustain