

University of California
Robert C. Dynes



The American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment compliments the University of California's (UC) Policy on Sustainable Practices (UC Policy) and associated initiatives that place UC in a leadership role in addressing the challenge of global warming. Early drafts of the ACUPCC inspired and guided the Climate Protection Practices section of the UC Policy. In anticipation of the national commitment that university presidents would be signing, representatives from all ten UC campuses agreed that the UC Policy should contain similar requirements as the ACUPCC. Thus the UC Policy and the ACUPCC commit UC campuses to developing both a climate action plan to meet State emission reduction targets and a strategy to achieve an ultimate, visionary goal of climate neutrality as soon as possible after interim targets are achieved.

UC has taken significant steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as part of its green building, clean energy, and sustainable transportation policy that preceded the expanded UC Policy on sustainable practices. To continue this progress, and in line with State climate policy goals, the University of California currently sets greenhouse gas emission targets of returning to 2000 emission levels by 2014 and to 1990 levels by 2020. The UC Berkeley campus has completed a climate action plan, more than one year before it was required to do so by the UC Policy, and more than two years before it was required to do so by the ACUPCC. The Cal Climate Action Partnership report, issued by Chancellor Robert Birgeneau in April 2007, commits the Berkeley campus to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2014, a full six years before the UC Policy or State law requires.

The Berkeley plan serves as a model for the other nine UC campuses, and also serves as a model for the more than 400 colleges and universities that are signatories of the ACUPCC.

The following Web sites contain further information on the University of California's efforts:

UC Policy on Sustainable Practices:

http://www.ucop.edu/facil/sustain/documents/policy_sustain_prac.pdf

UC Berkeley's Climate Action Plan:

<http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/calcap/docs/CalCAP%20Report%20FINAL%202007.pdf>

UC Sustainability Web site: <http://www.ucop.edu/facil/sustain/>

Cal Climate Action Partnership Web site: <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/calcap/>