



Changing the Campus Climate: The Continuation Plan for a Climate
Neutral UC Santa Barbara
*A Proposal for the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
Group Project Cycle 2006-2007*

PROJECT SPONSORS¹

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PROPOSED PROJECT

Problem Statement

Leadership regarding responses to climate change is underdeveloped in the United States. At the international level, different ideals have led to a lack of consensus and requisite action. The Kyoto Protocol requires minimal greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions resulting in insufficient effects on global climate change. China, India and other important developing countries are currently outside the regime.

Project Objectives

The 2005-2006 Campus Climate Neutral Group Project (CCN 1) will produce a policy matrix containing weighted recommendations for UCSB to reduce GHG emissions together with guidelines for moving the campus toward the achievement of climate neutrality. Of the roughly fifteen recommendations, a few “primary” policies are ready for implementation; other “secondary” policies will need further analysis and development. Without strong leadership from a follow-up group, the efforts and progress of CCN 1 may remain mere recommendations.

The principal goals of CCN 2 are to play a prominent role in implementing the primary recommendations of CCN 1, completing a more in-depth cost-benefit study of the group’s secondary recommendations, and investigating options not covered in the 2005-2006 study. In addition, CCN 2 will explore the feasibility of conducting a similar survey for the city of Santa Barbara, increasing campus energy awareness, and working with sustainability projects already underway at UCSB.

To achieve these goals, CCN 2 will engage in systematic analyses of:

- The policy recommendations together with both the UCSB specific and the generic institutional findings of CCN 1;
- Opportunities, options and technologies for emission reductions and offsets (and projections for future opportunities, options, and technologies);
- Economic opportunities and costs of proposed actions (and how they are expected to change over time);
- Political and administrative processes and/or obstacles to implementation of the plan (and how they are expected to change over time); and
- Prospects for extending the reach of initiatives taken at UCSB to the entire UC system.

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Project Significance

With an enrollment of nearly 20,000 students and 1,000 faculty members, the climate impact at UC Santa Barbara is significant. In 2004 alone, the campus used an estimated 60,000,000 kWh of electricity and 1,900,000 therms of natural gas.² UCSB has made important commitments to purchasing renewable energy and has in place progressive transportation policies that will have an indirect effect on reducing GHG emissions. However the university does not have a plan to prepare a comprehensive GHG inventory beyond the California Climate Action Registry requirements nor to aggressively reduce its GHG emissions.

The Bren School is widely recognized within California, and increasingly throughout the US and the world, for its environmental leadership and excellence in environmental education and green building design. The Bren School, with its resources and expertise, provides an ideal starting point for CCN's work at UCSB and within the UC system at large.

This project is an important step that will complement other initiatives CCN is planning for UCSB and for the UC system. These initiatives include the launch of a student-based CCN campaign and a UC Santa Barbara Climate Neutral Task Force to include faculty, staff and students who will work to implement the plan put forward by the group project and other Campus Climate Neutral initiatives. The project will also serve as an important tool for use by CCN at other UC's and university campuses.

Background Information

Colleges and universities have important roles to play in addressing climate change. In the aggregate, American universities are large emitters of greenhouse gases. They also play a lead role in educating the next generation of leaders and have a large influence on the U.S. economy through construction, purchasing and endowment investments.⁵ Although an increasing number of campuses have "greening" programs, few deal directly with GHG emissions. Many campuses also fail to take advantage of the opportunity to include students in the "greening" process.

The theory behind CCN is that college campuses should provide the moral leadership for this movement and much of the technological leadership as well. CCN's goals are to train the next generation of climate leaders while immediately engaging the faculties and administrations to develop aggressive plans to move campuses towards climate neutrality. An additional goal is to spur technological innovations pertinent to climate mitigation and sequestration.

Against this background, NAELS is involved in a campaign to develop bottom-up climate leadership through its Campus Climate Neutral (CCN) program. The CCN campaign is envisioned as a call to action for aggressive measures to respond to the current generation's great crisis— climate change.

² Dewey, Jim. UCSB Energy: FY 2004 Annual Report. http://energy.ucsb.edu/presentations/AnnualReport_2004.pdf

Stakeholders

Stakeholders in this project include the UC community, professional and student groups working on campus greening projects, professional groups working on climate solutions, and groups specifically working on climate neutrality.

Possible Approach and Available Data

Because CCN 1 is in the process of completing its final analysis, strict approaches cannot be outlined at this time. That said, the following are general priorities:

- Work with campus departments to implement the primary recommendations of CCN 1;
- Conduct thorough cost-effectiveness analyses and implementation feasibility of other CCN 1 report recommendations;
- Organize a group comprised of CCN 2 members and students outside of Bren interested in climate neutrality at UCSB;
- Recommend methods for reducing and/or offsetting emissions, including setting goals and a timeline for reductions, advise construction of new buildings;
- Recommend steps to further administrative cooperation and support.

Deliverables

The primary deliverable will be a report evaluating the success of efforts to implement CCN 1's primary recommendations and the status of the secondary policy recommendations by CCN 1. The group project report should include the data, analyses, assumptions and scenarios that were utilized in designing the plan, including mechanisms for continuous reassessment and improvements. The report also will contain a refined template and source of data for other universities involved with the CCN plan and municipalities interested in reducing GHG emissions.

References

Because CCN 2 will be a continuation and expansion of the work of CCN 1, the primary resource will be the CCN 1 report. In addition, the project will be supported by the NAELS network of other universities implementing similar initiatives, access to numerous resources within the UC system and on the UCSB campus, including:

- Marc Fisher, UCSB Associate Vice Chancellor, Campus Design and Facilities and his team
- Perrin Pellegrin, UCSB Sustainability Manager
- UC Santa Barbara Campus Planning Office
- The Energy and Facilities Offices and the Environmental Affairs Board

CLIENT

The National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS) will be the client.

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL NEEDS AND SUPPORT

NAELS will provide \$500 support for anticipated project costs which include: printing costs for the poster, cost of printing for the final report, and miscellaneous administrative and supply costs.

Additional Reference

2005-2006 CCN Group Project Proposal: <http://fiesta.bren.ucsb.edu/%7Eccn/>