



UC President Dynes is joined at the LEED ceremony by Andrea Traber, president of the U.S. Green Building Council, Northern California Chapter, and UC Student Regent Ben Allen.

**President Robert C. Dynes
Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Silver Plaque Ceremony
UC Headquarters, Oakland
August 28, 2007**

Good morning, this is a big day for the University of California and for our regional partners who drove us toward sustainability. I will crow a little bit about the University of California because it's my job and we have a lot to crow about.

As you well know, the University of California is committed to sustainability and to making our environment a place where our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren can live and thrive. All the way back in the days when it was originally observed that the globe was starting to heat up, the whole concept of global warming came out of the University of California. We have been working hard in our research and education to try to teach the world what is happening to this globe, that we cannot be irresponsible in terms of energy and waste and water, because ultimately, we'll choke in our own juices.

In the course of that, we taught [sustainability] to students, and a remarkable thing happened. The students bought it, understood it, and were sufficiently energized by it that they came back to us and said, "Well, if you believe what you teach, what aren't you practicing what you teach?" That happened several years ago. Students came back and said, "You've got us committed, now we want you committed." And we went through a full change of heart and belief.

With this in mind, I issued a policy on green building design in 2004. In January 2006, we expanded that policy to include sustainable transportation practices and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. And in March this year, I signed a comprehensive policy of sustainable practices. All the while, we have committed that our buildings, as you've heard from Andrea [Traber, president of the U.S. Green Building Council, Northern California Chapter], would meet new LEED standards that are leading us, and we are hopefully leading the rest of the world, in these kinds of practices.

Under this policy that we've committed to, UC will lead by example in five different areas:

- Climate protection
- Purchasing
- Waste reduction
- Building renovation
- Operations and maintenance.

And I have to say, Ben [Allen, UC Student Regent], this was really driven originally by the students, and we got religion finally. The administration, the Regents, we all got religion, and we believe thoroughly in what we're doing. We've asked all 10 campuses, as Andrea said, to certify one green building each to the LEED program by next summer, and many of them will be well beyond that by then. And we pledged originally that this Oakland headquarters would be one of the first green buildings.

Today, we celebrate that successful endeavor, and we thank those that helped us in partnership to do this. PG&E and other utilities provided incentive funding to help us do this. Alameda County Waste Management Authority awarded the grant that launched the project originally. The California Energy Commission helped demonstrate new energy-efficient technology. And our own UC researchers, of course, contributed to that and will continue to contribute to that, so our practices now are aligned with what we preach and where our research is going, and that wasn't the case before, but we are there now. And East Bay Municipal Utility District assisted us in our management of water.

But as I say, the real heroes that should be celebrated today are our students. Those of you who teach have learned that when you teach bright students, you learn as much from them as you teach them. And this is a good example of where we have learned a lot from students. These students will be the next leaders of California, and I hope and pray that we have put in place sustainable practices so that when they lead California, they will be able to transmit what we have done to their children and their grandchildren so that we will have helped start a whole new way of thinking about how we sustain this wonderful city, this wonderful state, and this wonderful planet of ours.

Thanks for the silver plaque. It will go in a prominent place, I assure you ... and it will serve as a symbol that we have made a significant step toward maintaining this fragile planet. So, thank you very much.