

Archive of UC Irvine Sustainability News Articles

UPDATED: 10/29/2008

Note: This is not a complete list. If you know of articles that are not included on this list, please send them to andrew.coghlan@ucop.edu for posting

September 29, 2008: UCI Vice Chancellor Leads UC Systemwide Climate-Neutrality Effort

Wendell Brase is already leaving his reduced-carbon footprint on the state: UC Irvine's vice chancellor for administrative & business services has made his mark at UCI with green buildings, waste recycling, solar energy and more. And now, Katherine Lapp, executive vice president of the University of California, has asked Brase to chair the Climate Solutions Steering Group, which will focus on implementing carbon-neutral technology and solutions on UC campuses. Lapp and Brase answer questions about this new endeavor.

http://uci.edu/uci/features/feature_braselapp_080929.php

September 22, 2008: Living the green life: Doctoral candidate Candice Carr Kelman conducted a sustainability assessment of the UCI campus and takes everyday steps to reduce her carbon footprint

Carr Kelman, a doctoral candidate in planning, policy and design, recently released a sustainability assessment of the UC Irvine campus, covering areas including dining, transportation and purchasing. The two-year study produced some encouraging results, while showing there are areas that need improvement, says Carr Kelman.

http://today.uci.edu/Features/profile_detail.asp?key=382

September 16, 2008: New student housing combines amenities and green features

Construction has begun on a \$221 million student housing project that combines desirable amenities with many green features and will allow UC Irvine to lead the University of California system in the percentage of student population housed on campus. The project was designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Gold LEED certification. The community will optimize energy and water efficiencies and is situated on campus to promote the use of public transportation, bicycles and walkways. Additionally, it will reduce light pollution, waste water and construction waste, and utilize regional materials.

http://www.today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1830

August 5, 2008: UC Irvine Extension Offers Online Certificate in Sustainability Leadership

The University of California, Irvine Extension has launched a new online certificate program in Sustainability Leadership. Providing an interdisciplinary focus, the program aims to integrate sustainable development and environmentalism into management strategy, advance the comprehension of environmental compliance, contribute to an understanding of regulatory trends, and add to the achievement of corporate social responsibility. The program is designed for individuals who are leading sustainability initiatives in their roles in corporate, government and public agencies, nonprofit advocacy organizations, engineering, public health, urban planning, and law. In addition, those within professional designations such as human resources, marketing, and facility management are encouraged to participate. The program will begin this fall.

June 12, 2008: What's Hot on Campus This Year: Solar Power

The University of California at Irvine is getting into the solar game through a [20-year contract](#) with UPC Solar in Chicago to install a 1.2-megawatt system on 11 campus buildings. And the university's San

Diego campus [announced](#) in April a contract to put up a 1-megawatt solar array this year on campus buildings, to be followed next year by a similarly sized project.

<http://chronicle.com/blogs/architecture/2191/the-hottest-thing-on-campus-this-year-solar-power>

April 2, 2008: College Officials Face Tough Choices in Achieving Carbon Neutrality

At the Smart and Sustainable Campus conference, which drew sustainability directors, business officers, and architects to the University of Maryland here, Wendell C. Brase took on one of the Big Questions: What will it take for colleges to become "climate neutral"?

The question wasn't just academic. The University of California at Irvine, where Mr. Brase is vice chancellor of administrative and business services, has signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which says that colleges should achieve that state at some reasonable point in the future. To do so means eliminating the effects of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide which have been tied to climate change. That task is far more difficult than many of the signatories might have thought it would be[...]Mr. Brase detailed the many ways that Irvine is trying to reduce the greenhouse-gas emissions it is held responsible for, but he focused on two principal efforts: building more student housing and improving the energy efficiency of laboratories.

<http://chronicle.com/free/2008/04/2335n.htm?rss>

See also: <http://fastfood.freedomblogging.com/2008/03/28/uci-adopts-cage-free-egg-policy/>

March 26, 2008: UCI Dining Facilities to serve Organic, Cage-Free Eggs

University of California Irvine has joined a growing movement toward improving the lives of farm animals by enacting a cage-free egg policy for campus dining facilities. Effective this month, all eggs that UC Irvine serves its students will be organic and cage-free.

http://www.hsus.org/press_and_publications/press_releases/ucirvine032608.html

February 4, 2008: UC-Irvine Signs 1-MW PV Deal

University of California Irvine (UCI) is now adding solar power to its list of sustainability initiatives. A newly approved, 20-year agreement with Chicago-based UPC Solar will locate a 1.17-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system on campus rooftops. UPC Solar will design, install, own and maintain 6,500 solar panels to be placed on 11 campus buildings.

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=51354>

See also: http://today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1724

January 31, 2008: Focus the Nation Educates About Global Warming

Focus the Nation, a national movement based on spreading knowledge about global warming and related environmental concerns, came to UC Irvine with a series of events on Jan. 30 and 31. The effort was organized by the Focus the Nation steering committee, Students for Sustainability and the Orange County chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology.

<http://www.newuniversity.org/checkDB.php?id=6502> See also:

http://today.uci.edu/news/media_advisory_detail.asp?key=395

November 8, 2007: UC Irvine Researchers Receive Grant to Develop Measures to Value Green Space in Urban Areas

Project Description: At a time of increasing concerns for urban sustainability, what are the physical, social, and economic values of urban forests in semi-arid climates where many of the world's fastest growing cities are located? Although urban forests are increasingly popular to improve environmental quality, little is known about their impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, local air quality, and local temperatures in relation to the urban heat island effect. We also want to understand how complex systems involving urban ecosystems, social organizations and individuals learn and change when provided with

scientific information on urban forests, and how this influences the implementation of sustainability at the regional level.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/157561f771227e248525738d00591b93?OpenDocument> see also:

http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/display.abstractDetail/abstract/8564/report/0

May 5, 2007: Dorm room on UCI's campus aims to raise students' awareness on sustainability

A new UC Irvine program to promote "green" living hopes students will soon take tests with pencils made of recycled newspaper or pens made of recycled corn, writing on paper made of recycled banana fibers. The Green Campus Program opened a dorm room this week displaying about 80 environmentally friendly products worth about \$2,000. The Green Room is available for viewing through the summer in hopes that students, especially freshmen, will stock their dorm rooms with some of the products.

http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/homepage/abox/article_1681635.php

April 17, 2007: UC Irvine to Convert Buses to 100% Biodiesel

UC Irvine has announced plans to convert its fleet of 10 buses to 100% biodiesel. The move comes after more than a year of test with a single bus that was fueled exclusively with biodiesel. Other campus fleet vehicles, such as solid waste and recycling trucks, operate on fuel that is 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel.

UC Irvine unveiled its first 100% biodiesel-fueled shuttle bus Tuesday, with more than 200 students, faculty and staff -- as well as Irvine Mayor Beth Krom -- gathering to celebrate the campus move toward sustainability. The university plans to convert its entire shuttle bus fleet to run exclusively on biodiesel fuel in a UC system-wide effort to become greener and cleaner... the featured vehicle runs entirely on fuel made from soybeans, producing nearly 80% less carbon dioxide emissions than regular diesel fuel, as well as fewer nitrogen oxides and other greenhouse gases, according to Dick Sun, UCIs environmental manager.

<http://epaper.ocregister.com/Repository/ml.asp?Ref=T0NXSXJ2aW5IV29ybGROZXdzLzIwMDcvMDQvMTkjQXIwMTYwMA>

<http://www.dailypilot.com/articles/2007/04/18/education/dpt-soybeans18.txt>

September 29, 2006: A Great Park education: A class at UCI proposes cutting-edge concepts for more energy efficiency.

The Orange County Register

IRVINE A UCI student-inspired idea for the Great Park has the design team "seriously considering" making it a part of the park's plan...Natalia Komar, Jim Maclay and Shane Stephens presented that and four other ideas to the Great Park Corp. board on Thursday. Their PowerPoint presentation included these ideas: dishes that collect and convert sunlight into energy, an electric light-rail train, ways to measure the park's energy usage, kiosks to educate park visitors, and a system to produce electricity and heat from grass clippings...The presentation was a first step into the real Great Park world for the students who spent a semester studying ideas for the metropolitan park. Still, they were anxious waiting to see what the seven board members said.

http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/news/homepage/article_1291902.php