

# Archive of UC Sustainability News Articles

**UPDATED: 11/15/2011**

**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](mailto:andrew.coghlan@ucop.edu) for posting**

## UC Merced

### **11/1/2011: UCM one of three universities profiled as examples of "Energy and Sustainability on Campus"**

On the [University of Californias](#) new Merced campus, the administration set ambitious goals for sustainable planning in anticipation of the 2005 groundbreaking, then dialed up the standards once construction showed how much they had achieved and what more was still possible. John Elliott, Director of Energy and Sustainability for the UC Merced campus, says that the university planners conceived four critical areas. To start, the plan required every building to obtain [LEED](#) Silver certification at minimum. Instead, they obtained LEED Gold certification and have now set Gold as the new minimum. All projects currently on the drawing board are targeting LEED Platinum certification, the highest LEED certification possible, says Elliott. Planners also wanted to stretch beyond LEED by benchmarking the energy performance on other UC campuses as a baseline and then to exceed the baseline -- initially by 20%, and now by 50%. Over time the campus expects to use 25% of the energy consumed in comparable operations. The effort is saving the campus about \$2.7 million currently and will save a lot more as the campus grows from its present enrollment of 5,000 to its full capacity of 25,000 students in the years ahead. <http://buildipedia.com/go-green/eco-news-trends/energy-and-sustainability-on-campus-making-the-grade>

### **10/21/2011: UCM water use reduction contest attracts TV coverage**

The University of California at Merced has partnered with a start-up company in the Silicon Valley to use a new technology that will help the university better track its water usage. The university hopes that the technology also will help create a water-saving culture on campus. This summer, the university bought 40 Aquacue Barnacles for about \$40,000 and attached them to the 40 water meters around campus. An Aquacue Barnacle is a device that monitors water usage and tracks data in real time...In the long term, the technology will help the university comply with two state laws, including the Water Conservation Act of 2009, which sets the goal of reducing the per-capita urban water use by 20 percent by 2020, said Jim Genes, special assistant to the vice chancellor of administration at UC Merced. For now, the university is using the technology as an opportunity to create more awareness among students and get them into a habit of saving water. The campus began a water conservation contest, "UC Merced Water Battle 2011," a week ago at the Valley Terraces residence halls, where there are nine water meters one for each hall.

<http://www.modbee.com/2011/10/21/1914831/new-meters-contest-to-track-uc.html#ixzz1cOiwnAr2>

TV coverage: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/education&id=8404497>

### **10/11/2011: UCM demonstrates real-time water metering in student water conservation challenge**

UC Merced has partnered with a start-up company in the Silicon Valley to use a new technology that will help the university better track its water usage. The university hopes that the technology will also help create a water-saving culture on campus. This summer, the university bought 40 Aquacue Barnacles for about \$40,000 and attached them to the 40 water meters around campus. An Aquacue Barnacle is a device that monitors water usage and tracks data in real time...Figuroa said they will go to each dormitory, especially the ones that are using the most water, and share water-saving techniques with the student residents. Jasmine McClain, a junior at UC Merced helping with the effort, said the water-saving habits that students will form can continue later in their lives. "If they practice this now, it will become a natural habit for them," she said. The campus is already saving water, thanks to technology that alerts facility maintenance workers to places that are using a lot of water or where there could be leaks. On Friday, seven leaky toilets were identified throughout the Valley Terraces dormitories. The toilets, which were wasting about 150 gallons of water an hour -- or 1,314,000 gallons a year -- have now been fixed, and will save the university about \$4,000 in water costs.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/10/11/2077526/new-devices-contest-will-help.html#ixzz1anv9RsPh>

### **8/25/2011: Boxer touts green energy at UC Merced**

California Sen. Barbara Boxer made a rare visit to the San Joaquin Valley on Thursday, talking about job creation and green energy at the University of California at Merced and children's programs at a Fresno elementary school. <http://www.modbee.com/2011/08/25/1830851/boxer-touts-green-energy-at-uc.html>

### **7/6/2011: News coverage of student energy conservation outreach at UC Merced**

Diana Franklin thinks a little exercise for energy is a good thing. This past year, as a junior, Franklin helped direct the school's [Green Campus](#) program, using things like a bicycle blender to attract students to learn more about using less. "They're able to enjoy a cold milk shake or smoothie, and then we can talk a little bit to them about energy efficiency," Franklin said. The Green Campus team's work is part of an overall university plan for [sustainability](#). New and proposed campus buildings are energy and water efficient. And the university sees other benefits. "There will be innovation; there will be job creation," said Jim Genes, special assistant to the vice chancellor of administration and co-chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability. "If we're going to impact climate change, this is where we need to focus our energy." But the UC Merced efforts go far beyond campus. Students involved in the [Energy Service Corps](#) provide energy-related community services to area schools and organizations.

<http://www.ucmerced.edu/news/impact-sustainable-students-making-difference>

### **6/29/2011: Nonprofit makes its base at UC Merced**

*Group's focus on sustainability is good fit for campus, school says.*

(Sun-Star) Yesenia Amaro

A group geared toward helping people living in poor countries and in the United States gain better access to water, energy and sanitation soon will make UC Merced its home.

Beginning Friday, the university will become the base of operations of the national nonprofit Engineers for a Sustainable World. The organization's mission is to mobilize students and professionals through education, technical projects and collaborative action to have an impact on local and global sustainability challenges, according to its website.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/06/29/1950277/nonprofit-makes-its-base-at-uc.html>

### **4/20/2011: [U California Merced Campus Plan Wins National Award](#)**

The Society for College and University Planning has announced that the University of California, Merced has earned an Excellence in Planning for an Established Campus honor award for its Long-Range Development Plan. The plan will be used to guide the campus physical growth, development and land-use priorities. Included within the plan is a Triple Zero Commitment that aims to produce as much energy from renewable sources as is used, eliminate landfill waste and produce zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

### **1/18/2011: UC Merced awarded \$600,000 from DOE for campus energy efficiency**

The University of California, Merced, will receive \$600,000 in technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the Commercial Building Partnerships program, which is designed to accelerate the deployment of cost-effective, energy-saving measures in commercial buildings across the country. The campus is [one of 24 projects](#) that will receive a total of \$21 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additional projects include other universities, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of South Carolina, and retail businesses like Home Depot, Walmart and Twentieth Century Fox. UC Merced is using the assistance to deploy an energy performance platform that will provide unique capability to monitor the energy performance of its buildings and dispatch technicians to maintain efficiency over time. In addition, a team of engineers will identify opportunities to improve the efficiency of the campus central plant and a laboratory building.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/01182011\\_stimulus\\_funded\\_program\\_to.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/01182011_stimulus_funded_program_to.asp)

### **12/27/2010: Merced alumni following the sun**

UC Merced Professor Shawn Kantor released a study this year that says renewable energy projects slated for the San Joaquin Valley could create more than 100,000 jobs. Three recent University of California at Merced alumni

may help prove those predictions true. Heather Poiry, 23, Kevin Balkoski, 26, and Kevin Rico, 23, founded SunTherm Energy. The company will provide solar thermal technology and service to commercial and industrial companies in the valley. Poiry and Balkoski received their undergrad degrees from UC Merced and are master's students in mechanical engineering at the campus. Rico graduated with an undergraduate degree in management. They said they wanted to start their company in Merced because of the potential growth opportunities for renewable energy in the valley.

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/12/26/1487152/uc-merced-alumni-following-the.html>

### **11/11/2010: U California Merced Creates Student Energy Service Corps**

The University of California, Merced has partnered with AmeriCorps and the California Public Interest Research Group to create a new service-learning student group, the UC Merced Energy Service Corps. As part of the club's official launch, students helped make the Merced County Rescue Mission more energy-efficient by weatherizing all windows and replacing all light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. With 16 groups at college campuses throughout the state, the statewide goal is to educate 30,000 people about energy efficiency and conduct 4,000 energy surveys.

### **11/05/2010: UC Merced Students Help Provide GHG Inventories for Local Gov'ts**

UC Merced is teaming up with CSU Stanislaus and the U. of Pacific, along with the Great Valley Center, to offer free assistance to local governments to develop an inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Communities Program, funded by Pacific Gas & Electric and the California Public Utilities Commission and implemented with the help of ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, will pay student interns to work with staff members in participating cities to offer recommendations on how each city can reduce energy use in its operations. Interns will help the Great Valley Center assess metered energy use and interview city staff members about solid waste management, sewage treatment, landfill emissions and commuting practices...The program also furthers UC Merced's overall sustainability goals, which include raising awareness, understanding and knowledge of sustainability within and beyond the UC Merced community by enabling elected officials to incorporate sustainability in their decisions and policies.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/11052010\\_program\\_to\\_help\\_valley.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/11052010_program_to_help_valley.asp)

### **8/16/2010: UC Merced student sees green future for community**

Chiang, 23, interned at UC Merced's Green Campus from 2008 to 2010. She's now an intern for the university and just finished auditing the amount of energy the school uses and the gases every facility emits. The tests are meant to determine if the school is meeting its promise to reduce emissions. She's also doing the same assessment for the city of Merced.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2010/08/16/1531237/uc-merced-student-sees-green-future.html>

### **8/16/2010: Eight UC campuses make Sierra Club's green rankings**

Eight University of California campuses made Sierra magazine's list of [100 Cool Schools](#), which ranks environmentally friendly polices at universities across the country. Leading the way for UC was [Irvine](#), which placed sixth on the list with a score of 84.4 out a possible 100. Santa Cruz was 11th with score 82, San Diego was 15th with 81.6, Davis was tied for 16th with 81.2, UCLA was 25th with 77.6, Berkeley 32nd with 76.3, Merced 39th with 73.3 and Santa Barbara 44th with 72.2. The Cool Schools survey results will be published in the September/October issue of Sierra, a publication of the Sierra Club.

UC press release: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/23885>

Chronicle of Higher Ed: <http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Sierra-Magazine-Shuffles-the/26247/>

NPR Talk of the Nation: <http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/201008205>

Environmental Leader Daily: <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2010/08/16/sierra-names-green-mountain-college-as-top-school-in-green-college-ranking/>

### **5/26/2010: UC Merced to Test Sustainable Landscape Rating System**

UC Merced will be one of the first landscapes to participate in the [Sustainable Sites Initiative](#), taking part in a pilot program to test the nations first rating system for green landscape design, construction and maintenance. UC Merced will use its planned Science and Engineering 2 building as the template for the pilot project. Like the other

pilot projects, the site will help officials evaluate how practical and effective a tool the point system is for determining different levels of site sustainability. The 250-point scale evaluates landscaping in terms of site selection, water use, soil and vegetation, choice of materials and other factors in accordance with the groups [Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009](#).

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/05262010\\_uc\\_merced\\_to\\_test.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/05262010_uc_merced_to_test.asp)

#### **4/22/2010: UC Merced releases Sustainability Strategic Plan, launches website**

The University of California, Merced, has been a campus built from the ground up on principles of sustainability. That commitment to preserving the environment and its valuable resources took another step forward this week, when the university released its inaugural Sustainability Strategic Plan and formally unveiled its sustainability website, [sustainability.ucmerced.edu](http://sustainability.ucmerced.edu). The [Sustainability Strategic Plan](#), developed by the [Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability](#) which has been meeting monthly since late 2007 includes environmental goals in 12 areas, such as energy use and "green" construction, and lists objectives and milestones for each. The goals were determined with the UC mission of teaching, research and public service in mind.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/04222010\\_sustainability\\_strategies\\_outlined\\_in.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/04222010_sustainability_strategies_outlined_in.asp)

#### **2/03/2010: UCM engages community in book clubs around "The World Without Us"**

'Merced's Common Read Book Club said it now has about 50 members, all reading "The World Without Us," and will form discussion groups. UC Merced will begin promoting the event at libraries, Barnes & Noble Booksellers and other venues around town. Author Alan Weisman will appear at a book signing and lecture April 1. The format for each discussion session will be the same, organizers said in a news release. Tom Hothem, writing program assistant director at UC Merced, and Angela Winek, a lecturer UC Merced, will lead the sessions. They will discuss how "The World Without Us" is being used by the university, both by students and how it's being integrated into the curriculum.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/local/story/1296767.html>

#### **11/10/2009: UCM Unveils New Solar Power System**

We are here today to celebrate a remarkable milestone, said Mary Miller, vice chancellor for administration. The solar array project exemplifies UC Merced's founding vision to become an international model for sustainable development and environmental stewardship. ...The system will supply two-thirds of the campus electricity on summer days and 20 percent of the campus annual electricity needs.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/11102009\\_uc\\_merced\\_unveils\\_new.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/11102009_uc_merced_unveils_new.asp)

#### **10/2/2009: UC Merced Wins State's Highest Environmental Honor**

Governor Schwarzenegger awarded UC Merced with the governor's environmental and economic leadership award. The award honors U.C. Merced for operating as a sustainable campus, and serving as a model for others...Six of the school's seven buildings have already earned gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council...UC Merced's long-range development plan creates pedestrian and bike-friendly traffic patterns and sets forth a triple zero commitment: a plan to produce energy from renewable sources, eliminate landfill waste, and reduce greenhouse emissions to zero, by 2020. Once complete, the academic core of the campus will be about a 10-minute walk from each of six planned student neighborhoods. About 2,000 to 3,000 students will live in each neighborhood. All buildings will be mixed-use with stores at street level and apartment or dorm housing above.

*Press release:* [http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/10012009\\_uc\\_merced\\_receives\\_state.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/10012009_uc_merced_receives_state.asp)

*TV coverage:* <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7043826>

*Newspaper coverage:*

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/457/story/1091070.html>

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/879160.html>

<http://www.losbanosenterprise.com/190/story/49699.html>

#### **9/19/2009: TV, newspapers cover UC Merced's solar project and \$1 million renewable energy planning grant**

"Look out, unharnessed renewable energy. UC Merced is coming for you. The campus has received a three-year, \$1 million grant from the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research program."

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7021795&rss=rss-kfsn-article-7021795>  
<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/1066063.html>

### **9/14/2009: UC Merced team tackles solar energy as cooling sources**

(Modesto Bee) Mark Grossi

Someday, you might unplug your air conditioner and cool your house on a 110- degree afternoon by cranking up the heat from the sun.

In his laboratory at the University of California at Merced, physicist Roland Winston says he is nearing a breakthrough that could make that scenario happen in the next several years.

Winston, an innovator in amplifying sunlight for energy, is putting the finishing touches on a solar-concentration array that heats oil to 400 degrees. The oil's heat will be used to power a chilling unit that produces cold water for air conditioners. He expects to announce a collaboration with a private company within the next several months to produce a solar air-conditioning unit.

"We want to make it economic and practical," said Winston, who heads a research team at UC Merced. "The key is collecting solar energy no matter where the sun is in the sky. The San Joaquin Valley is the perfect place to do it."

<http://www.modbee.com/local/v-print/story/853524.html>

### **5/13/2009: Merced: 6 Golds and a Triple Zero**

The new certifications bring the number of LEED Gold buildings on campus to six, with a seventh earning LEED Silver. No other university in the United States has earned LEED Silver or better for every building on campus. Four more buildings under construction or recently completed are expected to achieve LEED Gold... "We were the first university that committed to a minimum LEED Silver for all buildings and we exceeded that ambitious goal," Associate Vice Chancellor Tom Lollini said. "As a result of this success, we recently reset our goal in our 2009 LRDP to minimum LEED Gold and hope to reach Platinum, whenever feasible.

"The LRDP goes even further, establishing what we call a 'triple zero commitment' to achieve zero net energy usage, contribute zero waste to landfills, and produce zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. We are the first university in the country to set our sights for sustainability so high."

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/05132009\\_uc\\_merced\\_earns\\_two.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/05132009_uc_merced_earns_two.asp)

### **3/12/2009: Thumbs up, thumbs down**

Thumbs up to UC Merced for earning LEED "Gold" certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for excellence in environmentally responsible design, construction and operation on a recently completed building on campus. The science & engineering building provides laboratories, classrooms and office space for faculty and students whose work often requires highly sophisticated equipment, facilities and support services.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/story/1245491.html>

### **3/10/2009: UC Merced gets second-highest 'green' certification on fourth building**

UC Merced has announced that its Science and Engineering Building earned a "gold" rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. The university was recognized for the building's environmentally responsible design, construction and operation. The building is the fourth in three years at the campus to earn the second-highest certification in the council's LEED -- leadership in energy and environmental design -- program.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/728488.html>

### **December 1, 2008: UC receives multiple 'Go Beyond' sustainability awards from R&D Magazine**

Several University of California recipients were recognized by the first annual Go Beyond Awards, which honor individuals, organizations, projects and laboratory manufacturers that "go beyond" the status quo to minimize the environmental impacts of laboratory and other high-tech facilities and lab equipment. The awards were publicly announced by R&D Magazine in the November issue of its Laboratory Design Newsletter.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/19072>

### **November 8, 2008: UC Merced Redesigns Construction Plans to Increase Green Space**

"The University of California, Merced has redesigned its plans to construct student housing, a sports complex, and a research and development park to incorporate more green space and reduce environmental damage...Also included in the plans are some lofty environmental stewardship plans:

A new "triple-net zero" goal means the university will consume no off-site or unrenewable energy, produce no net carbon emissions and produce no landfill waste by 2020...Cars will have limited access on campus, and more environmentally friendly forms of transportation will be encouraged, according to the long-range development plan...The academic core of the campus will be about a 10-minute walk from each of the six planned student neighborhoods...About 2,000 to 3,000 students will live in each neighborhood. Buildings will be mixed-use with stores at street level and apartment or dorm housing above."

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/537671.html>

### **September 26, 2008: Merced SunStar Covers UC Merced's Climate Efforts**

"A national commitment has a lot of value," said [John Elliott, UC Merced's Energy Manager.] "This is a global problem, a national problem, and colleges are the ideal organizations to lead the way on this." Elliott and others on campus are trying to steer residents away from car-oriented lives to improve the air quality of the Valley. Elliott said the university considers air quality and commuting requirements in how it develops campus, trying to house as many students on the grounds as possible.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/471163.html>

### **September 2008: UC Merced on a Green Streak: New gold-rated data center highlights UC Merced's new growth.**

The University of California, Merced, the 10th and youngest campus in the statewide system that includes the prestigious UCLA and UC Berkeley campuses, is more than a new school. With its eco-friendly buildings and energy-efficient data centers, it's a new school of thought.

<http://www.edtechmag.com/higher/september-october-2008/uc-merced-on-a-green-streak.html>

### **September 2, 2008: UC Merced dining hall gets even greener**

UC Merced students can now watch their food grow, and eat it too. This week, the college unveiled a new, landscaped terrace at the Yablokoff-Wallace Dining Center on campus. The terrace features a culinary herb garden where dining center chefs can pick rosemary, lavender, basil, thyme and mint, among other things. The dining hall is going green in another way, too. Diners will now be served on plastic and metal dinnerware, as opposed to the disposable dishes of the past. For students taking their food to go, eco-friendly recyclable containers are available.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/427613.html>

### **March 24, 2008: UC Merced turns food waste into green waste**

Eat corn with corn. Then store the leftovers in corn. Sound silly? It's actually as practical as disposable flatware.

UC Merced is taking its vaunted "green" practices a culinary step forward. This time, sustainability efforts are headed toward the kitchen.

Biodegradable corn-made utensils and leftover containers, plus a new composting program, are new methods the campus' dining services have deployed to divert waste from landfills.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/194871.html>

### **February 1, 2008: Professors turn focus on global warming**

Hundreds of campuses from around the country recently took part in Focus the Nation, discussions and presentations from all levels about climate change. Even though it was a national event, UC Merced's participation localized it in more ways than one.

The day unfolded on campus with talks by UC Merced scientists and professors and other experts. Local students and community members alike drifted in and out of the room as topics ranged from modern glacier retreat to music and environmental activism.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/v-print/story/132494.html>

### **January 2008: "University Research Facility is a Teaching Tool for Eco-Minded Students"**

"The University has committed to achieving Silver certification in LEED for New Construction for every new building and maintaining those certifications through LEED for Existing Buildings - putting environmental responsibility at the forefront of the school's identity...Merced's budget was set more than five years before construction began, and during that time building costs soared. 'There was a gaping hole in the budget by the time we got around to building,' says Carol Tomlinson-Keasy, who served as chancellor from 1999 through 2006. 'The first things people wanted to take out were the energy-saving things,' remembers Tomlinson-Keasy. But the environmental advocates held strong."

[http://greensource.construction.com/projects/0801\\_UniversityofCalifornia.asp](http://greensource.construction.com/projects/0801_UniversityofCalifornia.asp)

### **January 14, 2008: UC Merced Library Complex Earns LEED Gold**

A second major building complex at the University of California, Merced has earned LEED Gold certification for excellence in environmental performance from the U.S. Green Building Council. The Leo and Dottie Kolligian Library, a heavily used complex in the heart of the campus, earned its Gold certification in the LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC) category.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/01142008\\_library\\_complex\\_awarded\\_leed.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/01142008_library_complex_awarded_leed.asp)

### **October 11, 2007: UC Merced tour has energy officials seeing green**

UC Merced's gray and tan buildings were described as green during a tour of the college. A 2 million-gallon storage tank on campus, clearly the color of steel, was also called green. And green was the hue given to the university's lighting system. UC Merced facility planners were not going color-blind on Tuesday as they led a group from the California Institute for Energy and the Environment (CIEE). The group, which works for the entire University of California system, was there to see green.

And to them, green was defined by the conservation of energy.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/52839.html>

### **April 13, 2007: UC Merced Green Suite: Earth-friendly Dorm Opens for Bobcat Day**

MERCED - The University of California, Merced's Green Suite will open its doors to the public on Saturday, April 14, in conjunction with Bobcat Day. The first space of its kind in the Central Valley, the Green Suite is a showcase of environmentally friendly practices and products located in UC Merced student housing. The unoccupied three-room suite will be part of the standard UC Merced campus tours and will educate thousands of people every year on how to lead a greener lifestyle.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/04132007\\_green\\_suite\\_earth\\_friendly.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/04132007_green_suite_earth_friendly.asp)

### **March 27, 2007: UC Merced's First Campus Complex certified LEED-Gold**

The University of California, Merced's first building complex, known as the Central Plant, has been recognized for environmental excellence by the U.S. Green Building Council, the university recently said.

<http://www.bdcnetwork.com/article/CA6428451.html?nid=2073>

### **March 15, 2007: UC Merced Building Receives LEED Gold Certification**

The University of California at Merced is trying to set the standard when it comes to environmentally friendly buildings. UC Merced's central plant earned a gold certification under the category of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a prestigious distinction sought by many universities and companies across the nation.

<http://www.modbee.com/reports/ucmerced/story/3259.html>

**November 30, 2006: UC Merced Joins California Climate Action Registry**

University of California, Merced has joined the California Climate Action Registry. As a member, UC Merced commits to annually track, report, and certify its campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions. The University announced its participation in the registry in conjunction with the campus-designated Energy Awareness Day. Several other UC Campuses including San Diego, Davis, Berkeley, and Santa Barbara have also joined the Registry.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/11292006\\_uc\\_merced\\_signs\\_on.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/11292006_uc_merced_signs_on.asp)

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/local/story/13066072p-13719977c.html>

**December 4, 2006: In Good, Green Company: UC Merced Joins USGBC Portfolio Program Pilot**

What does UC Merced have in common with Starbucks, Toyota, Subway and Bank of America? They're all participants in the US Green Building Council's Portfolio Pilot Program, which provides cost-effective "portfolio" solutions to help improve environmental performance in construction and operations. Ultimately, it will streamline the accreditation process for UC Merced in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program sponsored by the USGBC.

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/12042006\\_in\\_good\\_green\\_company.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/12042006_in_good_green_company.asp)

**September 11, 2006: UC Merced aims to be model of eco-friendly campus**

Modesto Bee (California)

From low-flow shower heads to carpet made from recycled soda bottles, University of California at Merced officials say they are taking unprecedented measures to conserve.

UC Merced has pledged to construct every campus building to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's "silver" standard, a mark no other college campus has met, council officials say.

<http://www.usgbc.org/News/USGBCInTheNewsDetails.aspx?ID=2596>

**September 7, 2006 University of California Merced's Green Campus Opens to Students**

UC Merced welcomed its inaugural class this week. Campus officials believe the UC Merced will be the first campus in the United States where all the buildings will meet or exceed the LEED Silver standards. All buildings are being constructed with recycled materials and are being built to achieve energy savings of about 45 percent above the state standards. Each building will have a special energy management system that will monitor use to maximize efficiency. The buildings are designed and positioned to maximize the warmth of the sun and the coolness of the winds from nearby Lake Yosemite. The new campus also has a new 1.9 million-gallon thermally regulated storage tank that allows the campus to cool water at night and use it during the day for drinking and air conditioning. In addition, storm water will be collected for irrigation.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/09/06/BAG10EISK51.DTL>