

2020-2021 SUPPORT OF COMMITTING CALIFORNIA TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

WHEREAS, UCLA has been a leader on environmental issues, such as clean electricity¹ and banning single-use plastics²; and,

WHEREAS, we are in a global climate crisis that has been unequivocally linked to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases³ which are irreversibly degrading our environment; and,

WHEREAS, the world's average temperature has risen 2.09°F since the 19th century, our oceans are acidifying and warming, our glaciers retreating, sea levels rising, and natural disasters increasing⁴; and,

WHEREAS, burning fossil fuels, especially for power and transportation, account for 75% of the United State's carbon dioxide emissions⁵; and,

WHEREAS, coal fired power plants account for 42% of poisonous mercury emissions and 66% of sulfur emission and majority of soot in our air⁶; and,

WHEREAS, ocean acidification and water pollution can devastate local environments and global environments⁷; and,

WHEREAS, increased exposure to air pollutants, like ozone, due to climate change can exacerbate a variety of health issues⁸; and,

WHEREAS, fossil fuel pollution is an environmental justice issue as observed here, in Los Angeles, where over 71% of the city's Latinx population live in areas with the most polluted air⁹; and,

WHEREAS, climate change, as exacerbated by the use of fossil fuels in our power sector, can have devastating economical impacts from the billions of dollars spent on recovery from natural disasters, such as wildfires and hurricanes, to harming our ability to produce food¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, Sweden has pledged to go completely fossil fuel free by 2040 and Costa Rica is already using 95% clean energy, proving that large scale shifts towards clean energy are

¹ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/100-percent-clean-electricity>

² <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-policy-single-use-plastics>

³ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

⁴ <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

⁵ <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/fossil-fuels-dirty-facts#:~:text=Fossil%20fuels%20produce%20large%20quantities,quarters%20of%20our%20carbon%20emissions.>

⁶ IBID

⁷ <https://www.greentechtalk.com/how-does-non-renewable-energy-affect-the-environment/#:~:text=Non%20renewable%20energy%20typically%20releases,other%20gasses%20into%20the%20atmosphere.&text=As%20we%20burn%20more%20non,an d%20essential%20biodiversity%20within%20habitats.>

⁸ https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-human-health_.html

⁹ <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=1a3970fcd4af42b78e418e9de2cb7787#:~:text=of%20Environmental%20Racism-Studies%20show%20that%20in%20Los%20Angeles%20county%20more%20than%2071,much%20more%20affluent%20surrounding%20neighborhoods.>

¹⁰ <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2019/06/20/climate-change-economy-impacts/>

possible¹¹; and,

WHEREAS, UCLA students have historically been in support of environmental issues, including stopping climate change, as seen in the Zero Waste commitment and in CALPIRG's work to commit the UCs to 100% clean electricity; and,

WHEREAS, 20,000 UC students signed on in support of SB 100 which commits California to 100% clean energy by 2045¹²; and,

WHEREAS, thus far the student advocacy group, CALPIRG, has received 2,900 UCLA student signatures and 18,000 UC students signatures statewide in support of their campaign to commit the state to 100% clean energy; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the 2020- 2021 Undergraduate Student Associated Council affirms its support for committing California to 100% clean energy sector wide at UCLA by 2030.

¹¹ <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/11-countries-leading-the-charge-on-renewable-energy/>

¹² <https://environmentamerica.org/news/ame/university-california-berkeley-commits-100-clean-energy#:~:text=BERKELEY%2C%20Calif.,transportation%20and%20electricity%20by%202050.>