

A Resolution Calling on UCLA to Take The Lead in Creating Climate Justice

WHEREAS, UCLA's recently released decarbonization draft policy does not adequately respond to the scale and urgency of the climate crisis.

WHEREAS, the goal of 2045 for 90% decarbonization is dramatically misaligned with State goals, the work and advocacy of USAC and of sustainability-focused and environmental justice student groups, the 2022 Academic Senate Memorial, and most importantly, scientific consensus and UC's stated values of climate justice. A goal 22 years in the future is useless without any near-term milestones, as carbon emissions are cumulative and the rate of emissions reductions significantly affects the remaining carbon budget.

WHEREAS, the reliance on biomethane for the next 17 years is concerning, because biomethane certificates are another form of carbon offsets as campuses will continue to burn fracked gas on site.

WHEREAS, investing in electrification *now* will prevent large greenhouse gas emissions that drive the climate emergency that affects our students, staff, and faculty and the human and nonhuman communities they belong to.

WHEREAS, the University of California has an obligation to show leadership to the countless institutions and corporations that closely watch whether UC will implement a climate policy that achieves the rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that our own scientists tell us are necessary.

WHEREAS, if the University of California truly is committed to environmental justice, we must take responsibility for the damages caused to people and ecosystems, locally and far away, by the emissions that result from our campus operations. We must mitigate these emissions quickly to show that a timely transition towards a clean energy future is possible for the UC – the world's leading university system — and that expectations are high for fellow emitters to follow our lead.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council asks for clearer language in UCLA's policies that does not greenwash the continued burning of fracked methane gas on campus.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that USAC reiterates the call to follow the Academic Senate Memorial on Reducing Fossil Fuel Combustion and reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that USAC calls on UCLA's administration to implement a UCLA labor transition to green jobs and ensure that workers implementing green upgrades on campus will be hired into unionized jobs with living wages and employed directly by the university administration.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that USAC demands that UCLA prioritize climate justice (respecting indigenous people's rights to protect their land and to have the power to shape

environmental policy and stopping and repairing damage to communities of low income and color and to disabled people) in the development and implementation of plans.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that USAC urges that UCLA use only the highest quality carbon offsets (directed towards climate justice and biodiversity conservation) and that UCLA use carbon offsets only temporarily until 2030

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that USAC calls on UCLA to select financial institutions and investment instruments that prioritize sustainability and do not invest in fossil fuels and fossil fuel infrastructure

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that USAC supports and urges UCLA to support the UC-wide platforms of UCGND¹ and ElectrifyUC² and their timetables for action.

¹ <https://ucgreennewdealcoalition.net/>

² <https://electrifyuc.org/>