

Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee  
UCLA Scope 2 and 3 Emissions Reduction Recommendation  
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May 30, 2024

Andrea Kasko  
Chair, Academic Senate  
Box 951600, 4121K Engineering V  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1600

Dear Chair Kasko:

Thank you for reaching out and sharing the recommendations from the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board of the Academic Senate. We appreciate the review of the UCLA Decarbonization Study draft by the Committee, and their recommendations regarding UCLA's Scope 2 and 3 emissions.

As you noted, the University of California, including UCLA, is not subject to Senate Bill No. 253 Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act reporting requirements. However, UC and UCLA have set related targets and led in this area for over 15 years.

Our original climate target, set in 2007 and formalized in the [UC Sustainable Practices Policy](#), was to reduce total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) to below 1990 levels by 2020. Since 1990, UCLA has grown more than 40%, adding over eight million square feet to the campus footprint, the equivalent of over 4,000 houses (this was even prior to the recent acquisitions of the South Bay campus, the Trust building in downtown, and the Westside Pavilion). Over the last two decades, UCLA research awards and grants have grown from less than \$300 million to over \$1.7 billion annually. One would expect with such remarkable growth to see a parallel increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, through a combination of energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation programs and offsets, UCLA reduced greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels in 2014, achieving the 2020 goal six years ahead of schedule.

The Sustainable Practices Policy, which was developed by all 10 campuses collaboratively through the Climate Change Working Group, then approved by the Sustainability Steering Committee, President and the Regents, was recently amended with a [new goal](#) of reducing total emissions by at least 90% (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) by no later than calendar year 2045, relative to a 2019 baseline year. After 2045, any residual emissions beyond the 90% reduction will be negated by carbon removal.

The policy also includes the following language regarding Scope 2 and Scope 3:

**Scope 2 Emissions:** Campuses and the UC Office of the President will purchase 100% clean electricity beginning in 2025. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will follow a separate federal requirement to source 100% of electricity from carbon-free sources by 2030.

**Scope 3 Emissions:** Locations will set Scope 3 emission reduction targets with respect to a 2019 baseline year, to include emission sources from business travel, commuting, and disposal and treatment of solid waste. At a minimum, Scope 3 emissions reduction targets will align with the State of California’s goals and policies to achieve climate neutrality by 2045 or sooner.

UCLA conducts annual greenhouse gas inventories consistent with The Climate Registry (TCR) protocol for Scope 1 and 2, and additionally tracks Scope 3 emissions from commutes, air travel, and for the first time this year, solid waste. The 2023 calendar year inventory is still under development and will be complete by the reporting deadline. Below are Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions for 2019 (the new baseline) and 2022 (the most recent year available). All three were reduced below pre-COVID levels. These reports included commutes and air travel for Scope 3, and as you can see in the table below for UCLA, Scope 1 reflects the most significant percent of overall GHG emissions. That distribution may change as additional sources of Scope 3 are tracked. There is currently a UC-wide Scope 3 sub-working group that is exploring tracking additional sources of Scope 3 emissions such as water or supply chain.

**GHG Emissions (tonnes)**

	<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>Scope 3</b>
<b>2019</b>	224,384	42,788	68,159
<b>2022</b>	218,696	36,393	55,347

In 2013, UC President Napolitano declared that UC will be the first research university to achieve carbon neutrality, with a target date of 2025. That commitment relied heavily on offsets to address Scope 1 emissions. Based on research into the quality and quantity of offsets and input from a broad range of stakeholders, the University of California has adopted new, stronger climate action goals to accelerate the transition off fossil fuels that prioritize direct emission reductions, limit the use of carbon offsets, and align UC’s climate goals with those of the state of California. With the new commitment to decarbonization and shift away from offsets as a dominant strategy, the State-funded Decarbonization Studies focused only on Scope 1 because so much work has already been done in Scope 2 and Scope 3. The studies aim to address the future of campus energy infrastructure and inform how to address the new 90 percent reduction goal. The studies will aid the development of interim Scope 1 targets by the end of this year. Per policy “each UC location will set and submit to the UC Office of the President Scope 1 GHG reduction targets for calendar years 2030, 2035 and 2040. All percent-reduction targets will be set relative to a 2019 baseline year.”

Once the Decarbonization Study is completed this summer, UCLA will develop an updated Climate Action Plan that addresses Scopes 1, 2, and 3, and address these new goals. As described in the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices, the Climate Action Plan will meet the following requirements:

- a. Each UC location will prepare an updated climate action plan (CAP) to establish and achieve the new GHG emission reduction goals.
- b. The climate action plans will be adopted by campus leadership and submitted to the UC Office of the President prior to 2026, with implementation to begin immediately.
- c. In order to integrate environmental justice, each location will incorporate the “University of California’s Framework for Incorporating Environmental & Climate Justice into Climate Action” and its evaluations into climate action planning. Climate action plans will also integrate adaptation and resilience considerations.
- d. Climate action plans will be updated as needed to incorporate new scientific insights and technological advances; reflect applicable laws, policies, and established global commitments; consider State and regional electricity supply issues; and address social and cultural shifts around climate action.
- e. Climate action plans will evaluate a broad range of climate solutions and will prioritize selected actions based on cost-effectiveness and climate justice considerations in addition to other location priorities.

UCLA’s Chief Sustainability Officer, Nurit Katz, serves as the Climate Action Plan lead for UCLA. If desired, she would be happy to provide the CRCC with a more detailed briefing on Scope 2 and Scope 3 initiatives, such as the [Smart Buildings and Labs Program](#) and the [Sustainable Transportation Plan](#). Please also coordinate with her on how the CRCC would like to be included in the climate action planning process over the coming year.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions or suggestions. Thank you for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,



Darnell M. Hunt  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

*Letter to Academic Senate Chair Andrea Kasko, re: CRCC Recommendations*

*May 30, 2024*

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cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate  
Michael Beck, Administrative Vice Chancellor  
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Yolanda Gorman, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff  
Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer  
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP

May 21, 2024

Gene Block  
Chancellor, UCLA

Darnell Hunt  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP), UCLA

**Re: UCLA Scope 2 and 3 Emissions Reduction Recommendation**

Dear Chancellor Block and EVCP Hunt,

At the April 25, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board (EB), members reviewed the attached Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee's (CRCC) recommendation for Administration to address a reduction of Scope 2 and 3 emissions at UCLA.

EB members unanimously voted in favor of a motion to endorse the letter and forward it to you for distribution to, and consideration by, senior administrative leaders.

The Executive Board welcomes a response that addresses the attached recommendations.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate  
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate  
Yolanda Gorman, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff  
Aaron Meyer, Chair, CRCC, UCLA Academic Senate  
Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate  
Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate  
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost & Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

# UCLA Academic Senate

Executive Board

Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

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April 9, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Aaron Meyer  
Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Re: **UCLA Scope 2 and 3 Emissions Reduction Recommendation**

Dear Chair Kasko and the Executive Board,

At the March 4, 2024, meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, members unanimously approved a motion to recommend that the UCLA Administration address [Scope 2 and 3 emissions](#) in the near future to tackle more of the university's impacts on the climate and to do so alongside other California institutions.

The UCLA Decarbonization Study is underway and analyzes how to reduce on-site [Scope 1 emissions](#). However, reductions in Scope 2 and 3 emissions could potentially occur in parallel. Furthermore, Scope 2 and 3 emissions represent the majority of emissions and are of larger magnitude than those included within Scope 1. Therefore, members proposed that UCLA draft a plan on how to reduce Scope 2 and 3 emissions as well. If a divisional study is not possible, members suggested that the Administration advocate for a study of UC campuses' Scope 2 and 3 emissions.

The California State Legislature recently passed [Senate Bill No. 253](#) Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, which requires California businesses with revenues above \$1 billion to report their Scope 1 and 2 emissions starting in 2026 and their Scope 3 emissions in 2027. The University of California system was specifically exempted from this requirement. However, members recommended that the UC Regents approve to make the University of California accountable as well. The UC campuses are California institutions that should be held to the same standard and serve as examples to other California institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey CRCC recommendations on this important topic. Members request Executive Board endorsement and subsequent distribution to the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate  
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate  
Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate  
Members of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee