



PRESS RELEASE

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Students Spur Action on Climate Change at UC Davis

DAVIS, Calif. – The University of California, Davis has joined the California Climate Action Registry (Registry), a distinguished group of organizations demonstrating leadership by voluntarily taking action on climate change. As a member, UC Davis will work with the Registry to annually track, report and certify its campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions, the main drivers of global warming.

“We have formed a unique partnership between a UC Davis operations department (Environmental Health & Safety) and our interdisciplinary Air Quality Research Center to leverage the benefits of this effort to management and education on campus,” said Jill Blackwelder, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Office of Administration.

UC Davis is the third campus within the UC system to sign up with the Registry – UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara also participate in the program.

The Registry, created by the California legislature in 2000, helps companies and organizations throughout the United States to track, publicly report and reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The results are certified by independent organizations to ensure compliance with Registry protocols and standardization across members and sectors. The Registry has been widely recognized as a gold standard for public reporting of greenhouse gases.

“Educational institutions are key to winning the fight against climate change,” said Diane Wittenberg, President of the California Climate Action Registry. “The leaders who will solve this problem are on campuses today. Universities can set an example for their communities and the nation by implementing projects on campus to catalyze change.”

It was students at the UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies (www.its.ucdavis.edu) that initially presented the idea of Registry membership to the decision makers on campus. Preparation of UC Davis’s first ever greenhouse gas emissions inventory will be a joint effort between UC Davis’s Environmental Health & Safety Department (<http://ehs.ucdavis.edu>) and the UC Davis Air Quality Research Center (<http://airquality.ucdavis.edu>).

“The University’s collaborative work between researchers, students and staff sets the tone for how we need to address and resolve climate change issues,” said Lynne Chronister, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Office of Research at UC Davis.

Two UC Davis professional staff members, Aimee Pfohl (EH&S) and Victoria Evans (AQRC), have taken the Registry’s certification training, and will bring their expertise in greenhouse gas emissions inventories and management to this campus project, from both the compliance and research aspects.

“Students are helping to determine the GHG emissions from campus activities. This collaborative effort to compile a campus-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory provides both learning and research opportunities for students. The results of the GHG emissions inventory will also help the campus Sustainable Energy Committee review existing energy and resource use,” said Professor Anthony Wexler, who serves as Director of the Air Quality Research Center (AQRC).

UC Davis has one of the largest concentrations of air quality experts at any one campus in the United States with over 70 faculty members on campus involved in air quality research and affiliated with the AQRC at UC Davis. The AQRC is a large interdisciplinary organized research unit at UC Davis with investigations underway ranging from biological effects of air pollution to agricultural emissions and global climate change. The funding for ongoing air quality research at the campus is at about \$40M of the \$505M total for all research funding at the University of California, Davis, for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2005.

UC Davis is one of the nation's top public research universities and, with 5,300 acres, the largest of the UC campuses. The University of California is one of the world's foremost research and teaching institutions, and UC Davis is the University of California's flagship campus for environmental studies. One in six of UC Davis' 1,500 faculty members specializes in an environment-related subject. Set in the heart of the Sacramento Valley, the campus is home to four colleges, five professional schools, and nearly 30,000 students. www.ucdavis.edu

The California Climate Action Registry is a non-profit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions. Over 85 major companies, cities, government agencies and non-government organizations measure and publicly report their GHG emissions through the Registry. www.climateregistry.org