

UCSC Climate Coalition



Background & Impetus for Decarbonization

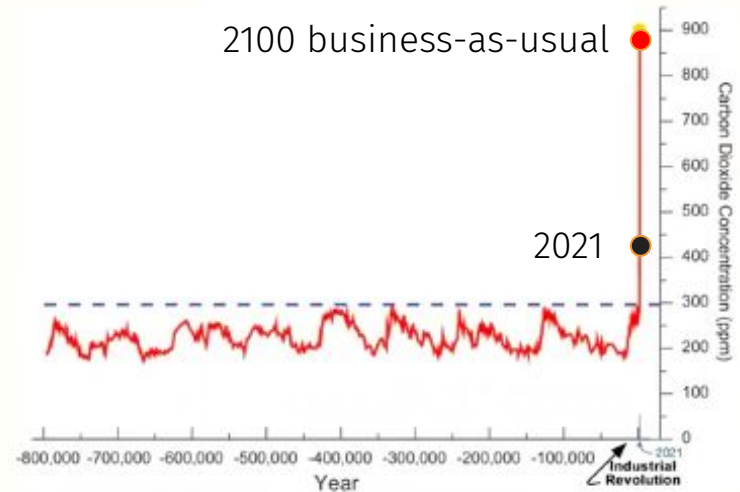
Tramanh Mai, Ian Cowan, Jason Samaha

Urgency of the Climate Crisis

- Paris Agreement
 - Limit global warming to $<2^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - Failing to meet this goal could be catastrophic
- IPCC notes urgency
 - We can't wait, do our part
 - Eventually reach tipping point
 - Accelerate effects faster

“Human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability.” - IPCC AR6

Since the Industrial Revolution, CO₂ concentration (ppm) has increased exponentially

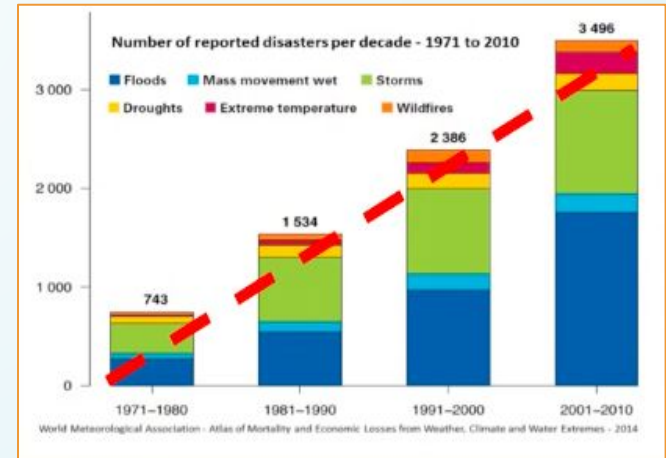
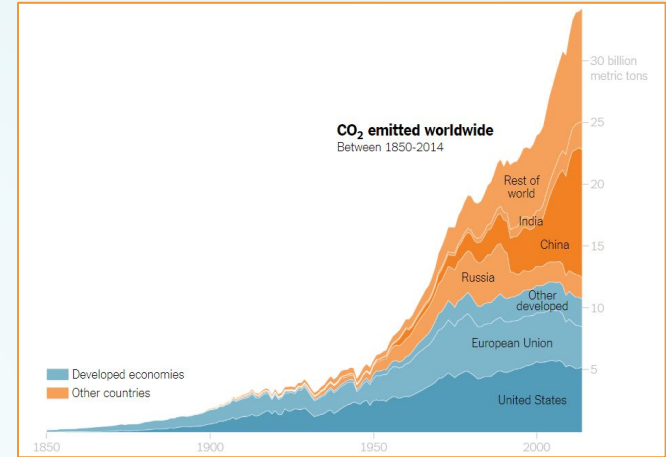


Global Trends

- Main drivers: Greenhouse gasses (like CO₂)
 - Global emissions are still increasing, rather than decreasing
 - Extreme weather events have increased by ~400% since the 70's

The ones least responsible for climate change will suffer the most from the emissions of wealthy countries

- Our responsibility to address injustice
 - Most Impacted: vulnerable communities
 - Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Small Islands and the Arctic

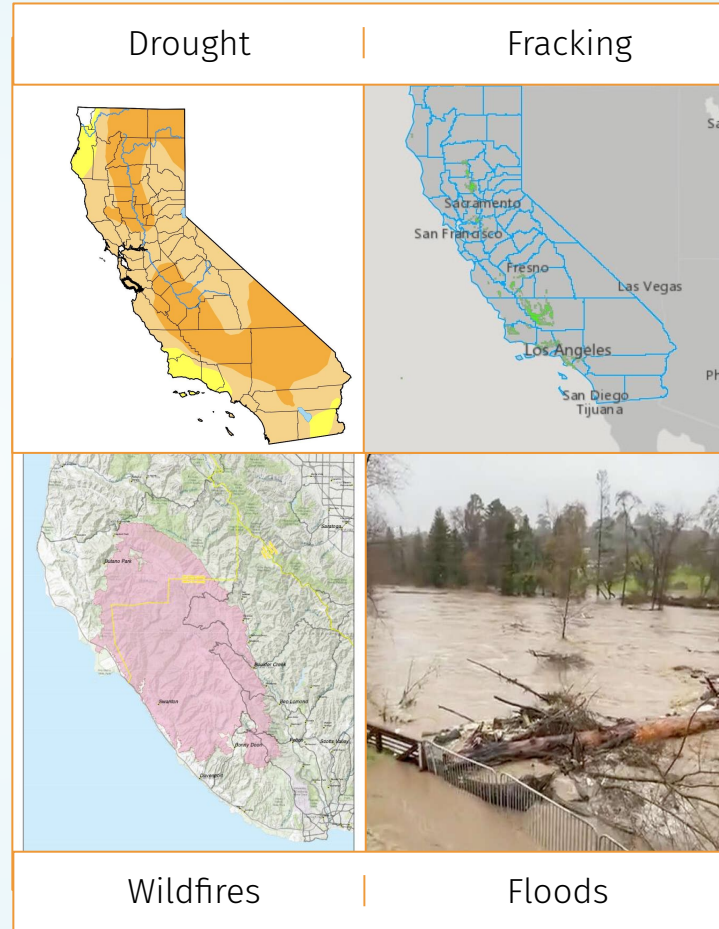


Local Issues

- Heat waves
- Droughts
 - CZU Lightning Complex Fires
- Sudden intense rain
 - Not too unusual
 - Floods
 - Power outage

Bad for environment and people too!

- Displacement
 - students, families, homeless
- Insecurity
 - food, water, livelihood
- Health consequences
 - mental, disease, and respiratory

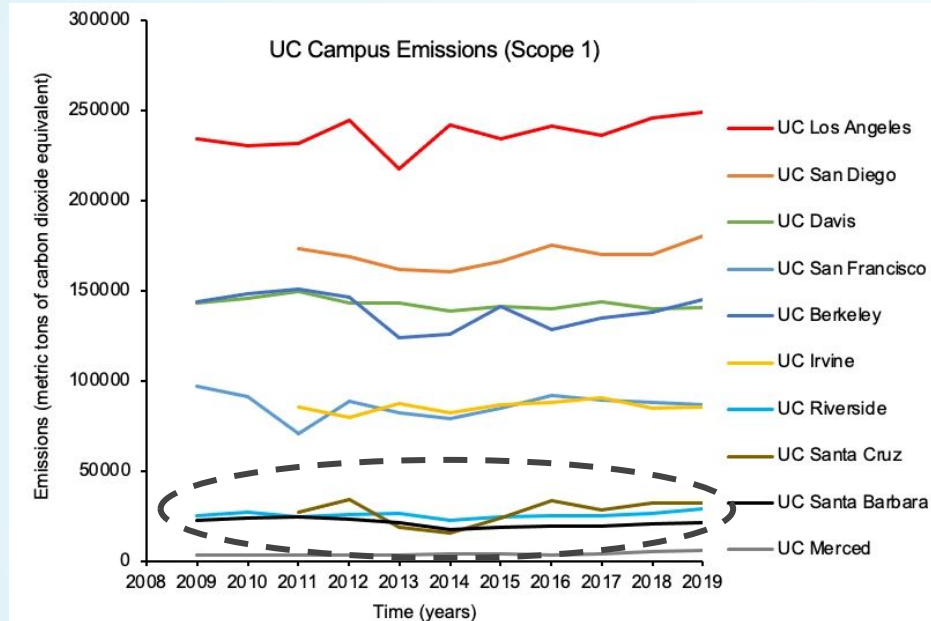


How does the UC contribute to the problem?

UCSC's fossil fuel impacts



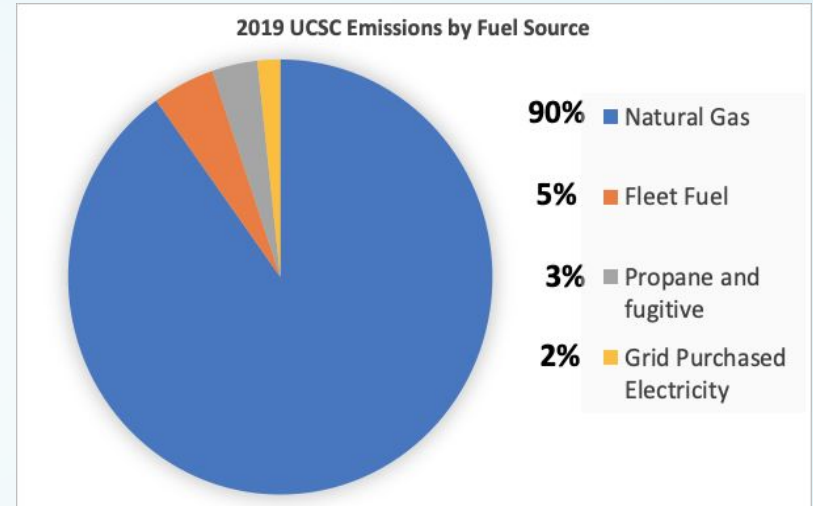
A Look at UC's Emissions



- No significant decline in emissions at any UC campus over the last 10 years
- UCSC might have low emissions compared to other UCs, but we are still responsible for them.
- We must set an example to show that all emitters, large and small, can and should decarbonize
- Our campus could be a leader in achieving zero emissions

UCSC's Fossil Fuel Impact

- UCSC's largest GHG emissions source is the burning of methane gas for electricity and heat.
- A majority of these emissions come from the main campus cogeneration plant.
- Our fossil fuel infrastructure has served us well for many years, but now it is time to look ahead at the future.
- California's grid (PGE) is largely renewable (>90%), yet UCSC relies largely on fossil fuels



Why “Carbon Neutral” is Not Enough

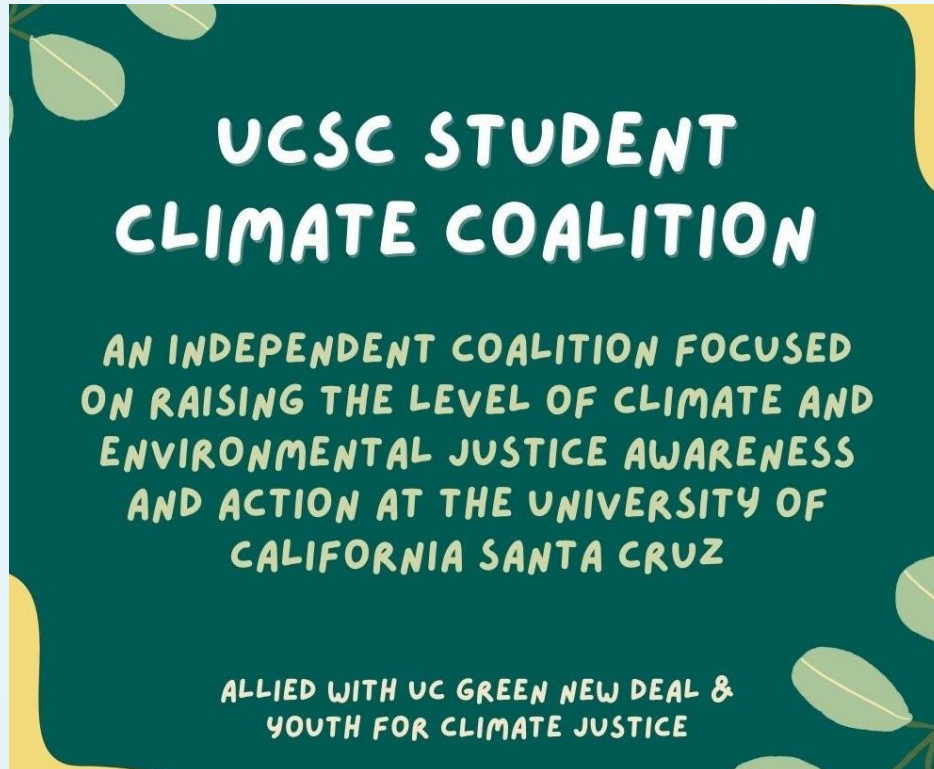
- UC’s current plan is primarily to buyout our emissions by purchasing carbon offsets.
- Carbon offsets are credits representing carbon that was sequestered or not released somewhere else.
 - Planting of trees
 - Investment in sustainable infrastructure
- Offset can sometimes be difficult to verify.
- Offsets can fund useful work, but they don’t halt our emissions **at the source**.
- We have a responsibility to stop emissions here in the Western world, where, historically, most emissions are from.



Where do we
need to go from
here?



The UCSC Climate Coalition



- Established just over 1 year ago
- Comprised of students, staff, faculty, alums, and lecturers
- ~400 members and growing
- Affiliated with the 10-campus UC Green New Deal Movement
- Decarbonizing and Climate Education

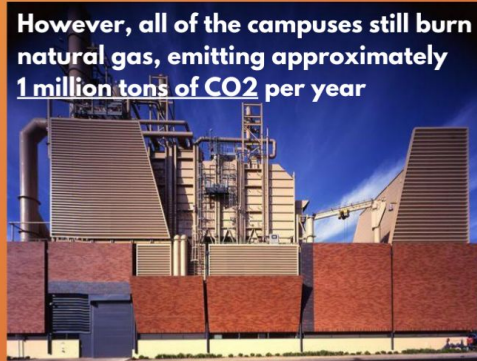
A Mandate for Decarbonizing

In September 2019, the 10 Chancellors
of the

**UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA**

said, "[We] need a drastic societal shift to combat the growing threat of climate change."

However, all of the campuses still burn
natural gas, emitting approximately
1 million tons of CO₂ per year



By continuing to use
fossil fuels, we exacerbate
climate injustice and global heating.



Sign the Petition to the University of California to Address Climate Change

DEMAND THE UC SYSTEM DEVELOP A DETAILED ENERGY PLAN THAT
DOESN'T RELY ON FOSSIL FUELS

Signed by over **3,500** members of the UC community and **endorsed by unions** who represent **46,000 UC employees**, and by the **UC Student Association** and **UC Graduate and Professional council**

A Mandate for Decarbonizing

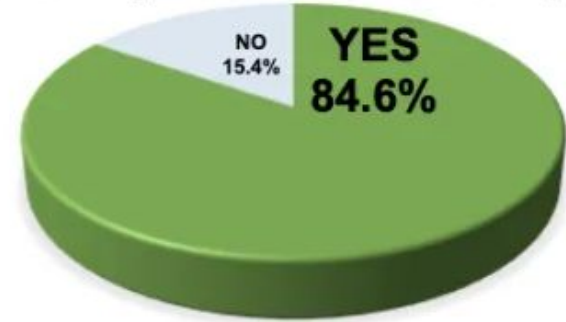
2022 - The University of California Fossil-Free Energy Memorial

The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC's infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035."

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Academic Senate

All University of California Campuses



A Mandate for Decarbonizing

Earth day 2022 rally + meeting with Chancellor Larive

- Our asks were two-fold:
 - Assemble a task force with the goals of rapid decarbonization
 - Keep the campus community informed of progress via regular “town-halls”



