

DECEMBER 12, 2016 AT 9:00AM EST BY RON FLEMING

Summary: The University of California, Irvine has launched an innovative incentive program to encourage faculty and staff to adopt electric vehicles.



The University of California, Irvine has long been at the forefront of sustainability efforts, and this includes the campus's well-established sustainable transportation program. Beyond the typical complexities inherent to all transportation management programs, we are committed to the environment and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing a variety of transportation options to our campus community.

Pump 2 Plug is UCI's latest sustainable transportation initiative. It's an incentive program designed to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles by UCI faculty and staff. The program provides up to three years of complimentary electric vehicle (EV) charging on campus for participants who switch their gasoline-powered commuting vehicles to all-electric or plug-in hybrid-powered commuting vehicles. At the end of the initial three years, Pump 2 Plug members will pay a rate equivalent to 50% of the local charging rate to charge vehicles on the UCI campus.

The personal carbon credits resulting from the purchase or use of these energy-efficient vehicles are assigned to UCI, moving the campus closer to achieving the University of California's 2025 carbon neutrality goal. To date, UCI's EV charging infrastructure has eliminated more than 125 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Within the first three days of the program's inception, dozens of participants committed to a green commute by swapping internal combustion engine vehicles for zero-emission vehicles.

In support of UCI's commitment to environmental sustainability, UCI has also accommodated the increasing number of EVs on campus by installing more than 100 charging stations. Pump 2 Plug enrollees, who receive free charging on campus, will also benefit from UCI's membership in the Chargepoint network, giving them access to nearly 700 free charging options throughout Southern California.

UCI's charger expansion on campus was funded in part by SoCal EV Ready, a partnership of more than a dozen regional utilities including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Edison. UCI has future plans to expand EV infrastructure with an additional 40 charging stations as demand continues to grow.

UCI is the first and only university in the United States to offer complimentary mobile electric vehicle charging to stranded motorists. This service helps to counter mileage constraints and curb range anxiety among EV commuters.

Look for UCI to spearhead additional EV programming and services. For more information on UCI's vision for the future of transportation and electrification, visit UCI Transportation's dedicated website, which serves as the campus's central clearinghouse for EV programming, including Pump 2 Plug policies, federal and state rebates, and dealership incentives: <http://sites.uci.edu/electricvehicles/>.

Expanding EV services through Pump 2 Plug is but one example of UCI's vision for the future of transportation and electrification. UCI is also pioneering research to convert renewable energy to hydrogen for fuel cell electric vehicles or storage in the natural gas system, and leading smart-grid and micro-grid developments in the Irvine Smart Grid Demonstration as well as the UCI Microgrid Controller development projects, both cutting-edge research partnerships with Southern California Edison and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Ron Fleming
Director of Transportation and Distribution Services at UCI