

Biofuels and the BP-UCB Deal: Implications and Alternatives

For Immediate Release:

April 19, 2007

Contact:

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The room for the teach-in on biofuels on April 26th is **4 LECONTE**, and NOT 750 Davis Hall, as announced earlier. Please make note of this change.

Media advisory / Photo opportunity:

Two public forums on biofuels and the UCB-BP deal.

The University of California recently announced that it is signing a \$500M deal with the oil company BP, to establish a research center on bioenergy, in collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

The main focus of this research center would be to develop biofuels, a technology that is presented as holding great promise for reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases. Yet, many scientists argue that biofuels may be far from carbon-neutral, and may actually exacerbate environmental problems.

What are the current and potential environmental, social, economic, and political problems associated with rushing toward biofuels? What are alternative ways we could seriously address climate change, as individuals and collectively? What is this BP deal about anyway, and how might it affect the independence and functioning of the public university? Come learn more....

The forums will be webcast live at stopbp-berkeley.org.

I. Biofuels: a conversation between science, engineering, ecology, politics and urban design

Thursday, April 26, 2007; 7:00pm

4 LeConte, U.C. Berkeley

Featuring:

► **Tadeusz Patzek**

Professor of Geoen지니어ing at U.C. Berkeley. He is an Editor for *Transport of Porous Media*, and an Associate Editor of *Energy Tribune*. He is also an active participant in the global debate on biofuels and their environmental and social impacts. Patzek is a coauthor of some 200 papers and reports, and is currently writing four books.

► **Richard Register**

Author of "Ecocities - Rebuilding Cities in Balance with Nature," President of Ecocity Builders and founder of the International Ecocity Conferences.

► **Alice Friedemann**

A freelance journalist who specializes in energy. She is a member of the Northern California Science Writers Association. She graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana, with a B.S. in Biology and a Chemistry/Physics minor. Currently she is a systems architect/engineer in the San Francisco Bay Area.

▶ **John Harte**

Joint Professor in Ecosystem Sciences and Energy and Resources at U.C. Berkeley.

▶ **Jessica Lawrence**

Executive Director of the Borneo Project. Has worked the past 12 years in the fields of ecology research, indigenous land rights advocacy, community forestry, and rainforest conservation.

▶ **with poetry by Kirk Lumpkin**

Poet/lyricist/spoken word artist and Berkeley Farmers' Market Special Events & Promotions Coordinator.

II. The UCB-BP deal: implications for the public university

Wednesday, May 2, 2007; 7:00pm

The Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. Berkeley, CA 94709

Featuring:

▶ **Jennifer Washburn**

Journalist, author of *University Inc.: The Corporate Corruption of Higher Education*, and recipient of the 2001 National Association of Science Writers' Science-in-Society Journalism Award.

▶ **Jean Lave**

Professor of Geography at UC Berkeley. As Vice-Chair of the Committee on Research at the time of the Novartis Deal Professor Lave was point person for COR in developing an RFP and initiating research on the Deal, and a member of the Novartis Oversight Committee that coordinated the Michigan State study.

▶ **Ignacio Chapela**

Professor of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, U.C. Berkeley, and a person who believes that the people and the environment of California deserve better for the future than what BP would leave behind.

▶ **Cori Hayden**

Professor of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley, specializing in the anthropology of science, technology and medicine. Prof. Hayden conducts critical, ethnographic research on intellectual property regimes, ethics and other modes of governance in North and South America.

▶ **James Thorlby (by telephone from Brazil with slideshow)**

Works for the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) in the North-East of Brazil. The CPT is an agency of the Bishop's Conference in Brazil. The Brazilian government recently awarded it the Human Rights Award 2003 in the Eradication of Slave Labor category for its work to combat slave labor throughout the country.

▶ **with poetry by Hillary Lehr**

U.C. Berkeley student and slam poet

More to be confirmed...

Sponsors:

The StopBP-Berkeley.org student campaign, Ecocity Builders, and Green Century Institute.

The views of the presenters are independent from those of the above sponsors.