



**bperkeley**  
University of California

**UC Berkeley** and its partners the  
**University of Illinois, Urbana**  
**Champaign** and the **Lawrence Berkeley**  
**National Laboratory** to join **BP** in a  
\$500 million research institute aimed at  
exploring the profitability of biofuels and **making BP look good.**

*(For Immediate Press Release)*

**Berkeley, California, April 1, 2007** – On February 1st, BP announced that it had chosen the partnership headed by UC Berkeley to host the new, high-profile Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI). Not only will the EBI allow BP to profit from the global climate crisis, it will provide a smokescreen for BP's increasing contribution to the problem. At \$500 million, the deal is the largest single greenwashing effort entered into by a public university and a private corporation.

Outside observers could mistake the half a billion dollars as a very generous gift, but BP views it as a shrewd investment. For a small fraction of their annual profits, BP will be able to use UC Berkeley's name -- associated the world over with environmentalism and open debate -- to convince the public that they're doing something about global warming. BP's experts estimate that this could boost its \$24 billion in annual sales at the pump by "a whole lot".

BP was quick to reassure its investors that only research avenues tightly in line with BP's business plan would be followed through at the EBI. Strict adherence to lines of research with lots of opportunities for BP to retain control of the technology will be ensured by tight control over the leadership of the EBI. Two of the five members of the Governance Board -- which controls aspects of the EBI from allocation of space to the direction of research -- will be BP employees, as will the associate director. The director of the EBI will also be hand-picked by BP, ensuring that BP's control over the world's energy will not slip away at this crucial juncture.

BP is especially pleased that large-scale adoption of biofuels could trigger other global crises as severe as global warming. "In every crisis, there is great opportunity for profit," said a BP representative. BP researchers are currently working hard to understand what these crises might be, studying the rapid deforestation in Indonesia caused by palm oil plantations for biodiesel, and the rising tortilla prices in Mexico, as corn for ethanol displaces corn for food.

True to the spirit of open debate at Berkeley, if any of the studies at the EBI happen to be critical of the research direction that will make the most money -- whether it is exacerbating global inequality or taking huge public health risks -- BP will make sure that those studies are published, so that everyone knows how they're getting screwed. Unless, of course, the studies involve technical details that BP doesn't want disclosed.

See [www.stopbp-berkeley.org](http://www.stopbp-berkeley.org) for more details.