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School: Colegio Nueva Granada

Greener:

University of California, Berkeley: Carbon footprint

- ❖ **Leadership:** The most interesting thing that called my attention of this university is that they have a Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP): a group of faculty, staff, students and administration that have, as a goal, to achieve carbon negativity. This partnership conducts greenhouse gases inventories, created three different climate planning documents and empower the UC Berkeley community to collaborate for these goals.
 - I think this is the first step to actually achieving, as a society, anything in life, to unite a community under a good leader to guide them towards their goals. In this case the CalCAP those this. It not only provides the ways in which sustainability can be obtained but also encourages everyone to be part of the change and thus is more efficient at achieving this. Additionally, groups such as this one, incorporate the values of leadership, responsibility and unity into their campus culture which is essential to be able to make big changes, improvements and advancements. I believe all educational institutions should follow this example and create a group of devoted individuals, that in this case, will work together to be carbon negative.
- ❖ **GHG Reduction Strategies:** UC Berkeley has a Greenhouse gases reduction strategies conducted by the CalCAP. These strategies are categorized in two main subjects: behavior and infrastructure. The behavior category strives for changing people's lifestyle towards one where they save more energy. An example of a behavior reduction strategy is getting people to choose more environmentally friendly transportation. I learned that they have been able to reduce by more than 50% of their carbon emission from transportation use thanks to this strategy. Instead of relying on fossil fuel vehicles about 83% of staff, student body, and faculty either walk, cycle, use public transport or share rides. As a result we can see the big reduction of the campus carbon footprint. In the other hand, the infrastructure category focuses making the physical aspect of the campus energy efficient. This is done through the architecture and the design of the buildings to improve the performance. They also implemented the use of precise monitors to track their the energy consumption.
 - I think this is really important because we can see the impact of this strategies in the overall university carbon footprint. These strategies are what makes the dreams a reality, they offer a concrete framework that will help achieve the campuses objectives. Apart from this, they have been proven effective and the impact is measurable. This are two things of great significance for this kind of projects. If these are not effective then the goal is never going to be accomplished, and if they're not measurable they can't know if these are efficient or not. In addition, it offers space for improvement. They can

analyze the effectiveness and learn what can they change to increase their efficiency. This will also help other campuses follow their example and create transregional change.

- ❖ **Renewable Energy:** A great infrastructure reduction strategy that took place in the campus was the implementation of Solar PV roof top systems that will generate 1MW of power from the sun. This replaces energy consumption from fossil fuels and helps build the path to making UC Berkeley carbon negative.
 - I think this project is very important because it is a big step that the university took towards sustainability and being carbon negative. It is admirable how they were able to implement this systems and the magnitude of energy saved. Many campuses, corporations, cities and even countries could adopt. This could also lead to a more sustainable urban development plan that could be essential to achieving a carbon neutrality in big cosmopolitan centers.

For me, focusing on improving the architecture and the design of the campus to increase energy efficiency sounds really interesting, challenging and useful. I think I would love trying to see what changes can be made to the infrastructure of the current campus and how new buildings can be to future buildings part of this. Nevertheless, I think that to achieve this I need to have more knowledge and preparation that I will get through education. Meanwhile, I would love if my school could have a leadership group like the one UC Berkeley presents. This could be done by encouraging the student body to participating in the change and teaching them to be leaders. It may not be easy at first because, I believe, this is a matter of shaping the school's culture, but I believe once its done, it will be the most effective.