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Summer has just begun, and with it our Cal Energy Corps cohort are beginning their summer internships. In this issue, we are pleased to share several updates on current and upcoming project activities, as well as to introduce you to this year's Cal Energy Corps students.

Upcoming Events

June 10th

[Berkeley Conversations: COVID-19 in the Global South](#)

June 24th

[BECC Webinar "Transformational Communications: Increasing Government Ambition in Public Engagement on Climate Change"](#)

In the News

[Coronavirus and Climate Change](#)

[Let's Flatten the Curve on Climate Change](#)



Request for Qualifications Interconnection Dispute Resolution Panel: Technical Advisor

The California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEE) and the Center for Law, Energy & Environment (CLEE) at UC Berkeley Law are looking to identify and recommend for California Public Utilities Commission selection a group of Technical Advisors to conduct research and/or provide expertise in support of the expedited dispute resolution technical panel and its members as needed.

Electric Rule 21 is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating and metering requirements for generation facilities to be connected to a utility's distribution system. The tariff provides customers wishing to install generating or storage facilities on their premises with access to the electric grid while protecting the safety and reliability of the distribution and transmission systems at the local and system levels.

In recent years, growth in the number of requests to interconnect solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to the utility grid has raised new issues and challenges for PV installers, utilities, and ultimately the PV customers who absorb the costs of interconnection challenges. The increased volume of interconnection requests and the evolving market for distributed energy resources (DERs) has led California to revisit and revise Rule 21 interconnection requirements and have caused utilities to streamline and automate interconnection processes.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2861 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 672), signed into law in September 2016, authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish an expedited dispute resolution (EDR) process that will issue binding determinations to electric distribution grid interconnection disputes based on the recommendations of a technical panel within 60 days of the Commission receiving the Application regarding a particular dispute.

The deadline to apply is **June 15th**, and the full RFQ, including requirements for the position and instruction on how to apply, can be found on our [website](#).

CITRIS COVID-19 Seed Funding

CITRIS and the Banatao Institute has launched a COVID-19 response with 25 awards for innovative technologies, potential "game-changers" for the diagnostics, therapeutics, and mitigation of the pandemic.

Before the application deadline, an anonymous donor expanded potential funding exponentially with a \$1.6 million matching challenge, allowing for more projects to be

awarded at an average of \$50,000 for each grant. Among the 97 proposals received, 25 projects were chosen, including next-gen face masks, new algorithms for contact tracing and advance prediction, a genome browser to integrate molecular-level genetic information to accelerate research, and a point-of-care rapid-testing device the size of a credit card.

To read more about the 25 projects awarded seed funding, please visit CITRIS's [website](#).



Announcing the Environmental Change Research Network

CIEE is proud to announce the formation of an interdepartmental research collaborative, with the goal of building collaboration between the various units on campus that are hard at work addressing climate change.

UC Berkeley is home to some of the greatest intellectual leaders addressing global environmental challenges across multiple disciplines. Unfortunately, we are not living up to our full potential for positive impact in the world, largely because of a lack of coordinated, interdisciplinary collaboration in both our research and educational missions.

In order to realize UC Berkeley's potential, CIEE and other centers have created a collaborative body of ORU's/Centers aligned with the Environmental Change, Sustainability and Justice Initiative. By design, the campus Signature Initiatives are highly interdisciplinary, and this is also reflected in the member body of the ECRN.

The 14 participating ORU's/Centers are the: Berkeley Education Alliance for Research in Singapore, Berkeley Water Center, California Institute for Energy and Environment, Center for the Built Environment, Center for Environmental Public Policy, Center for Law Energy and Environment, Center for Resource Efficient Communities, CITRIS and the Banatao Institute, Energy Biosciences Institute, Environmental Resilience Accelerator, Energy Institute at Haas, the Berkeley Natural History Museum, the California-China Climate Institute, and the Transportation Sustainability Research Center.

If you'd like to learn more about ECRN and its member organizations, you can do so on our brand new [website](#)!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

CITRIS 2020 SEED FUNDING

CITRIS 2020 Seed Funding

While COVID-19-related seed funding has already been awarded, CITRIS's main seed funding program is still open for applications. The CITRIS Seed Funding Program invites Principal Investigators at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Davis Health, UC Merced, and UC Santa Cruz to apply for seed funding that advances CITRIS and the Banatao Institute's research thrusts, strengthens UC campus connections, and drives novel technology applications.

Application Deadline: Thursday, September 10th, 2020 at 5:00 PM (PDT) via the application portal: https://citrissmapply.org/prog/2020_citriss_seed_funding/

More information: To download the RFP, view detailed areas of interest, eligibility, requirements, and FAQs, please visit the 2020 CITRIS Seed Funding webpage: <https://citriss-uc.org/core-seed-funding/>

Contact seeds@citriss-uc.org with questions.



UC Berkeley Campus Conversations: COVID-19

UC Berkeley, throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, has been hosting regular webinars that are open to the public. Across the UC Berkeley campus, researchers are rising to meet the complex challenges of COVID-19 even as the crisis generates waves of news and information that can be confusing and contradictory at times. In response, the university's new online video series, "Berkeley Conversations: Covid-19", seeks to connect our leading experts with the public they serve, and each other. Through Q&A's, seminars, and panel discussions, faculty from a wide range of disciplines—from epidemiology to economics to the computing and data now undergirding their work—will share what they know, and what they are learning

The next Berkeley Conversation is scheduled for June 10th, and is titled "COVID-19 and the Global South: Economic Impact and Recovery." If you'd like to tune in, you can do so [here](#).

Upcoming Events

BECC Webinar: "Transformational Communications: Increasing Government Ambition in Public Engagement on Climate Change"

BECC's next free webinar will be held on Wednesday, June 24th, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT!

Governments have failed to effectively engage people on the issue of climate change, even 30 years after committing in the Framework Convention to inform and educate their citizens about this critical issue. Today, people are still disturbingly ill-informed about what is causing climate change, how urgent it is, and how it will impact their lives. So, how do we assert people's legal (and moral) right to know, and how can we transform our approach to engagement in order to overcome polarization and build a broad-based public mandate to support action? George Marshall, the founder of Climate Outreach, a non-profit based in Oxford, UK that is Europe's leading specialist in climate change communication, will make the case that public engagement is essential for achieving our climate targets and will discuss a major new international initiative to transform government commitments to public engagement.

If you would like to tune in, registration is free, and can be done so [here](#).

Monthly Spotlight



cal energy corps

Cal Energy Corps 2020 Internships Have Begun!

The 2020 Cal Energy Corps program is underway! Despite the challenges posed by the

COVID-19 epidemic, we are pleased to announce that, with the cooperation of our host organizations, we have been able provide eleven exceptional UC Berkeley undergraduates with remote summer internships for projects ranging from federal policy to zero net-energy buildings.

The Cal Energy Corps is an undergraduate summer internship program engaging top UC Berkeley undergraduate students in the design, development and delivery of sustainable energy and climate solutions. All placements are challenging, full-time assignments with leading organizations in the private and public sector, enabling students to gain professional experience working on the technical solutions of social issues in a cohesive learning environment.

During the internship, all participants are expected to keep a blog with regular updates on the progress of their work. We'll be highlighting some of their experiences in the newsletter as summer progresses, but for now, you can meet our new cohort and read their introductions on our [website](#).



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