

BERC Starter Pack

Welcome to the Berkeley Energy & Resources Collaborative (BERC)! This document is designed as a roadmap to help you navigate your BERC membership.

01 What is BERC?

BERC is an interdisciplinary group on campus that unites students passionate about the energy and resources space. The group includes students from 28 departments across campus, and the wider BERC community encompasses faculty, industry professionals, and alumni specialized in a range of fields.

BERC builds a vibrant energy & resources community by:

- **Connecting** students through regular happy hours, mentorship programs, and summer climate dinners
- **Educating** with events like Climate Change 101, BERCshops on varied topics, and the fall Energy Speaker series course
- **Engaging** the broader community with the fall Resources Symposium and the spring Energy Summit – these conferences include informative panels, highlight cutting-edge student research, and connect students with faculty and industry professionals

02 How do I become a member of BERC?

Joining BERC is simple! **Everyone is welcome to BERC events, and if you're receiving our weekly Dispatch, then you're a BERC member with access to all our events and resources.**

- Sign up for the Dispatch **here** - our biweekly email for current students lists our upcoming events, as well as opportunities to get involved with the greater climate, energy, and sustainability community in the Bay Area
- Stay in the loop with our quarterly Newsletter, aimed at our entire BERC community, where we reflect on the impact BERC is making on UC Berkeley's campus and invite our community members to our public events

03 What does BERC do?

BERC hosts a variety of events throughout the year aimed at uniting students in the energy and resources space. You should expect a typical BERC calendar to look like this:

Year-Round Events

- **BERC Happy Hours:** Casual get togethers at rotating bars in the Berkeley/Oakland area
- **BERCshops:** BERC workshops that dive into topics ranging from nuclear energy to plastic pollution. These events typically showcase student and/or alumni work
- **Career Treks:** Visits to Bay Area companies and start-ups that specialize in the energy/resources space
- **Mentorship Program:** Get paired as a mentor with an undergraduate from BERCU. There's typically a kick-off event in the fall and a closing event in the spring
- **Buddy Program:** Pilot program starting fall 2024, through which BERC members are paired with other members to get to know students across departments
- **BERC Research:** Monthly meetings where students can share their research, discuss interesting articles, and get feedback on their work

Fall Events

- **Fall Kick-Off Event:** Welcome new students to BERC
- **Lunch & Learns:** Series of lunch events aimed at introducing students to the basics of the energy & resources space
- **Climate Dinners:** Small, casual dinners with 4-6 other students that take place throughout the summer and early fall
- **Resources Symposium:** One-day event centered on the resources space, featuring engaging panel discussions and showcasing student research

Spring Events

- **Energy Summit:** Flagship two-day conference with over 400 students, industry professionals, and alumni in attendance. Summit includes panel discussions, a career fair, and networking opportunities
- **Women in Climate:** Event for female-identifying students on campus to access opportunities in the climate space, while also providing valuable insights on navigating careers in the field

04 How do I become more involved with BERC?

If you want to actively plan BERC events, we'd love for you to join our **Leadership Team**! The Leadership Team consists of 8 subteams, each dedicated to putting together different BERC programming: Academics, Events & Programs, Finance, Marketing & Analytics, Membership, Sponsorship & Careers, Summit, and Symposium.

- Read more about the Leadership Team **here**

Our main recruitment cycle is in the winter. If you want to get a head start in helping plan BERC events, we would love to have you **join as a Coordinator in the fall**. These coordinator roles are a lower-lift and great way to see what BERC is all about before applying for a more formal position at the end of the year.

- **Regardless of whether you join the Leadership Team or not, you are welcome to all BERC events as a member!**

05 What exactly do we mean by "energy & resources"?

Over the years, BERC has evolved from an energy club to a community focused on the many challenges around the energy transition and climate space. "Resources" captures many critical aspects of climate – think everything from maritime decarbonization and minerals extraction to sustainable agriculture and waste management!



Batteries, for instance, reveal the ways in which energy topics give rise to resource challenges. We can think of batteries as a vital tool in the energy transition as a means of energy storage for renewables. However, the development of new rechargeable batteries also requires critical metals (e.g. lithium, cobalt, nickel) and innovations in materials recycling.

06 Welcome to BERC!

We are so excited to have you as a part of BERC!

Helpful Links

Use these links to learn more about BERC and to stay updated on the latest news and upcoming events!

- **Website**
- **Blog**
- **Get Involved**
- **Stay Connected**

Upcoming Events

- **BERC Kick-Off:** August 29 at the Faculty Glade (stay tuned for details)
- **BERCshop - Funding Climate Tech: From Seed to Scale:** September 5, 6-8pm
- **Resource Symposium:** October 11 (stay tuned for details)
- **Energy Summit:** March 13-14 (stay tuned for details)

Stay in the loop on all upcoming events with the weekly Dispatch!