In a collective effort, Student Government (ASUCI), Environmental Health & Safety, Fleet Services, and Parking & Transportation Services is proud to announce that the campus will be running one of its 10 shuttle busses with 100% biodiesel (aka., B100), beginning March 19, 2007. For the past year and a half, the University has been operating and testing the shuttle bus, in conjunction with a newly installed control system to reduce smog forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from the use of biodiesel fuel. Overall, the study using B100 showed reductions in total unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, other greenhouse gases, and NOx, when compared to regular diesel fuel.

The initiative to convert fleet vehicles stems from a policy issued by the University of California, Office of the Presidents (UCOP), which UC Irvine and the other 9 UC Campuses have committed to implement to become greener and cleaner. Using B100 will assist in meeting the policy’s initiatives and allow UC Irvine to become a carbon neutral campus from a transportation perspective. Carbon neutrality is based on how biodiesel fuel is manufactured. The biodiesel that the campus uses is made from soybeans, which pulls carbon dioxide (CO2) out of the air; burning the fuel puts it back into the air, thus the effect is neutral. Whereas with fossil fuels, there are no plants to pull the CO2 out of the air, so burning those fuels raises CO2 levels, which in turn leads to global warming.

UC Irvine is also the first UC campus to use B100 to fuel its shuttle buses, although some 400 fleets across the country now use some grade of biodiesel fuel, according to the National Biodiesel Board. Moreover, UC Irvine is also using B20, a mixture of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel, for the remaining fleet vehicles that are diesel powered (e.g., solid waste and recycling trucks). Like B100, B20 also showed reductions in the previously mentioned pollutants versus regular diesel fuel.

Furthermore, to accommodate the B100 fueling needs for the shuttle bus program, the fueling station located in North Campus has installed an additional 10,000 gallon split fuel tank. The new split tank will each hold 5,000 gallons of B20 and B100 fuels.

For additional information on the B100 Shuttle Bus Program, please contact either Tim Rudek at 949-824-5547, Stacey Murren at 949-824-6302, or Dick Sun at 949-824-6200.