



Kira Stoll

**Chief Sustainability and Carbon Solutions Officer at
University of California, Berkeley**

2024 Individual Leadership Award

Kira Stoll is a sustainability professional with a specialization in higher education administration and planning. Her stewardship, innovation, strategic management, and collaborative efforts make her a standout leader in the field of climate action, and her collegial spirit has not only transformed UC Berkeley's sustainability landscape but has set a benchmark for higher education institutions worldwide and created the culture of dialogue and cooperation so essential for sustainable progress.

In her role as the first Chief Sustainability and Carbon Solutions Officer and Director of the Office of Sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley, Kira provides direction and pivotal guidance to drive environmental transformation and implement leading-edge practices that align with institutional, state, and federal priorities. She believes in system-wide change, and supports this with an assessment approach that's grounded in data-driven decision-making. This leads to more efficient progress tracking, encouraging continuous improvement.

She spearheads a breadth of policy and plans focused on achieving zero-carbon operations, with an emphasis on renewable energy procurement, production and storage; water conservation; land stewardship; green infrastructure; and fostering a resilient and inclusive university culture of sustainability. Kira actively collaborates with the academic community to establish research and demonstration living-labs, integrate sustainability into the curriculum, and support student learning.

Kira's contributions have far surpassed business-as-usual standards and her direction in key climate initiatives has led to the implementation of plans for significant reductions in emissions. With her commitment to inclusivity, Kira has made a lasting and measurable impact on higher education; her contributions serve as an inspiration in sustainable leadership by demonstrating actionable ways climate change solutions can be implemented globally.

In particular this leadership award recognizes Kira's specific contributions in the last three years:

1. Berkeley Clean Energy Campus Initiative: Kira co-leads this transformative project aimed at reducing campus building energy carbon emissions by 85% through an electrified and renewable energy microgrid. Under her leadership, the initiative has secured millions of dollars to begin implementation of this carbon-reducing project at the scale of medium-sized city in California. This initiative is a testament to her strategic vision and commitment to achieving zero-carbon operations.
2. Business Air Travel Carbon Mitigation Program: Addressing Scope 3 emissions, Kira launched this program to mitigate the environmental impacts of campus business air travel. Through investments in carbon reduction projects, she has shown a holistic approach to sustainability.
3. Climate Change Resiliency Engagement & Planning: Under Kira's direction, this program spearheads efforts to boost UC Berkeley's resilience to climate change impact. Her leadership in conducting vulnerability assessments and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion sets a best-in-class standard in climate resilience planning.
4. UC Berkeley Sustainability Plan: Kira spearheaded this comprehensive sustainability plan that not only accelerates decarbonization but also promotes smarter resource use, health equity, and environmental engagement. Her strategic planning and implementation monitoring have been instrumental in keeping the focus on achieving sustainability goals.