

Key points from *Bending the Curve*

Climate change is real and it is happening now. With the aggressive climate goals of the University of California and the state of California, the upcoming UN Climate Summit in Paris, and the general urgency of addressing climate change, the 50 experts of the UC Climate Solutions Group, including researchers from all 10 UC campuses and the associated national laboratories, created a practical, actionable blueprint for California and the world.

Recognizing that climate change is as much a technical challenge as it is a cultural, political and communications challenge, the solutions address the science and technology as well as the societal, regulatory and ecosystem approaches that will need to be brought to bear in the war on climate change.

KEY POINTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- **Target short-lived climate pollutants.** Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), which include methane, black carbon, HFCs and ozone, are powerful greenhouse gases. Unlike CO₂, emissions of SLCPs can be cut back quickly, slowing warming in the near term, averting extreme climatic events and providing breathing room for the world to fully transition to carbon neutrality. If we reduce methane emissions by 50 percent, black carbon by 90 percent and completely eliminate HFCs by 2030, we can cut the predicted warming in half by 2050.
- **Immediately scale up the technology we have.** Solar and wind power, electric light-duty vehicles, and efficient devices, particularly for lighting, air conditioning and industrial processes, are ready for widespread use now. Promote existing technology while emerging solutions develop to fully transition the world to carbon neutrality.
- **Religious and community leaders are vital allies.** Because fundamental changes in attitudes and behaviors are critical, solutions must bring researchers and scholars together with community and religious leaders to lower barriers and create a culture of climate action to take concrete steps toward solving our shared climate crisis.
- **Reduce emissions from the wealthiest, empower the poorest.** Climate action requires lowering the carbon footprint of the wealthiest 1 billion (who contribute roughly 60 percent of the climate pollution), while promoting clean energy for the poorest 3 billion, who will suffer the worst consequences of climate disruption.
- **Health impacts are happening today.** Climate change is affecting human health right now. Burning fossil fuels causes both air pollution and climatic events that result in human illnesses and death as well as significant loss of food crops and water.
- **California is a model for the world.** California's economic growth and success with governance, regulations, market-based instruments and promotion of national to international climate action plans, as well as technologies developed by UC and tested in living laboratories throughout the state, can serve as a model for other parts of the world.