

# Day 9: Justice (Greener)

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# Social Injustices Around Us

As seen on campus, in my  
community, in the media, and  
so on...

Environmental Injustice

Food and Water Insecurity

Homelessness

Poverty

Unequal educational and  
unemployment opportunities

Underrepresented minorities

Discrimination based on  
ethnicity, gender, disability

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# Social Injustices Around Us

## **HOMELESSNESS.**

Everyday when I walk to class, I see at least 5 people who are currently homeless. They are predominantly black men, who are one of the most disadvantaged minorities in our society today. I don't think it's an accident that a majority of the homeless that I've witnessed are black and male. This ties in with the injustice that lies with the prison system -- there is a disproportionately high number of black males in prison.

## **FOOD AND WATER INSECURITY.**

I have friends and classmates who talk about allocating money between many basic things that many of us take for granted, like food, basic care (haircuts), and entertainment. I've seen how expensive food can be here, and although there are definitely resources that students can look into, it often takes initiative to do so, and sometimes one is just plain exhausted from the day to do so. One has to actively fight and expend energy to take care of basic necessities.

# Social Injustices Around Us

## **POVERTY.**

It's in the big things -- financial aid, balancing a job and school -- and in the little, daily things. When our room's printer went down, I spent over an hour at the university printing room trying to print 5 pages (this was the maximum that one could print for free). I cannot imagine the effect this has on students who may not have as much money to allocate to paying to print assignments -- valuable time and energy is lost on something that seems so arbitrary. Printing a couple pages? Just one example.

## **UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITY.**

Educational opportunity is directly tied to how much money one has, as well as ethnicity. The more money one has, the more able one is to obtain resources. For instance, college acceptances are not an equal playing field for all. Money can buy test prep, admissions counselors, security, and so on. This is a complex issue -- it's not a crime to have money, and one should use the resources that they have. The issue is how to make a baseline playing field for all so that people are not disadvantaged.

# Social Injustices Around Us

## **UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES.**

Minorities are underrepresented in politics. Equal representation matters because if there isn't a representative who personally knows your interests and has them at heart, the people's voices and interests are not being represented. Minorities are also underrepresented in higher education and in positions of power. Equal representation matters -- we need to have role models who look like us and share similar background to look up to so that we, too, can change the world.

## **DISCRIMINATION.**

Discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, and disability limits opportunity. Blatant discrimination is easy to call out, but small acts of discrimination -- assuming someone is less able or "not normal" due to their disability, for instance -- is harder to call out. This is why awareness of our perceptions and keeping an open mind is so important. Unequal opportunity leads to social injustice.

# Environmental Injustice.

This resonates with me the most because...

It's easy to dismiss the environment - If we don't think about it, we may think that the environment has no face, has no voice - We may think of the stereotypes of environmentalists and judge based on those -- privileged people who make it seem elitist, treehuggers, hippies, people who prioritize "the environment" over "more serious" issues like the economy and poverty - However, this couldn't be further from the truth - Environmental injustice is tied to all sorts of injustice - Environmental activists come from all sorts of people and has all sorts of faces, voices, backgrounds, and experiences - Remember the Dakota Access Pipeline leak and how that put the tribe's drinking water, and ultimately their health, culture, and wellbeing at risk? - What about the untold environmental injustice issues that don't receive widespread media coverage? - What about the everyday impacts that we don't see or think about? - The rising temperatures due to climate change, air and plastic pollution, toxic waste, "dirty" energy, oil spills, species going extinct, unhealthy food, toxic products -- We are so far removed from many of these realities - There needs to be more pressure to educate and mobilize - Yet, I have hope - The grassroots environmental movement grows every day, especially in the youth - The question is, will it be enough?

**Environmental injustice resonates with me the most because there is no better topic that depicts how all social injustices are related to one another, and how just much we need to invest more resources into making change.**

How To Be A

# Changemaker

# I Am A Changemaker By

Joining campus organizations  
tackling various aspects of the  
environmental movement

Berkeley Student Food  
Collective (BSFC)

California Student  
Sustainability Coalition (CSSC)

Engineers for a Sustainable  
World At Berkeley

Fossil Free Cal

ReUSE

Strategies for Ecology,  
Education, Diversity, and  
Sustainability (SEEDS)

# I Am A Changemaker By

Educating myself, making  
conscious choices, and  
investigating environmental  
issues in my community

Join Project Green Challenge

Read news, articles, magazines,  
and books on environmental issues  
(check out book list on the next  
slide!)

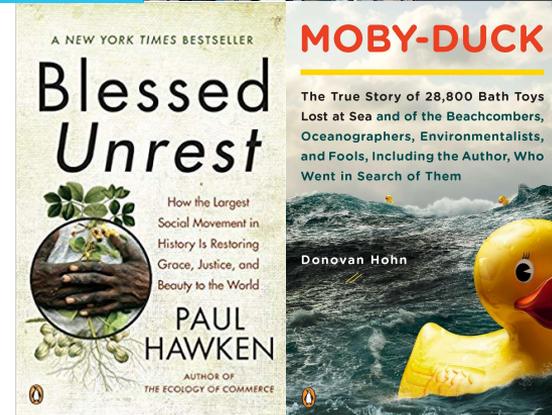
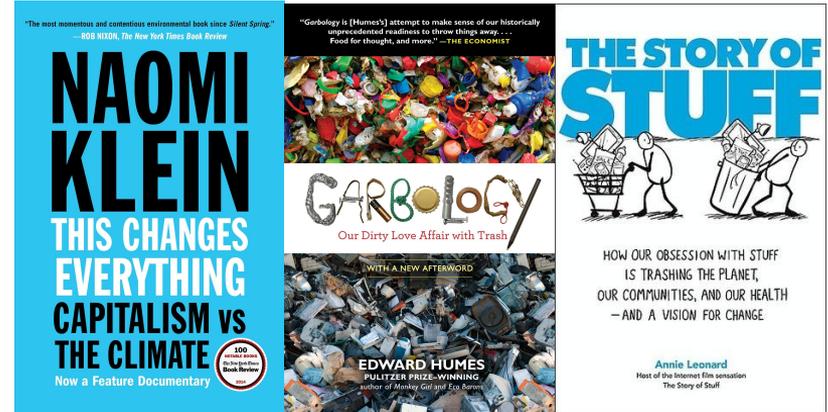
Learn about environmental policy  
and state of affairs in local, state,  
and national government

Vote with your dollar -- buy  
products from conscious  
companies

Engage in conversation with peers  
about environmentalism

# Bonus: Book List on the Environment

1. “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate” by Naomi Klein
2. “Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair With Trash” by Edward Humes
3. “The Story of Stuff” by Annie Leonard
4. “Blessed Unrest” by Paul Hawken
5. “Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them” by Donovan Hohn



# I Am A Changemaker By

Volunteering and educating the public on environmental issues

People's Climate Movement

Earth Guardians

Your Local Environmental  
Organization

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# Issue: Is UC Berkeley On Track To Meet Its Zero-Waste Goal?

I did some research and discovered this article by The Daily Californian.

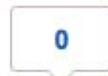
## UC Berkeley is trash for not caring enough about trash

CAMPUS ISSUES: How can the campus meet its zero waste goals if it throws compost in the landfill?



We're not angry about the news that UC Berkeley will sometimes [throw](#) the contents of compost and recycling bins into landfill dumpsters; we're just disappointed. It's like finding out Santa Claus isn't real.

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[Comment](#)

When custodians and groundskeepers see compost and recycling bins that are topped with regular trash and are “contaminated,” Cal Zero Waste manager Lin King said, they throw it away into a landfill dumpster. And with it goes the campus community’s last-ditch attempt at some semblance of sustainability.

That’s right — if a few items that aren’t compostable on the pile, all the compost will be thrown away in the landfill too. Why even have separate bins for compost and recycling if they’re all going to end up in the same unsustainable heap?

And you’ll never guess what can “contaminate” a compost bin. The most ridiculous contaminant: compostable utensils. Those supposedly “compostable” forks and knives you’re getting at The Golden Bear café can’t actually be broken down by the compost facilities UC Berkeley contracts. Despite the fact that these utensils are considered “contaminants” to custodians, their taunting images remain on various compost bins’ charts.

The fact that utensils labeled “compostable” do not in fact belong in the compost bin is a totally bizarre oversight — why call something compostable if it’s not? Students can’t read minds: How on Mother Earth are they supposed to know their soiled food-focused implements aren’t compostable?

It’s clear that this issue of “contamination” will further prevent the campus from reaching its lofty Zero Waste 2020 initiative. The campus has already [missed](#) the initiative’s target of a 75 percent reduction in landfill waste by 2012, and a 2017 UC sustainability report [found](#) that UC Berkeley ranks as one of the worst UC campuses when it comes to diverting trash from landfills. Compounded by the fact that these fancy bins [separating](#) trash into compost, recycling and landfill aren’t even placed in most areas of campus, it’s obvious that UC Berkeley needs to do a better job when it comes to sustainability.

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The campus doesn’t even keep track of how many loads of compost and recycling are being thrown out because of contamination — will the campus’s occasional waste audits alone help it meet its zero waste goals? UC Berkeley needs to be more transparent about how much compost and recycling is getting diverted to landfills so the larger community always knows the campus’ progress.

Of course, campus issues aside, UC Berkeley won’t make any progress without significant buy-in from students. Students consistently throw the wrong things in the wrong bins (King appropriately dubbed these people as “bad apples”) and engage in countless other sustainability faux pas. Stop it! Take the time to [sort](#) your trash, and go the extra mile to [reduce](#) your waste. It’s your campus too.

*Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board as written by the opinion editor.*

# Action Plan To Address UC Berkeley's Waste Issue

1. Join a campus environmental organization.
2. Investigate this issue with a committee of club members by:
  - a. Meeting with university team in charge of zero waste
  - b. Learn about campus waste, university's waste practices, and conduct waste audits
  - c. Bring up issue to university officials, lobby to make issue a priority, form action plan
  - d. Form committees dedicated to different aspects of plan:
    - i. Team dedicated to coming up with innovative solutions to make less-waste decisions easier
    - ii. Team dedicated to marketing campaigns -- educating student body on zero waste
3. Evaluate progress and reorient action plans and goals
4. Raise awareness for this issue by holding conference for campus sustainability clubs
  - a. Potentially make this a project across all clubs -- how can we reduce campus waste and increase efficiency and waste diversion?
  - b. Media outreach -- investigation by The Daily Cal, etc.
5. \*This is a sample action plan. Realistically, it will be different and much more complicated, but these are the elements of a plan that I came up with.

# My Next Steps

1. Join campus organization
  2. Look into current projects, learn, and see what I can offer
  3. Ask about the zero-waste issue
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Will You Be A

**Changemaker?**