

**Press Release**

May 25 and May 26, 10 am to 4 pm  
SW Parking lot of the Clark Kerr, UC Berkeley campus  
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*For Immediate Release*

**Cal Students Offer Free Furniture, Aim for a Sustainable Move Out**

Berkeley, CA, May 22, 2019: For the second year, [Cooperative Reuse](#) is offering gently-used furniture free to the community on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday May 26 (10 am to 4 pm) at the southwest parking lot of the Clark Kerr campus. Part of the the larger city-campus [Cal Move Out](#) effort, Cooperative Reuse is a student-led program that collects reusable household items from Cal students during the busy Cal Move Out weekends at the end of the spring semester. The program is being administered by the Berkeley Student Cooperative with support from campus and city partners.

Household item donations are accepted from current UC Berkeley students, who have to show their Cal ID. Students have been encouraged to bring their reusable furniture to the Clark Kerr parking lot from 10am to 4pm on the last two weekends in May. During those times, anyone can head to the SW Parking Lot of Clark Kerr to peruse — and take home — free gently-used furniture that include desks, book shelves, office chairs, televisions, couches, kitchen tables, microwaves, mattresses and bed frames.

District 7 Councilmember Rigel Robinson, a recent graduate of UC Berkeley, checked out the effort during its first weekend of operation and promoted it in his constituent newsletter.

“It’s always inspiring to see student leaders working hard to support the best instincts and passions of their peers,” Robinson commented. “I know from experience that this generation of Berkeley students is 100% dedicated to sustainability and decreasing what they put in the waste stream. They just don’t always have the tools they need. Cooperative Reuse is bringing that passion to life, and provides students with the resources they need to keep their reusable items out of the waste stream.”

Many students don’t have access to a vehicle to transport their unwanted household items to a recycling center or Berkeley’s Transfer station. That’s where Cooperative Reuse has come in: With a Cal ID, students have been signing up to get their items picked up by fellow students, who are using moving trucks to collect (and sometimes drop off) mattresses, desks and more.

Mayor Jesse Arreguin has also promoted Cal Move Out and Cooperative Reuse in a recent newsletter.

“We had an incredibly busy and successful first weekend,” said Ella Smith, a rising third year student, a leader who is active in the city and on campus, as well as a resident of a Berkeley Student Cooperative and this year’s Cooperative Reuse manager.

Smith reports they received more than 150 requests for picks up the first weekend, and another 150 requests for the May 25, 26 weekend. “We collected a lot of great items, and people from all over the Bay Area came to take home free stuff. In addition to many undergrads and graduate students, our neighbors from the Parker-Piedmont and Dwight-Hillside neighborhoods meandered over. We also had folks from the Fruitvale neighborhood in Oakland and much further away. We hope to spread the word even farther for this weekend!”

Cooperative Reuse is one element of a [student-led effort for a more sustainable Move Out](#) that will limit the negative impact on campus neighbors and the city of Berkeley, as well as help students avoid steep fines associated with illegal dumping. This year’s months-long, coordinated effort has been lead by student representatives from the ASUC, the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council, Cal Zero Waste and other student leaders passionate about sustainability and improving student-neighbor relations. This effort includes food drives, textbook collection, a massive re-use effort to collect clothing, sports equipment and more at the residence halls, a door knocking and canvassing effort to educate students about the resources available to them during Cal Move Out, and the development of [Boxlet Storage](#) “the Airbnb of student storage by a Cal student.”

In 2018, Cooperative Reuse was originally funded by the Chancellor’s Community Partnership Fund as a partnership between the Berkeley Student Cooperative and the City’s Public Works. This year, the effort is again support by the co-ops, who provide the manager and student workers, as well as the City’s office of Neighborhood Service. On campus, key partners include the office of Vice Chancellor Marc Fisher, Parking and Transportation, Student Services, the Lead Center and Government and Community Relations.

Now in it its 12th year, the city-campus Cal Move-Out program brings together the resources of the University of California, Berkeley and the City of Berkeley in an effort to decrease the environmental and social impacts of illegal dumping in near-campus neighborhoods at the end of the academic semester. Developed by the Advisory Council on Student-Neighbor Relations in 2007, Cal Move Out combines outreach to students and property owners about responsible disposal and reuse strategies as well as the deployment of large debris bins in the student-dense neighborhoods near campus.

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