Since 2008, Caltech has operated the Caltech Energy Conservation Investment Program, or CECIP. CECIP is a green revolving fund which uses the avoided costs from energy savings to fund energy efficiency projects.

In 2015, Caltech created CECIP II, the second phase of the energy conservation investment program. To date, CECIP II has saved $9GWH of energy on campus. The cumulative energy saved from both CECIP I and CECIP II is $27GWH. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions reductions, this amounts to 7MTCO2e and 20MTCO2e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent).

In FY17, the Caltech campus continued its transition from fluorescent to LED technology in classrooms, offices, and laboratories. During FY17, Caltech installed new LED lamps in 16 buildings and the campus tunnel network as part of Installation Phases I and II. The projected annual electricity saved from Phase I is 960,000 kWh and the projected annual electricity saved from Phase II is 1,000,000 kWh.

In FY17, CECIP shifted from a 6 year payback to an 8 year payback model. The change allows the university program to explore projects with significant energy savings that may have been previously discounted due to high upfront costs. Throughout the construction industry, the movement away from pneumatic to direct digital controls and automated infrastructure has resulted in increased capital costs which are subsequently offset by reductions in Operations & Maintenance expenses.

CECIP II Proposed 8 Year Simple Payback Model