Innovation fuels cleaner energy

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The RePurpose team—Ryan Barr (left), Prof. Jae Wan Park and Joe Lecrap—won the grand prize at the UC-wide 2019 Big Ideas contest.

Dear [informal salutation],

Ryan Barr is still working on his Ph.D. at the Energy and Efficiency Institute (EEI), but he already has his dream job.

Ryan is COO of RePurpose Energy, a company that repurposes used batteries from electric vehicles (EV) as storage systems for commercial solar developers, allowing for extended use of renewable energy. Reusing EV batteries also defers the expense of recycling and mitigates wasteful mining for new battery production.

RePurpose Energy was co-founded by Ryan, engineering Ph.D. candidate Joe Lacap, and their faculty mentor, Professor Jae Wan Park. Close ties to faculty and a commitment to real-world solutions were key reasons Ryan chose to study at EEI.

When you give to EEI, you support groundbreaking discoveries that help the world transition to a more sustainable energy system. You also help develop the next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs who are committed to innovative solutions that address climate change.

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EEI and its vast network have inspired and enabled me to dream bigger. My graduate studies have prepared me to enact critical change in a complex industry."

— RYAN BARR PH.D. '21, ENERGY SYSTEMS