



Over 375 college and university presidents are leading the nation to solve climate change.

Will you join them?

As you know, global warming is a defining challenge of our time. The world's leading scientists have ended the debate: emissions caused by human beings are responsible for climate change that will threaten the planet's ecosystem, the world economy and the lives of millions. Human activities are responsible for the problem, and working together we have the capacity to solve the problem.

One solution to this challenge is the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The ACUPCC is a high-visibility effort to make campuses more sustainable and address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to reduce and ultimately neutralize greenhouse gas emissions on campus, while promoting education and research on the topic. The signatories of the ACUPCC are out in front and leading the way on this issue. In keeping with the tradition of academic leadership, these presidents are joining the first collective effort by any major sector of society to set a long-term goal of *climate neutrality* – not just a reduction in emissions.

The ACUPCC:

- Fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of Higher Education
- Is driven by presidents who provide the strategic direction to address the educational, research and operational changes needed to combat global warming
- Provides the cohesive, *collective action* that is needed in addition to the excellent work being done by individual campuses
- Will accelerate the process through knowledge sharing, the development of common standards and best practices, and buying power
- Will produce real results by identifying 2 tangible actions right away, completing an inventory within a year and a long-term plan within 2 years, and ongoing public reporting to ensure follow through
- Is flexible and feasible, as each institution creates their own plan and target date; purchasing offsets is not a requirement
- Compliments and strengthens current climate initiatives on any campus by providing an effective vehicle to engage at the national level, avoid reinventing the wheel, and catalyze efforts, whether your school is just starting or has been at it for years

Current Status:

376 institutions

3 million students

46 states

As of Sept. 11, 2007

**Members of the ACUPCC
Steering Committee:**

Michael Crow (chair)
Arizona State University

Esther L. Barazzone
Chatham College

Richard Cook
Allegheny College

Mark Emmert
University of Washington

David Hales
College of the Atlantic

Martha Kanter
Foothill-De Anza Community
College District

G.P. "Bud" Peterson
University of Colorado, Boulder

Thomas Purce
The Evergreen State College

Judith Ramaley
Winona State University

Kathleen Schatzberg
Cape Cod Community College

David Shi
Furman University

David Skorton
Cornell University

Mary Spilde
Lane Community College

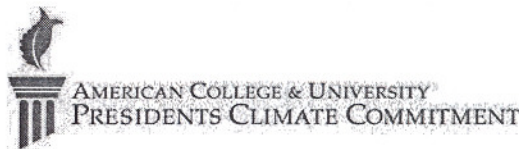
Mitchell Thomashow
Unity College

Timothy White
University of Idaho

Henry Yang
University of California,
Santa Barbara

Daroch Young
Los Angeles Community
College District

The fight against global warming is gathering momentum among students, faculty and administrators in higher education and in the public and corporate sectors. Early movers can realize extensive benefits in funding, attracting talent, achieving long-term cost reduction and generating broad support from alumni and communities while leading America to a new energy and economic future that is hopeful, healthy and prosperous. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about the initiative, and see how many colleges and universities are already reaping these benefits.



Visit our website to learn more:

www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org

The ACUPCC is an initiative of college and university presidents, and is staffed and supported by Second Nature, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and ecoAmerica. We welcome your inquiries, input and support.



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American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

We, the undersigned presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities, are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. We recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80% by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming and to reestablish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.

While we understand that there might be short-term challenges associated with this effort, we believe that there will be great short-, medium-, and long-term economic, health, social and environmental benefits, including achieving energy independence for the U.S. as quickly as possible.

We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society. These colleges and universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

We further believe that colleges and universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities.

Accordingly, we commit our institutions to taking the following steps in pursuit of climate neutrality:

1. Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.
 - a. Within two months of signing this document, create institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan.
 - b. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel) and update the inventory every other year thereafter.
 - c. Within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include:
 - i. A target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.
 - ii. Interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to climate neutrality.
 - iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.
 - iv. Actions to expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality.
 - v. Mechanisms for tracking progress on goals and actions.

(continued...)

2. Initiate two or more of the following tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.
 - a. Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent.
 - b. Adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist.
 - c. Establish a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution.
 - d. Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution.
 - e. Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources.
 - f. Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested.
 - g. Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste.
3. Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

In recognition of the need to build support for this effort among college and university administrations across America, we will encourage other presidents to join this effort and become signatories to this commitment.

Signed,

President/ Chancellor Signature

President/ Chancellor Name

College or University

Date

Please send the signed commitment document to:

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Boston, MA 02108

or fax to: 320-451-1612
or scan & email to: mreilly@secondnature.org