

**Middlebury College
Ronald Liebowitz**

When I signed the Presidents Climate Commitment on May 7, 2007 on behalf of Middlebury College, it was the nexus of several exciting developments on our campus. First of all, it was a way to publicly “ratify” a plan that our students, faculty and staff had already developed to make Middlebury carbon-neutral by the year 2016. The students drafted this aggressive resolution which our trustees approved at their May 2007 meeting.

Now it is time to hold ourselves accountable for the ambitious goals we have set. Last fall, I convened a committee charged with implementing our carbon neutrality plan. The committee is comprised of members from all corners of campus – academics, facilities, finance, human resources, environmental affairs, communications and the student body. I am asking a lot of them as they tackle this major task, and they are working hard to draft what will become our road map to carbon neutrality. The climate commitment has provided an important catalyst for this process as we move beyond individual sustainability projects and toward a thorough integration of all our efforts.

When I began teaching at Middlebury College in 1984, if you had told me that the farm field just west of our campus would one day supply willow shrubs to fuel a campus biomass plant to help replace a million gallons of fuel oil, I would have been skeptical. Well, in fact, our test willows are growing, we broke ground on the biomass plant this fall, and we plan to bring it on line in less than a year.

CARBON REDUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS (as of December, 2007)

Planning

- Formation of committee with diverse representation to develop a plan of action and implementation

Renewable Energy

- Biomass heating and cooling system (12,500) MTCDE, (under construction with a completion date 12/08)
- 175,000 gal./yr use of B20 Biofuel in furnaces off central system (279)MTCDE
- 10 kW wind turbine demonstration project at Recycling Center (>1) MTCDE
- 1 kW Solar power demonstration project at Farrell House (>1) MTCDE
- Geothermal cooling system and LEED renovation for Hillcrest Environmental Center (<1) MTCDE
- 7 kW Solar power array on Hillcrest (6) MTCDE, Spring '08

- 10 acre willow research project with SUNY-ESF on College agricultural lands - potential to grow/contract for biomass supply from local agricultural land owners

Transportation

- Hybrid vehicles in College fleet - 1 Honda Civic, 1 Ford Escape (>1)MTCDE
- Two Toyota Prius Zipcars available for students to rent for hourly and daily use
- College support for conversion of 2 regional transit shuttles to burn biofuels

Conservation

- Midd68 - 2 degree thermostat reduction (363) MTCDE
- Do It In the Dark - CFL Replacements (9) MTCDE
- Student Government Association sponsored bus charters to major cities for students during holiday breaks

Efficiency Upgrades

- Schedule of energy efficiency upgrades for existing buildings as identified in recent energy audit and Master Plan (in draft)
- Revision of Middlebury's green building design and construction guidelines to set LEED Silver as minimum standard for new construction and renovations.

Offset Projects

- Carbon neutral Snow Bowl (college ski area) via wind energy and farm methane offset purchase (680) MTCDE
- 158 students voluntary purchase of offsets for farm methane and wind projects (472) MTCDE

Projects Under Consideration

- Hydroelectric generation restoration on Otter Creek (880) MTCDE possible
- Use of B20 in lieu of #6 fuel oil for oil boiler