



Program Overview

The *American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment* 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. Since its launch in June 2007, the initiative has steadily gained momentum, capturing widespread attention and opening up new avenues for funding and unprecedented opportunities for co-learning.

The challenge to reverse global warming will reshape the 21st century. An immense and ever-growing body of scientific evidence points to the conclusion that our over-reliance on fossil fuels is causing the planet to warm at dangerous rates and the climate to destabilize. The participating presidents recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases dramatically, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming.

American College & University
Presidents Climate Commitment
18 Tremont Street, Suite 1120
Boston, MA 02108

presidentsclimatecommitment.org

America's higher education community can play a determinant role in addressing climate change. Leading society in this effort fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of higher education. No other institution in society has the influence, the critical mass and the diversity of skills needed to successfully reverse global warming. Tomorrow's architects, engineers, attorneys, business leaders, scientists, urban planners, policy analysts, cultural leaders, journalists, advocates, activists, and politicians— more than 17 million of them—are currently attending the more than 4,000 institutions of higher learning in the United States. Higher education is also a \$317 billion economic engine that employs millions of people and spends billions of dollars on fuel, energy, products, services and infrastructure.

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to go climate neutral. It recognizes the unique role of presidents and chancellors in providing leadership and guidance in their institutions and in society. Participating presidents are leading their institutions to develop a comprehensive plan of actions, within two years, that will ultimately lead to campus climate neutrality, and provide the critical education and research necessary to help society re-stabilize the world's climate. Through the Commitment's flexible program of conservation, renewable energy, offsets and other creative strategies, campuses can go carbon neutral in a timely and efficient manner. We seek the commitment of 1000 college and university by December 2009.

ACUPCC is coordinated by:

AASHE
Judy Walton
judy@aaashe.org
(503) 222-7041

ecoAmerica
Lee Bodner
lee@ecoamerica.net
(301) 379-4200

Second Nature
Anthony Cortese
acortese@secondnature.org
(617) 224-1611

The fight against global warming is gathering momentum among students, faculty and administrators in higher education and in the public and corporate sectors. It is time for America's colleges and universities to show their strength and leadership. 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. Many colleges and universities are already reaping these benefits (see *A Call for Climate Leadership* for stories).

continued...

Addressing climate change will necessitate a transformation of our economy, our infrastructure and our communities in creative and positive ways that will fuel economic growth, protect our communities and the quality of life we cherish, and move our civilization forward. Many of the necessary tools and clean, renewable technologies are already in various stages of development and/or deployment. America needs its great higher educational institutions to put these pieces together in a way that creates a new foundation for growth, prosperity and peace. By creating and implementing plans to reduce their global warming impact down to zero within a generation, our campuses can drive the scientific innovation and public education necessary to catalyze rapid change.

Signatories to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment are committing to real, meaningful action to eliminate their contribution to global warming by:

- establishing an institutional structure to oversee the development and implementation of the schools' program to comply with the ACUPCC;
- completing an emissions inventory within one year;
- establishing a climate action plan that includes a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral within two years;
- taking immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by implementing at least two of a list of seven tangible actions while the climate action plan is being developed;
- integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it a part of the educational experience; and
- making their inventory, climate action plan, and progress reports publicly available.

Program Management

The *American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment* is being coordinated and supported by Second Nature, ecoAmerica and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ("AASHE"). More information, including a list of signatories and supporting documents can be found on the web at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org. We welcome your inquiries, input and support.

Contact Information

Anthony D. Cortese, Sc.D.
President, Second Nature
Phone: 617-224-1611
Fax: 320-451-1612
Cell: 617549-4736
E-mail: acortese@secondnature.org
Website: www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org.