



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:

Presidents' Climate Commitment
c/o Second Nature
18 Tremont St., Suite 1120
Boston, MA 02108

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



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

Dear President Lara,

This note is to acknowledge that we received Chancellor Glasper's signed commitment letter for the Maricopa Community College District on behalf of all of the district's colleges – welcome to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) network! Thank you for your leadership with one of the defining challenges of this century.

We hope you will be an active participant in this network and will find it highly beneficial to you, your institution, and your community. You are now a part of a network of more than 670 institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia working together to create a prosperous, clean, green future for America and the rest of the world.

On the reverse side of this letter is a list of important first steps that will guide your institution's participation in the Commitment. You will also find a brief description of the reporting policy for college and university districts, and the important first step of appointing a point-of-contact who will be responsible for implementation - to insure your institution's experience in fulfilling the Commitment is as effective and beneficial as possible.

Finally, you may also be interested in the *Advancing Green Building in Higher Education Initiative*, which helps under-resourced and minority serving institutions to construct and renovate buildings in ways that save money and reduce negative health impacts. More information on this program is included in the packet.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the ACUPCC support team (listed below).

Warm regards,

Michael M. Crow, Co-Chair
President, Arizona State University

David Shi, Co-Chair
President, Furman University

Mary Spangler, Co-Chair
Chancellor, Houston Community College

www.PresidentsClimateCommitment.org

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In moving forward with the ACUPCC at each campus in the District, here are important steps to take:

1. Joining the ACUPCC as a College or University System or District

When the head of a college or university system or district signs on behalf of multiple campuses, each campus (or separate college or similar entity) will be considered a discrete entity with its own administrative structure and will be counted individually on the list of Signatories to the ACUPCC. To ensure consistency and for purposes of data-comparison, each campus that is counted as a separate Signatory to the ACUPCC is expected to submit its own reports in order to stay in good standing with the Commitment. See the included document titled, "Joining the ACUPCC as a College or University System or District" for more details. *For questions regarding this policy please contact Toni Nelson tnelson@secondnature.org.*

Chancellor Glasper signed the commitment on the behalf of all colleges within the Maricopa Community College District. Five colleges within the District had joined the ACUPCC independently and have individual, existing and established reporting deadlines. Their progress can be tracked by visiting the ACUPCC Reporting System: <http://acupcc.org/reportingsystem>.

2. Select a Campus Implementation Liaison

The first and very important step you can take is to select a campus liaison, or a point person for communications with your institution. *Please send to Toni Nelson at tnelson@secondnature.org.*

3. Media Relations/Press Information Packet

Attached is a copy of the press information packet to send to your Media Relations office. The packet includes a template press release, ACUPCC talking points, and examples of media coverage. *Please send to Toni Nelson at tnelson@secondnature.org.*

4. Legislative & Government Affairs

Second Nature periodically provides electronic alerts on important national policy issues related to climate change and sustainability. Some presidents request that other staff also receive these alerts; such as government affairs representatives. *Please send to Toni Nelson at tnelson@secondnature.org.*

5. Visit the ACUPCC Website

The ACUPCC website at <http://www.acupcc.org> is continually updated with new resources and opportunities for reporting institutions.

6. Dues to Support the Commitment

Annual dues from signatories are vital the ongoing efforts of the supporting organizations to provide ACUPCC signatories with technical assistance, networking opportunities, resources, and general administration of the initiative.

7. Reporting deadlines

Your "implementation start date" is May 15, 2010, which means your institution's corresponding deadlines are as follows:

- The Implementation Profile is due July 15, 2010.
- The first Greenhouse Gas Inventory report is due May 15, 2011.
- The first iteration of a Climate Action Plan is due May 15, 2012.
- An updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory report is due May 15, 2013 and at least every other year thereafter.
- The first Progress Report is due May 15, 2014 and every other year thereafter.

All reports are submitted and publicly available via the ACUPCC Reporting System: <http://www.acupcc.org/reportingsystem>. Your institution's Implementation Liaison is responsible for submitting reports.

8. Join AASHE – Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

If your campus is not already an AASHE member, please consider joining. AASHE is the learning community for sustainability in higher education, and provides a wide range of resources to support your efforts. Membership covers everyone at your institution and dues are modest.

9. Subscribe to the "ACUPCC Implementer" Newsletter

Anyone can sign-up for this free monthly newsletter updating the network on the latest news and opportunities from the ACUPCC. Implementation Liaisons are subscribed automatically.

10. Read "Leading Profound Change"

This is a brief advisory from the ACUPCC Steering Committee on the president's role in climate action planning, designed to help all signatories accomplish their climate commitment goals. Please take a moment to read the Executive Summary on the ACUPCC website.

ACUPCC Support Team:

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