

**American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment
Signed by President Dudley-Eshbach in October 2007**

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. ***(Initial inventory is presently underway with assistance from students of SBDC and BEACON 10/25/07)***
 - 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.
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. ***(Soon to be USM and State policy – applies to Perdue Building)***
 - 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.

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>