

Presidents' Climate Commitment



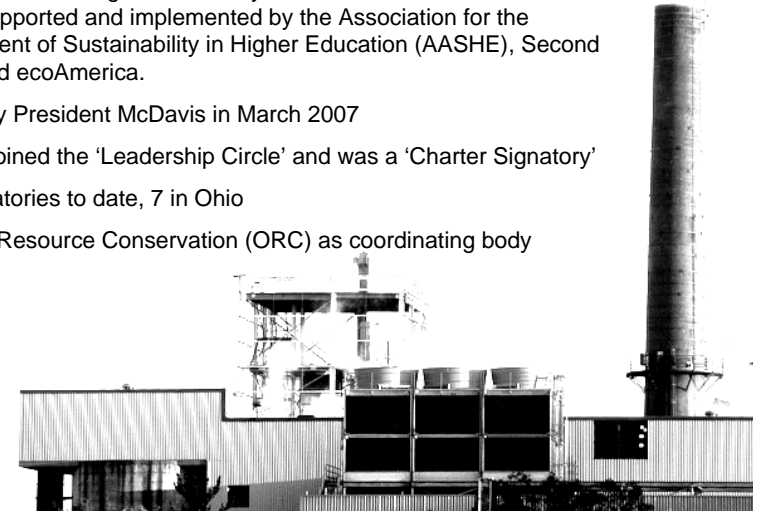
Public Forum
May 11, 2007



Presidents' Climate Commitment



- The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is being supported and implemented by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Second Nature, and ecoAmerica.
- Signed by President McDavis in March 2007
- Ohio U. joined the 'Leadership Circle' and was a 'Charter Signatory'
- 239 signatories to date, 7 in Ohio
- Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) as coordinating body



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What did we agree to?

Presidents signing the Commitment are pledging to *eliminate their campuses' greenhouse gas emissions over time*. This involves:

- Completing an [emissions inventory](#)
- Within two years, setting a [target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral](#).
- Taking [immediate steps](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions.
- Integrating [sustainability into the curriculum](#) and making it part of the educational experience.
- Making the [action plan, inventory and progress reports publicly available](#).

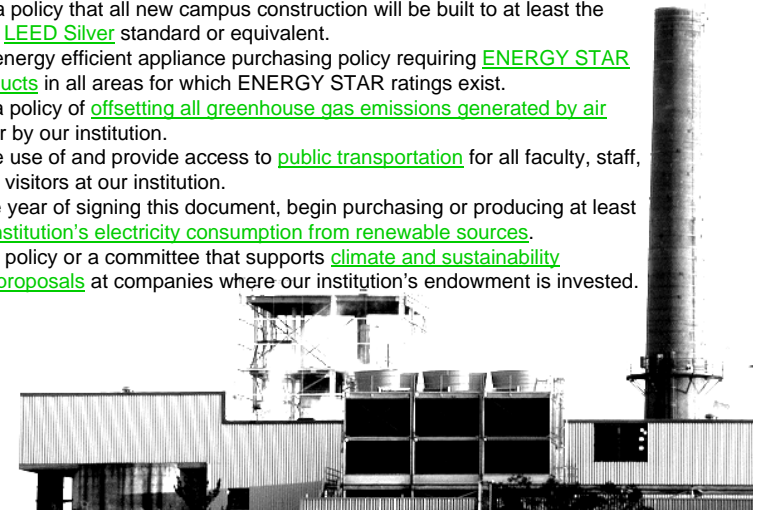


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What are our "immediate steps" options?

- Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S.G.B.C.'s [LEED Silver](#) standard or equivalent.
- Adopt an energy efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring [ENERGY STAR certified products](#) in all areas for which ENERGY STAR ratings exist.
- Establish a policy of [offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel](#) paid for by our institution.
- Encourage use of and provide access to [public transportation](#) for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution.
- Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least [15% of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources](#).
- Establish a policy or a committee that supports [climate and sustainability shareholder proposals](#) at companies where our institution's endowment is invested.

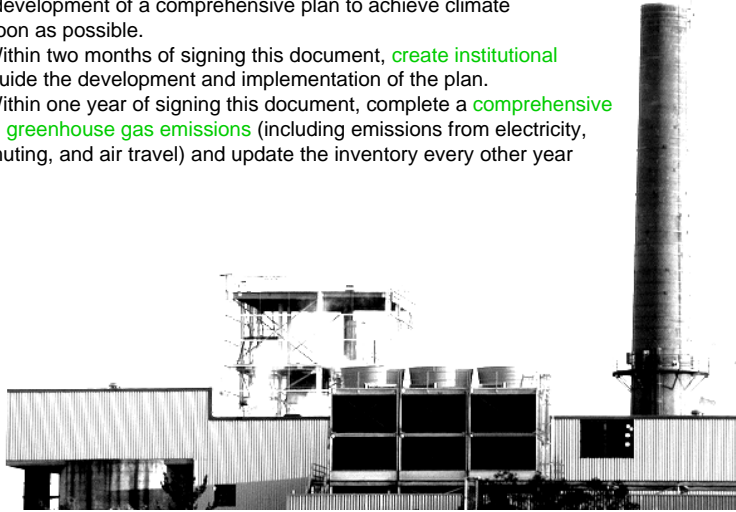


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How do we pursue climate neutrality?

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.

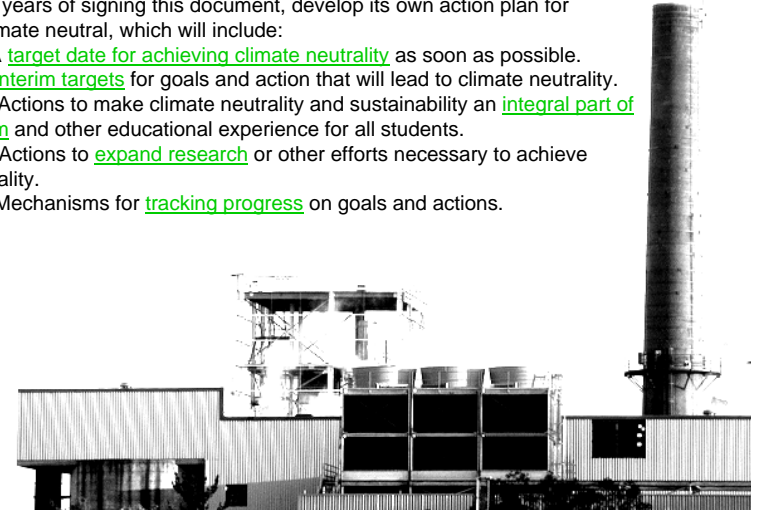


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How do we pursue climate neutrality?

- c. Within two years of signing this document, develop its own 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 action that will lead to climate neutrality.
 - iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability an **integral 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.

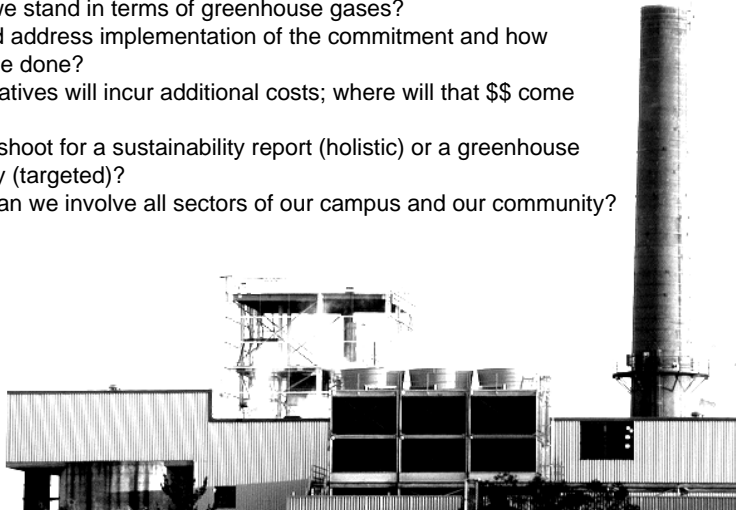


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Questions:

- Where do we stand in terms of greenhouse gases?
- Who should address implementation of the commitment and how should that be done?
- Certain initiatives will incur additional costs; where will that \$\$ come from?
- Should we shoot for a sustainability report (holistic) or a greenhouse gas inventory (targeted)?
- How best can we involve all sectors of our campus and our community?



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Let's talk about it.

