
Stanford University Climate Change Campaign

The fight against global warming requires us to take action now. Stanford is one of the most respected institutions of higher education in the world. We have a responsibility to **demonstrate leadership** and **lower our greenhouse gas emissions**.

We ask the University to:

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| 1 | Adopt an official stance on climate change by creating a unified energy policy and emissions reduction plan |
| 2 | Reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 10% from 1990 levels by 2020 |
| 3 | Complete the formal carbon inventory, currently underway, no later than the end of academic year 2006-2007 |
| 4 | Maintain active student, faculty and staff involvement throughout the process |
| 5 | Take measurable strides in implementing on-campus renewable energy generation by the beginning of academic year 2007-2008 |
| 6 | Develop a long-term plan for carbon neutrality |



<http://sustainability.stanford.edu/climatecrew>

Climate change is one of the most important challenges that our generation faces. A strong show of **public support** can help convince Stanford to act.

Spillover Effects

Cutting our greenhouse gas emissions would signal that institutions of higher learning care deeply about this issue and are willing to take concrete steps to deal with it. Others might wait for the crowd to act before changing course, but we want Stanford to be at the forefront of such a transition. A strong climate policy at Stanford would encourage the public, other universities and perhaps even policymakers to take action.

Enhancing Education

Dealing with energy use, carbon emissions and climate change mitigation creates valuable new opportunities for linking research with the classroom. Students and faculty could have hands-on experience participating in research, building experimental prototypes or testing new approaches. And the technologies, products and policies implemented at Stanford could be widely applied elsewhere. After all, tens of thousands of people live, work, drive, and consume resources at the University—it's a real-world, life-size laboratory.

Maintaining our Legacy

Only a strong commitment to fight global warming, followed by vigorous action, would benefit Stanford's academic reputation and progressive legacy. The phrase "smart development" is often used to describe sustainable planning and construction. Who better than an institution with some of the top minds in the world to implement such a strategy? Indeed, other leading universities have already adopted progressive policies to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and "green" their campuses:

Yale University aims to reduce emissions by 10% below 1990 levels by 2020. Harvard's Green Campus Initiative improves sustainability through building design, emissions reductions and transportation improvements; its \$12 million Green Campus Loan Fund finances many of these projects. UC schools must purchase 20% of energy from renewable sources, construct all new buildings according to green building standards and reduce energy use to 10% below 2000 levels. UC Berkeley is going further and intends to reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Stanford must not fall behind its peer institutions in responding to this challenge.

Recent Developments

Spring 2006	Climate Change Campaign report published, detailing Stanford's transportation/energy landscapes and actions taken by other universities, state/local governments and corporations to address global warming. Climate Crew contacts eighty faculty members, student groups and ASSU representatives regarding the campaign. Group members meet with President Hennessy (6/2/06) to discuss emissions reductions. Report available at http://sustainability.stanford.edu/climatecrew/final_report.pdf
Summer 2006	President Hennessy issues a non-committal reply
Fall 2006	Meeting with the Campus Energy Manager. First campus-wide Climate Change Campaign kickoff meeting (10/22/06). Petition drive begins.

Energizing the Community

The University has the potential to establish an equally progressive policy that will marshal the resources of the whole Stanford community toward a vital cause. An effort to improve sustainability at Stanford and reduce carbon emissions would actively engage students, faculty, staff and alumni in an endeavor that so many of them are excited about. A *green* Stanford Challenge would inspire intellectual participation in addition to financial contributions, and create opportunities for independent, entrepreneurial projects.

Global Citizenship

Universities are at the forefront of finding, devising and creating new solutions to global warming, but we cannot solve the problem alone. Thus, we must remember the normative effects of our actions. We believe that this commitment is the ethical course of action for our world and future generations.