



## **New Guidance for Universities and Colleges to Provide Students with Education on Climate Change and Sustainability**

For Immediate Release

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A new report was released today advising universities and colleges on how to make climate neutrality and sustainability an integral part of the curriculum and other educational experiences.

Many in higher education are struggling to determine the right curricula, research, courses, and programs that will educate students to confront the massive challenge of climate disruption and to have the marketable skills needed in a new clean, green economy. To help leaders in higher education meet this challenge, the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment has released *Education for Climate Neutrality and Sustainability: Academic Guidance for ACUPCC Institutions*.

"This report presents faculty and administrators alike with ideas and examples for teaching climate change awareness and action," said Mitchell Thomashow, President of Unity College in Maine, a member of the Working Group that helped develop the report, and a signatory and Steering Committee member of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. He added, "I am incredibly inspired by this catalog of exemplary practices. We are all collaborating in a crucial educational challenge, and we need the very best thinking we can gather."

This report includes many specific strategies and more than 200 examples and resources. Just a few include:

- Cuyahoga Community College, where students receive training in sustainability, green construction, interior design, green business development, certified photovoltaic installation, energy auditing, and sustainable facilities management.
- Northern Arizona University, which offers the Interdisciplinary Climate Change Mitigation course to all students who register for it as an independent study within their major department.

- Middlebury College, which offers grants for student study abroad research on sustainability issues and the "Green Passport" program with guidelines for responsible travel.
- Warren Wilson College, where students participate in all campus energy monitoring, perform energy audits on campus buildings, and produce the annual greenhouse gas inventory.

Said Anthony D. Cortese, President of Second Nature and Co-coordinator of the ACUPCC, "Many in the higher education arena are beginning to re-orient the focus of learning to address sustainability in business, manufacturing, architecture, agriculture, policy-making, and other fields." He added, "We haven't yet reached a tipping point, but I'm confident this report will accelerate our progress."

"While the report was written to help ACUPCC signatory schools, it is relevant to any higher education institution looking to ensure that their graduates help society reverse serious climate disruption and achieve social, economic, and environmental sustainability," said Mary S. Spangler, Chancellor of Houston Community College and a signatory of the ACUPCC.

A large group of college and university faculty and administrators, including several presidents, worked to develop the report. A full list of contributors and an outline of the process is available on-line. With questions or comments about the report, please contact Amy Seif Hattan, the principal author.

The American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, now with more than 625 signatory schools in all fifty states, is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate. Second Nature, one of the supporting organizations of the ACUPCC and the group that brought together the contributors of this report, works to accelerate movement toward a sustainable future by serving and supporting senior college and university leaders in making healthy, just, and sustainable living the foundation of all learning and practice in higher education.

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