

**1) Higher education has a moral and social responsibility to rise to the challenge of global climate disruption, which threatens the very viability of our society:**

- Scientific consensus: reduce the global emissions ASAP and by *at least 80%* by 2050
- Earth biogeochemical systems do not recognize how hard it may be for us to change our activities – we cannot avoid this decision
- Inaction is also a decision – a tacit admission that we are willing to risk the potential collapse of our civilization
- Failure to provide the moral leadership for society at this juncture represents a great risk to the credibility of higher education

**2) Doing so fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of Higher Education:**

- We need to transform our economy, our institutions, our daily lives within a generation – higher education has the influence, mandate, critical mass, and skills needed
- Tomorrow’s leaders in all fields —more than 17 million of them—attend the 4,000+ institutions of higher learning in the US. and need new knowledge and skills
- Higher Education is a \$320 billion economic engine that can role-model and scale-up the development climate solutions for other sectors

**3) The ACUPCC is the most effective action that colleges and universities can take:**

- It is concrete and effective, and at the same time flexible and feasible – it is a commitment to *create a climate action plan to pursue climate neutrality*, which can be adapted as circumstances change
- Top-level commitment enables all aspects of the campus to work together to ensure plans are comprehensive, strategic and successfully implemented
- It represents a powerful *collective action* that has a ripple effect beyond campus, prompting other schools and other sectors to take action. It creates a learning community amongst ACUPCC institutions, and supports transformative change – such as the calls to create a 100% clean electricity grid within 10 years, and generate 5 million green jobs to reboot the US economy and enhance national security
- Reducing GHG emissions and expanding education are investments in the future that reduce costs, and improve competitive advantage, attracting funding, students, faculty, and staff
- Climate neutrality is an audacious goal that will serve as a “pull” and drive strong results – akin to the Apollo project to land humans on the Moon. Offsets are allowed as a flexibility mechanism, but are not required to be a part of climate action plans
- Even if climate neutrality is not reached, pursuing that goal greatly enhances the probability that higher education institutions will make the transformative cultural, operational, and educational changes necessary to create a healthy, just and sustainable society