

DATE: January 13, 2009  
TO: NMSU Community  
FROM: Waded Cruzado, Interim President  
RE: 2009 Year of Sustainability

Today at convocation, we announced that 2009 will mark the *Year of Sustainability* at New Mexico State University. This is an initiative that has been embraced by the diverse components of our statewide system. Through a combination of special events and strategic initiatives, the institution will devote this year to the development of educational, research and outreach programs that will address different aspects of sustainability.

The *Year of Sustainability* at New Mexico State University will engage all academic and division units in the inventory, development, and implementation of programs involving best practices in the preservation of our natural resources. As the state's land-grant institution, New Mexico State University has a special responsibility in showing leadership in regards to sustainability efforts and accomplishments.

Special thanks go to the people who participated in the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force, chaired by Dr. Steve Loring. This group, as well as other important student associations, have worked diligently on these important issues and have made progress on many fronts. We have much to be proud of based on the efforts to date and I encourage you to visit [www.nmsu.edu/~energy/](http://www.nmsu.edu/~energy/) to see the programs and consider ways you can participate.

We at New Mexico State University affirm our commitment to protect and enhance the environment through fostering a sense of stewardship among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and our constituents. As part of our commitment, by the end of 2009, New Mexico State University will complete the following tasks:

1. Establish the Sustainability Council to advise on matters of sustainability and to facilitate activities during the *Year of Sustainability*.
2. Encourage each college, community college, and unit to develop and implement a sustainability plan and at least one public event related to sustainability.
3. Develop a portal that provides a point of entry to all sustainability-related activities on and off campus.
4. Produce an inventory of courses that have an emphasis on sustainability and the environment.
5. Promote existing and new research and development opportunities that deal with problems in natural resources.
6. Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality.
7. Complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions at all of New Mexico State University's facilities.
8. Take actions necessary to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the academic curriculum.

9. Create a mechanism for tracking progress in the action items and goals throughout the NMSU system.
10. Establish policies that will adopt the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standards or equivalent.
11. Engage student groups in the process.
12. Create an inventory of NMSU experts and guest lecturers.

Higher education will be the primary source of expertise to tackle these concerns and I believe we must work together to address common issues. Specifically, I challenge all of us to become involved and consider the following:

Short-term: can you or your organization change your activities to curtail or more efficiently use resources?

Long-term: what should be the fundamental role of a land-grant university? Will it change? How should NMSU function to fulfill its mission in a sustainability-driven environment?

Thank you for your efforts on this important initiative. Working together, NMSU will make a difference on this issue.