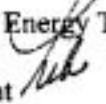




Office of the President

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May 29, 2007

TO: New Mexico State University Energy Task Force
FROM: Mike Martin, NMSU President 
SUBJECT: Commitment to Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability

On April 17, 2007, New Mexico State University agreed to participate as a member of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. This action was taken as an important initial step in our response to the growing challenge of climate change and sustainability. While there is much we can take pride in, there is much more that we can and will do to establish this institution as a leader in our state and region in developing comprehensive plans that respond to this challenge.

We hold two primary roles in development of our response to this issue. One is a proprietary role as a steward of significant real estate, natural and physical plant resources. Another is as a public servant to provide leadership in the education, research and public outreach expected of a land-grant institution charged with addressing the most pressing challenges of our society. Both areas will need to be addressed in our planning.

The NMSU Energy Task Force will be charged with the responsibility to serve as the principal body for development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible. Furthermore, I am re-establishing this group as the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force. Interim Executive Vice President/Provost Robert Moulton will, as chair of the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force, oversee the development of processes and plans to engage the university community. The task force shall be expanded to include representation from the entire NMSU system to include all campuses and the Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station components. The Chair will report directly to my office the actions taken to ensure NMSU meets its commitment.

Attached are a point paper that outlines the commitment we entered into and the timelines expected. You will note that action is already progressing in a number of the areas.

Thank you for your service and urge your support for this critical initiative.

Attachment 1: Point Paper – American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment
Attachment 2: Membership Roster – Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force (as of 23 May 2007)

Point Paper
American College & University
President's Climate Commitment

On April 17, 2007 New Mexico State University committed to an ambitious national coalition of colleges and universities by signing on as a member of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment 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.

Building on the growing momentum for leadership and action on climate change, the Presidents Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to go climate neutral. The Commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in training the people who will develop the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming.

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.

The Commitment :

Accordingly, we commit our institutions to taking the following steps in pursuit of 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. **Action NLT 17 June 2007**

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. **Action NLT 17 April 2008**

c. Within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include: **Action NLT 17 April 2009**

i. A target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.

ii. Interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to climate neutrality.

iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a 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.

2. Initiate two or more of the following tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.

a. Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent. **Accomplished per Executive Order 2006-01**

b. Adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist.

c. Establish a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution.

d. Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution **Pending with Development of Aggie Shuttle Service Fall 2007**

e. Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources. **Exploring Blue Mesa for Wind Generation Site per a RPS project**

f. Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested.

3. Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

NMSU Energy Taskforce 2006-2007

1. Members

Steve Arnold (HSS)
Tom Bagwell (NMDA)
Ellen Bosma (Library)
Jennifer Hiatt (Student Success)
Rich Hills (ENGR)
Dan Howard (A&S)
Rick Lobato (OFS-Engr)
Steve Loring (Ag. & HE)
Rich MacRorie (OFS)
Peter Maud (CoEd)
Tom McGuckin (Business)
Robert Moulton (ED) (Chair)
Robert Nosbisch (UCOMM)
Marisa Ortega ASNMSU Representative
Tom Rubadeau (ACAP)
Jennifer Villa (CoEd)
John Wiles (COE)
Ben Woods (Planning, Phys. Res. & Univ. Plan.)

2. Subcommittees

Outreach and Education

Steve Loring (Chair)
Jennifer Villa
Ellen Bosma
Peter Maud
Robert Nosbisch
Ben, Rich, Rick

Energy Debt and Space Usage

Dan Howard (Chair)
Tom Rubadeau
Rich Hills
Tom McGuckin
ASNMSU Student Rep
Ben, Rich, Rick

Energy Strategies and Conservation

Jennifer Hiatt (Chair)
John Wiles
Tom Bagwell
Ben, Rich, Rick