



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment

Climate Leadership in Higher Education

**ICCD Conference Panel “Creating Consortia and Funding Sources”
Cornell University | August 8, 2007**

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The Challenge

- Aspiration for direction of society
- Biosphere is human support system
- Old systems based on predictable climate
- Social, moral & environmental crisis
- Systemic & interdependent issues
- Negative environmental consequences of systems design failure



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The Challenge

*Reversing global warming
is a defining challenge
of the 21st century!*

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Critical Role of Higher Education

- Educational, research & public service missions
 - Faculty, staff & student involvement
 - Role models
 - Research, action & demonstration projects
 - Catalyze investment & develop new markets
- \$330 billion industry
- 100% of education footprint



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The Initiative

- Led by Presidents & Chancellors
- High-visibility
- Action plan for climate neutrality
- Research & education to develop societal capacity
- 334 signatories (24% are community colleges)

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The Mission

Lead the way in addressing the climate challenge, and help create a thriving, ethical and civil society

- model ways to eliminate GHG emissions
- provide society with knowledge & graduates



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The Commitment

2 Months

Create institutional structures

1 Year

Emissions inventory

2 Years

*Develop action plan & implement
two emissions-reduction actions*

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Why a consortium?

Joint action by an influential sector

- Drive industry, government & other sectors
- Develop partnerships
- Create new pools of funding
- Direct funding toward clean energy technologies & policies, etc.
- Appropriate to scale of challenge



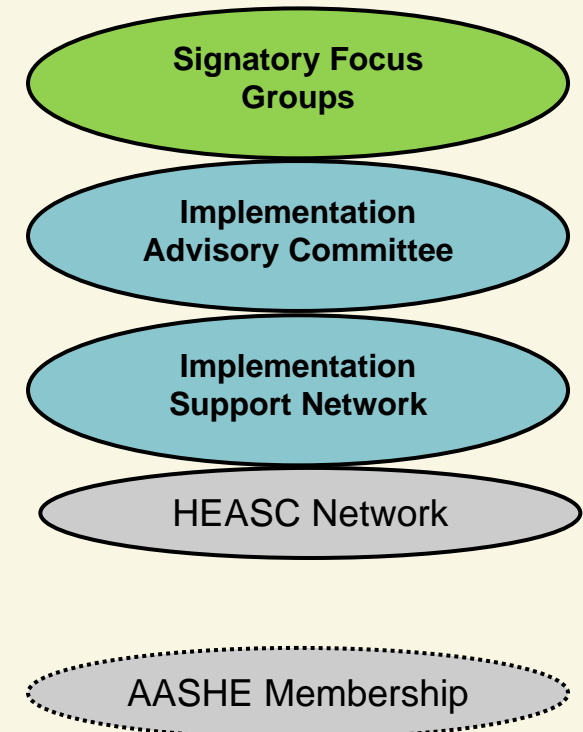
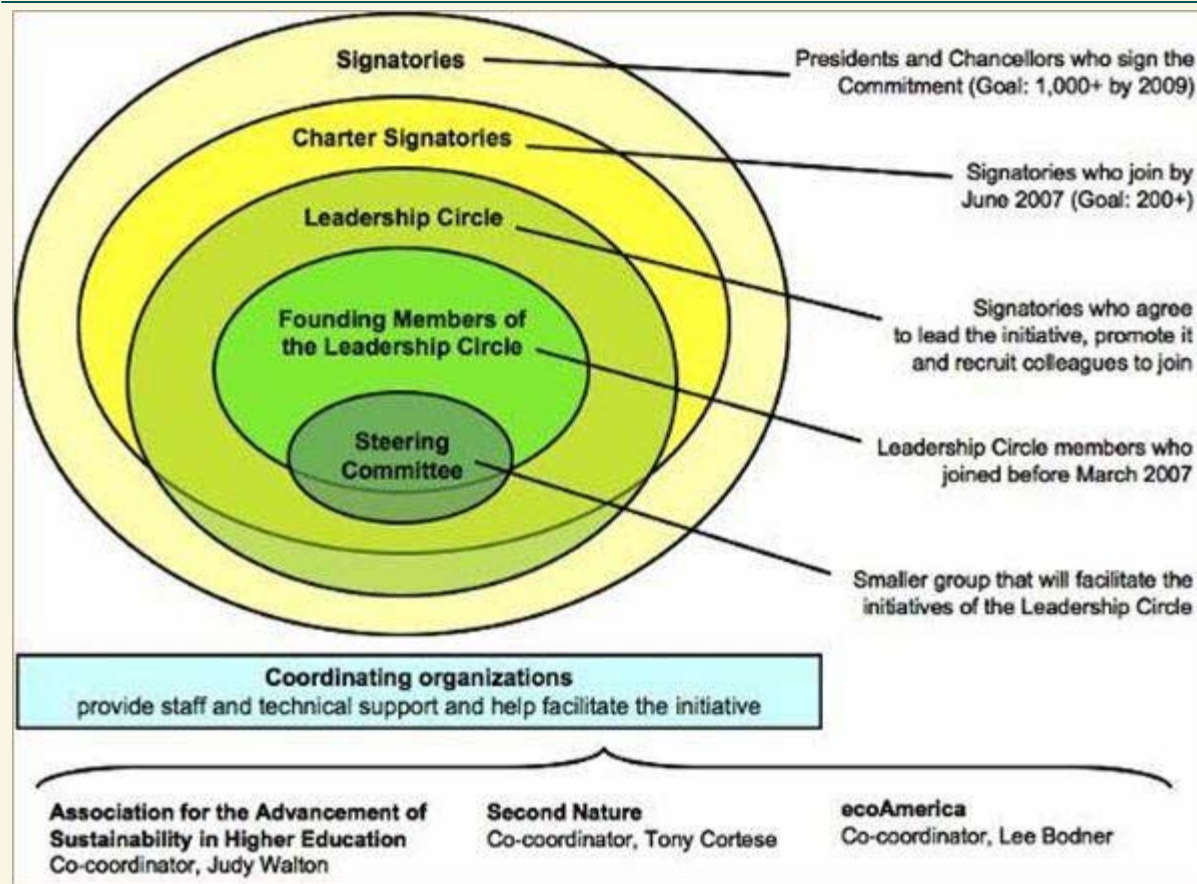
Strategic Goals

Build an initiative that achieves its goals and is sustainable over the long term

- 1000 signatories by December 2009
- Useful & functional support infrastructure
- Ignite conversation about climate neutrality & sustainability



Organization





Long-term Plan





Key Issues

- Align structures & processes to goals
- Think about value proposition
- Ideas: co-creation vs. consulting vs. selling
- Walking the talk
- Transparency & integrity
- Representation
- Communication



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Conclusion

“We are in the middle of one of those rare moments when the right thing to do it also the economically smart thing to do.”

Kathleen Schatzberg
President, Cape Cod Community College

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Funding

- Initiative infrastructure funding
 - Foundations, non-profits, private sector
 - Aid-in-kind
 - Cannot disrupt integrity of initiative
- Financial opportunities for signatories
 - Purchasing consortia
 - Pools of funding for efficiency initiatives
 - \$330 billion industry collectively exerting influence (renewable energy availability, favorable taxes, etc.)
 - Clear value proposition



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Resources

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org

- Breaking news (including a Summit summary, new ACUPCC policies, and news articles): <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/news.php>
- The Commitment document itself (you can download a PDF from this page as well): <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>
- About the Commitment (including “who’s who” and Steering Committee members): <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/about.php>
- Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/faq.php>
- Why sign: <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/whysign.php>
- List of signatories (you can sort by state or by institution using links on the right): <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/signatories.php>
- “A Call for Climate Leadership”: <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/faq.php>
- Solutions resources: <http://presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/solutions.php>

[The Science of Global Warming](#) from the National Environmental Trust (2 pages)

[A Series of Two-Page Briefings](#) on key global warming developments from the National Environmental Trust

[Global Warming Basics](#) from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change

[Findings of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change Science](#) from the Union of Concerned Scientists

From the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report:

- IPCC Working Group I Summary for Policy Makers ["The Physical Science Basis"](#) (18 pages)
- IPCC Working Group II Summary for Policy Makers ["Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability"](#) (23 pages)
- IPCC Working Group III Summary for Policy Makers ["Mitigation of Climate Change"](#) (35 pages)

“An Inconvenient Truth”, <http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/>

UNEP Report: [Environmental Degradation Triggering Tensions and Conflict in Sudan](#)