INTRODUCING THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT UPDATE

John Randolph, Chair
Todd Schenk, Vice-Chair

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT UPDATE PROCESS – SPRING 2020
Virginia Tech 2020 Climate Action Commitment Working Group

**FACULTY (10)**
- John Randolph, Chair
- Todd Schenk, Vice-Chair, UAP
- Tim Baird, GEOG
- Shannon Bell, SOC
- Erin Hopkins, AHRM
- Chen Chin Liu, ECE
- Kray Luxbacher, MME
- Sean McGinnis, MSE
- Annie Pearce, BC
- Peter Sforza, CGIT

**STUDENTS (10)**
- Brooke Baugher, grad student
- Brandon Burkey, grad student
- Gustavo Ventura Gargioni, grad (wd)
- Jack Leff, grad student
- Phil Miskovic, grad student
- Brogan Dineen, undergrad student
- Drew Harris, undergrad student
- Natalie Koppier, undergrad student
- Jayme Bibbins, undergrad
- Owen Callahan, undergrad

**STAFF (4 non-voting)**
- Blake Bensman, Dining & Residence
- Christopher Kiwus, Chief Facilities Officer
- Rob Glenn, director VTES
- Brandon Hendricks, Dining Services

**COMMUNITY (2 non-voting)**
- Carol Davis, Town of Blacksburg
- Shayla Utzinger, Blacksburg High School
1. A critical **evaluation of our progress** meeting our 2009 climate action commitment and comparing our progress to peer universities

2. Development of a **new climate action commitment**
Approximately 125 students, staff, faculty, and community partners are working hard to develop Virginia Tech’s new climate action commitment.

Much of this work is happening through 12 subcommittees:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Budget and Finance
- Buildings Opportunities
- Climate Justice
- Community Engagement
- Energy Opportunities
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Peer University Comparison
- Renewable Energy Opportunities
- Structuring Sustainable Choices
- Transportation Opportunities
- Waste, Recycling, Composting, and Procurement
2020 CAC PRELIMINARY GOALS

i. Carbon neutral Virginia Tech campus by 2030

ii. 100% renewable electricity by 2030

iii. Minimize steam plant coal emissions by 2021, and eliminate coal after 2024 using liquefied natural gas (LNG) as resilient backup

iv. Reduce building energy consumption and energy use intensity to enable carbon neutrality by 2030

V. All new building construction initiated by 2030 carbon neutral,

VI. Carbon neutral agricultural, forestry, land use operations by 2030

VII. Zero-Waste Campus by 2030

VIII. Reduce transportation-related GHG emissions by 40% by 2030, and reduce single-occupancy commutes to campus by 20% by 2025
IX. Elevate the University as Living Laboratory for Climate Action beginning in 2021

X. Develop innovative budgeting and financing mechanisms to achieve Climate Action Commitment goals

XI. Establish climate justice as one of the core values of the VT Climate Action Commitment

XII. Identify barriers to sustainable behaviors and address them through both institutional change and social marketing

XIII. Establish the VT Climate Action Commitment as a dynamic process with evaluation of progress through stakeholder engagement

XIV. Develop Pathways after 2030 to eliminate offsets and fossil fuels by 2050
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vi. Carbon neutral agricultural, forestry, land use operations by 2030
vii. Zero-Waste Campus by 2030
viii. Reduce transportation-related GHG emissions by 40% by 2030, and reduce single-occupancy commutes to campus by 20% by 2025
ix. Elevate the University as Living Laboratory for Climate Action beginning in 2021
x. Develop innovative budgeting and financing mechanisms to achieve CAC goals
xi. Establish climate justice as one of the core values of the VT Climate Action Commitment
xii. Diminish barriers to sustainable behaviors thru institutional change and social marketing
xiii. Establish the VT CAC as a dynamic process through stakeholder engagement
xiv. Develop Pathways after 2030 to eliminate offsets and fossil fuels by 2050
Thank you for your attention. We invite you to engage. Please visit the CAC website to:

- Watch the other committee videos
- Read the CAC Interim Report
- Complete the climate action survey
- Register for a Zoom forum
- Engage through an online bulletin board
- Contact us

https://svpoa.vt.edu/index/VTCACRevision.html

PLEASE FIND LINKS IN THE DESCRIPTION BELOW