



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

2020 CAC WORKING GROUP DELIVERABLES



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**



GETTING WORK DONE: 12 SUBCOMMITTEES

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



2020 CAC PRELIMINARY GOALS (continued)

- 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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- 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**

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT UPDATE

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