



The fight against global warming will shape the 21st century.

Colleges, Universities, Biking and Climate Change

Don Ryan

SECOND NATURE

www.secondnature.org

Climate change is the defining challenge of the 21st Century.

Across the country, colleges and universities are rising to meet this challenge.

This morning, I want to describe developments at two levels that will be good for biking

First, strategies that colleges are pursuing to reduce transportation emissions

Second, an effort by college presidents to weigh in on transportation policy

I'm with Second Nature, a Boston-based nonprofit that helped inspire the ACUPCC.

The ACUPCC

- 667 colleges and universities are signatories
- One-third of total US student population
- Take immediate “tangible actions”
- Greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Action plan for climate neutrality
- Curriculum changes to prepare all students for a clean-energy economy

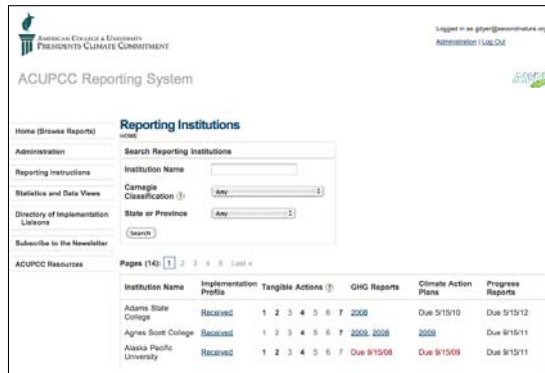


Three years ago, 12 college and university presidents forged a commitment, which has since grown to 667 schools in all 50 states – which account for 1/3 of all US students

It's a voluntary commitment, but a tall order

- complete a detailed emissions inventory within one year
- develop a climate action plan within two years
- change the curriculum to teach all student about the connections among energy, the environment and our economy

ACUPCC Online Reporting System



ACUPCC Reporting System

Reporting Institutions

Search Reporting Institutions

Institution Name:

Carnegie Classification:

State or Province:

Search

Institution Name	Implementation Profile	Tangible Actions	GHG Reports	Climate Action Plans	Progress Reports
Adams State College	Received	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2008	Due 5/15/10	Due 5/15/12
Agnes Scott College	Received	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2008, 2009	2009	Due 8/15/11
Alaska Pacific University	Received	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Due 9/15/08	Due 9/15/09	Due 9/15/11

- 500 GHG Inventories
- 225 Climate Action Plans
- Browse by institution or state

<http://acupcc.aashe.org/>

At this point, 500 colleges and universities have completed their emissions inventories

The first group of schools, some 225, have completed their climate action plans

All these materials are publicly available online.



GHG Reduction Strategies

- Energy Retrofits
- Green Building
- Renewable Energy
- Improve energy efficiency of all campus operations
- Transportation

Climate action plans are generating enthusiasm – by presidents, business officers, faculty – and students. And they are driving sweeping changes by colleges and universities to reduce GHG emissions:

- energy conservation and energy efficiency strategies
- renewable energy
- food service, dormitories, procurement policies
- transportation



Transportation Emissions

- Climate Action Plans encompass transportation emissions for faculty, students, staff, and visitors
- Transportation accounts for more than half emissions for community colleges
- Colleges and universities are pursuing a host of innovative strategies to reduce transportation emissions

The Presidents' Climate Commitment defines carbon footprint broadly – to include all transportation emissions for faculty, students, staff and visitors.

For most schools, transportation accounts for a significant share of emissions – over half for community colleges due to the high number of students who commute.

And schools are pursuing a host of strategies to reduce transportation emissions

- public transportation
- electric and hybrid vehicles
- carpool incentives
- demand management strategies
- expanded biking and walking

Biking Initiatives

- 100+ schools have bike sharing, rental, and repair programs
- 13 colleges have campus bike plans
- All available online: www.aashe.org/resources

Of course, biking has always been big on college campuses.

More than 100 colleges and universities are now offering bike sharing, bike rental, and bike repair programs.

Schools are also developing master plans for biking on campus

Detailed information is available on each of these initiatives at our sister organization, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Transportation Policy Task Force

- Second Nature is working closely with Transportation for America
- Task Force of 15 college and university presidents
- Now recognize their stake in national transportation policy
- Transportation policy must take climate and energy goals into account
- Recommendations in late April

Now I want to shift gears to tell you about the National Transportation Policy Task Force Second Nature has just formed, working closely with Transportation for America.

Historically, higher education has not recognized its stake in the transportation legislation. These presidents recognize the imperative to connect transportation policy to climate and energy goals.

The strategies their campuses are pursuing gives them authority to speak to these issues. Their stature as college presidents gives them clout with policymakers and credibility with the press.

The Task Force will issue a statement of principles and specific policy recommendations in late April, which I fully expect will call for

- setting national goals and performance measures, including cutting GHG emissions
- increasing funding for public transportation, biking and pedestrian facilities.
- increasing trips made by “active transportation” and tracking data on all kinds of trips.



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

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Once the task force issues its recommendations, Second Nature will work to mobilize hundreds of other college and university presidents to elevate the national policy dialogue about transportation policy.

We look forward to working with biking advocates at the national level – and I want to urge biking advocates across the country to build local partnerships, not just with college students but also college presidents.