



So my College President signed on  
to ACUPCC -- now what the %\$\* ~ am  
I supposed to do?

SEHSA Environmental Health  
and Safety Association  
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## Presentation Overview

- American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment Requirements
- Overview of Climate Action Plan
- Climate Action Plan Components
- Strategies For Plan Completion
- Climate Action Plan Implementation
- Q&A



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## American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)

- Originated from planning sessions at the AASHE 2006 Conference
- Voluntary program with public reporting system
- Over 650 College and University Signatories
- ACUPCC provides a framework to achieve carbon neutrality (no net greenhouse gas emissions)
- Many schools are following the ACUPCC without becoming signatories



## The Global Challenge as Incorporated into the ACUPCC

- Over-reliance on fossil fuels
- Threat to human progress
- Halt growth of global warming pollution
- Must slash GHG emissions by 80%
- Transformation of economy, institutions & daily lives
- Vision & leadership of higher education



Source – AASHE ACUPCC Web Site

## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—Institutional Structure

- Establish an **institutional structure** (e.g., committee, task force, or council appointed and authorized specifically to implement ACUPCC which includes, at a minimum, faculty, staff, students, administrative representatives and a designated chair)



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—GHG Reporting

- **Comprehensive Inventory and reporting** on emissions of all six GHGs (separately calculate emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>-e, methane, nitrous oxide, HFCs, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride), but emphasis should be on CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Can use any methodology that is consistent with the GHG Protocol of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- Signatories must report on the calculator they used, the source of the emissions coefficients, and report over one year periods.
- Note that whether or not you are a ACUPCC signatory, EPA's 2009 GHG reporting rule requires all College campuses with emissions greater than 25 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-e annually to report in 2010



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—GHG Reporting Cont

- Scope 1 – **Direct emissions** produced through campus activities including: stationary and mobile combustion of fossil fuels on campus; fugitive emissions of HFCs from refrigerants and AC units, and methane from institution owned livestock.
- Scope 2 – **Indirect emissions** generated off-site in the production of electricity **consumed by the institution**.
- Scope 3 – **Indirect emissions from sources not owned or controlled by the institution** (e.g., student, faculty, staff daily commuting, and institution funded air travel).
- Optional inventory emissions include: waste disposal, purchased goods, contractor vehicles, losses associated with transmission and distribution of electricity.



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment –Tangible Actions

- Identify two or more **tangible actions** while CAP is being developed (can count actions already in place as long as they remain so):
  - Green building policy—all new buildings and renovations at least to LEED Silver or equivalent.
  - Energy Star procurement policy for all ES rated products.
  - Green Power production or purchase. Purchase or produce at least 15% of campus electricity consumption from renewable sources within one year including: install or operate one or more renewable energy electricity generating device on campus (cannot sell RECs); purchase renewable energy generated offsite, but connected directly to campus; or purchase green-e certified RECs.



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment –Tangible Actions Cont.

- Air travel offset policy.
- Climate friendly investing policy or committee on responsible investing.
- Participate in waste minimization component of RecycleMania competition plus at least three more waste reduction measures (institutions utilizing this component should include emissions from waste disposal in GHG calculation).
- Encourage use/provide access to public transportation for all campus community members through free or heavily subsidized public transportation passes, or free shuttle system that provides access to campus and community.



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—Climate Action Plan

- Develop Climate Action Plan—summary report accessible to the public:
  - **Introduction**- describes why and provides background.
  - **Emissions**—Describes current emissions and target date and interim milestones for achieving climate neutrality—No Net GHG emissions to be achieved by minimizing GHG emissions as much as possible, and purchasing offsets or instituting other mitigation measures as much as possible.
  - **Mitigation strategies**--shows how institution will achieve carbon neutrality and describes how each source's emissions will be neutralized/offset
  - **Education**--describe how carbon neutrality and sustainability will be made part of the curriculum/educational experience



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—Climate Action Plan Cont.

- **Financing**—explains how mitigation efforts and other strategies will be paid for.
- **Target dates and Interim Targets**—Global emissions are believed to need to be reduced 50 to 85% below 2000 levels by 2050 with CO2 significantly reduced by 2015. Accordingly, institutions are urged to keep these broader targets in mind when goal setting (most of the ones I have seen do not). Mitigation evaluation criteria can include: avoidance or reduction of GHG emissions, ROI or financial impact, social side-effects, synergistic measures, scalability, student and faculty involvement.



## Elements of the President's Climate Commitment—Climate Action Plan Cont.

- **Research**—Institution specific and optional at non-research based colleges.
- **Community Outreach**—describes current efforts related to carbon neutrality and sustainability, endowment investments, future plans, community partnerships, etc.
- **Progress tracking**-- on goals and actions over time.
- **On-going reporting**—adjustments over time



# ACUPCC Deadlines

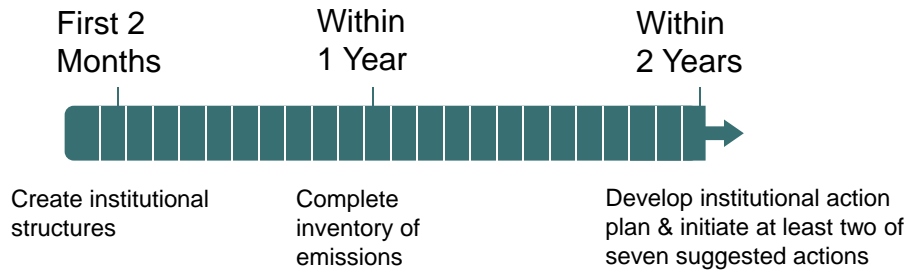
## REPORTING FREQUENCY

A signatory's due date for reporting is the same as the signatory's implementation start date. The following reporting deadlines apply:

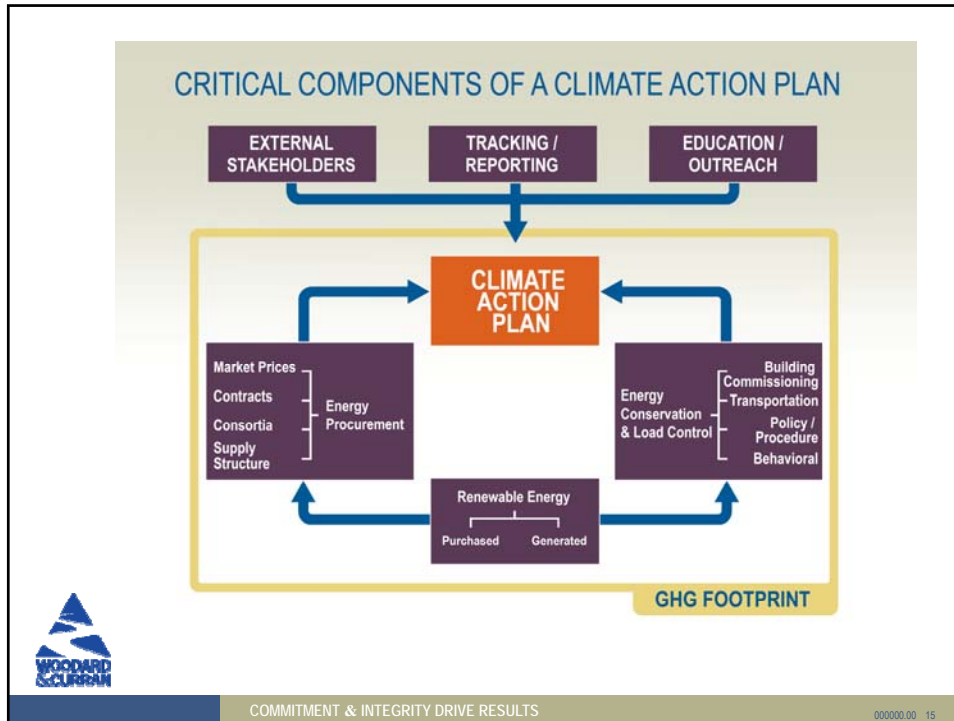
- Within 2 months, signatories are committed to submitting information on the institutional structure for developing their climate action plans, including designating the institutional liaison and the two tangible actions that will be implemented before the end of year 2;
- Within 1 year, signatories are committed to reporting the results of their GHG emissions inventories;
- Within 2 years, signatories are committed to submitting their climate action plans and updated information on GHG emissions;
- Within 3 years, signatories will report both their GHG emissions and their progress in implementing their climate action plans;
- Starting in year 4, signatories will continue to report their emissions data annually and will be encouraged to submit narrative progress report annually as well, but will only be required to submit narrative progress reports every other year.



# The Commitment



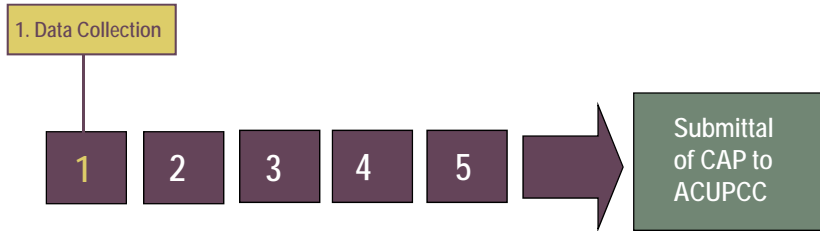
Source – AASHE, ACUPCC Web Site



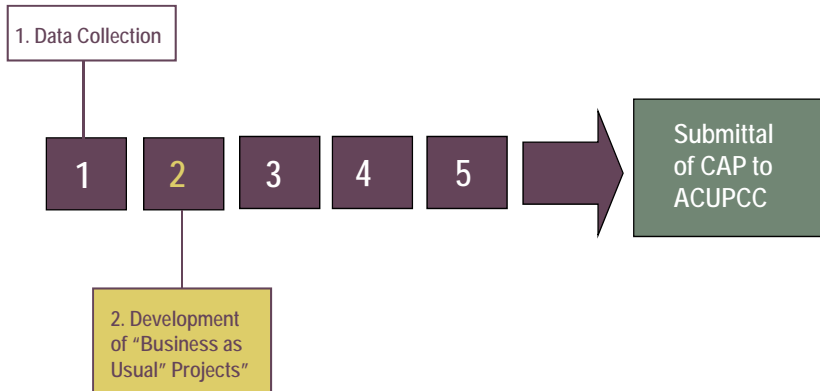
## Data/Information Needs

- Planned growth (buildings, infrastructure, faculty/students/staff, and/or other campus expansion)
- 2008 GHG emissions inventory
- Breakdown of commuting by faculty/staff and students
- GHG mitigation strategies
  - Energy conservation implementation reports
  - Energy efficiency/conservation feasibility studies
  - Renewable energy alternatives analysis
  - Energy procurement strategy

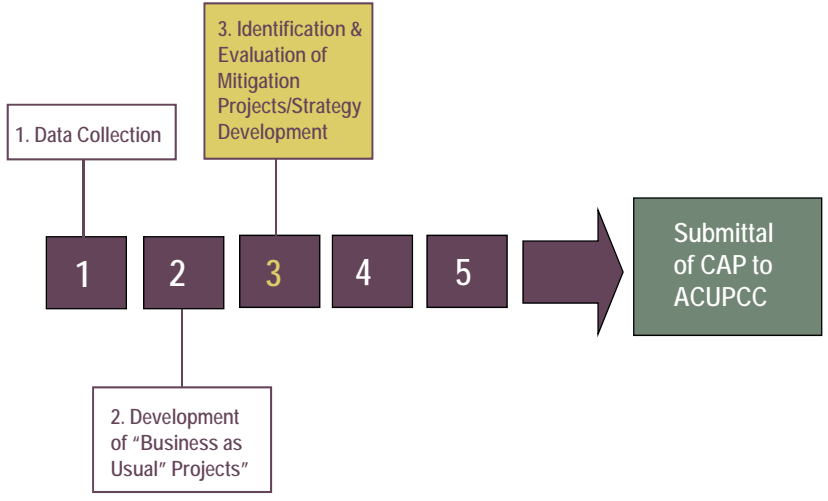
# Climate Action Plan Development Process



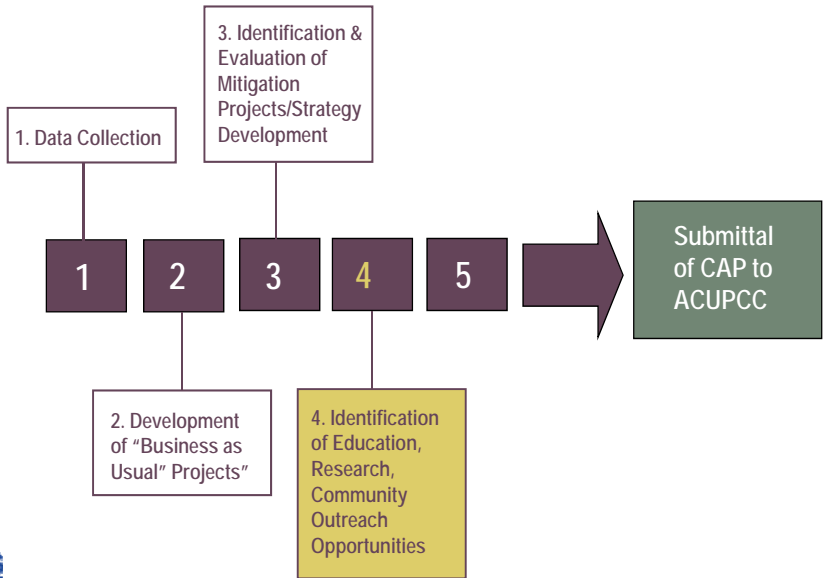
# Climate Action Plan Development Process



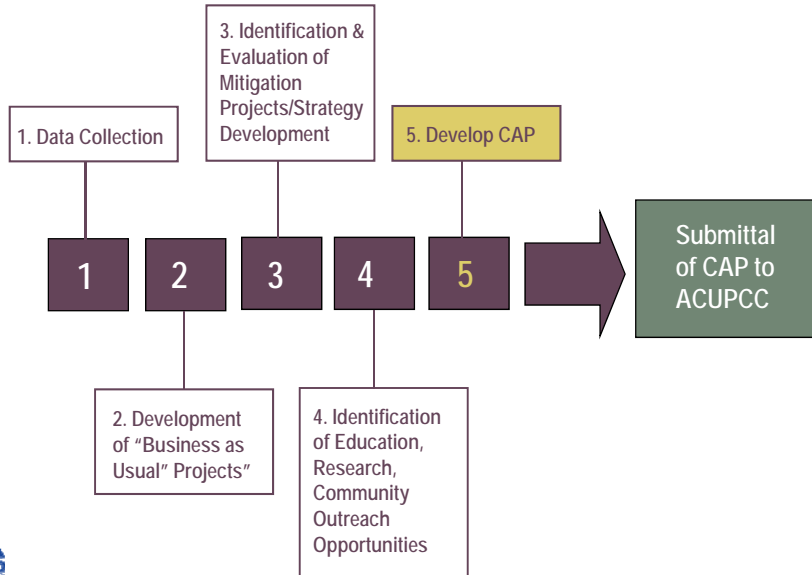
# Climate Action Plan Development Process



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## Climate Action Plan Development Process



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## Climate Action Planning Process

### 1. Establish Institutional Structure

- Form a committee or other organized CAP team
- Include high level officials (with implementation authority), faculty, staff and students
- Identify roles and responsibilities for CAP development and implementation
- Define the data collection process
- Integrate/coordinate with other existing student, faculty, staff sustainability committees/organizations and other stakeholders (Board of Trustees, alumni etc)
- Coordinate with the Office of the President



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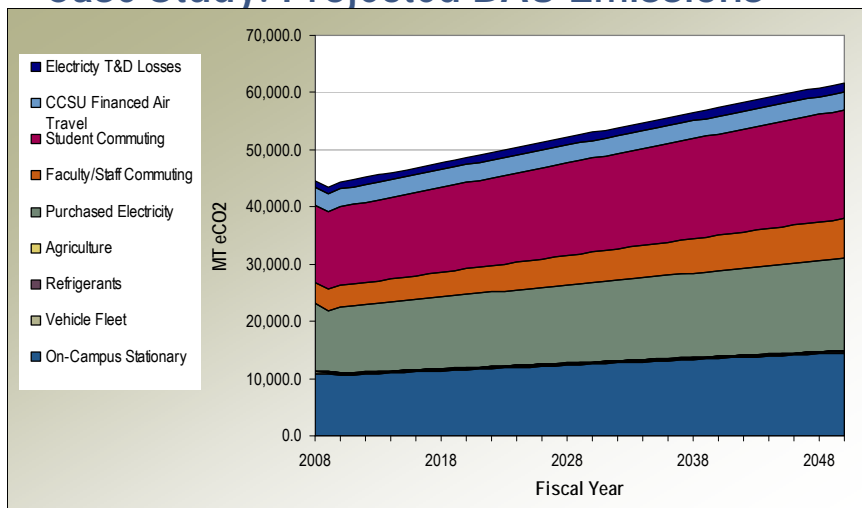
# Climate Action Planning Process

## 2. GHG Inventory and Projected Business as Usual Future Emissions

- Identify major sources of GHG and variables that influence emissions
- Can use any methodology consistent with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute (an example specifically designed for colleges and universities is Clean Air Cool Planet's Campus Carbon Calculator, but....)
- Explore how "variables" will change over time given campus growth projections
- Publicly report GHG emissions



## Case Study: Projected BAU Emissions



## Climate Action Planning Process

### 3. Set Reduction Goals and Milestones

- The ultimate goal of climate neutrality is self selected
- Must include Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Interim milestones must be identified
- Should be consistent with other applicable state and regional goals, if applicable



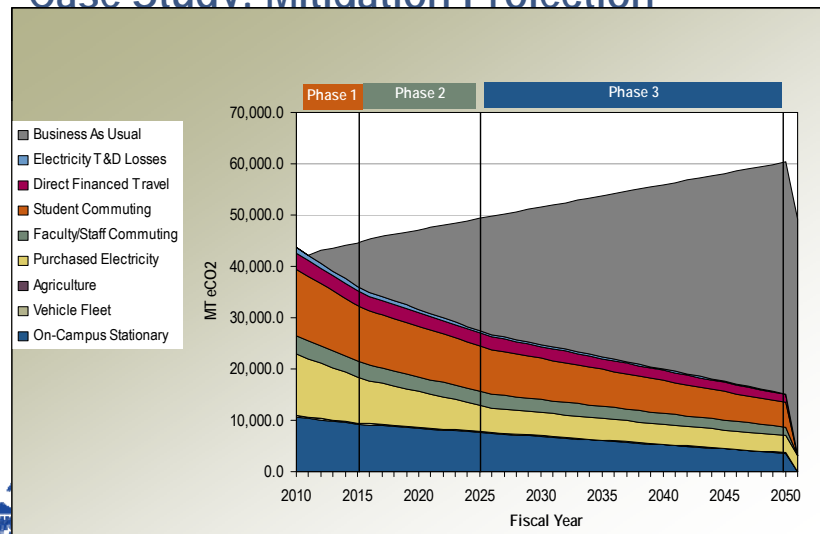
## Climate Action Planning Process

### 4. Identify and Prioritize Mitigation Projects

- Include strategies by emissions source
- Establish weighted priorities matrix
  - Simple payback, educational value, reduction in GHG
- Understand the resulting GHG emission reductions of each project
- Establish/describe funding mechanisms for identified projects—there and may continue to be monies available!
- Discuss offsets and RECs, if needed—not the preferred method...



## Case Study: Mitigation Projection



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## Phase I Mitigation Projects

- Alternative transportation options and incentives for student commuters
- Building envelop improvements
- Creating policies for thermal comfort
- Conduct studies to evaluate on-site generation of renewable electricity
- Implement energy conservation and efficiency measures
- Reduce faculty commuting, vehicle fleet use, airline miles traveled



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## Climate Action Planning Process

### 5. Education, Research, Community Outreach

- Integrating climate change studies with curriculum
- Developing research projects to address climate neutrality
- Communication plan for institution and larger community



## Climate Action Planning Process

### 6. Tracking Progress

- Strategies and process to track progress
- Submit progress reports every 2 years
- Can submit updated climate action plan as desired



## Strategies for Implementation

- Transition climate action plan team to implementation team
- Measure against interim guideline and adjust as necessary
- Institute data collection processes to track progress and automate greenhouse gas emissions inventory reporting



## Questions/Discussion

