

# NEXT STEP

The university has already started the process of creating a carbon neutral campus. Following are some of the next steps we recommend.

## Step 1: GHG Emissions Inventory

Create a GHG Emissions inventory and update on an annual basis. Use the annual GHG Emissions inventory to measure the improvements of GHG gas emissions.

Have the Chancellor sign the American Colleges and Universities President Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Agreement. This is a big step in showing not only the UNCG but other member universities, UNCG's commitment to carbon neutrality and global warming.

## Step 2: Target and Timetable

- A. Set Final Target and Timetable - Set a GHG emissions reduction target and timetable. UNCG has already verbally set forth a target of carbon neutrality by 2050. This is a great start in beginning a Climate Action Plan.
- B. Hurdles - As part of this second step, UNCG must determine the different hurdles and steps that they face in achieving the goal. In doing so, UNCG can then figure out as to how to alleviate those hurdles and steps. Once the course of action is determined, a timeframe can be added to that course of action.
- C. Minor Goals - In addition to major or final goals, UNCG to set minor goals that can be achieved in short term basis (daily, weekly, monthly, and annually).
- D. Accountability – Assign specific tasks and goals to personnel, and set deadlines on when they are to be achieved. Hire a sustainable manager to help organize and track performance.
- E. Project – Treat it like as if it was a construction project. This process in essence is invisible with results that are invisible with no real budget to account for. As such, it can be easily foregone. The resultant of this step is the creation of a time schedule summarizing all goals (major and minor) and the time (yearly, monthly, weekly, or even daily) they are to be achieved. It should be tracked and updated similar to a project. If there is a delay, determine the reason and create a recovery schedule.

- F. Measurement and Verification – While it is certainly an acceptable procedure to produce inventories and reports from calculated data, it can only be prone to assumptions and “ideal”<sup>1</sup> data. The true means of measuring one’s use of energy and GHG emissions is to perform measurement and verification, basically actual field measurements of the systems they use. In doing so, the campus can then truly know how much energy it is using, and, in the process, discover any inefficiencies or malfunctions.

### Step 3: Create a Campus Climate Action Plan

- A. Develop a Campus Climate Action Plan that summarizes all items measured and determined from Steps 1 and 2. There is no set format or method to use for the Climate Action Plan. One will find that each university or entity varies in how they format their plan. UNCG should develop their plan based on what suits them best referencing the formats of other plans readily available from other institutions.
- B. Include all guidelines set forth by the ACUPCC.
- C. The plan should be readily available and easily understandable by all folks from campus and out of campus that may want to see and use it.
- D. The plan should not only document steps 1 and 2 above, but also contain all items related to the GHG emissions and actions taken (references, assumptions, accountability). It should be a complete record of all items in regards to campus GHG emissions and actions.
- E. Peer Review – Compare the Climate Action Plan and its results to peer universities. From those comparisons, UNCG can determine their progress as compared to other campuses. Also use the comparison to determine how where improvements can be made to the Climate Action Plan.
- F. The Climate Action Plan is a dynamic plan that must be constantly measured and adjusted based on changes on campus, changes on policy, changes in the environment, and others that affect the university.

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<sup>1</sup> Ideal data is in reference to data that may not factor in equipment inefficiencies, malfunctions, human factors, etc.. that cannot be accounted for in a power, water, or natural gas bill.

#### Step 4: Implementation

Implementing the Climate Action Plan is a massive effort that can be achieved systematically with a good plan. It will be the responsibility of the team assigned, with the support of head administrators, to ensure that the carbon action plan is implemented.

#### Step 5: Legacy

The ultimate goal is to be carbon neutral and to ensure a better future for future generations. This can be achieved if everyone believes in the carbon neutrality. The climate protection and sustainability should be engrained in every aspect of the institutions operations and core beliefs to include its mission, education, daily operation, financial management, purchases, goals, and social organization.