**Climate Action Plan for Fresno State**

**Summary**

While collective campus efforts by students, faculty, and administrators have advanced sustainability at Fresno State, our university still lags far behind the existing policy goals mandated by the CSU Chancellor's office. The purpose of this document is to examine the ways that other universities are taking to meet similar commitments and see if we can replicate them at Fresno State.

**Methods**

Using the [Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings system](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/top-universities-climate-action), we identified the two top universities for climate action and carefully analyzed literature provided by each institution. The two are the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Carolina).

**Existing CSU Goals**

The CSU is striving to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions system-wide down to 1990 levels or below by 2020. It intends to reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. These and 27 other goals can be found [here](http://www.calstate.edu/cpdc/sustainability/policies-reports/documents/JointMeeting-CPBG-ED.pdf).

We do not believe that Fresno State is playing its part in this process.

**University of British Columbia**

In 2010, UBC’s Board of Governors approved the UBC Climate Action Plan, including the following GHG reduction targets (against a 2007 baseline) for the Vancouver campus:

* 33% reduction by 2015
* 67% reduction by 2020
* 100% reduction by 2050

They created five categories for the actions they might take to reduce emissions: 1.) Existing Buildings, 2.) New Buildings, 3.) Behavior change, 4.) Energy supply, and 5.) Fleet.

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

 UNC has:

* Decreased potable water use (from base year 2000) by 63%
* Decreased GHG emissions (from base year 2007) by 35%
* Decreased waste to landfill by 27% from 2001 to 2017

Their efforts fall into these categories; 1.) Stationary combustion, 2.) Purchased electricity, 3.) Air travel, and 4.) Food emissions.

**Questions for Fresno State**

What is the breakdown of energy sources at Fresno State?

What is Fresno State’s goal for GHG emission reduction for 5 or 10 years from now?

Does Fresno State have a plan for zero emissions?

Is there a carbon neutral action reporting process at Fresno State?

What are emissions per capita (meaning, per student) at Fresno State, and how does that compare with other CSU campuses and regional and national universities?

What new key projects has Fresno State initiated that incorporate smart business decisions to reduce GHGs?

Can we reduce energy usage in the five categories identified by the University of British Columbia?

Have we kept records in the four categories by UNC Chapel Hill?

Are there any plans to expand the use of solar energy and recovery of waste heat?

Do we have a zero waste action plan? And how do we hope to reduce GHG from waste management?

**Higher Education Sustainability Organizations**

* ASHEE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). Last year, Fresno State became a reporting member of ASHEE, but it is unclear whether we have a plan to obtain Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum reporting status.
* Second Nature. This organization asks for a ‘climate commitment’ that integrates carbon neutrality with climate resilience, and provides a systems approach to mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. Fresno State has not made this commitment, but Cal State Chico, Humboldt, Monterey, Cal Poly, Bakersfield, Northridge, Los Angeles, and Long Beach all have done so.

To try to find answers to these questions, and make recommendations on what more our campus might do to address one of the most important problems our time, the Senate Executive Committee proposes that a task force be formed. Below is the membership of the task force.

* One representative from each college / school, including the library
* Two faculty experts in climate change
* Chair of the Academic Senate (or appointee)
* One ex-officio member appointed by the Provost / Vice President of Academic Affairs
* One ex-officio member appointed by the Vice President of Administration
* One student appointed by ASI
* One student appointed by the sustainability club

If approved by the Academic Senate, the Executive Committee will issue calls for service and then appoint interested faculty members.