



PEER UNIVERSITY COMPARISON

All subcommittees were engaged in reviewing
peer & exemplary universities in their areas



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT UPDATE
PROCESS – SPRING 2020

PURPOSE & FOCUS

Review climate actions of peer and exemplary universities for three purposes:

1. See how VT is doing among its peers
2. Borrow and steal good ideas
3. Show that we are not crazy in committing to bold and aggressive goals

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- VTCAC 2009 item #1: Virginia Tech will be a Leader in Sustainability: VT has won numerous **awards and recognitions** as well as highest AASHE rating in state and ACC.
- However, **VTCAC 2009 was limited** and many universities have committed to far more aggressive goals and are implemented significant climate actions
- Second Nature reports **438 schools** have pledged to be **carbon neutral** including 6 in the ACC and 4 in Virginia. 40 committed to carbon neutral by 2030. In 2019 **UVA and W&M** pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030 and fossil fuel free by 2050.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- VT protocol for **GHG inventory is limited** in scope compared to several peer schools
- Environment America lists **33 universities** committed to **100% renewable** electricity. UVA and W&M partnered with Dominion Power to build solar farms that already provide 21% of UVA's electricity and will meet 50% of W&M's demand.
- 75 universities are working toward **zero-waste campus** status
- UMD has reduced GHG by 50% from 2005 to 2018, gets 89% of electricity from renewables, offsets all of university air travel emissions.
- Continued review of peer climate action for energy, buildings, composting, transportation

PRELIMINARY GOALS & PATHWAYS

PRELIMINARY GOAL

Virginia Tech will Continue to be a Leader in Climate Action and Sustainability

POTENTIAL PATHWAYS TO GOAL

- Use the experience of peer and exemplary universities to help formulate and implement climate action goals and pathways to achieve them, including:
 - carbon neutrality, 100% renewable electricity, GHG inventory, zero waste. building efficiency, energy systems, alternative transportation, climate justice, sustainable behavior, and budget & finance

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT UPDATE

Thank you for your attention. We invite you to engage. Please visit the CAC website (link below) 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>