



There are times when you need to put a stake in the ground. The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) is currently one of those potentially polarizing issues that brings some controversy to the world of educational facilities. What position should APPA take? Is there more than one way to view the requirements of the Commitment?

Launched in June 2007, the ACUPCC began with about 65 initial signatories—college and university presidents who took the first steps toward formalizing and publicizing their campus' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reverse global warming. Now nearly 500 presidents have become signatories to the document—a key indicator of institutions who are seriously committing to develop or enhance their programs to help achieve “climate neutrality.”


To some educational facilities professionals, the result has been for their president to turn to them and say, “I’ve just signed this Commitment, now what do we do to achieve it?” The designated “implementation liaison” has been everyone from newly hired sustainability coordinators, facilities directors, and energy officers, to the students and student groups. It is important to quickly identify a project leader who has the authority and ability to work well with others on campus and in the community to take the steps necessary to fulfill the Commitment. The full *Presidents Climate Commitment Implementation Guide* can be downloaded at http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/pdf/acupcc_ig_final.pdf.

Some APPA members are concerned that the Commitment will become another unfunded mandate that threatens the facilities departments' meager budgets and human resources. Others have expressed concern about the political or social “agendas” behind the Commitment and the ramifications of signing it. Yet it is the facilities professional who has worked for years to find and implement energy efficiencies on campus and introduce innovative

technologies and practices to advance the value of the facilities.

Educational facilities professionals will also be key participants in discussions about or implementation of greenhouse gas reductions. Our members will be able to contribute cost estimates on programs and material required to achieve their campus goals; perspectives on the consequences of planned actions on service levels to the students, faculty, and staff; and innovative thinking that will help their institution attain the targets of the Presidents Climate Commitment and goals of their campus.

APPA supports the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment and the efforts of Second Nature, ecoAmerica, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in their coordination and oversight of the program.

APPA's newest publication, *The Green Campus: Meeting the Challenge of Environmental Sustainability*, is a significant and timely contribution to the practice of environmental stewardship and will help you achieve the goals of the ACUPCC. We have excerpted three chapters from that book for this issue of *Facilities Manager* and trust that the variety of issues it tackles will give facilities professionals a meaningful resource for progress in their sustainability efforts. Many thanks to Walter Simpson, editor and coauthor of *The Green Campus*, for his much-valued assistance. 

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