

## ACUPCC Memo to the Community

Chancellor Leon Richards has signed a commitment with the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The ACUPCC is a high-visibility effort to make campuses more sustainable and address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to reduce and ultimately neutralize greenhouse gas emissions on campus. The effort is modeled after the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The Chancellor has asked Dr. Robert Franco, Professor and Director of the Office for Institutional Effectiveness, to be the campus liaison for the Climate Commitment and Carol Hoshiko, Dean for College and Community Relations, as Media Relations Liaison.

A diverse array of campuses – from major research universities like University of Pennsylvania and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to liberal arts colleges such as Oberlin, Furman, and Pitzer Colleges, to community colleges like the Los Angeles Community College District, Cape Cod Community College and Lane Community College – set their sights on achieving carbon neutrality. Four University of Wisconsin campuses are working to make their campuses completely energy independent by 2012.

### Going “Climate Neutral”:

- Foster energy conservation and efficiency
- Generate or buy renewable power
- Transportation systems evaluation
- Purchasing (buying local, recycled and sustainable goods)
- Recycling/Waste reduction
- Campus food systems
- Investment in climate solutions
- Research and development
- Teaching climate science and policy, educate community
- Partner with communities/businesses to share climate expertise

In the months and years ahead, the ACUPCC will ask us to choose from a list of 7 tangible actions as goals for the college. They will also ask for a Greenhouse Gas Report, a Climate Action Plan and regular progress reports, so stay tuned for periodic updates.