

University of Kentucky Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Commitment

Universities are uniquely positioned to spearhead the research, innovations, and cultural shifts necessary to address human-induced climate change. As the Commonwealth's flagship university, the University of Kentucky will serve as an exemplar by implementing strategies that lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while enhancing campus operations and reducing long-term energy costs. The University's approach will be guided by its mission to improve people's lives through excellence in education, research and creative work, service, and health care. Specifically, the University resolves to pursue a two-pronged strategy; Scholarship and Operations.

Scholarship

The Faculty Sustainability Council will explore and initiate opportunities to promote and support sustainability-related research and education. This will catalyze innovation and provide the UK community with tools and knowledge to confront the challenges of climate change.

Operations

The University is committed to modeling and implementing strategies that reduce GHG emissions and promote a healthy, just, and ecologically-sustainable society. It will reduce campus emissions by employing new technologies, conserving energy, reducing waste, and encouraging campus participation. These strategies will be integrated as high-impact, hands-on components of teaching, research, and service.

GHG Reduction Goal

The University has a long-term objective of achieving carbon neutrality as quickly as resources and technology allow. The goal of carbon neutrality will be integrated with other strategic objectives of the University. To achieve meaningful and measurable progress, the University commits to a near-term goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to 25% below 2010 levels by 2025.

Implementation and Reporting:

An implementation plan for achieving these goals will be prepared by a task force assembled by the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee and shared with the campus community within one year of the adoption of this document. The Office of Sustainability will track and report progress on this commitment annually.