

# TAKE CLIMATE ACTION!



**Portland State University's Climate Action Plan (CAP)** outlines long-term goals and short-term actions similar to those found in state and local climate action plans. These goals will allow PSU to join leaders around the region in creating a vibrant carbon-light future.

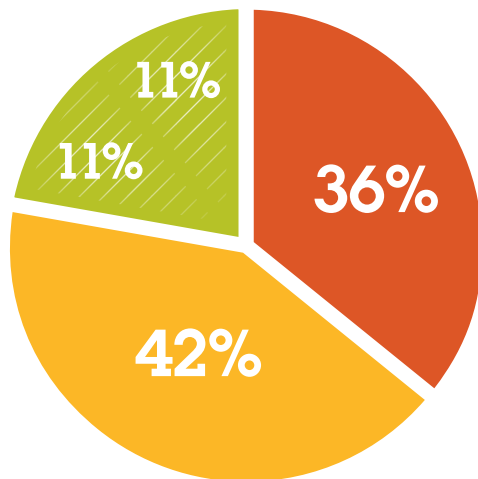
The CAP tracks progress in six sectors: Buildings, Materials, Travel, Commuting, Research and Education, and EcoDistrict Development. For greater simplicity, this document combines the 6 categories down to 4: Travel and Commuting combine to "Transportation", and Research and Education and

EcoDistrict Development merge to create "Community". These categories are used to outline steps that all members of the PSU community can take today, this term, or this year to support PSU's carbon reduction goals.

Lastly, the CAP aims to engage all aspects of the University in the pursuit of carbon neutrality while fostering a culture of innovation and educational inquiry, creating a leaner and more adaptable organization, and guiding and shaping PSU's future.

View the full 2010 PSU Climate Action Plan at [pdx.edu/sustainability/psu-climate-action-plan](http://pdx.edu/sustainability/psu-climate-action-plan)

## WHERE DO PSU'S CARBON EMISSIONS COME FROM?



### **BUILDINGS**

Emissions from natural gas and electricity in all PSU buildings across campus.

### **MATERIALS**

Material goods, including raw material extraction, production and transportation of goods and services.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

**TRAVEL 11%** PSU-sponsored travel, including air travel, rail trips and car rentals.

**COMMUTING 11%** Transportation emissions from students, faculty and staff traveling to and from PSU.

## DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN HELP >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

### **WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?**

The Earth is experiencing global warming because we are emitting too much carbon into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels for energy—whether it's to drive our cars, make our soda cans or to power and heat our homes and businesses.

Global warming is driven by the "greenhouse effect," a natural phenomenon essential to life as we know it. Water vapor, carbon dioxide, and other gases in the Earth's atmosphere act like a blanket over the Earth, absorbing some of the heat from the sunlight-warmed surface of the planet

instead of allowing it to escape into space. Increasing the amount of these gases, often referred to as "carbon emissions," in the atmosphere essentially makes the blanket thicker—trapping excess heat around the globe.

The impacts are much broader and more complex than a simple increase in temperature, however. Global warming is accompanied by changes in precipitation patterns, increased frequency and intensity of storms, wildfires, droughts, floods, and rising sea levels.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## TODAY

## THIS TERM

## THIS YEAR

### BUILDINGS

- Turn off your computer and monitor when leaving for more than 20 minutes.
- Turn off the lights and equipment (e.g. copiers, printers) when you are gone for more than 10 minutes.
- Remove all space heaters and fans in your workspace.

- Have your office use motion sensor surge protectors at work stations. They are available by contacting [greencampus@pdx.edu](mailto:greencampus@pdx.edu).
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs. Dispose of CFLs by making a work request with Environmental Health and Safety.

- Work with your department to enable power management settings on all computers, monitors, and printer/copiers.
- Establish a lights out/computers off policy in your office.

### MATERIALS

- **Avoid printing.** If necessary, print double sided or use one-sided scrap paper.
- Bring reusable lunch/beverage containers.
- Visit [pdx.edu/sustainability/what-can-be-recycled](http://pdx.edu/sustainability/what-can-be-recycled).

- Arrange for the office printer to duplex by default.
- Designate a drawer for non-confidential one-sided paper.
- Call 5-2FIX to set up composting in your office or department.

- Buy items with recycled content.
- Set up compost and special item (e.g. Styrofoam, batteries) recycling collection for your department through PSU Recycles.

### TRANSPORTATION

- Travel by bus, train, or bike whenever possible.
- Carpool to receive a reduced parking rate.
- Visit [pdx.edu/transportation](http://pdx.edu/transportation) to learn more about commuting options and incentives at PSU.

- Replace an air travel business trip with a local one.
- Attend a web conference or workshop.
- Sign up for a membership at PSU's Bike Hub.

- Set up a system to begin tracking air miles traveled by personnel in your department.
- Participate in the annual Bike Commute Challenge and fall transportation survey.

### COMMUNITY

- Learn about sustainability programs and research projects at PSU, particularly those projects outlined in the Climate Action Plan.
- Attend a sustainability talk/discussion on campus.

- Take a class with an applied or service-learning focus that addresses climate issues.
- Attend meetings, workshops, and presentations by local organizations about sustainability.

- Register for classes that are part of the minor in sustainability or Graduate Certificate in Sustainability at PSU. For more information, visit: [pdx.edu/sustainability/sustainability-education](http://pdx.edu/sustainability/sustainability-education)