



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

March 2010

In signing the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, the University of Oregon continues down the path to sustainability. Many of our green initiatives in academics and operations have been nationally recognized over the years. Working towards climate neutrality is a significant undertaking for a large research institution and requires us to explore new territory, and we will continue to lead the way.

The University of Oregon's Climate Action Plan represents the work of staff, students, external consultants, and many faculty members who provided feedback that further strengthened our final draft. This plan represents the best information we currently have about how much we are emitting and where opportunities exist for reductions. Following are examples of the initiatives we will undertake:

- **Monitoring** - Reliable, accessible, and sufficiently granular building energy consumption data are essential to effective conservation and efficiency initiatives. Facilities Services plans to pilot an energy metering and dashboard project on a small number of campus buildings in fall 2010. We will evaluate its effectiveness and, when proven, identify funding for full-scale deployment.
- **New construction** - Green design can dramatically reduce heating, cooling, and plug loads in our buildings. Currently, all new construction and large renovations must be LEED silver equivalent and exceed state energy code by 20%. However, we will explore adopting more aggressive design standards. A review will be completed within a year and results reported on the UO sustainability website.

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- **Leadership and coordination** - Frequent communications and feedback are necessary to ensure our strategies and initiatives are effective. We will establish a permanent faculty-led sustainability council to advise senior administrators regarding future programs and opportunities, strategic investments and policies that help achieve national prominence in research, education, service, and campus operations.
- **Curriculum** – Preparing students to confront sustainability challenges is as important as reducing emissions. We will work with donors to establish a competitive fund that provides faculty with the resources they need to create these transformational experiences for our students.

Our Climate Action Plan will always be a work in progress. The ideas, technologies, and regulations that shape emissions reduction initiatives are rapidly evolving, and we will remain open to better ideas and ready to take advantage of new discoveries.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard W. Lariviere', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard W. Lariviere
President