

The Second Nature *Story*

Since 1993, Second Nature has worked with higher education to transform our economic, social, and environmental habits to ensure a healthy, just, secure, and sustainable future. We believe that creating a thriving, enduring society is *the fundamental purpose of all learning*; sustainability should be a foundational principle of higher education rather than a specialized program or discipline. We call this **Education for Sustainability (EFS)**, and it has grown into a movement synonymous with Second Nature.

Three million students graduate from US higher education institutions each year, going on to make choices that guide and shape our society and economy. Their formal education is one crucial part of the solution to climate change and other sustainability challenges. Second Nature collaborates with the higher education community to build its individual, institutional, and sector capacity to create a sustainable society through thought leadership, advocacy, and the convening and support of networks for education for sustainability.

As a leader...

Second Nature is, and has been from its beginning, a major national catalyst focusing on **organizational innovations and connections** in education, institutional practice, and collaboration with local communities for sustainability.

We are the primary force **engaging higher education senior leadership** (presidents, trustees, business officers, and provosts) to make sustainability a strategic imperative for their institutions. Through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (**ACUPCC**), the leaders of 685 colleges and universities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, representing one-third of the 17+ million college students in the US, have committed to climate neutrality in practice and through education of all students.

www.acupcc.org

As an organizer and convener...

Second Nature has helped convene and steward important **coalitions, consortia, and learning communities** focused on EFS at the state, regional, and national levels, including: the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability, Associated Colleges of the South, South Carolina Sustainability Consortium, and the Historically Black College and University/Minority Institutions Consortium.

Michael M. Crow
President, Arizona State University



"Second Nature provides vision, leadership, and expertise absolutely critical to the success of the Education for Sustainability movement, particularly the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. It is their tireless effort that has stewarded higher education into taking a leadership role on climate and other sustainability challenges, without which all other societal sustainability efforts will be nearly impossible."

Second Nature helped grow the Education for Sustainability Western Network into the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (**AASHE**), a national higher education learning community with over 1,000 member organizations. AASHE has created the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System (STARS), the industry-leading self-assessment tool for measuring true progress on sustainability. www.aashe.org

To focus influential professional associations on EFS, Second Nature helped form the **Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC)**. The 16 HEASC member associations facilitate the adoption of EFS as a core part of their professional development missions. Second Nature also worked with the National Association for College & University Business Officers to develop the first comprehensive **guide to sustainability financing** for colleges and universities. www.heasc.net



Mary S. Spangler
Chancellor, Houston Community College

"Realizing the potential of the Education for Sustainability movement will require focused collective commitment and action by all of higher education, in addition to individual institutional excellence. Second Nature has been the vocal advocate and connecting force that has brought together, inspired, and challenged our network with the common vision of sustainability and target of climate neutrality. Through the expert knowledge and resources available from these relationships, together we are laying down a pathway to a sustainable future."



Michael L. Lomax
President and CEO,
UNCF



"Environmental sustainability is a critical part of operating every college and a critical part of the education a 21st-century college provides for its students. Second Nature has been an invaluable thought partner in helping UNCF, its member historically black colleges and universities, and all minority-serving institutions (MSIs) make sustainability not just an ideal but a day-to-day reality. UNCF's partnership with Second Nature has fostered a re-imagining of how MSIs relate to our environment and what we are capable of doing together to assure a safer, greener and cleaner planet."

Through the
ACUPCC
the leaders of
685
colleges &
universities
in all **50** states
and the **District of Columbia**

representing
one-third of the

17+
million

college students in the US
have committed
to
**climate
neutrality**

As a capacity builder...

Through endeavors like our successful **Advancing Green Building in Higher Education** program, a two-year, \$1.2 million fellowship and technical assistance program created in partnership with the Kresge Foundation, Second Nature is working to build the capacity of under-resourced colleges and universities to construct and renovate campus buildings in ways that save money, reduce negative health impacts, and serve as community models for environmentally sustainable design. www.campusgreenbuilder.org

Leveraging the success of the Advancing Green Building program, we are advising and partnering with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) on a learning institute focused on sustainable campus operations at **Historically Black, Hispanic American serving, and Tribal institutions**, also supported by the Kresge Foundation.

As a collaborator and advocate...

Second Nature worked with the Campaign for Environmental Literacy on recent amendments to the Higher Education Act that authorized \$50 million annually for college and university sustainability programs, the **first federal funds directed in support of EFS**. We are continuing this advocacy work by seeking annual appropriations for this important program.



Paul Rowland
Executive Director,
AASHE

"Second Nature has made a difference in higher education for nearly two decades and has changed the institutions where I and thousands of others work—where millions of students learn how to live in the future. Second Nature challenged us, provided us with support, helped us grow networks, and brought us to make commitments that make a difference now and well into the future."

Second Nature is ready to take the EFS movement to the next level.

Sustainability has caught the attention of higher education leaders across the United States and around the world — **they look to Second Nature** to inspire and guide them in making the EFS vision a reality.

We are providing **thought leadership** and collaborating with the higher education community on high-leverage strategies to advance this effort, with a particular focus on:

- **connecting higher education with other sectors of society** to advance education for and the practice of sustainability,
- **inspiring higher education to take the lead** in fostering healthy, just and sustainable actions, and
- providing presidents and their teams with the **skills and tools to be sustainability leaders** in their institutions.



Second Nature Education for Sustainability

18 Tremont Street, Suite 308 | Boston, MA 02108 | www.secondnature.org | 617-722-0036 | info@secondnature.org

