

A TIMELINE OF CLIMATE COMMITMENT

2006

October

The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) emerges from planning sessions with the [12 founding Signatories](#), Second Nature, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and ecoAmerica.

2007

Early 2007

Founding Signatories invite their peers across the U.S. to join the ACUPCC.

June

ACUPCC holds public launch at 1st Climate Leadership Summit, featuring Senator John Kerry.

Fall

400 institutions have joined, and form the [Charter ACUPCC Signatories](#).

2008

April

The ACUPCC is a national initiative with signatories in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Fall

Charter Signatories submit 1st greenhouse gas inventories, setting baselines for their carbon neutrality efforts.

2009

Second Nature becomes lead supporting organization for the ACUPCC with additional support from AASHE.

Early signatories submit 1st Climate Action Plans.

August

President Bill Clinton delivers keynote at the 2009 Summit.

2010

Updated greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories already show emissions reductions.

Initiatives modeled after the ACUPCC gather steam in [Canada](#), [Peru](#) and [Scotland](#).

Second Nature creates the Annual Climate Leadership Awards.

2011

Second Nature becomes the only supporting organization for the ACUPCC.

September

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) Partners with Second Nature to implement AMS Climate Studies Course at Minority-Serving Institutions nationwide.

2012

The ACUPCC counts with 90 Historically Black, Hispanic-Serving, and Tribal colleges and universities, and 150 institutions considered under-resourced by the Federal Government.

June

53 signatory presidents and senior staff from 65+ institutions gather at 2012 ACUPCC Climate Leadership Summit to celebrate first five years of the ACUPCC.

2013

As part of a Kresge Foundation grant, Second Nature Fellows visit 6 Minority-Serving and under-resourced institutions to deliver 2-day training workshops on climate action planning, GHG inventories, and more.

The Alliance for Resilient Campuses (ARC) launched to complement neutrality efforts with increased campus and regional resilience.

July

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presents Second Nature with an Environmental Merit Award at their New England Region 2013 awards ceremony. Second Nature's founder and first president, Anthony Cortese also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

2014

Second Nature and the ACUPCC mentioned in the White House's "[FACT SHEET: Lifting America's Game in Climate Education, Literacy, and Training](#)". Second Nature president Tim Carter invited to represent ACUPCC Network at roundtable discussion at the White House.

October

White House OSTP representatives gather climate education input from ACUPCC institutions in Listening Session at the 2014 Presidential Summit on Climate Leadership.

2015

After a strategic planning process with extensive feedback from signatories and partners, Second Nature rebrands and expands the ACUPCC as the Carbon Commitment, introduces a new Resilience Commitment (building on ARC), and integrates goals of carbon neutrality and climate resilience to create the Climate Commitment. Together, all three are known as the Climate Leadership Commitments.

March

Second Nature begin partnership with the USGBC's Center for Green Schools to jointly present the Climate Leadership Awards as part of the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo.

May

AMS and Second Nature conclude their 5-year partnership, after successfully bringing the AMS Climate Studies Diversity Project workshops and courses to 98 Minority-Serving Institutions across the country.

July

Second Nature launches the Carbon Credit Purchasing Program (C2P2) to support signatories in developing and marketing carbon offsets and accelerate progress towards carbon neutrality.

October

10 leading presidents from the Steering Committee officially sign and launch the Climate Leadership Commitments at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. Second Nature launches its new branding, logo, and websites, further integrating the organization with the Climate Leadership Commitments.

November

White House launches the American Campuses Act on Climate (ACAC) Pledge with help from Second Nature. 70% of pledgers are Climate Leadership Commitments signatories. Second Nature joins higher education presidents, students, and others in a White House roundtable for ACAC day. Nearly all presidents in attendance represent signatory schools.

November-December

Second Nature travels to Paris for COP21, representing Climate Leadership Commitments signatories, and hosts an event in collaboration with the University of Connecticut.

2016

January

Second Nature [teams up with Green Energy](#), a Peruvian consultancy seeking to replicate the Climate Leadership Commitments and Network in South America.

January

A University of New Hampshire and Sightlines study finds that campuses that have signed the Carbon Commitment have 47% lower carbon emissions from purchased energy than non-signatories.