



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Universities Accelerate Climate Action through Carbon Market Sale

BOSTON- (AUGUST 16, 2016) Boston-based nonprofit Second Nature has facilitated a sale of carbon credits generating over \$1 million for three U.S. universities through the voluntary carbon offset market. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Ball State University (BSU), and Southern Oregon University sold credits they produced through carbon-reducing activities. These funds will help finance and further their carbon neutrality work on campus. All three universities are signatories to Second Nature's [Climate Leadership Commitments](#), a set of 3 bold commitments to climate action and resilience made by higher education leaders. As part of their Commitment, these institutions have set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

This transaction is made possible by Second Nature's newest initiative, the [Carbon Credit and Purchasing Program](#) (C2P2), which aims to support colleges and universities in developing and marketing carbon offsets as a way to accelerate their progress towards campus carbon neutrality. Profits from these sales will be reinvested into sustainability and energy projects on campus.

"Second Nature is committed to help schools in the Climate Leadership Network scale climate action and accelerate innovative solutions." – says Tim Carter, President of Second Nature – "This includes finding new funding streams to finance more projects that get to carbon neutrality faster. C2P2 is a great example of how collective action among the institutions creates new opportunities for progress."

Some of the ways in which these institutions are leading the way on carbon reduction include:

- Ball State University created the nation's largest ground-source, closed-loop district geothermal energy system, replacing their coal-fired boilers and chilled water equipment, achieving a seven-fold increase in efficiency, and cutting the university's overall carbon footprint nearly in half.
- By 2015, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus had reduced existing building energy consumption by more than 20% from its 2008 baseline; reduced existing building greenhouse gas emissions by 15%; and obtained 5% of electrical energy from renewable sources. The 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) calls for it to reduce campus energy usage, energy emissions, and agricultural and landscape emissions by 30% each from the 2008 baseline, and to supply approximately 13% of

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the campus' total energy with low-carbon sources by 2020.

- Southern was the first university in Oregon—and one of the first in the nation—to offset 100 percent of its energy use with clean, renewable power. The university is producing its own renewable energy through a 56-kW solar photovoltaic array that produces more than 70,000 kWh per year. This array helped the University qualify for a LEED Platinum certification for its Higher Education Center in Medford. Its LEED Gold-Certified Raider Village is the newest development in sustainable campus living and features daylight common spaces, variable refrigerant flow technology, and 153 kilowatts of solar photovoltaics.

The carbon credits were sold to BP Target Neutral (BPTN), a carbon management initiative involving both carbon reduction and offsetting services, which are provided to businesses and BP customers. BPTN has a rigorous assessment process for all potential projects, including project site visits to talk to the project owners and local stakeholders, and assessing technical and non-technical risks to ensure the project can deliver its promised benefits, is developed in accordance with local laws and the UN Declaration of Human Rights and, wherever possible, that local communities are not affected negatively by the project. Independent organizations such as The Climate Group, Fauna and Flora International, and Forum for the Future participate in project selection. All projects are also reviewed and approved by an Independent Advisory and Assurance Panel.

Second Nature is expanding their C2P2 program in New England as part of their [regionally focused initiatives](#). If you are interested in participating, download Second Nature's [new participant information guide](#), or contact Ruby Woodside, New England Fellow at [rwoodside@secondnature.org](mailto:rwoodside@secondnature.org). For general questions about Second Nature's work with carbon offsetting, email [innovation@secondnature.org](mailto:innovation@secondnature.org).

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#### **About Second Nature:**

Second Nature works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future through initiating bold commitments, scaling successful actions, and accelerating innovative solutions among leadership networks in higher education. The Climate Leadership Commitments, a signature program of Second Nature, is based on the premise that bold commitments to climate action and resilience by higher education leaders yield positive changes at their institutions, and beyond. Learn more at: [secondnature.org](http://secondnature.org).

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