



Second Nature



2020-2021
Impact Report

Table of Contents

1 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Letter from the President 5

2 ACCELERATE

Overview 7
By the Numbers 8
Climate Leadership Network Progress 10
New Commitments 12
UC3 2021 Highlights 14

3 LEAD

Overview 17
Policy Highlights 18

4 ENGAGE

Overview 21
Direct Funding for Campuses 22
Carbon Credit and Purchasing Program 24
Tools, Resources, and Guidance 26
Working Groups and Network Management 28
Reporting and Data Visualization 29
Events 30

5 WHO WE ARE

Second Nature Team 33
Financials 34
Photo Credits 36



Letter from the President

I've been thinking a lot in the past year about "fits" and "starts." In the summer of 2021, we were all feeling much better about the pandemic, some of us even starting to believe that the worst was fully behind us. We could **start** on our new normal path with some certainty! By the time we reached the fall, however, the omicron variant was forcing us backwards, causing cautious and uncertain **fits** across a wide range of personal and professional plans.

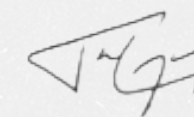
We experienced this tension first hand at COP26 in Glasgow where a large group of education ministers were pronouncing that climate action would be central to the student experience in their countries (**start!**) while outside the convention center walls, the youth voice protested that these same countries weren't taking their futures seriously (**fit!**).

Climate action has always had this highly dynamic element through technological breakthroughs, scientific knowledge improvements, or policy changes. As we move through time, the stakes get higher. Each "start" can't get set too far back by a "fit" as the future implications of our progress (or lack thereof) has larger, irreversible, consequences.

In all our Impact Reports, we are pleased to share our starts, and there is a lot to be proud of this past year. Lots to celebrate. But I would also encourage the reader to fill in the blanks with some fits: What needs to be strengthened? What gaps are we not filling? Where do we need more creativity and innovation? [Let us know](#) - tell us what you see that we're missing so we can make our future years even more impactful than our past.

We always say "fits and starts" as if the fits have to come first. But let's flip it this next year, lead with our starts while not forgetting the struggle and fits that come along with doing anything important.

Thanks for joining us and thanks, as always, for your support.



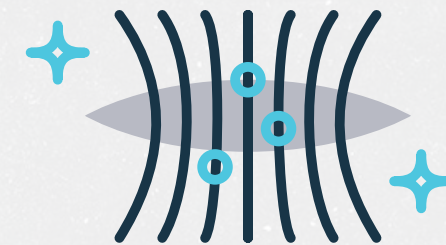
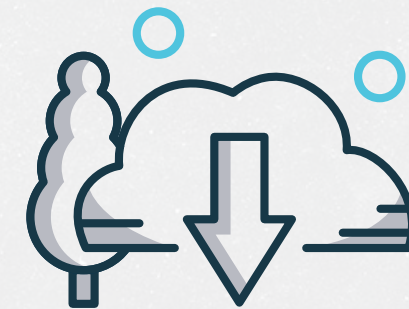
Dr. Timothy Carter,
President of Second Nature



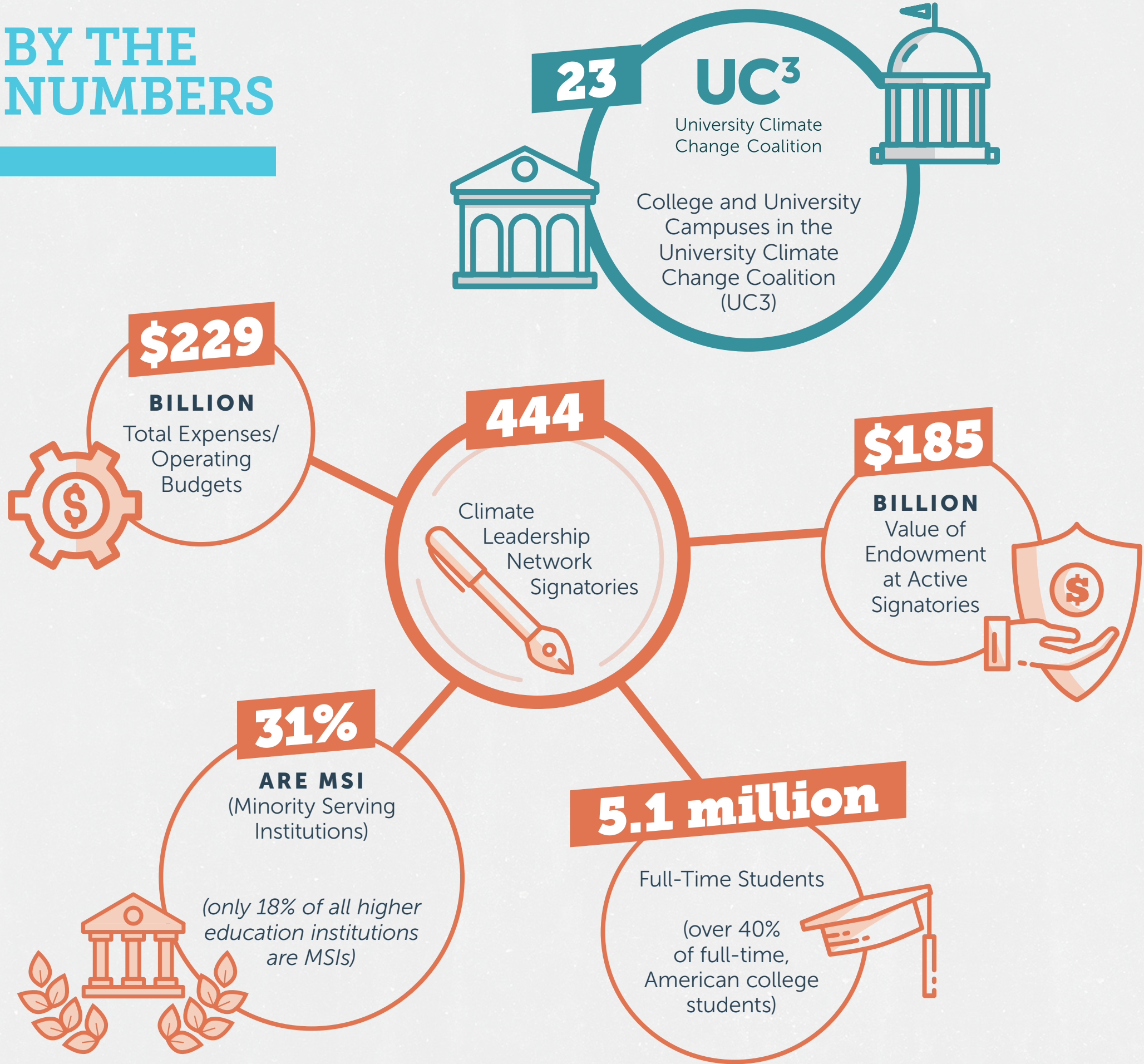
Accelerate

Second Nature **accelerates** climate action in, and through, higher education.

Campuses in the Climate Leadership Network and the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) made significant progress towards their decarbonization and resilience goals this year.

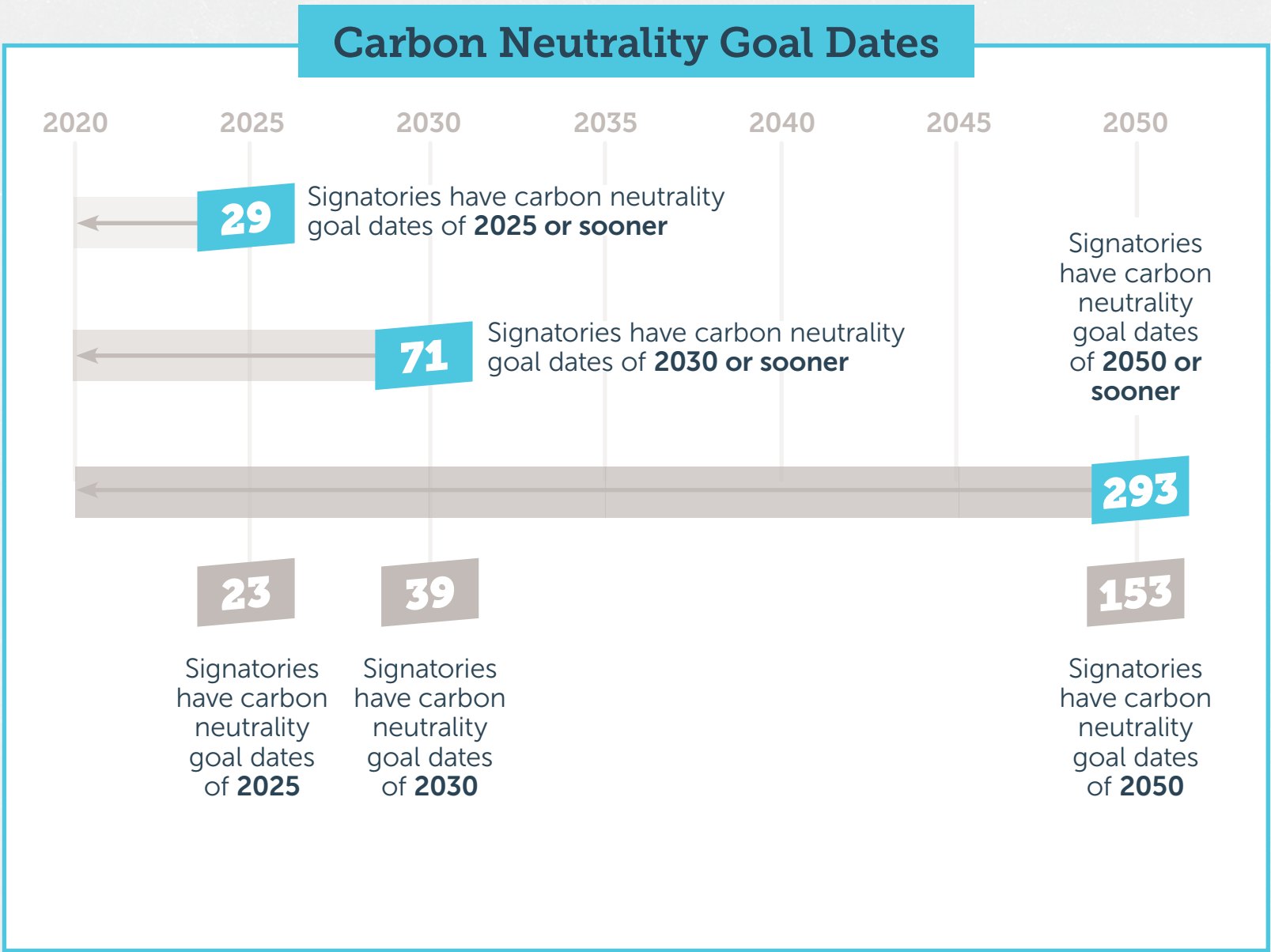


BY THE NUMBERS



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP NETWORK PROGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY GOALS



Carbon Reduction

25%

47 institutions have reduced emissions by 25%

50%

33 institutions have reduced emissions by 50%

75%

3 institutions have reduced emissions by 75%

100%

10 institutions have reduced emissions by 100%



76

Signatories are on track to meet their emission reduction targets

NEW COMMITMENTS

17 New Signatories in 2020-2021

Second Nature is pleased that these campuses joined the Climate Leadership Network and became signatories to The Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments. The diversity of institutions - by size, type, and region - that joined the Network demonstrates that campuses around the country recognized that increasing collective action is necessary to meet the magnitude and urgency of the climate crisis.





8 Signed





9 Signed



UC3 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

UC³

University Climate
Change Coalition

The University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) is a core program of Second Nature that connects 23 of the world's leading research universities and university systems committed to accelerating climate action on campus, in communities, and at a global scale.

UC3 added two new members:



UC3 Fellows Pilot Program

The [UC3 Fellows Pilot Program](#) is an initiative launched in 2021 by the University of British Columbia, the UC3's leadership lead's home institution. The Pilot Program invites UC3 member universities to award full- and part-time fellowships to postdocs, graduate students, faculty, and/or staff to become UC3 Fellows tasked with advancing one of several member-led, collaborative climate action Fellows projects and contributing part-time to other university-specific climate action work.

- 7 UC3 member institutions
- 14 UC3 Fellows
- 3 UC3 Fellows Pilot Program projects:
 - *UC3 Cities Climate Action Network*
 - *Guidelines for Equitable and Just Climate Action Planning*
 - *Midwestern Climate Research Agenda*

UConn | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Caltech



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA





Lead

Second Nature **leads**
the higher education sector in
local, state, and global spheres of influence.

We engage with national and state policy issues and contribute to climate action conversations on the global stage. Our non-partisan Climate Leadership Network supports policy and legislation on issues and initiatives that support the climate action goals of campuses. Drawing together our Network on key issues magnifies our impact for the future. Demonstrating our commitment to this work, Second Nature hired a Climate Policy Associate to provide added capacity.

Second Nature's advocacy is focused in three areas:

- Amplifying the voice of the higher education sector on the state, federal, and global levels.
- Providing higher education institutions with current and updated information on policy initiatives.
- Presenting cross-sector climate advocacy opportunities to the higher education sector through our partners, such as Ceres, and coalitions such as America Is All In.



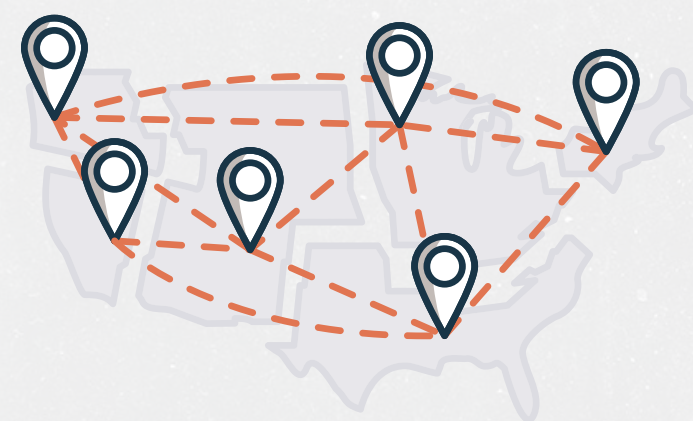
STATE POLICY

highlights

- **Issued and/or participated in** three state-related joint issue statements and letters



- Connected institutions with nearly 30 sign-on opportunities across 25 states, and every region of the country



FEDERAL POLICY

highlights

Higher Education Supports a Strong 2030 U.S. Climate Target

APRIL 2021

29 Different States

75 Campuses signed

Diverse Institution Types Including

| | |
|----|--|
| 7 | Community Colleges |
| 21 | Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities |
| 24 | Regional Comprehensive Universities |
| 19 | Research Universities |
| 2 | Tribal Colleges and Universities |
| 2 | Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) |

Across the Country

21 West REGION

16 Midwest REGION

25 Northeast REGION

13 South REGION

LEARN MORE bit.ly/HigherEd_NDCPressRelease

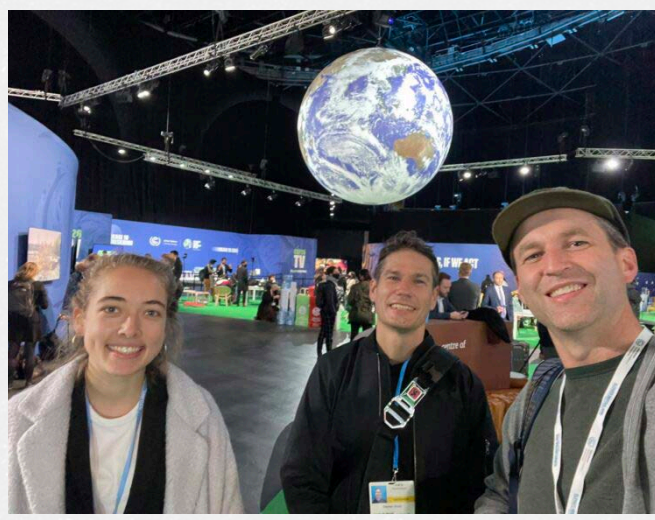
Second Nature

- **Issued and/or participated** in five federal-focused joint issue statements and letters
- On Thursday, April 8, 2021, a **letter** from 75 diverse higher education institutions from across the United States – spanning 29 states – was sent to President Biden urging his administration to adopt a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. Known as a nationally determined contribution (NDC), this emissions goal would put the United States on a viable path toward reaching net zero by **2050**. A few weeks later in response to President Biden’s announcement of a strong NDC goal, Second Nature released a **statement** thanking his Administration.
 - **Letter to Biden**
 - **Press Release**
 - **Second Nature Statement** re: Biden’s NDC announcement

GLOBAL POLICY

highlights

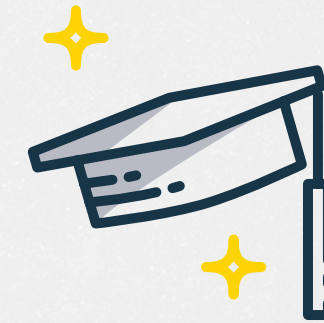
In November 2021, three members of the Second Nature team attended the international climate negotiations in Glasgow (COP26), bringing a critical higher education perspective to the conversations. At COP26, Second Nature hosted a panel discussion at the US Climate Action Center, convening university leaders from Penn State University, Southern Connecticut State University, Portland Community College and other community organizations to discuss a “whole-of-higher-education” approach to climate action. The team from Second Nature attended dozens of events on the ground in Glasgow, engaging in an international dialogue around the role higher education should play in advancing climate action.





Engage

Second Nature facilitates Network progress by ***engaging*** with campuses to provide educational opportunities, financial and technical resources, and services in support of climate goals.



DIRECT FUNDING FOR CAMPUSES



Acceleration Fund

The [Acceleration Fund](#) is dedicated to supporting innovative cross-sector climate action activities driven by colleges and universities. With funding from the Lumina Foundation, eight higher education institutions were awarded funding ranging from \$5,000 - \$10,000 for projects that focused on long-term, campus-community partnerships, with preference given to projects that place an explicit emphasis on climate justice/equity and engaging with communities of color.



Solutions Center

The [Pro-Bono Fund](#) awarded technical assistance worth between \$7,500 and \$10,000 to [ten colleges and universities](#) that will help campuses reduce or eliminate their CO2 emissions while also minimizing operating costs or achieving other climate objectives. This opportunity was made possible with the support of Brailsford & Dunlavey and CustomerFirst Renewables.



CARBON CREDIT AND PURCHASING PROGRAM

The Carbon Credit and Purchasing Program enables colleges and universities in the Climate Leadership Network to sell their carbon reductions as a strategy to finance deeper emissions reductions on campus. Three campuses participated in C2P2 in 2021.

Ball State University



Ball State's geothermal project is the largest of its kind, and eliminated the school's reliance on coal.

Ball State University created the nation's largest ground-source, closed-loop geothermal energy system. This project replaced the school's coal-fired boilers and chilled water equipment, and achieved a seven-fold increase in efficiency. The dramatic emissions reductions allowed the school to move its target carbon neutrality date forward from 2050 to 2030. In addition, the geothermal system has served as research material and classroom curriculum for hundreds of faculty and students.

See the [VCS Project Page](#) for Ball State University

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee



The UWM President signed the Climate Commitment in 2016 and committed the school to carbon neutrality and climate resilience.

The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM) reduced its Scope 1 emissions by a yearly average of 11.79%. These reductions were driven by an aggressive campus-wide program focused on improving campus space and service, piloting innovative technology, and reducing energy consumption. Energy conservation measures included lighting retrofits, occupancy-based heating, and cooling load improvements. UWM also incorporated behavior change initiatives among students and staff, developed an on-site solar PV system, and built three LEED-certified buildings between 2011-2016.

See the [VCS Project Page](#) for UWM

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



UIUC generates approximately 7,000 MWh annually of solar energy, and promotes renewable energy adoption in the community.

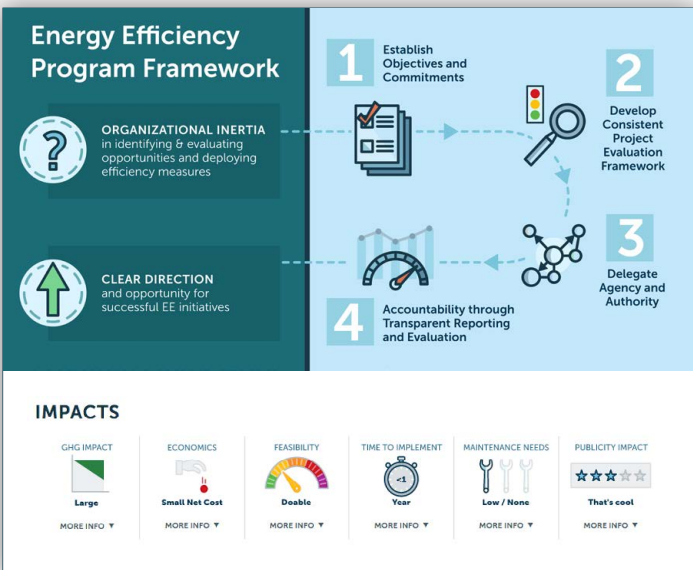
The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) increased building energy-use efficiency across campus through a program of aggressive retro-commissioning and upgrades, reducing energy use by over 25% across 40 buildings. UIUC also implemented renewable energy and LEED certified buildings on campus. Students, faculty, and staff across campuses helped UIUC achieve its sustainability goals, from pledging to take action to reduce energy use to working on teams that identified energy efficiency projects.

See the [VCS Project Page](#) for UIUC

TOOLS, RESOURCES, AND GUIDANCE



In collaboration with CustomerFirst Renewables (CFR) and Brailsford & Dunlavey, Second Nature continued to add to and improve the [Solutions Center](#), identifying carbon and energy reducing activities to support campus climate action goals. The objective of the Solutions Center is to help campuses review more quickly the solutions available and to help build a presentation for decision makers to be able to assess and prioritize decisions faster in order to accelerate climate action.



Climate Justice

Second Nature has been working with campuses to collect reflections, resources, and opportunities to explicitly integrate racial justice into climate action goals and strategies.

Our Climate Justice webpage was developed in partnership with Second Nature's member institutions to help accelerate the work of racial and climate justice. Features include Background and Terminology, Key Challenges and Opportunities, Case Studies, and more. See the [Climate Justice Webpage](#).



[Keynote Conversation:](#)
[Leah Stokes and Nikayla Jefferson](#)

2021 Climate Action Pursuit June Milestone

Climate Asset Mapping Project

The Climate Asset Mapping Project (CAMP) is exploring an innovative solution to connect university climate assets with their surrounding communities and dramatically accelerate climate action. In partnership with technical developer, Climate Action Systems (CAS), and informed by representatives of network members University of Michigan and Washington University at St. Louis, Second Nature is testing dual models for climate asset identification at the campus and regional scales.



The CAMP project manager is coordinating 7 undergraduate research assistants to test and grow the user database in the [PlaNET tool](#). Climate Action

System's PlaNET tool empowers users to take action together to resolve the climate crisis.

Through the tool, users create their own impact profiles and connect with others to co-construct climate solutions. By creating or joining learning pods and using PlaNET's powerful collaboration aids, users can build networks, initiate projects, set goals, track progress, and share their successes.

WORKING GROUPS AND NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Campus Energy Transition Working Group

Established during the 2021 Climate Action Pursuit, 44 members met quarterly to provide a community of practice and learning for campuses considering, planning, undertaking, and completing a campus energy transition project. They shared experiences from institutions focusing on financing and implementation, facilities management skeptical about Low-Temperature Hot Water (LTHW), preparing buildings for the transition to LTHW, and making the business case for these investments.



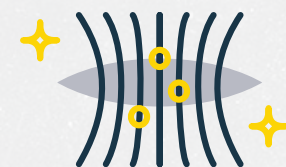
Climate Justice Working Group

- 88 members as of March 2022, engaging in quarterly meetings, Action Team (subcommittee) developed to help draft and implement Action Plan
- More information [here](#)



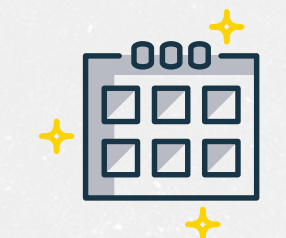
Resilience Working Group

- 64 members as of March 2022, engaging in quarterly meetings, Action Team (subcommittee) developed to help draft and implement Action Plan
- More information [here](#)



UC3 Liaisons and Steering Committee

- 104 members as of March 2022, welcoming on average 30 UC3 Liaisons at monthly meetings
- 11 Steering Committee members meet monthly



REPORTING AND DATA VISUALIZATION

SIMAP and Second Nature Partnership

Second Nature and the University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute (UNHSI) expanded their partnership to enhance the Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform ([SIMAP®](#)) to accelerate campus climate action. The enhanced partnership will offer colleges and universities a new, fully integrated platform to more seamlessly track and publicly report carbon emissions, with the goal of meaningfully expediting progress on their carbon neutrality goals. The strategic partnership between Second Nature and UNH leverages their respective missions and goals to encourage public reporting by Second Nature [Climate Leadership Network](#) signatories, and to accelerate progress toward decarbonization goals.



EVENTS



Climate Action Pursuit TOWARD JUSTICE AND RESILIENCE



Throughout 2021, Second Nature and the Intentional Endowments Network led a process of learning, planning, acting, and leading on climate and justice on campuses, in communities, and across society and the economy. The Climate Action Pursuit brought people together during four milestones for flexible virtual programming that equipped participants with the tools and resources necessary to help them move forward in 2021 with their climate goals.

Engagement and Outcomes:

- The February milestone brought together the largest number of presidents committed to climate action in one place at one time.
- As a result of the February Climate Action Pursuit and “team” formation, several working groups emerged that are now institutionalized in our organizations including a Campus Energy Transition Working Group and Climate Justice Working Group. These Working Groups are primarily comprised of senior climate professionals on campus, and afford us an opportunity for deeper engagement with a diverse group of campuses.
- Continued emphasis on advancing DEI principles and programming and make them central to the 2022 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit by:
 - Developing honorarium policies that are more equitable, inclusive, and transparent.
 - Including DEI and Justice criteria in scoring for the Request for Proposals.
 - Embedding the theme of “courageous conversations and radical collaborations” which will necessitate a recognition of the historical context of our institutions, and challenge us to strengthen our climate justice work.
 - In the registration system, including a more comprehensive collection of participant demographic data to ensure a diverse audience.

By the Numbers:





WHO WE ARE



Timothy Carter
President



Michele Madia
Senior Director of Programs
and Communications



Karen Wheeler
Director of Finance
and Administration



Eric Howard
Director of Strategic
Partnerships*



Rachel Valletta
Senior Climate
Programs Manager*



Steve Muzzy
Climate Programs
Senior Manager



Mia Sen
Climate Programs
Associate



Amanda Belles
Communications, Marketing
and Policy Manager



Devin Smith
Operations Manager



Chantal Madray
Climate Programs
Manager



Andy DeMeo
Climate Programs
Data Manager*



**J. Alexander
Maxwell**
Senior Climate
Programs Manager*



**Shaina
Maciejewski**
Climate Programs
Data Manager



Bridget Flynn
Climate Programs
Manager



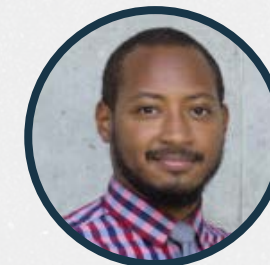
Molly Tarvin
Climate Programs
Intern*



Natalie Davidson
Climate Programs
Intern*



Noa Dalzell
Climate Policy Associate



Chaz Brizcoe
Climate Justice Fellow



Alyssa Attonito
Climate Programs
Intern*

* Second Nature staff for part of 2020-2021

FINANCIALS

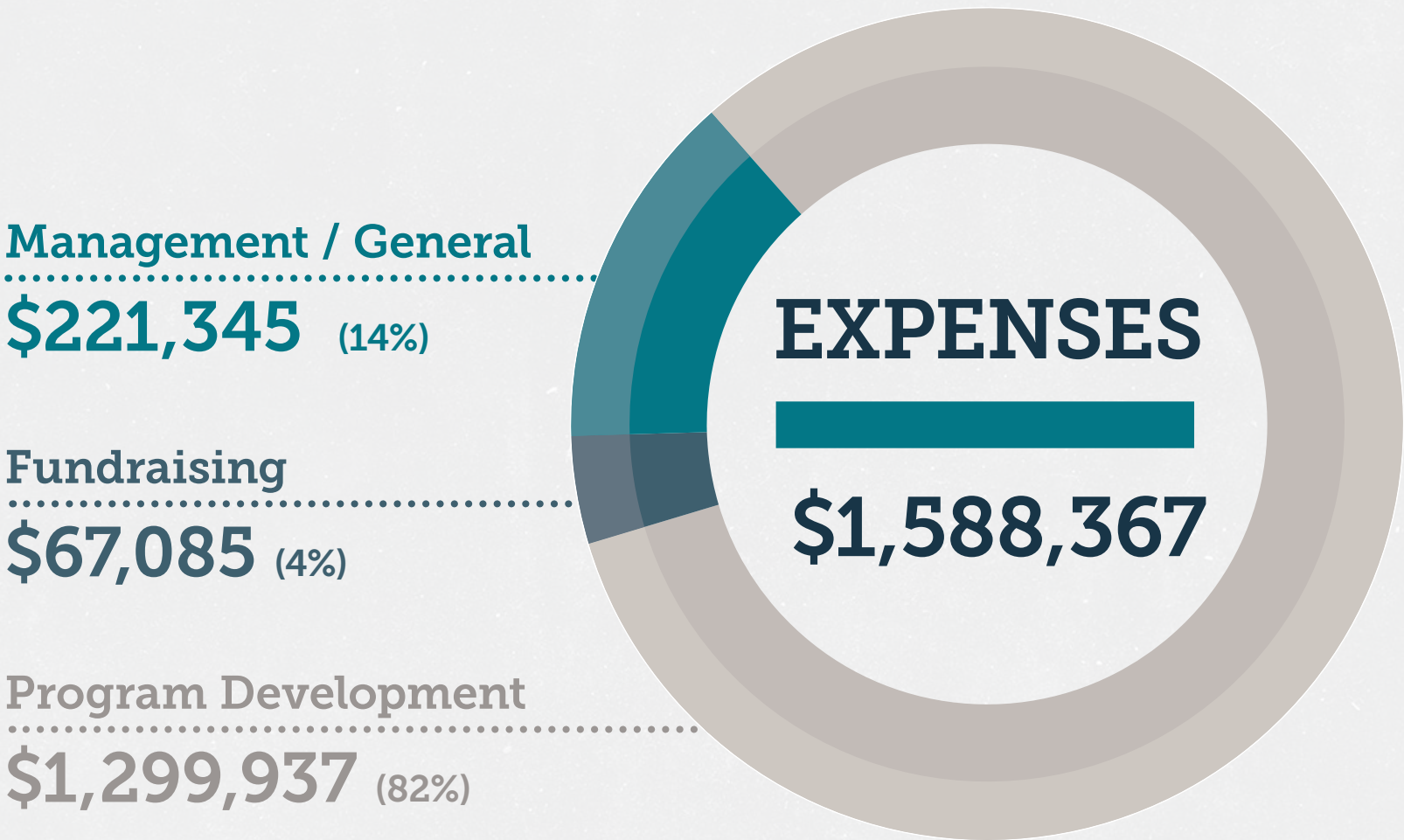
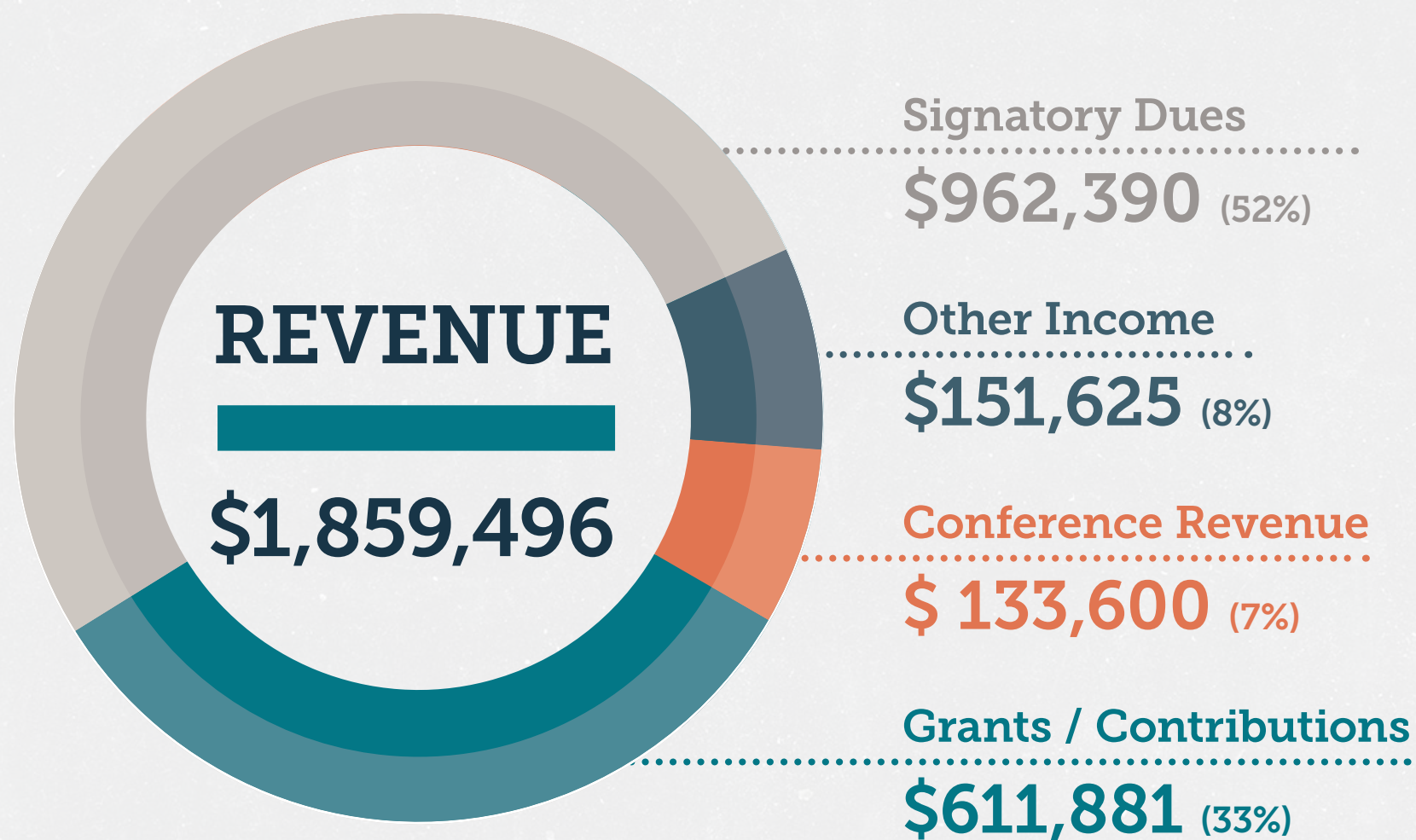


PHOTO CREDITS

- p1 - Photo by Benjamin Davies on Unsplash
- p9 - Photo by Benjamin Davies on Unsplash
- p12 - Photo by Cytonn Photography on Unsplash
- p24 - Photo from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

**Second Nature is committed to accelerating climate action in,
and through, higher education.**

We do this by mobilizing a diverse array of higher education institutions to act on bold climate commitments, to scale campus climate initiatives, and to create innovative climate solutions. We align, amplify, and bridge the sector's efforts with other global leaders to advance urgent climate priorities.

secondnature.org



Second Nature

186 Alewife Brook Pkwy #1182

Cambridge, MA 02138

617.722.0036

info@secondnature.org