

Preamble

Over the past year and a half, the members of University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) have worked to leverage their institutional strengths as leading research universities to foster collaboration across sectors in an effort to accelerate collaborative local action aimed at reducing the causes and impacts of climate change across sectors.

Guided by the principles of collective action, conducting solution-oriented research, and implementing place-based climate action strategies, UC3 adopts the Research for Policy Platform: a joint research and development platform that will establish a unified set of principles and policies in order to directly support higher education leaders in local, national, and international 1.5 degree-aligned climate policy engagement.

Joint Statement

We, the leaders of the University Climate Change Coalition, believe that the role of higher education extends beyond the classroom and laboratory. We commit to educating our students and to informing our communities and policymakers about the importance of acting to address climate change through public policy and programs. We will leverage our unique position and resources as anchor institutions and leading research universities to explore and advance knowledge, and demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of directly addressing the causes and impacts of climate change.

UC3 as a collective will support research for timely climate change policy issues and facilitate recommendations for just and equitable outcomes, present policy options, and suggest opportunities for policies that take into consideration the higher-ed context. Deliverables may include but are not limited to:

- Foundational climate science and policy primers referencing reputable, peer-reviewed research;
- Science-based policy options and the related implications for colleges and universities and their respective communities;
- Suggested avenues for policy engagement at various levels of government, with campus communities, and societal partners as deemed appropriate by UC3 members, given their own political contexts.

Platform Actions

This resolution includes three concrete actions that will be taken by university leaders as outlined below:

- University leadership will support decision-relevant climate research and play an active role in encouraging science-based climate action. This proactive approach is consistent with the Coalition's commitment to actionable research that can accelerate climate action.
- University leadership will explore institutional incentives to support researchers' contributions to the Platform. University leadership will also commit university resources as appropriate to ensure the longevity of the Platform.
- University leadership will consider the recommendations put forth by UC3 and act, at their discretion, to help advance climate policy at different levels of government and on their own campuses. University leadership will do so through dialogue, working with the private sector, collaborating with our communities and in partnership with indigenous knowledge holders.

We believe that higher education has a unique role to play in creating and implementing solutions to the challenges our global society will face in the future. We also believe that these challenges can only be addressed through concerted, collaborative, and coordinated efforts. In adopting a Research for Policy Platform, the University Climate Change Coalition commits to serve the local communities of our member organizations by embracing this national and global leadership role.