

UC³

University Climate
Change Coalition

2019 IMPACT REPORT



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UC3 Meeting at
2019 Higher Education
Climate Leadership Summit



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MISSION

The University Climate Change Coalition is committed to leveraging their institutional strengths as leading research institutions to foster a robust exchange of best practices and lessons learned in pursuit of accelerating local climate solutions that reduce greenhouse emissions and build community resilience.

UC³

University Climate
Change Coalition

About the Coalition

The University Climate Change Coalition (“UC3” or “the Coalition”) is a group of twenty-one distinguished research universities throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, who are committed to leveraging their research and resources to help communities accelerate local climate action.

Envisioned by University of California President Janet Napolitano, UC3 launched the initial cohort of 13 schools at the 2018 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit in Tempe, Arizona.

The Coalition represents a variety of voices in the North American higher education research community, including public and private institutions, from countries with varying national commitments to address climate change. Focusing on their strengths as knowledge generators, convening entities, and anchors within their respective communities, UC3 brings together local stakeholders to galvanize local and regional climate solutions. UC3 also combines their research expertise to develop best practices and to share knowledge across institutions in a peer-to-peer network of professionals, academics, and administrators.

Each UC3 member has demonstrated leadership in addressing climate change on their campus. They have pledged to reduce their institutional carbon footprints, with commitments ranging from making more climate friendly investments to becoming operationally carbon neutral, in line with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

UC3 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- California Institute of Technology
- La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Queen's University
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- The Ohio State University
- The State University of New York
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of California
- The University of New Mexico
- The University of Utah
- The University of Washington
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of South Florida
- University of Toronto
- Washington University in St. Louis



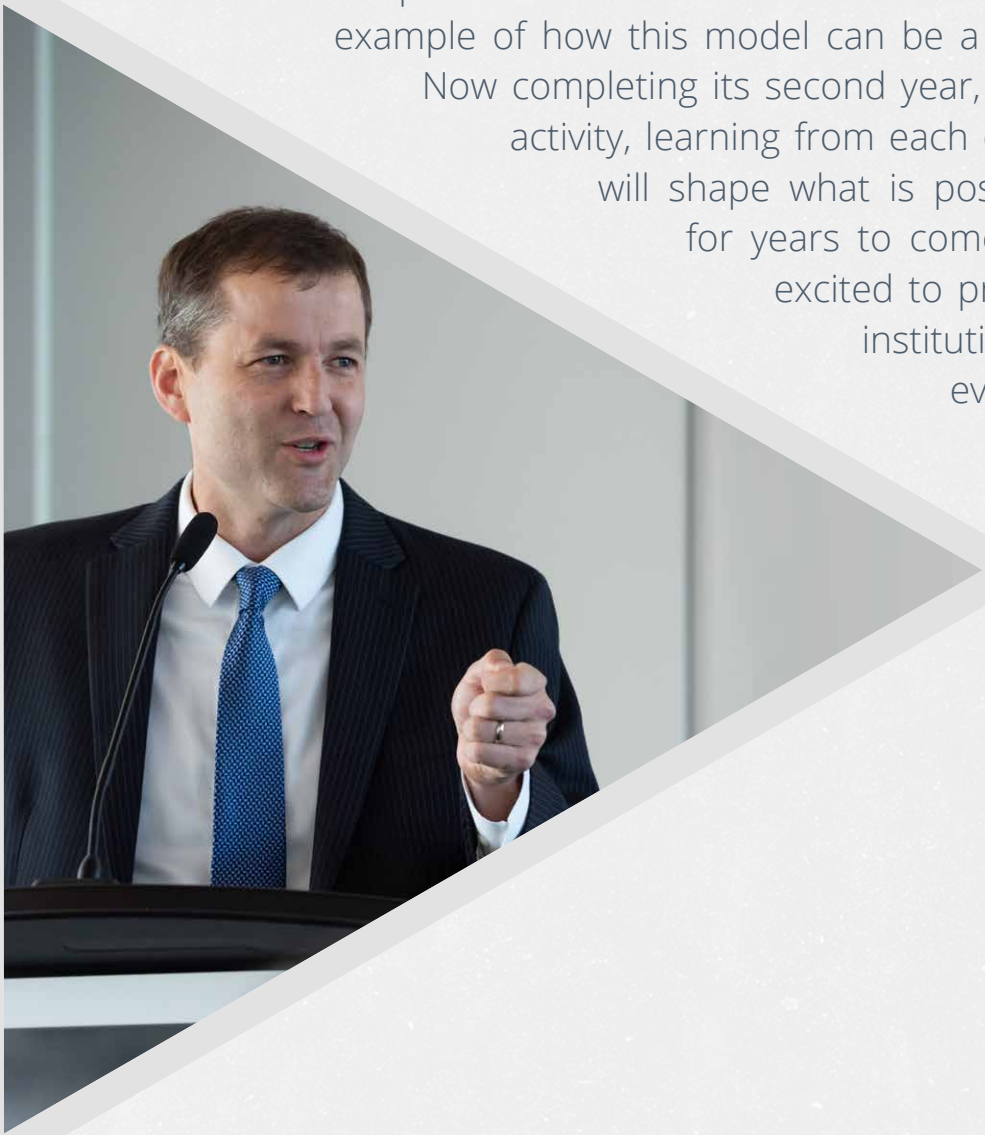
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Letter from the Network Lead

Higher education plays a critical role in solving the climate crisis. It does this by setting and acting upon its own aggressive decarbonization targets, and by leveraging its strengths in areas such as research, teaching, and community engagement to help other stakeholders meet climate action goals.

These dual roles of the university both as an actor and as an enabler of climate action creates incredible opportunities for affinity groups within the higher education sector to develop new network models to accelerate the work. UC3 has provided a great example of how this model can be a success for research universities. Now completing its second year, UC3 is building a virtuous cycle of activity, learning from each other and testing action areas that will shape what is possible for colleges and universities for years to come. Second Nature continues to be excited to provide support for the UC3 anchor institutions as they continue to lead and evolve in response to the urgent need for climate solutions.



Dr. Timothy Carter,
President of Second Nature



Letter from the Leadership Lead

Climate change is an existential crisis that threatens our economy, our national security, our health, and our future. Accelerating climate change is hampering our ability to grow food, access water, and fight the spread of disease. Around the world, wildfires, droughts, floods, and other natural disasters are taking an ever-greater toll in lives and resources each year.

To fight this global emergency, we must scale up research-driven climate solutions while advocating for equitable climate policies that will protect the world's most vulnerable populations.

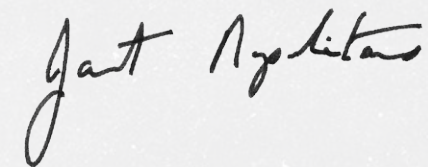
In 2018, the University of California spearheaded the launch of the University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3, to leverage the power of leading research institutions to develop global solutions that will bend the curve on climate change. As innovation hubs and living laboratories fueled by the energy and expertise of students and faculty, universities are an invaluable resource in this battle.

Over the past two years, UC3 has worked to bridge the gap between the latest academic research on climate and on-the-ground actions that communities and institutions can take to advance sustainability at home. Coalition members have now hosted 23 cross-sector climate action forums, bringing together thousands of university leaders, elected officials, policymakers, philanthropists, and advocates to explore solutions like net-zero housing and waste-derived biofuels.

The coalition also continues to expand its reach, growing to include 21 leading universities from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. At the UC3 Summit in Vancouver, British Columbia, last July, the coalition adopted the Research for Policy Platform, a framework to guide our ongoing efforts to engage higher education leaders on sustainability and generate research-tested solutions that can be scaled up.

Humans have an amazing capacity for adaptation, progress, and pushing beyond our own limitations. To overcome the enormous challenge we now face in the global climate crisis, we need to tap into our deepest stores of ingenuity, resilience, and creativity, and resolve to shift the trajectory of our future. As universities, we can – and should – act as bold agents of change.

Only by pursuing these actions – at our own institutions, and in close partnership with each other – can we truly change our course and ensure a thriving and sustainable future for the next generation.



*President Janet Napolitano,
University of California*

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

for the University Climate Change Coalition



2 New Working Groups Launched

- Higher Education as an Agent of Change in the Community
- Research for Policy



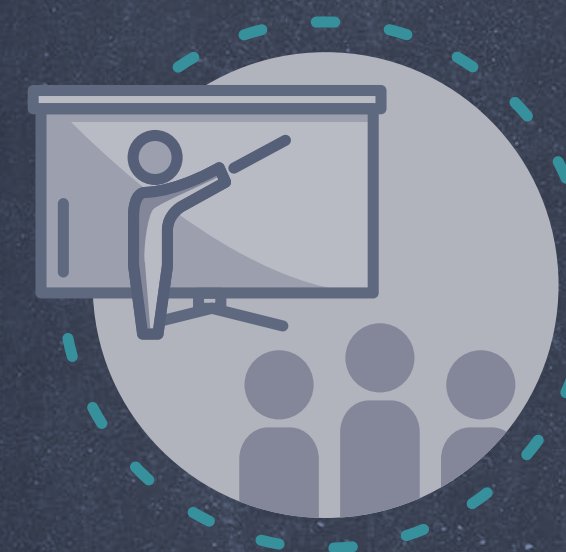
3 New Products Produced:

- UC3 Climate Research Assets dashboard
- Research for Policy Platform
- Brief: Higher Education's Role in Advancing Carbon Pricing



8 Cross-sector Forums held in 2019

- Over 380 participants across 8 cross-sector forums in 2019



3 In-Person Events

- 2019 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit
- UC3 Vancouver Summit hosted by The University of British Columbia
- 2019 UC3 Strategy Meeting hosted by Washington University in St. Louis



3 Additional Research Universities Joined the Coalition

- Queen's University
- The University of Utah
- University of Michigan

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FIRST TWO YEARS



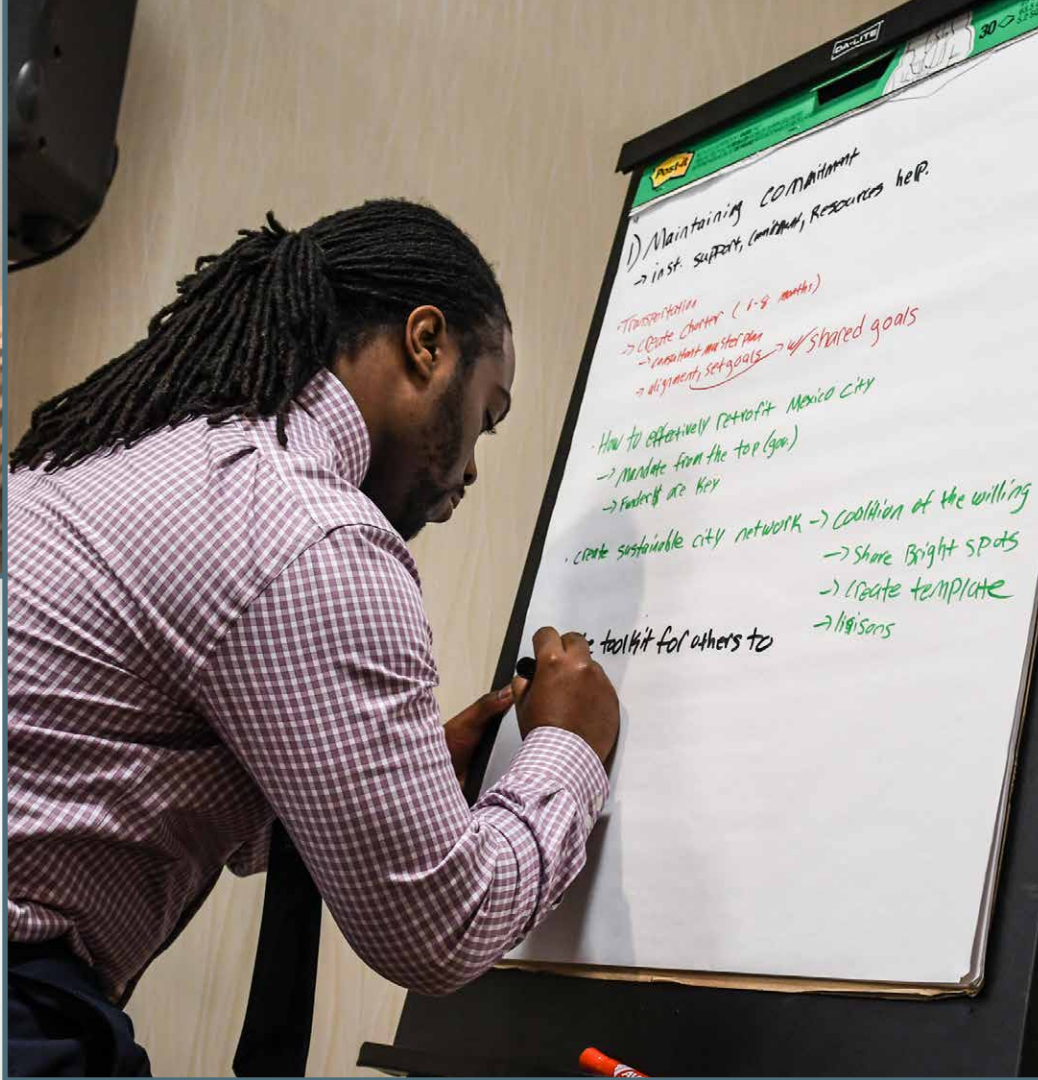
UC3 Meeting at
2019 Higher Education
Climate Leadership Summit

“

We enthusiastically joined other leading institutions across North America this year as a member of the University Climate Change Coalition in hopes of working together to build critical momentum to develop and implement innovative, research-driven solutions.

At the University of Utah, we understand the important role higher education plays in building a sustainable society and are committed to implementing best practices in our campus operations. We have set a goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 and currently have a Climate Commitment Task Force at work on a resilience action plan. As a public research university, we are dedicated to generating new knowledge in areas related to sustainability. This work, facilitated by our Global Change & Sustainability Center, highlights the interconnections between humans, the environment, health and sustainability and allows us to address the urgent climate-related challenges of our time.

- President Ruth Watkins, The University of Utah



“

The problem of global climate change is far too big for any one institution to solve alone. Collaboration and engagement are key to creating real and lasting solutions that will benefit our society.

- President Mark S. Schlissel, University of Michigan

“

At Queen's, we are making steady progress on reducing our carbon footprint, and we know we can accomplish even more by working with peer institutions across North America. The UC3 provides us with opportunities to collaborate with other universities ensuring that postsecondary institutions are leaders on the pressing issue of climate change. Queen's is working to become carbon neutral by 2040 and supports cutting-edge research that generates sustainable solutions. Our involvement with the UC3 will help us to realize our goals and maximize our impact on the climate crisis.

- Patrick Deane, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University

Accomplishments

- UC3 expanded to twenty-one leading research universities, encompassing new regions in North America
- UC3 members have organized and hosted twenty-three cross-sector forums across three countries.

Working Groups, Policy, and Tools:

Research for Policy

- Launched the [Research for Policy Platform](#)¹ at the UC3 Vancouver Summit in July 2019.
- Published the preliminary brief [Higher Education's Role in Advancing Carbon Pricing](#)².

Higher Ed as an Agent of Change in the Community

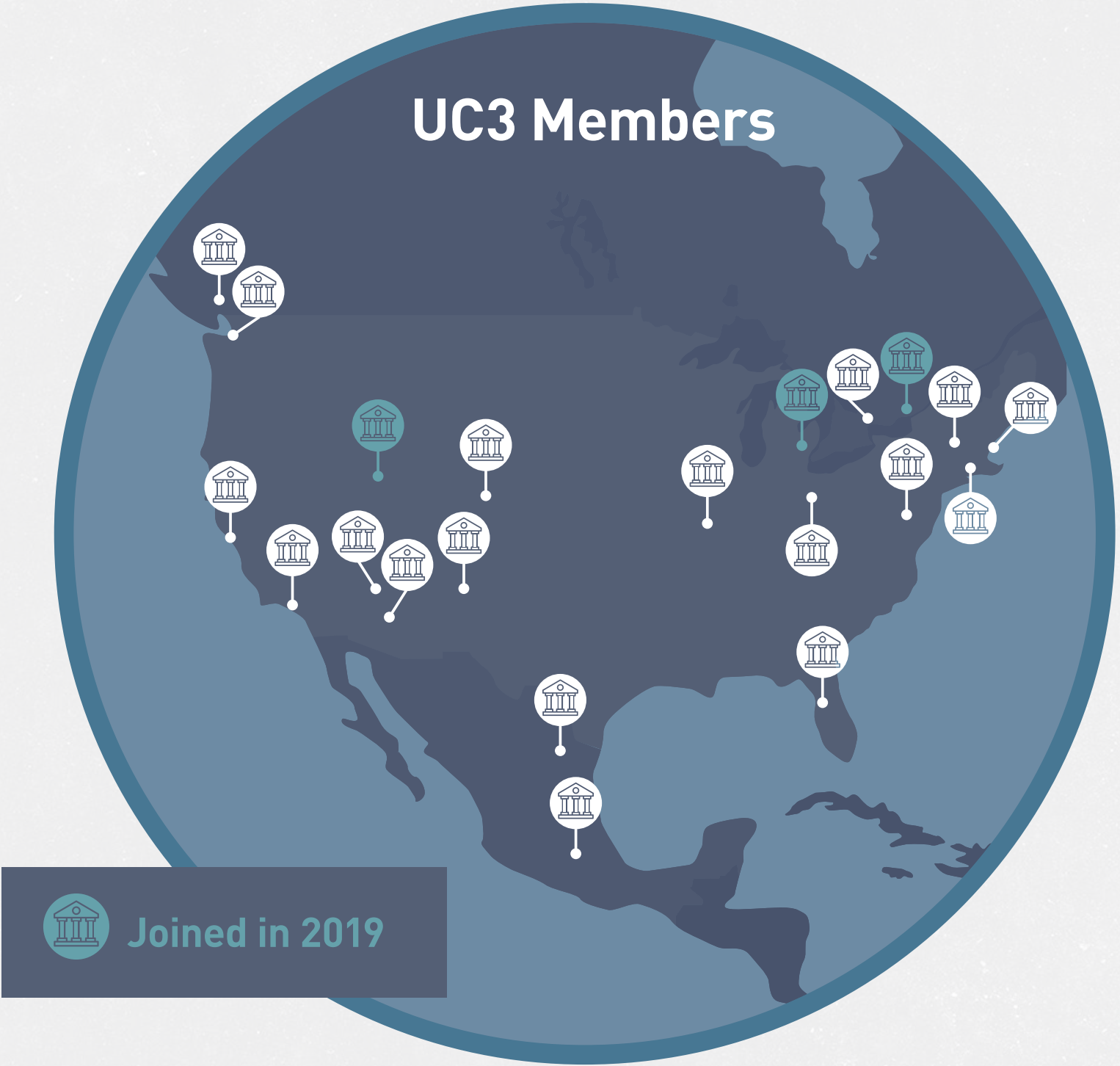
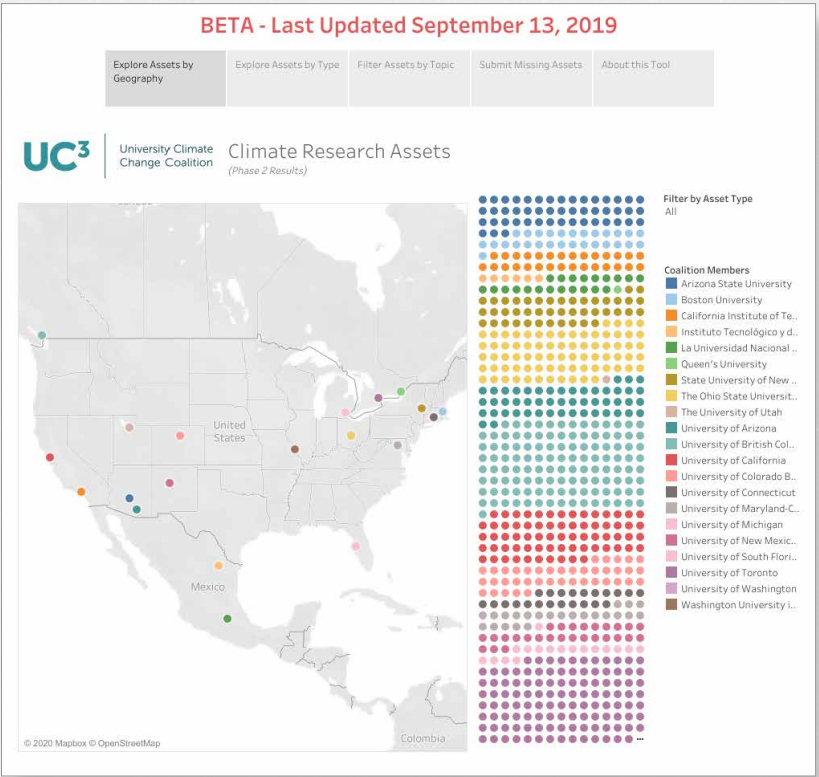
- Over 40 campus representatives participated in a working group exploring the integration of university climate research, curriculum and operational sustainability to accelerate climate action in the community.

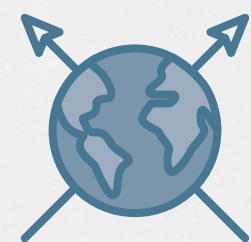
UC3 Strategy Committee

- 15 schools participated in a Strategy Committee to formalize UC3 strategy beyond the first two years. The final strategy will be launched in the Spring of 2020.

Asset Dashboard

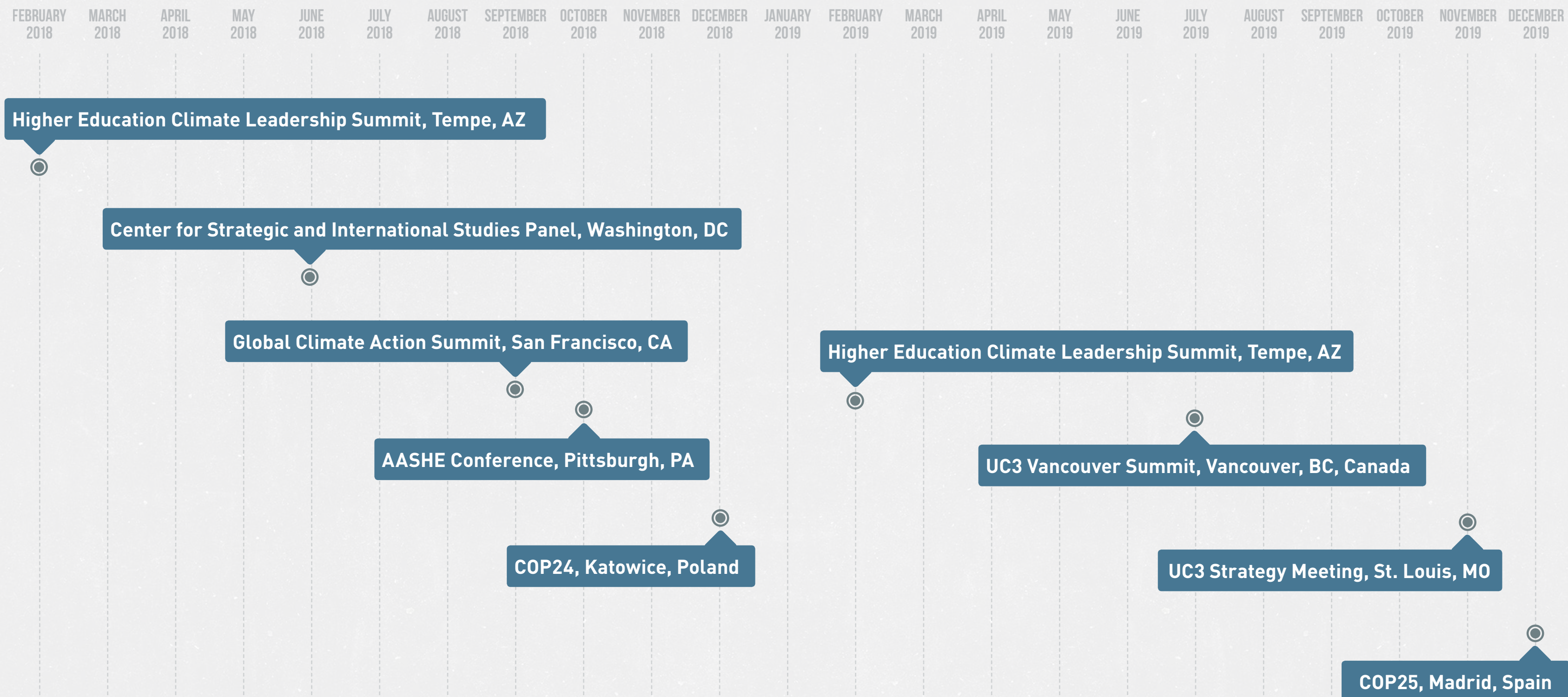
- The Coalition developed a beta public [dashboard](#)³ of climate research assets at UC3 institutions.





EVENTS

UC3 members participated in numerous events, showcasing cross-sector climate leadership on an international stage.





UC3 Vancouver Summit

- The University Climate Change Coalition Vancouver Summit brought together the leaders of top research universities, philanthropists, environment ministers, and NGOs to discuss higher education's role in raising the ambition to keep global temperature rise to well under 2°C. The Summit focused on two key themes:
 - 1) how universities are **acting as change agents** in their communities and how that behavior can be scaled for accelerated climate action
 - 2) **leveraging the strength and influence** of universities as anchor institutions to advocate on behalf of just and equitable climate policy.
- **Multilateral Roundtable meeting** - UC3 convened university leaders, senior government officials, funders, NGOs, and other stakeholders to discuss the role of anchor institutions in advancing sub-national climate action.
- UC3 members launched the [Research for Policy Platform](#).⁴ Guided by the principles of collective action, solution-oriented research, and place-based climate action, UC3 adopted the Research for Policy Platform to directly support higher education leaders in local, national, and international 1.5 degree-aligned climate policy engagement.



UC³

BY THE NUMBERS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report has been prepared by Second Nature with input from the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) member schools. We would like to thank Christine S. Nelson and Bloomberg Philanthropies for supporting the University Climate Change Coalition.

Thank you to Zac A. Brooks for designing this report layout, infographics, diagrams, and illustrations.

Thank you to the twenty-one UC3 member institutions for your continued active commitment and dedication to accelerating climate action.



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. The Climate Leadership Commitments are a signature program of Second Nature and include a Carbon Commitment (focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions), a Resilience Commitment (focused on climate adaptation and building community capacity), and a Climate Commitment that integrates both. The Climate Leadership Network comprises almost 600 colleges and universities in every state and the District of Columbia who have committed to take action on climate and prepare students through research and education to solve the challenges of the 21st century. Learn more at: secondnature.org.

The colleges and universities in Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network have been pursuing carbon neutrality in campus operations, creating new climate solutions through innovative research, and preparing students to solve the urgent climate challenges of the 21st century for over a decade. UC3 was built on this work and the vision of higher ed taking a leading role in climate action by leveraging strengths of research institutions.

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- p22 - all photos by University of British Columbia
- p23 - top and bottom - University of British Columbia
center - Second Nature

FOOTNOTES

- 1 - <https://secondnature.org/about-uc3/research-for-policy/>
- 2 - https://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/SecondNature_UC3_The-Role-Of-Higher-Ed-In-Advancing-Carbon-Pricing_Final.pdf
- 3 - https://public.tableau.com/views/UniversityClimateChangeCoalitionUC3/UC3Assets?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&publish=yes&:showVizHome=no
- 4 - <https://secondnature.org/about-uc3/research-for-policy/>

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