Believe the Science; We Must Act Now.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s Working Group I release of their AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis report today reaffirms how challenging our current climate situation is, and recognizes how human activity has driven unprecedented changes in climate. This has multiplied the threats posed by extreme weather events, particularly in our most vulnerable communities.

As the report notes, many consequences of our past actions will produce changes in our earth’s systems for decades and centuries to come. We can’t change that history. However, according to the science¹, dramatically changing course now can keep the global temperature rise within a 2°C target.

The higher education sector can continue to lead global solutions to the climate crisis, by our research, curriculum, operations, investments, and community engagement. All of these features together constitute a “whole-of-higher-education” approach to combat climate change. This is what is needed and what we will continue to work towards - comprehensive mobilization at the speed and scale that the science tells us is needed.

We must continue to confront the challenges to climate change directly, and with the urgency they demand. Climate change encompasses many facets of society, and our climate action needs to as well. This is why the climate leadership role that higher education plays is so vital.

Believe the science; the climate actions we take TODAY will drastically affect our global community permanently; positively or negatively. Inaction is not an option.

The time is now to accelerate our work.

- Your Second Nature Team