



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michele Madia, Director of Education and Partnerships, Second Nature  
617.722.0036; [mmadia@secondnature.org](mailto:mmadia@secondnature.org)

## Top Research Universities Expand the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)

Boston, MA (September 11, 2018) -- Second Nature is pleased to announce that Boston University, the University of Connecticut, the University of South Florida, and Washington University in St. Louis have joined the thirteen other leading research universities that comprise the University Climate Change Coalition ([UC3](#)). UC3 is a new network of research institutions from across North America formed on February 6th at the 2018 [Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit](#) and committed to leveraging their institutional strengths to foster a robust exchange of best practices and research agenda in pursuit of accelerating local climate solutions.

"Washington University in St. Louis recognizes that it is incumbent upon us, as a leading research institution, to help find solutions for the greatest challenges facing our planet. That includes climate change. We are proud to participate in the UC3 cohort, so together we can lead by example and share best practices to bring about lasting and positive environmental change," said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton of Washington University in St. Louis.

Since the Coalition's launch in February, UC3 universities have convened climate leaders in their region from local and state government, private industry and NGOs at cross-sector forums. In a report entitled [Research for Solutions: Convening Stakeholders to Galvanize Local Climate Action](#) released ahead of the Global Climate Action Summit in California today, UC3 highlights how research institutions can play an invaluable role in stepping-up climate action in their communities. Each of these schools are making ambitious strides to reduce their institutional footprint and increase resilience to the shocks of climate change, such as Boston University who adopted a climate action plan in December 2017 that includes \$141 million in capital investments over 10 years.

"Boston University's Climate Action Plan provides a critical framework for mitigating the impact of anthropogenic climate change. It is a major step forward in the University's response to threats caused by extreme weather patterns and the increased likelihood of problems caused by flooding and heat waves," said President Robert A. Brown of Boston University.

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.

In the words of University of Connecticut President Susan Herbst, "Research universities are uniquely qualified to address the myriad challenges of a problem as urgent and complex as climate change. We can lead not only by developing research, technology, and policy to effectively curb carbon emissions and ameliorate the effects of climate change on our communities, but also by making sustainability a core component of our mission and identity. The University of Connecticut is proud to join with our UC3 partner

18 Tremont Street, STE 930, Boston, MA 02108 | 617.722.0036 | [info@secondnature.org](mailto:info@secondnature.org)



institutions in working to find solutions now to what could ultimately be the most important challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

For more information about UC3, visit [secondnature.org/uc3-coalition](https://secondnature.org/uc3-coalition)

### **About Second Nature**

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](https://secondnature.org).

###

If you would like to learn more about Second Nature and UC3, please visit [secondnature.org](https://secondnature.org), or contact Michele Madia at [mmadia@secondnature.org](mailto:mmadia@secondnature.org)

18 Tremont Street, STE 930, Boston, MA 02108 | 617.722.0036 | [info@secondnature.org](mailto:info@secondnature.org)

