

Two-Pager on the University Climate Change Coalition

Overview

The University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3, is a bold new coalition of 15 leading North American research universities that have come together to help communities achieve their climate goals and transition to a low-carbon future.

Together, UC3 coalition members represent over 2 million students, faculty and staff at the some of the most dynamic institutions across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- California Institute of Technology
- Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
- The Ohio State University
- The State University of New York system
- La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of California system
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Maryland, College Park
- The University of New Mexico
- The University of Toronto
- The University of Washington
- Washington University in St. Louis

Harnessing the unique resources and convening power of member institutions, the coalition will work to inform and galvanize local, regional and national action on climate change. UC3 builds upon this effort through a specific focus on the place-based strengths of research institutions. In joining UC3, every member institution has committed to mobilize its resources and expertise to help cities, states and businesses achieve their climate goals through the activities below:

- Cross-sector forums: Every UC3 institution will organize a climate change forum in 2018-19 to bring together community and business leaders, elected officials and advocates. Forums will be tailored to local and regional objectives, focusing on research-driven policies and solutions to assist various communities.
- Coalition report: A coalition-wide report, to be released in 2019, will synthesize the best practices, policies and recommendations from all UC3 forums into a framework for continued progress on climate change goals across the nation and the world.

Purpose

UC3 provides thought leadership on and fosters a robust exchange of best practices and lessons learned in pursuit of reducing greenhouse emissions and building community resilience. They share this knowledge with fellow coalition members, the higher education sector, their communities, and partners in the public and private sectors by serving as models for climate solutions and re-examining the scientific community's research agenda to accelerate place-based climate action.

Eligibility

- The University head has pledged to reduce their institutional carbon footprint and commitment is consistent with objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement and the [Under2 MOU](#) for subnational climate leaders
- The University is a research institution designated as R1 by Carnegie Classification for US schools, an informal designation for non-US schools.



- Acknowledgment of participation from the president/chancellor's office and designation of a liaison, an executive sponsor, and communications contact.
- The ability for the liaisons to participate, with the rest of the cohort, in UC3 meetings/calls including senior leadership where appropriate.
- Commitment to holding a cross-sector climate convening (public or private) within a year of joining the Coalition and reporting outcomes to the other UC3 institutions.

Coalition Structure

Coalition Leads

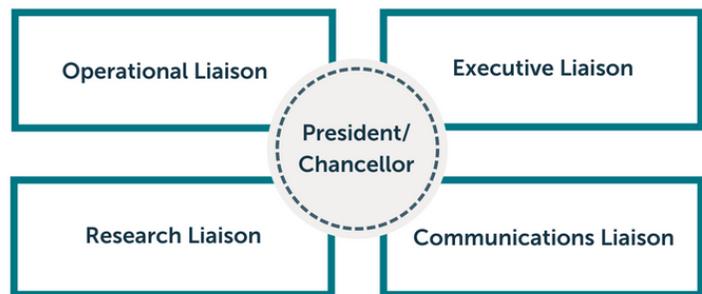
There are three (3) types of Coalition lead positions which a coalition member institution can fill for a fixed amount of time: Leadership, Research and Network. The Leadership Lead communicates between presidents and chancellors in the network and supports public-facing UC3 opportunities. The Research Lead develops the network-wide research agenda and evaluates the effectiveness and impact of UC3 actions in advancing research priorities. The Network Lead provides coalition network support and maintains and leverages external relationships.

Institutional Liaisons

Liaisons are individuals at each institution appointed by the University Head with the assistance of their appointed Coalition Executive Liaison. There are four (4) types of Liaisons: Executive, Operational, Research and Communications.

Executive Liaisons have senior decision-making authority and serve as the direct contact between the Coalition and institutions president's or chancellor's office. Operational Liaisons maintain knowledge of institutional climate goals, familiarity with ongoing and upcoming operational projects, and access to operations staff. Research Liaisons coordinate across the various faculty and research communities across the institution and have a knowledge of cross-campus research strengths. Communications Liaisons provide general support and amplification of UC3 activities and provide external relations support (i.e. quotes, talking points, etc.) for UC3 activities.

Liaisons Within Each UC3 Institution



Strategic Principles

- Build institutional consensus to pursue cross-sector climate work by bringing together liaisons from academia, operations, and administration (via the institutional liaisons).
- Identify & convene local, cross-sector stakeholders by holding a cross-sector forum.
- Share knowledge across institutions via monthly meetings, coalition events, public events and other networking opportunities.
- Identify and evaluate research priorities and gaps in the climate solutions research agenda.
- Collaborate cross-sectorally and build cross-sector partnerships to accelerate solutions.

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