

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 By [News Staff](#)

University Takes Part in White House American Campuses Act

The University will participate in the White House American Campuses Act on Climate day of action on Thursday, Nov. 19. The White House is launching the American Campuses Act on Climate day of action to amplify the voice of college students across the country in support of a strong climate agreement in Paris that sets the world on the path toward a low-carbon, sustainable future. The multi-layered day-of-action will include a roundtable with campus and business leaders, White House officials and celebrities to highlight best practices to promote sustainability and address climate change on college campuses.



The Climate Change Garden, outside the Life Sciences Complex, is designed to educate students on the impact of climate change.

An interactive, live-streamed conversation between 1-3 p.m. with college students will facilitate a meaningful dialogue to energize young people to achieve ambitious climate goals on their campuses and push for increased global action.

The University's initiatives to promote sustainability began with a concerted effort to increase campus energy efficiency over 40 years ago. SU was an early signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2007 and ever since has actively pursued the parallel goals of carbon neutrality and integration of sustainability into the curriculum and research.

Syracuse University pledges to:

- Continue its ambitious program of purchasing 35 percent green power. In 2005, SU began voluntarily purchasing 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, primarily New York State-generated wind power. In 2015, the University purchased 41 million kWh of green power, placing it in the EPA Green Power Partnership's Top 30 College and University ranking.
- Honor its commitment, formalized in the spring of 2015, to prohibit direct investment of endowment funds in coal mining and other fossil fuel companies. The University is also committed to seeking additional investments through its endowment in companies that are developing new technology-related to solar energy, biofuels and advanced recycling.
- Continue to integrate campus planning, design and efficiency projects with student research and learning experiences for sustainability. Recent flagship projects include the Climate Change Garden, a major landscaping project outside the Life Sciences Complex designed to educate students on the impact of climate change with a variety of tree and shrub species, some native to warmer and drier climates, and the recent retrofit of the Carrier Dome for rain water capture and reuse, in which students played a significant role in developing engineering plans and designing communications about the project.

A virtual watch party will take place, as this event will be streaming live. The White House organizers will release details regarding the time and logistics late Wednesday. For latest information, check <http://sustainability.syr.edu>. The campus community may send information, via social media using the hashtag #ActOnClimate | [@FactsOnClimate](#) and [@SustainableSU](#), to showcase how Syracuse University is addressing best practices to promote sustainability and climate change awareness on campus, such as, carbon emission reductions, sustainability education and climate resiliency.

If you would like to participate or for further information, contact the Office of Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives, sustinit@syr.edu or JoAnne Race, jrace@syr.edu, 443-5506.

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