Seven Strategies for Reducing your Personal Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1 Carpool to campus and other locations.

Approximately 55% of greenhouse gas emissions at Cal Poly Pomona come from transportation activities, the majority of which are contributed by individuals commuting to campus in a vehicle by themselves. Carpooling with one other individual just two days a week reduces your emissions by at least 20%. Visit www.dsa.csupomona.edu/parking/rideshare.asp to find a carpool partner.

2 Heat and cool your home smartly.

In southern California we need to use air conditioners and heaters to maintain comfort year around. But you can minimize the need to operate this equipment by a) Closing blinds and shades to keep the sun's rays out during summer months; b) Closing blinds and shades to help retain heat at night during winter months; c) maximizing air flow on cool summer evenings by opening windows and using fans for ventilation; d) Lowering your thermostat in the winter and raising it in the summer.

3 Use your computer's power management settings to save energy.

When you aren't actively using your computer, automatically dimming your monitor, and setting your system for standby or hibernate modes results in substantial energy savings. Most energy is consumed by the monitor, so set it to dim after 15 minutes of non-use. Do not just turn on a screen saver -it uses energy instead of saving it.

4 Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs.

These bulbs use 70% less energy than a regular bulb to emit the same amount of light. They cost more, but the extra cost is easily made up by the energy savings and fluorescent bulbs last about 10 times as long as incandescent bulbs.

5 Turn off lights, appliances, and electronics when they are not in use.

Turn off lights if you're leaving for more than 10 minutes. Even when many electronics are turned off they consume a small amount of energy, because they are actually in a standby mode, ready to receive instructions. Unplugging or turning off a power strip during extended absences will eliminate this extra energy use.

6 Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper and other goods. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials.

7 Save water.

Saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy. Municipalities use a lot of energy to capture, purify and distribute water. Only irrigate your landscape when needed and do it during the coolest part of the day. Turn the water off while shaving or brushing teeth. Repair all toilet and faucet leaks right away. Wait to wash clothes until you have a full load, and use cold and warm-water settings whenever feasible.

The President's Climate Task Force

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Dr. Kyle D. Brown, John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies

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Cal Poly Pomona University Campus Climate Commitment

Fall 2007

Climate Commitment

CAL POLY POMONA

The fight against climate change will shape the 21st century. Cal Poly Pomona is committed to making a difference.

www.csupomona.edu/climate

The Presidents Climate Commitment

In 2007, President Ortiz became a charter signatory of the Presidents Climate Commitment. The Commitment is an effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.

Building on the growing momentum for leadership and action on climate change, the Presidents Climate Commitment provides a framework for campuses to go climate neutral. The Commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in training the people who will develop the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming.

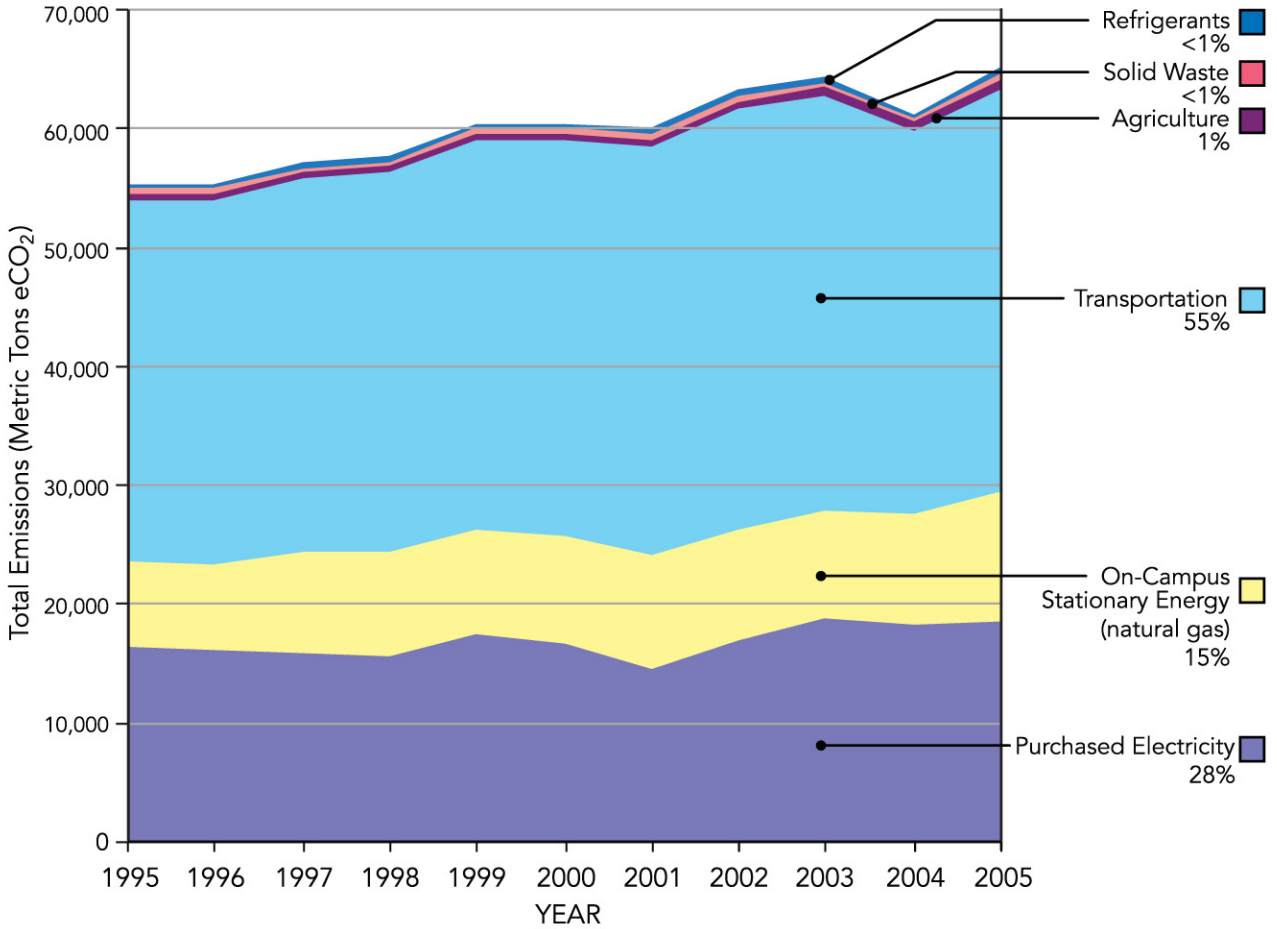
By signing the Commitment, President Ortiz has pledged to eliminate Cal Poly Pomona's greenhouse gas emissions over time. This involves:

- Forming a climate task force charged with fulfilling the Commitment
- Completing an emissions inventory
- Within two years, setting a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral
- Taking immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions
- Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience
- Making the action plan, inventory and progress reports publicly available

The presidents who are joining the Commitment believe universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector at Cal Poly Pomona (Metric Tons eCO_2)

Source: Clean Air-Cool Planet Greenhouse Gas Campus Calculator, Cal Poly Pomona Emissions Inventory: 1995-2005



Atmospheric Lifetimes & Global Warming Potential (GWP) of Primary Greenhouse Gases		
Gas	Atmospheric Lifetime (years)	GWP (100 year interval)
Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)	50-200	1
Methane (CH_4)	9-11	21
Nitrous Oxide (N_2O)	120	310
HFC-134A	15	1,300
HFC-404A	>48	3,260
Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6)	3200	23,900

Global Warming Potential (GWP)

The index used to translate the level of emissions of various gases into a common measure in order to compare the relative radiative forcing of different gases without directly calculating the changes in atmospheric concentrations. GWPs are calculated as the ratio of the radiative forcing that would result from the emissions of one kilogram of a greenhouse gas to that from emission of one kilogram of carbon dioxide over a period of time (usually 100 years).