

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE  
HANOVER • NEW HAMPSHIRE  
03755

THE PRESIDENT

September 29, 2008

Dear Friends,

Provost Barry Scherr appointed an Energy Task Force in the spring of 2007 to consider a comprehensive energy policy for Dartmouth. This student, faculty, and staff group explored and debated critical issues, gathered detailed information from consultants, and presented me with their report. I'm pleased to announce that Dartmouth is going to move forward with the Energy Task Force's recommendations.

Most notably, we're making an institutional commitment to reduce significantly our total energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from the 2005 level. Dartmouth will achieve a 30 percent reduction with three key milestones:

1. By 2015: 20 percent reduction from the 2005 level
2. By 2020: 25 percent reduction from the 2005 level
3. By 2030: 30 percent reduction from the 2005 level

To help reach these ambitious goals, the Board of Trustees has approved a \$12.5 million investment in our existing buildings and facilities. The money will be used over the next five to seven years to bring the systems and technologies in our current buildings up to today's standards. We will focus on investing funds in the buildings with the largest energy footprints where we should see progress toward our 2015 milestone.

New campus construction makes energy efficiency and environmental considerations a priority. For example, the new Class of '78 Life Sciences Center, which will use only 50 percent of the energy of similar top laboratory buildings, will be a national model for a sustainable teaching and research center. Several of our new buildings have received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications from the U.S. Green Building Council recognizing high standards for sustainability in new construction: residence halls McLane, Fahey, and McLaughlin won gold certification, and academic facilities Kemeny Hall and the Haldeman Center won silver.

Many organizations plan to reach their greenhouse gas reduction goals by investing in offsets, the process of buying "carbon credits" from a third party. Dartmouth's Energy Task Force encouraged the College to invest first in its own operations, and I heartily support that approach. I'm glad we're going to begin by making an impact right here in the Upper Valley, where we all live and work.

Being "green" is not new to Dartmouth. Here are some examples of our strong tradition of environmental stewardship and support for sustainability:

- Given the harsh New England climate, Dartmouth has for decades invested in tight building envelopes, triple-pane windows, and efficient heating systems.
- The Dartmouth Outing Club, active since 1909, has long encouraged students to experience, appreciate, and care for the outdoors, including the nearly 5,000 acres of Dartmouth property at Mt. Moosilauke in central New Hampshire.
- More than 100 years ago, in 1904, the College began co-generating its own electricity, and currently generates more than 40 percent of its power.
- Dartmouth faculty co-founded the internationally known Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and introduced the world to the term acid rain. Their seminal work, beginning in the early 1960s, on complex ecosystem dynamics worldwide continues to this day.
- Dartmouth sustainably manages its 26,800-acre forest at the Second College Grant, and wood harvested there is used to make furniture for students' rooms and other College facilities.
- Dartmouth is a primary supporter of public transportation in the region.
- Dartmouth students built The Big Green Bus, a school bus retro-fitted with an engine that runs on waste vegetable oil. Since 2005, students make an annual cross country trip to increase awareness of climate change.
- More than 30 percent of Dartmouth students take courses or conduct independent research with environmental faculty. Numerous Dartmouth alumni are leaders in research, teaching, and policy making regarding the environment, sustainability, and energy around the world.
- Six Dartmouth environmental scientists (former faculty and students) are members of one of the National Academies, and more than 50 members of the faculty from across the institution conduct important research in areas such as biodiversity, sustainability, conservation, forest ecology, water resources, environmental and human health, and energy.
- In 1970 Dartmouth established one of the country's first interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program. Today the program is dedicated to investigating and teaching ecological and social systems and providing students with opportunities to assess and understand the natural workings of our planet.
- Dartmouth's interdisciplinary Superfund Basic Research Program, established in 1995, has received more than \$35 million to study the relationship between toxic metals in the environment and human health.
- "Energy Technologies" is one of three research focus areas of Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering. Thayer School researchers tackle a range of projects—from biomass processing to power electronics optimization.
- In the fall of 2008, Dartmouth introduced a new Sustainable Living Center for students interested in an eco-conscious housing alternative. Residents pledge to reduce their environmental impact by minimizing energy use and waste and engage in academic and social programs focused on sustainability.

We will continue Dartmouth's strong environmental history with this commitment to reduce our energy use and our greenhouse gas emissions.

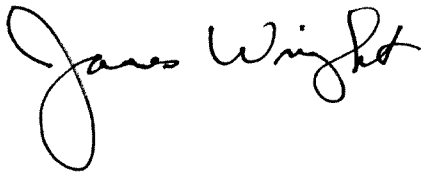
Even with new facilities on campus, with your help we can reduce Dartmouth's greenhouse gas emissions to meet our goals. Please help us reduce energy usage whenever possible: turn off light, computers, printers, etc. when not in use; dress warmly to keep the thermostat down in the winter; drink tap water; take the bus, carpool, or try our new Zipcars; participate in recycling initiatives. Every member of the Dartmouth community must be environmental stewards of our campus and our planet.

I'm also pleased to see that for the third consecutive year, the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, has granted Dartmouth an A- on their Sustainability Report Card. This is the highest grade available, and I'm glad they recognize the impressive work we do in the area.

I want to thank the entire Energy Task Force, co-chaired by Ken Packard, the assistant director of engineering and utilities in the Facilities, Operations, and Management Department, and Matt Purcell, the associate director of the Planning, Design, and Construction Department.

In the coming weeks, Provost Scherr will appoint an Energy and Sustainability Oversight Committee that will ensure we reach our goals in environmental stewardship. I thank you in advance for all that you will do to help Dartmouth join with many other organizations around the globe working toward a healthier planet.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jim Wright