

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

In 2007, George Mason University committed to becoming **carbon neutral**. Since then, the university has charted a trajectory as a “university of the future,” through sustainability-focused research, learning, and operations. Now, Mason is responding to the climate crisis by revising its **Climate Action Plan (CAP)**. The CAP is being developed over two phases. Phase One will be strategic in nature and will provide a vision plan that includes significant engagement with the campus community, goals, baseline and future projections, and the development of preferred options with “big moves” and order-of-magnitude cost estimates. A summary will be delivered by President Gregory Washington as part of Mason’s 50th Anniversary in April 2022. Work on the CAP will continue in a second phase, which will focus on implementation. The CAP development process is led by the Mason Sustainability Council’s Carbon Neutrality Task Force, under the guidance of the university’s Senior Leadership Team, and in conjunction with Mason Facilities and the DumontJanks/Arup consulting team.

WHAT IS A CAP?

A Climate Action Plan is a detailed framework to **measure, plan, and reduce** the university’s greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and address related climate impacts across campuses.

Specific decarbonization strategies will be developed through a series of workshops and stakeholder engagement opportunities with the Mason community to ensure actions are implementable and aligned with university goals. Prioritization and selection will be informed by both quantitative metrics—such as energy, water, carbon and cost—and qualitative metrics describing co-benefits—such as resilience, climate justice, and health impacts.



#1
Baseline
Inventory



#2
Adopt
Target



#3
Forecast
Emissions



#4
Strategy
Selection



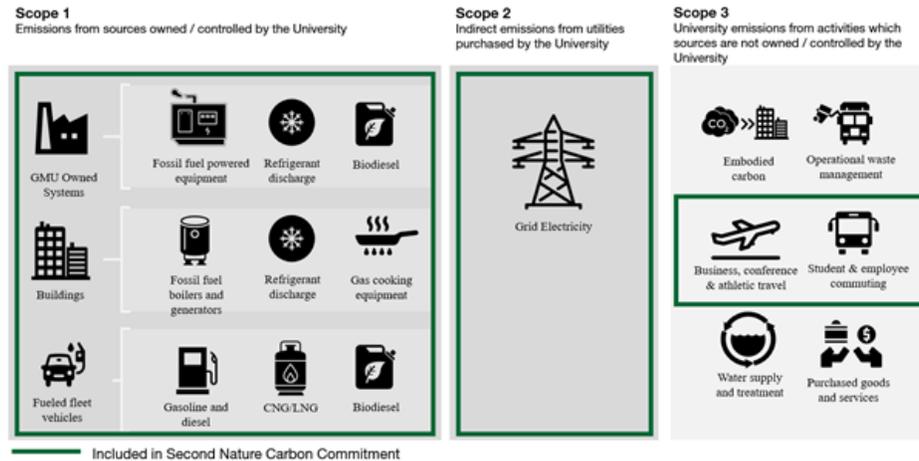
#5
Funding &
Implementation



#6
Monitor & Track
Progress

SCOPES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorized into three Scopes based on their sources:



Mason reports GHG emissions in compliance with the [Second Nature Carbon Commitment](#), which includes all Scope 1 & 2 emissions, and business travel and commuter sources from Scope 3. Historical GHG inventory reporting is available [here](#).

Carbon offsets may be part of a viable interim solution for achieving decarbonization goals related to Scope 3 emissions while a more holistic approach is implemented. Carbon offsets are certifiable and transferrable units of emission (reduction or removal) that can be purchased to balance emission outputs and meet emission targets. In practice, these offsets aim to balance the harm caused by carbon emissions in one location with repair elsewhere.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Students, faculty, and members of Mason's community are critical to the success of the CAP. Please provide your feedback by:

- [Completing the Mason CAP Feedback Form](#)
- [Attending an upcoming Town Hall](#)
- Researching more information on the [Mason Climate Action Plan webpage](#)