



## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Road Map  
2013-2035

Drafted by the Gonzaga University Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability

Reviewed, Edited and Approved by the Office of the President

January 2013

## Table of Contents

- Executive Summary**
- I. About the University**
- II. About the Presidents’ Climate Commitment**
- III. About the Climate Action Plan**
- IV. Advancing the Commitment to Sustainability**
  - Goal 1 – Deepen sustainability across the academic curriculum
  - Goal 2 – Increase sustainability related co-curricular programs
  - Goal 3 – Expand sustainable practices in University operations
    - Scope 1 –Natural Gas and Fleet-related Emissions and Mitigation Strategies
    - Scope 2 –Purchased Electricity-related Emissions and Mitigation Strategies
    - Scope 3 –Air-travel, Commuting, and Waste Management-related Emissions and Mitigation Strategies
  - Goal 4 – Coordinate and facilitate implementation of the Climate Action Plan
- V. Appendices**
  - 1. American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment – text
  - 2. Sustainable Purchasing and Design Policies
  - 3. Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability Constitution

## Executive Summary

### Gonzaga University

True to its Jesuit, Catholic, humanist heritage, Gonzaga University educates students for lives of leadership and service for the common good by intentionally developing the whole person – intellectually, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Consistent with its mission, Gonzaga University takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard the integrity of our natural world and is committed to a role of leadership in responsible environmental stewardship.

### Advancing Stewardship

By becoming a signatory to the Presidents’ Climate Commitment (see Appendix 1), Gonzaga was pledging to *deepen* and *strengthen* its commitment to ecological sustainability. Our Climate Action Plan embodies the University’s comprehensive response to climate change and its efforts to advance ecological stewardship. This roadmap outlines current sustainability initiatives, strategies for achieving future targets, and potential funding sources and progress measures. This is a “living document” that can and must be revised as new circumstances and challenges present themselves.

This climate action plan establishes four goals:

- Goal 1 – Deepen sustainability across the academic curriculum
- Goal 2 – Increase sustainability related co-curricular programs
- Goal 3 – Expand sustainable practices in University operations
- Goal 4 – Coordinate and facilitate implementation of the Climate Action Plan

### Gonzaga’s Carbon “Footprint”

University operations produce greenhouse gas emissions that impact climate change and thereby provide a measure of the sustainability of University operations. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will move Gonzaga closer to “climate neutrality.” In December 2009, the University estimated that it annually emits 25,696 metric tons of emissions. Table 1 and Figure 1 outline the operational activities that contribute to these emissions.

**Table 1. Emissions by scope and source, FY 2009 carbon footprint baseline.**

Scope	Source	Emissions (metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)
1	Stationary combustion	6,267
1	Mobile combustion	210
1	Fugitive emissions	11
2	Purchased electricity	10,733
3	Commuting	3,989
3	Air travel	4,451
3	Solid waste	35

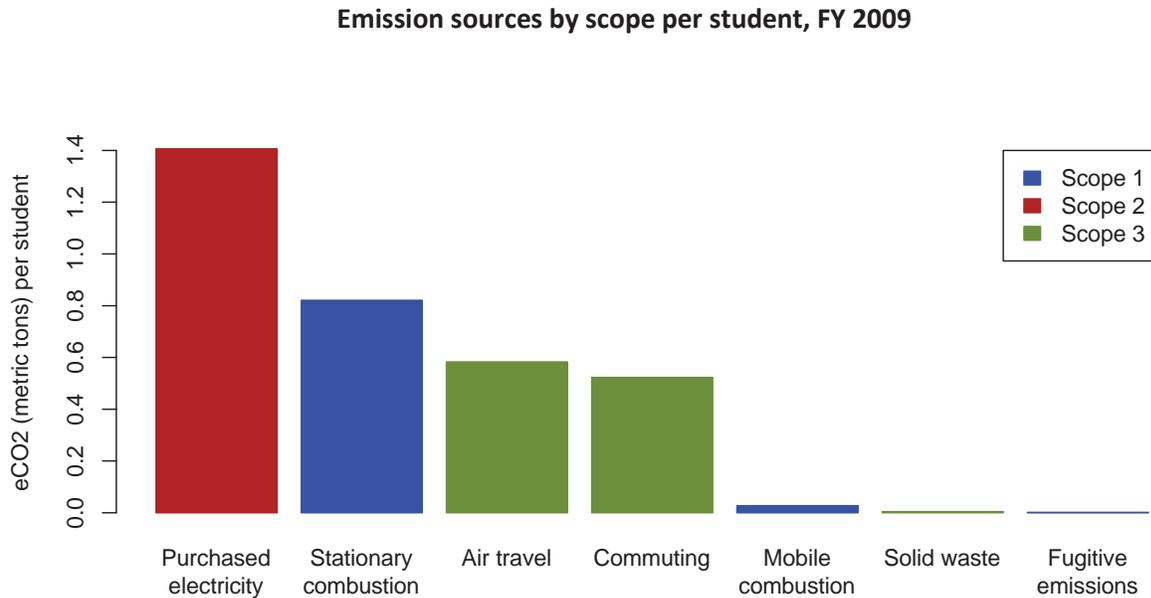


Figure 1. Greenhouse gas emissions per student and scope based on fiscal year 2009 carbon footprint baseline.

**Commitment to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emission**

Signing the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), commits Gonzaga University to work toward climate neutrality or zero emissions, specifically a reduction of at least 20% by 2020 and at least 50% by 2035 (from 2009 levels) With the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The University seeks to implement a series of sustainable purchasing and design practices; improve the efficiency of campus facilities; improve the efficiency of campus vehicles and equipment; increase reuse, recycling, reduction and composting activities; and decrease the percent of staff, faculty, and students who drive to work alone.

The University recognizes that it cannot remove 100% of its emissions through its own actions and will, therefore, evaluate the effectiveness of high-quality offsets or renewable energy credits as a supplemental strategy for achieving climate neutrality.