

UMW Climate Action Task Force

Originator of the charge: Troy Paino, President

Nature of the group: Planning and Initial Implementation of Actions to Reduce UMW Carbon Footprint

Charge Statement: Climate change is one of the most important challenges facing the modern world. This assertion arises from both its global scope and ultimate dire consequences if left unchecked. Guided by our Strategic Vision, the University of Mary Washington (UMW) commits to addressing this challenge on behalf of its students, the institution, surrounding community, and global stakeholders. We must act now as a leader within the community and in recognition of the signs of climate change we experience daily. The primary tools at the University's disposal are the interested, committed and resourceful students, faculty and staff of UMW. Both faculty ([UFC Resolution on Climate Change](#)) and students (BEAM petition) have called for action on Climate Change.

The Climate Action Task Force (Task Force), under the direction of the UMW President, will develop a detailed Climate Action Plan for the implementation of the University's commitment to climate leadership. With our plan, UMW will join the broad movement of colleges and universities fighting climate change. We will join with local communities and seek synergies to decrease climate change. The plan will 1) identify specific actions and policies, 2) provide measurable objectives, and 3) include timeframes for implementation.

The Task Force will recommend immediate and longer-term actions and policies for the consideration of the President. These actions and policies will be guided by the following questions:

- What is UMW currently doing to minimize negative impacts on the global environment? What can be done to improve the reach and effectiveness of current actions?
- What visible and impactful action(s) can be implemented immediately, i.e., within 6 months?
- What can be done to empower individuals and campus groups to join senior leadership in promoting and supporting university-wide climate actions?
- What new programs, resources, and policies should be implemented, including ongoing mechanisms, that will decrease UMW's negative impacts on the global environment?

The grave threats posed by global climate change must be recognized and addressed by individuals and institutions alike. Climate action success will require students, faculty, and staff to work together to transform the University. The Task Force should seek out ways to engage students and faculty in the classroom, in student-driven projects, and in broad collaborations between students, faculty, and staff.

Timeline: UMW Climate Plan should plan a pathway by which UMW will be carbon neutral by 2035. The Task Force will deliver a completed action plan by July 2023.

Communication Plan: The President will announce to the University community the charge of the Task Force and the significance of its work upon his approval of the Task Force Charge. Task Force co-chairs will meet with the Chief of Staff bi-monthly. Task Force co-chairs will update the President at the end of summer 2022. Further updates will be planned at that time.