WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Draft Climate Action Plan

Board of Trustees
October 9, 2009

In January 2007, Western Washington University President Karen Morse signed the President's Climate Commitment which committed the University to establishing a plan by which Western would reach carbon neutrality in a self established period. "Carbon neutrality" refers to reaching net zero carbon emissions through reduction of our carbon output to the barest minimum possible and then to balance our remaining carbon production with options such as carbon offsets and University-sponsored carbon removal and sequestration projects. A Draft Climate Action Plan has been completed for consideration by the campus community at http://www.wwu.edu/sustain/climateneutralwestern/.

Draft Final Conclusions of the WWU Climate Action Plan

The draft Plan concludes that the University may take the following actions to reach climate neutrality:

- **Provide a directive** to the campus to incorporate greenhouse gas reduction criteria and sustainability into the institutional decision-making process. This directive should target every member of the campus community: administrators, faculty, staff, students and contractors.

- **Purchase Carbon Offsets** to reach technical Carbon Neutral status immediately and be the first University in the State of Washington to do so. This will require significant University operating resources, which may or may not be mitigated by other funding opportunities, such as partnering with the student body and and external financing options.

- **Commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions** to 2005 levels by 2020. This report demonstrates that this target can be met or exceeded through execution of identified projects and purchase of Carbon Offsets.

- **Commit to long-term actual climate neutrality**, without specifying a target date, by beginning step-by-step reductions in CO_2 emissions through programs such as the "10 X 10 Program": In parallel, the University should continue to develop a better understanding of its overall climate footprint.

- **Support the continuation of the WWUCAP and sustainability initiatives**. Allocate resources for permanent sustainability staff roles and incorporate greenhouse gas reduction criteria and reporting into their mandates.

Next Steps

The draft Plan will be disseminated throughout campus using a series of presentations to open forums and campus governance groups where feedback will be solicited. That feedback will be incorporated into the Final Draft Climate Action Plan, which will be presented to Board of Trustees for approval at the December 2009 meeting.