African Green Campus Initiative

Climate Change Pledge

by Colleges and Universities in South Africa

We, the undersigned Housing Officers of Colleges and Universities in South Africa are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects.

We recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming and to re-establish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.

While we understand that there might be short-term challenges associated with this effort, we believe that there will be great economic, health, social and environmental benefits, including achieving energy independence for the African continent as quickly as possible.

We believe that our colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality.

Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.

These universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

We further believe that universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities.

On this day of 21 April 2012
at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Milnerton,
Cape Town, we, the undersigned,
accordingly commit our institutions to taking
appropriate action in the pursuit of climate neutrality.

Signatories of the
Climate Change Pledge
by Colleges and Universities in South Africa

higher education & training Department: Higher Education and Training REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	Dr Blade Nzimande Minister of DHET	
environmental affairs Department: Environmental Affairs REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	Nosipho Ngcaba Director General	
HESA HIGHER EDUCATION SOUTH AFRICA	Prof Ahmed Bawa HESA Chairperson	
acuho-i	Prof Roelf Visser ACUHO-I-SAC President	
AFRICAN COMPASS Distinctly Different	Stephen Ngobeni AC Chairperson	
PDNA PD NAIDOO & ASSOCIATES	?	
African Green Campus Initiative	Richard Parker AGCI Student Ambassador	
SAASSAP South African Association of Senior Student Affairs Professionals	Dr Choice Makhetha SASSAP President	
Eskom	Mr Zola Tsotsi ESKOM Chairperson	