Acknowledgements

The University of Connecticut’s Climate Action Plan and greenhouse gas inventory are the result of months of dedicated work and volunteerism by more than 100 students, faculty, staff and community members. Collectively, these individuals provided the enthusiasm, creativity and persistence required to complete the otherwise daunting task of planning for carbon neutrality. The following individuals contributed to the planning, writing and reviewing of the UConn Climate Action Plan.

In the spring of 2008, students from the EcoHusky student group and the UConn chapter of the Public Interest Research Group (P.I.R.G.), with support from Dan Britton, former UConn Sustainability Coordinator, petitioned President Hogan to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The resolve of these students directly contributed to the establishment of carbon neutrality as a long-term campus goal.

If the students planted the seed, University of Connecticut President, Michael Hogan, ensured the security of its growth. Due to President Hogan’s leadership and vision, UConn now stands alongside more than 600 universities and colleges nationwide committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As President Hogan noted, “UConn already has a proven track record in environmental sustainability, owing to the energies and expertise of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students. Signing the ACUPCC and agreeing to do our part in curbing carbon emissions formalizes our ongoing commitment to playing a leadership role in environmental stewardship.” Thank you, President Hogan, for setting the bar. In addition, thank you to Stephen Rhodes, Executive Assistant to the President, for his diligent participation in climate action planning activities on the President’s behalf.

During the summer of 2008, an eight-member Climate Action Task Force (CATF) was appointed. The task force was co-chaired by Tom Callahan, Associate Vice President of Administration and Operations, and Rich Miller, Director of Environmental Policy. Additional members included Dr. Nancy Bull, Vice Provost for Academic Administration; Dr. Julie Bell-Elkins, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs; Nick Frechette, undergraduate Chemical Engineering student; Matt Hart, Mansfield Town Manager; Chuck Morrell, Student Union Associate Director; Lysa Teal, Budget Office Director; and Dr. Michael Willig, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Director for the Center for Environmental Science & Engineering. The CATF’s diligent oversight efforts throughout the year ensured a comprehensive analysis of proposed strategies and the development of a creative, yet feasible final plan.

The core of the work related to the development of the Climate Action Plan occurred within the five CATF Workgroups. Two pre-existing workgroups of the University’s Environmental Policy Advisory Council (EPAC) were called upon to assist with this task – the Recycling Workgroup, led by Jennifer Sayers, UConn’s Sustainability Coordinator, and the Environmental Literacy Workgroup, co-chaired by Dr. Kathy Segerson, Professor of Economics, and Dr. David Wagner, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In addition, three new workgroups were formed: the Sustainable Development Workgroup, co-chaired by Alex Roe, Architectural and Engineering Services Director of Planning and Program Management, and Dr. John Volin, Natural Resources & the Environment Department Head; the Energy Workgroup, co-chaired by Dr. Mehdi Anwar, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Ron Gaudet, Energy Utility Services Manager in Facilities Operations; and the Transportation Workgroup co-chaired by Dr. Norman Garrick, Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering,
and Wayne Landry, Motor Pool and Central Stores Manager. The leadership of the workgroup co-chairs was critical to the development of the plan. The co-chairs spent numerous hours with workgroup members brainstorming emissions reduction solutions and finalizing draft versions of the plan. Thank you for your dedication.

Thank you also to the 100+ staff, faculty, and student members of the five workgroups. (A full list of workgroup participants is provided in Appendix B.) Collectively, you have made a significant and lasting contribution to the University. Your role in the successful development of this plan cannot be overstated. Thank you also to the numerous supervisors who supported this effort by encouraging their staff to participate. Similarly, thank you to the administrative and support staff who wrestled with challenging schedules to help organize the necessary climate action planning meetings, specifically Kathy Allard, Sara-Ann Chainé, Catherine Dunnack, Deborah Horton, Tonya Lemire, Debra Merrit, Melanie Savino, Beth Sheldon, Cherie Taylor, Noreen Wall, Tia Willour and Deborah Zambo. Thank you also to Meghan Ruta, the University’s Climate Action Plan Project Manager, who helped coordinate the CATF workgroup meetings and the development of the draft climate action plan.

Lastly, the 2007 greenhouse gas inventory discussed in Section 2 of this plan was compiled by Zbigniew Grabowski and Nathaniel Wallshein, interns in the University’s Office of Environmental Policy. Thank you to Z and Nate for their hard work compiling the University’s most thorough inventory to-date. In addition, the following individuals helped locate, process and analyze the data, without which the inventory would not have been possible: Gerry Bailey, Motor Pool Automotive Maintenance Supervisor; Ann Denny, Manager of Parking Services Manager (retired); Martin Dzenis, Accounts Payable Claims Examiner; Janet Freniere, Transportation Services Administrator; Martha Funderbunk, Parking Services Acting Manager; Ron Gaudet, Energy Utility Services Manager; Mary Keglar, Farm Services Manager; Wayne Landry, Motor Pool and Central Stores Manager; Dave Lotreck, Maintenance and Renovation Services Manager; Stephanie Marks, Environmental Compliance Analyst; Stanley Nolan, Energy Service Engineer; Steve Olsen, Farm Services Research and Education Facilities Manager; Jeffrey Pasiuk, Parking Services Technical Record Coordinator; Alex Roe, Director of Planning and Program Management; Pamela Roelfs, Director of the Office of Institutional Research; Kelly Wihbey, Budget Office Analyst; and Jessica Williamson, Study Abroad Program Coordinator.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the development of the University of Connecticut’s Storrs Campus Climate Action Plan. Any omissions from this list are completely accidental and regrettable.

In Memoriam:

It was with great sadness that we learned of the unexpected passing of our friend and colleague, Benjamin Maycock, on May 6, 2009. As an electrical engineer in the Facilities Operations department, Ben was an active contributor to the Energy Workgroup of the Climate Action Task Force. In addition, Ben had previously served as an important member of the University’s EcoMadness team, helping to organize annual energy and water conservation contests among the residence halls. He will be missed.