



Middlebury Institute *of*
International Studies at Monterey

Report on Declarations and Commitments

November 2023

Declarations and Commitments¹

Yellow - These are soft goals MIIS is working towards, or ongoing initiatives that lack hard metrics for measurement.

Orange - May or may not be compliant, this requires more research.

Red - non-compliant

Green - compliant

Talloires Declaration (2002)²

The Talloires Declaration (2002) is a declaration by university presidents all around the world and consists of a 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations, and outreach at colleges and universities. It outlines steps to work toward carbon neutrality through the creation of a climate action plan, submitting an annual evaluation of progress, and establishing a timeline to accomplish these goals.

1) Increase Awareness of Environmentally Sustainable Development

- Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by openly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable future.

2) Create an Institutional Culture of Sustainability

- Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward global sustainability.

3) Educate for Environmentally Responsible Citizenship

- Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens.

4) Foster Environmental Literacy For All

- Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

5) Practice Institutional Ecology

¹ [Signed Agreements and Memberships | Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey](#)

² [Talloires Declaration – ULSF](#)

- Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing institutional ecology policies and practices of resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and environmentally sound operations.

6) Involve All Stakeholders

- Encourage the involvement of government, foundations, and industry in supporting interdisciplinary research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with community and nongovernmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.

7) Collaborate for Interdisciplinary Approaches

- Convene university faculty and administrators with environmental practitioners to develop interdisciplinary approaches to curricula, research initiatives, operations, and outreach activities that support an environmentally sustainable future.

8) Enhance the Capacity of Primary and Secondary Schools

- Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development.

9) Broaden Service and Outreach Nationally and Internationally

- Work with national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future.

10) Maintain the Movement

- Establish a Secretariat³ and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.

³ *MIIS does not have a Secretariat. Additionally, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) encourages hiring a sustainability manager.*

President's Climate Leadership Commitment (2007 — now renamed the Carbon Commitment)⁴

- 1) Develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 - Within two months of signing this document, create internal institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the Plan
 - Within one year of the implementation start date, actively support a joint campus-community task force (or equivalent) to ensure alignment of the Plan with community goals and to facilitate joint action, and complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, also identifying near term opportunities for greenhouse gas reduction. Report these in the first annual evaluation of progress
 - Within two years of the implementation start date, lead and complete an initial campus-community resilience assessment including initial indicators and current vulnerability
 - Within three years of the implementation start date complete the Plan, (also reflecting joint community-campus components), which will include:
 - A target date for achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible
 - A target date by which defined thresholds of resilience will be met
 - Interim target dates for meeting milestones that will lead to carbon neutrality and increasing resilience
 - Mechanisms and indicators for tracking progress (including those that cut across campus-community boundaries)
 - Actions to make carbon neutrality and resilience a part of the curriculum and other educational experiences for all students⁵
 - Actions to expand research in carbon neutrality and resilience
 - Review, revise if necessary, and resubmit the climate action plan not less frequently than every five years
- 2) Submit an annual evaluation of progress

⁴ [Climate Leadership Statement](#)

⁵ From the Climate Action Plan: While the energy strategy outlined in this plan focuses on the reduction of energy usage on-campus, MIIS must also strive to ensure that the energy is generated from renewable or zero-carbon sources. We recommend that MIIS opt-in to Monterey Bay Community Power to ensure that the power used on campus is generated from non-greenhouse gas emitting sources. Monterey Bay Community Power is a local community-choice energy program that works through PG&E, using matching PG&E's prices, using guaranteed zero-carbon energy.

MIIS could incorporate this energy strategy into the curriculum, allowing students to participate in weekend workshops on energy management and utilize buildings on campus as case studies. This would both provide the Facilities staff with assistance from students, but also provide students with real-world experience to prepare them for careers in sustainability and energy management. (CAP 2018)

- Within one year of the implementation start date, and every year thereafter, complete an annual evaluation of progress
- Make the action plan, annual evaluation of progress (including greenhouse gas inventory, resilience assessment etc.), publicly available by submitting them to Second Nature's reporting system for posting and dissemination.⁶

⁶ *MIIS does not report to SecondNature.org*

We Are Still In Declaration⁷

To show the world that we stand by the Paris Climate Agreement, MIIS has committed to offsetting all carbon produced directly in Scope 1 and Scope 2 via annual Greenhouse Gas Audits for fiscal year 2018. This is part of our Climate Action Plan.

Appendix B: We Are Still In Pledge

This table outlines the different components of the We Are Still In Pledge (WASI), whether or not MIIS is addressing that particular component, and, if so, which actions on-campus meet this pledge.

We Are Still In Pledge	Status	Actions
1. Commit to Responsible Engagement in Climate Policy	Yes	WASI, Presidents Climate Leadership, Second Nature
2. Commit to Reducing the Climate Impact of Your Transportation	Yes	Install two EV Charging Stations
3. Sign one of the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments (now called the Carbon Commitment)	Yes	Signed Presidents Climate Leadership in 2002, Second Nature in 2016, and WASI in 2019
4. Commit to Increase Your Use of Renewable Power	In progress	April 2019 Sustainability Council to present to ILG to commit
5. Commit to Creating a Green Revolving Fund on Campus or in Community	No	
6. Commit to Completing a Resilience Assessment in Partnership with your Community	No	
7. Commit to Creating a Campus Price for Carbon	In progress	Head of IEP Program, Jason Scorse, committed to creating a project in Fall of 2019.
8. Invest Endowment Funds in Clean Energy and Technology Solutions	No	
9. Commit to Designing and Hosting a Cross-Sectoral Forum at your Institution	Yes	Hayward Speaker Series
10. Commit to the Natural and Working Lands Challenge	No	
11. Commit to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutant Emissions	No	
12. Commit to Managing Campus Landholdings as a Carbon Sink	No	
13. Commit to an Aggregated Purchase with other Campuses to Procure Large Scale Renewable Energy	No	
14. Revise your Institution's Climate Action Plan to Align with Other Sectors' Climate Goals	In progress	Climate Action Plan 2019 - 2028 creation

⁷ [Middlebury Institute of International Studies's Climate Action Contribution | We Are Still In](#)

Follow-Ups from the Climate Action Plan

Trash Collection Monitoring

Twice a month, Sustainability Council members visually estimate at what percent capacity two campus dumpsters are filled. A volume is calculated by multiplying this estimated percentage with the total volume of each dumpster. This has been recorded for the academic years 2012-2013 through 2015-2016. The academic year 2016-2017 was not monitored and therefore is not included in this document.

However, for the purpose of submitting MIIS' Annual Greenhouse Gas Audit, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 waste data is extrapolated based on the data presented below, with the consideration of waste diverted from new composting bins

- Once a year, the Sustainability GAs host a waste audit to monitor how accurately the community sorts its waste. Results from the 2022 Waste Audit can be found on the MIIS website.

Sustainability Manager

*Many colleges and universities worldwide have a **Sustainability Manager or Coordinator position** that focuses solely on achieving environmental goals on campus. We recommend that MIIS do the same. This Coordinator would also work to update this Action Plan every two years. Given fiscal restraints, we recommend that the position be either part-time or a postgraduate fellowship for an Institute alum. Having a position within the administration to focus solely on accomplishing the actions outlined in this Plan will cement sustainability as a priority, both fiscally and in terms of Institute policy, and set MIIS on the path to success.*

- MIIS has decided to discontinue its search for a Sustainability Coordinator position.

Data Management System

On-campus data is currently collected in an ad hoc, uncoordinated manner that makes tracking and analysis difficult. To ensure all data is collected, monitored, and easily accessible, we recommend that MIIS invest in an online coordination platform. One example of such a platform is Measurabl, which allows 6 building managers to collect, track, and visualize information about buildings' energy and water use as well as carbon emissions. To accomplish this, we recommend MIIS run a low-cost pilot project to test the platform in two buildings: the Samson Center Dining Room and a classroom building such as McCone or McGowan. This would allow MIIS to test if the platform suits campus needs, whether the platform is beneficial to the management of campus data, and if the cost of investing in the full use of the platform is a worthwhile expense.

- While MIIS does not use a data management system, Andrew Hernandez, Director of Facilities, has been working to upgrade MIIS' facilities and increase efficiency across the

institute. Some initiatives include the installation of low-flush toilets, the addition of smart thermostats in classrooms, and working with the Janitorial staff to source products sustainably.