

Middlebury College Environmental Council
CARBON REDUCTION INITIATIVE (CRI)

Proposal to Community Council, 28 Oct 2002

Background:

Middlebury College, like other communities around the world, presently faces a challenge: Will we seize this opportunity to address actively the challenge of global climate change?

The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers has formed greenhouse gas emission reduction goals to reduce regional emissions by at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020. The governors and premiers are calling on Middlebury College and other academic institutions to take the lead in implementing this plan.

Throughout the past year, a special task force of the Environmental Council (EC) has been examining Middlebury College's greenhouse gas emissions. This task force has completed an emissions inventory for the College, networked with other colleges and universities initiating similar campaigns, and gathered information about how Middlebury can develop a carbon reduction plan. The EC is eager to share this information with the College community so that Middlebury can define its role in the global effort to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

The EC is proposing that the Community Council establish a Carbon Reduction Initiative (CRI) for Middlebury College. The CRI, which would represent an opportunity for all areas of the College community to work together, calls for the creation of a new *working group* composed of students, faculty, staff, and administrators. This group would be charged with the tasks of (a) evaluating data from the College's recent carbon emissions and (b) evaluating a menu of carbon reduction options in order to create a specific *carbon reduction plan* for Middlebury College.

By undertaking a carbon reduction initiative, Middlebury will not only reaffirm its Environmental Peak of Excellence but also join ranks with other higher-education institutions, municipalities, and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers who agree that the actions necessary to safeguard the immediate and long-term health of the global environment must begin locally.

Proposal:

The Environmental Council urges the College to support the creation and development of an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at Middlebury College by the amount stipulated by the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers or by an amount agreed to by the working group.

In order to achieve this goal, we propose the formation of a working group comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators. These representatives should, at minimum, include

- students representing each of the five commons and appointed by the Student Government Association
- faculty members from at least 3 divisions and appointed by the Faculty Council
- 4 staff or administrators appointed by the Staff Council, 3 of whom should represent various departments including Facilities Planning, Facilities Management, Purchasing, Dining Services, and the Treasurer's Office
- Nan Jenks-Jay (Director of Environmental Affairs) and the Vice President for Finance and Administration/Treasurer or his/her delegate as Co-Chairs, and Connie Leach Bisson (Campus Sustainability Coordinator) as staff to the working group.

This working group, using data presented to it by the Environmental Council, should be charged with (1) identifying a specific carbon reduction goal for the College, (2) developing a specific carbon reduction plan that outlines the steps necessary to achieve said goal, and (3) reporting to the Environmental and Community Councils on progress made at the end of each academic year.