

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Global climate change is one of humanity's greatest challenges. The earth's rising temperatures will, over decades to come, affect where and how we live, the ecosystems we inhabit, our quality of life and even our health.

Facing this challenge head-on is our shared responsibility, especially as residents of the developed world. But universities have a special role in our society and a special responsibility. We are institutions that discover, that educate and that, often, set an example. When it comes to global climate change, Johns Hopkins will be a leader in all three.

Last spring, I wrote you that we had started planning to implement the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Climate Change, which had then just issued its report.

Today, we are announcing the results of the planning process. Here are the highlights:

- \* The university will cut emissions of climate-changing carbon dioxide gas by more than half from projected levels by 2025.
- \* Through detailed data gathering and analysis over the past year, we already have identified ways to achieve more than 57 percent of that goal, a reduction of more than 81,000 metric tons a year.
- \* We will invest more than \$73 million in the conservation and efficiency measures we have identified.
- \* We will continuously evaluate new technologies and new strategies to achieve the remainder of our total emissions reduction goal.
- \* We will create an Environment, Sustainability and Health Institute, bringing together faculty members from across the university to collaborate on research and on teaching climate change science and sustainability.
- \* That institute will also focus on application of its research. Just as Johns Hopkins medical researchers move their discoveries off the lab bench to the patient's bedside to save lives, this institute will take a bench-to-real-world approach: We will use discoveries to get things done.
- \* We will establish a Sustainability House at 3105 N. Charles St. at the Homewood campus. The renovated building will be a headquarters for our sustainability efforts and it will be more than that: It will be a showcase and laboratory for energy conservation techniques and technologies.
- \* We will not stop at the borders of our campuses. A critical part of our plan is to collaborate with government and other partners in reducing the carbon footprint of our communities and our state. We will put Johns Hopkins knowledge to work.

Several aspects of the implementation plan are already well under way: We are, for instance, building a co-generation plant at Homewood and are about to launch two even larger projects at East Baltimore. We teamed with Baltimore City to win a federal grant to train Johns Hopkins students to conduct energy audits for non-profit organizations. Dean Nicholas Jones of the Whiting School of Engineering is leading interdivisional planning to lay the groundwork for the new institute; details will be announced in coming months. And we are about to launch a design process for the Sustainability House; we will be seeking student and faculty input.

The plans we're announcing today put Johns Hopkins on a path toward a future defined by a vision of carbon net neutrality. But we're taking a hard-headed, practical approach focused on what is achievable now and over the next 15 years. And we're also focused on measures that cut costs along with carbon dioxide. By the time we finish our initial \$73 million investment in conservation measures, we expect to be saving \$10 million a year in energy costs.

The bottom line: Johns Hopkins turned on the brain power to find cost-effective ways to turn off electric power. We're going to do it, we're going to do it well, and we're going to save not only carbon but also money when we do it.

It's smart. It's green. It's good for the environment. And it's good for Johns Hopkins.

More details are available online at [www.sustainability.jhu.edu/projects/climate\\_action.html](http://www.sustainability.jhu.edu/projects/climate_action.html)

My deepest thanks go to all the members of the President's Task Force on Climate Change and to the many university employees who have worked so hard over the past year to craft our implementation strategy.

Sincerely,  
Ronald J. Daniels