

Environmental Sustainability Council **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**

February 12, 2008

The Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC) is created to provide leadership, advice, and assistance in implementing practices that enhance the environmental sustainability of the operations of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). The ESC functions as a task group and advisory body to the President and Administrative Council. Members are appointed by the President from among the faculty, staff and students at the Center's three laboratories, Center Administration and the Maryland Sea Grant College Program.

Sustainability: the ability to meet the needs of the present while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

UMCES is committed to examining the actual and potential environmental impacts associated with its activities in order to continually improve environmental performance, ever moving practices toward sustainability through the management of building design, construction, renovation, procurement, landscape, energy, water, waste, emissions, transportation, and human health.

The mission of the ESC includes:

- Engaging the faculty, staff and students in an ongoing dialogue about reaching environmental sustainability.
- Providing assessments of the sustainability of operations and recommendations to the President and Administrative Council for improved practices and policies.
- Serving as the "institutional structure" to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive climate action plan in fulfillment of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

On December 18, 2007 President Boesch signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>). The effective date of the initiation of this commitment is January 15, 2008. The ESC functions as the "institutional structure" required to be established within two months of this initiation. Within one year (i.e., by January 15, 2009), the ESC shall work with the Administration to complete a comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel). Within two years, the ESC shall work with the Administration to complete an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral and initiate two or more of the identified tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases. These efforts shall be consistent with the standards

provided in the ACUPC Implementation Guide
(http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/pdf/ACUPCC_IG_Final.pdf).

Consistent with sustainable practices, the ESC shall to the extent practicable hold its meetings via telephone, interactive video, and web video conferencing.