We, the undersigned university and college presidents, are concerned about global climate change and its potential for adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. We recognize our responsibility to advance knowledge for society and our obligation to demonstrate leadership in areas of community, national and global importance. We believe universities and colleges can fulfill these expectations by sharing knowledge, research and best practices about climate change with our students and the public.

We are proud of our record on climate action to date, but we must do more to accelerate our impact. Accordingly, our institutions will pursue responsible solutions to address the climate change challenge. Therefore, we commit to the following actions:

- We will exercise leadership by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in collaboration with our communities.
  - **Progress relating to emission management and reduction strategies:**
    - Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2009)
    - Climate Action Plan (2010)
    - Creation of electronic management system to track usage of energy, fuel and generation of waste (2012)
  - **Work with internal and external stakeholders. Some examples include:**
    - **Internal:** Security and Parking Services, Facility Services and McMaster Students Union.
    - **External:** Hamilton Street Railway, City of Hamilton, Hamilton Car Share, Hamilton Climate Change Action Charter Working Group.

- We will develop measurable targets using research and science.
  - **Targets will continue to be developed, managed, and measured, using tools such as McMaster’s Carbon Inventory and Climate Action Plan; McMaster’s Waste Audit and Waste Reduction Work Plan; as well as McMaster’s Campus Transportation Survey.**
  - **Campus stakeholders work collaboratively to develop targets through the Sustainability Ambassador Program, Climate Action Planning Committee and Sustainability Steering Committee.**
  - **Greenhouse Gas emissions and targets will be actively managed upon completion of McMaster’s electronic management system which tracks usage of energy, fuel and generation of waste.**

- We will develop achievable and practical plans to achieve reduction targets.
  - **Initiative implementation is planned and facilitated through collaboration of pan-campus stakeholders.**

- We will put in place rigorous assessment and measurement procedures.
Campus energy consumption is metered continuously, fuel usage for campus fleet vehicles is recorded monthly, waste audits are conducted once every two years and the Campus Transportation Survey and carbon inventories will be conducted once every five years. These tools will provide quantitative and qualitative measures that will support assessment of plans and stated initiatives.

Sustainability initiatives will be reported upon annually in the McMaster Sustainability Annual Report.

McMaster's Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure initiatives and reductions are in line with plans and stated reduction targets. Carbon reduction goals associated with waste, transportation and energy will be tracked, measured, and reported annually.

We will fully disclose and be accountable for our actions.

McMaster makes the following information publicly available on the Office of Sustainability website:

- All waste audits and waste reduction work plans
- All carbon inventories and action plans
- All past lists of sustainability initiatives and annual reports

In pursuit of these actions, each institution will:

1. Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gases by creating a planning body that includes students, staff, faculty, researchers, administrators and other partners to set emission reduction targets in accordance with each institution's jurisdiction.
   - McMaster has a Climate Action Planning Committee which includes representation from students, staff, faculty, researchers, administrators and other partners.
   - This committee is responsible for planning McMaster's reduction targets, timeline and plans for achieving reductions at the initiative level.

2. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions on each campus.
   - McMaster has fully completed a campus-wide carbon inventory for the baseline year of 2007, within our defined boundaries of operational control, which can be found online on the Office of Sustainability website.

3. Within two years of signing this document, set targets and develop an institutional climate action plan that engages each institution's research, education and operations into a comprehensive strategy that catalyzes solutions for climate change.
   - McMaster University maintains a Climate Action Planning Committee responsible for creating solutions for climate change at McMaster University.
   - The Climate Action Plan was completed and released in the winter of 2010 the committee will reconvene in summer of 2012 to evaluate reductions made in 2011 and plan for future reductions.
4. While the comprehensive plan is being created, immediately implement selected tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
   - **Plans to reduce emissions have taken place through a variety of sustainability initiatives such as:**
     - **Waste Reduction Work Plan**, which has expanded McMaster’s recycling and composting programs and included an educational campaign for waste reduction and diversion at McMaster.
     - **Energy management and reductions** are in progress through initiatives such as the desktop power management program and the installation of solar thermal heating to heat the campus pool.
     - **Transportation emissions** have been reduced through the transition to hybrid fleet vehicles, the installation of a secure bike storage facility and hosting of major events aimed at promoting the use of sustainable forms of transportation.

5. Make action plans, inventories and periodic progress reports publicly available for review and comment.
   - **McMaster’s List of Sustainability Initiatives** for the current year, and all past years, can be found on the Office of Sustainability website, as well as all past McMaster Sustainability Annual Reports.
   - **McMaster’s waste and carbon inventories**, as well as associated action plans, can also be found in full on the Office of Sustainability website.

6. Work cooperatively with governments, civil society, the business community and other institutions of higher learning to contribute to global climate change actions in recognition of our responsibility for equitable solutions.
   - **McMaster works in collaboration with many stakeholders external to the University on initiatives relating to sustainability and climate change. Some examples include:**
     - **City of Hamilton**, i.e. Public Works
     - **Community groups such as the President’s Advisory Committee on Community Relations**, i.e. Neighborhood Associations
     - **Vendors and suppliers to the university**, i.e. Grand & Toy
     - **Other Universities and Colleges**, i.e. Member of both the Ontario Sustainability Coordinators Association (Provincial) and College and University Sustainability Professionals (National)

Last Updated: April 2012