

Last year the Board of Trustee's Sustainability Working Group finalized the Whitman College Climate Action Plan. This plan was drafted by faculty, staff, students, and trustees and recommended a road map to reduce and offset our greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years. Through the implementation of this plan we will attain our goal of carbon neutrality with a reduction in our energy use, increased efficiency of our building systems, the development of renewable energy, and the dedicated conservation efforts of our campus community.

Already our campus has taken action to offset 100% of our electricity use through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits. This in addition to our current production of 24,000 kWh of solar power per year has led to our recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Partner. These actions represent a small sliver of our campus community's continuing efforts to mitigate our regional and global environmental impact. This coming year we will begin construction on our first LEED certified buildings. In addition to using 30% less energy than a traditional building, these structures will be equipped with 116kW of solar panels.

As part of our plan we have rolled out a standardized thermostat set point policy across campus:

Set Point Policy:

- The set point policy has maintained most existing building heating temperatures at 70F and adjusted cooling set point temperatures to 76F.
- In implementing this policy, all spaces will be maintained as close to the set point as possible. Due to variance in building systems and their respective capabilities there may be some variance in temperature at the room level.
- If you experience temperatures outside of the adopted set point policy please contact Brandon Bishop the Campus Sustainability Coordinator at bishopbj@whitman.edu.

Exempted Spaces:

- Examples of these are laboratories and archival spaces, which may require a specific temperature for protection of materials and the integrity of research. In these instances the Campus Sustainability Coordinator and Physical Plant staff will work with building occupants to meet thermal requirements of exempt spaces. Areas that are served by the same system as the exempt spaces will likely be affected and will experience similar temperatures.

Waiver from Policy:

- We recognize the potential conflict between comfort and conservation, as such we will work with individual building occupants to address comfort issues caused by the adoption of this policy. If you wish to receive a waiver from the campus set point policy please contact the Campus Sustainability Coordinator.
- In order to assess the policy we ask that campus members wishing to opt out delay their decision until they have felt the effects of the policy. This will allow us to better identify, document, and address specific thermal issues.

In order to get to carbon neutrality we need your help. The Climate Action Plan will require some personal action; but as Whitties we are used to coming together and accomplishing the impossible. As stated by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." While these adjustments may cause some inconvenience we ask for your support and understanding.

If you wish to opt out of the policy please contact Brandon Bishop, Campus Sustainability Coordinator at x4439, or at sustainability@whitman.edu, or anonymously via your Division Chair or supervisor.

For more information on the Climate Action Plan, please see our [website](#) or feel free to come to a President's Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting. Information on meetings can be found at the following [webpage](#).