



POLICY MOTION NUMBER 1011 (2019-04)	PASSED: 2019-04
TITLE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION POLICY	EXPIRES: 2022-04

WHEREAS climate change is a global crisis, and disproportionately impacts those who did the least to cause it (ie. Indigenous people, racialized groups, women, trans and gender diverse communities, youth);

WHEREAS Sackville, New Brunswick is particularly vulnerable to the detriments of climate change, specifically increased incidence and severity of freshwater and coastal flooding;

WHEREAS the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, calls for rapid and just climate action that ensures a 45% reduction in emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050, if we are to avoid catastrophic effects of runaway global warming;¹

WHEREAS states' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) amount to global efforts that are inconsistent with Paris Agreement targets, predominantly due to unambitious and inequitable NDCs of the most developed countries (ie. if all states were to adopt Canada's Nationally Determined Contributions, the world could be on track for upwards of 5°C of global warming by 2100);²

WHEREAS greater institutional contributions could facilitate the response required to limit warming to 1.5°C expressed relative to the period 1850-1900, used as approximation to pre-industrial temperatures;³

WHEREAS Mount Allison students have passionately advocated for rapid action government and institutional climate action through partaking in the Global Climate Strike movement;

¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Global warming of 1.5°C: Summary for Policymakers* (Geneva: World Meteorological Organization, 2018): 14, available from https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf.

² Yann Robiou du Pont and Malte Meinshausen, "Warming assessment of the bottom-up Paris Agreement emissions pledges," *Nature Communications* 9, (2018): 5-6. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-07223-9.

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Global warming*, 25.

WHEREAS Mount Allison University's Environmental Policy outlines an obligation to track and report various sustainability and emissions indicators, which have not been reported on in recent years;⁴

WHEREAS the MASU is conscious of the risks of focusing solely on individualized sustainable choices as means to address climate change as this focus can be exclusive, ableist, classist, and ineffective;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MASU recognizes and challenges the interrelated structures of oppression (ie. colonialism, racism, ableism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia) that compound the effects of climate change among marginalized populations, and acts in solidarity with those most affected by climate change;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU endorses and supports, in an organizational and promotional capacity, local activism furthering notions of climate justice (eg. student climate strikes);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU holds the university accountable to its Environmental Policy (2102) and Emissions Reduction Policy (2101), by advocating for transparent reporting of indicators as outlined in the policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU advocates for updates in Mount Allison's emissions targets that include a demonstrated commitment to renewable energy transition and achieving net zero emissions by 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU calls on Mount Allison University to divest financial investments from the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel corporations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU utilize continued student representation on environmentally-focused university decision-making bodies, including the Environmental Issues Committee and the Climate and Environmental Matters Subcommittee of the Board of Regents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MASU advocates for institutional and systemic changes that advance net carbon emissions reductions and increase accessibility of sustainable choices for students, including but not limited to:

- 1) A reduction of single use plastics on campus, recognizing that some items should be available to those who require them for accessibility reasons (ie. plastic straws);
- 2) Increased proportions of vegetarian and vegan food options available on campus; and

⁴ Mount Allison University, Office of the Vice President Administration (2012). https://www.mta.ca/Community/Governance_and_admin/Policies_and_procedures/Section_2000/Policy_2102/Policy_2102/.

3) Access to the town of Sackville's three-stream waste sorting system for off-campus students living in buildings containing commercial units and apartment buildings with more than four units.