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Mount St. Mary's University Signs Climate Commitment
University Seeks Campus Solutions to Improve Environment

EMMITSBURG, MD – Mount St. Mary's University President Dr. Thomas H. Powell has joined over 300 college and university presidents in signing the [American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment](#).

“We are deeply conscious of the necessity to move forward to protect the earth and its environment from the ravages of man,” said President Powell. “It is our intention as a university to honor this commitment with action, as demonstrated in the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems in our new Bicentennial Residence Hall. Designs for the planned Delaplaine Fine Arts Center as well include planting rooftop grass to capture moisture and reduce heat absorption. Our campus recycling program is already well-known and growing more eco-friendly each year.”

By signing the commitment, the Mount pledges to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions over time with the ultimate aim of becoming “carbon neutral.” It is hoped the project will reduce transportation, energy use and waste reduction campus-wide.

“We can no longer afford to conduct business as usual,” says Dr. Brian G. Henning, chair of Mount St. Mary's Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee and assistant professor of philosophy. “Beyond the apparent economic, political, and fiscal reasons for working to reduce our ecological footprint, as a Catholic liberal arts institution, we also have a unique moral obligation to be responsible stewards of our fragile natural environment.”

The Mount joins hundreds of other colleges and universities across the country that have committed themselves to focus the research and leadership of higher education on the pressing issue of global climate change.

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