



## UT Faculty for 100% Renewable Energy

As faculty and staff concerned about the warming of the earth that is changing our climate, we urge our nation's universities to make a rapid and steady shift away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need nothing less than a commitment to meeting all our energy needs with abundant, pollution-free renewable energy by no later than 2050.

Renewable energy has incredible potential. We could power the nation 10 times over with available wind resources, and existing solar potential is 100 times our current energy needs. At the same time, we waste tremendous amounts of energy.

Major corporations including Google, General Motors and Walmart have committed to powering their operations entirely with renewable energy. Dozens of cities have also made commitments; Salt Lake City and Park City, Utah; Aspen, Colorado; and Georgetown, Texas all agree that the future is 100 percent renewable power.

As significant users of energy, colleges and universities can also make a big difference: The higher education sector spends \$14 billion a year on energy costs alone. At the same time, as influential institutions, universities' actions can set a bold example for hundreds of communities across America.

Many universities have already set 100 percent renewable energy goals, including Cornell University, Boston University, and all 10 schools in the University of California System.

In order to build on the progress that has been made and ensure that we transition to a clean and renewable future, we call on the higher education sector to:

- Make a clear commitment to achieve 100 percent renewable energy for all operations -- including heating, cooling, and transportation -- no later than 2050.
- Set a benchmark of achieving 100 percent renewable electricity no later than 2035.

We thank our nation's universities for their leadership to date and stand ready to help achieve 100 percent renewable energy and put America on a path to a truly clean energy future.

Sincerely,

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