

October 12th, 2007

Dear St. Lawrence Community:

Last March I committed St. Lawrence University to climate neutrality when I signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. Although a daunting task I have been pleased with the upwelling of support and immediate changes that have been made across campus. Many departments have continued to consider and/or increased their awareness of the environmental impacts of their operations. With the help of our newly hired Sustainability Coordinator we have begun to see real movement toward a smaller carbon footprint in the mere months since our signing.

The official starting date for those who signed the Climate Commitment was September 15, 2007. From this period forward, St. Lawrence is obliged to meet certain intermediate goals of the commitment within specified time periods. This letter is my official declaration that we have accomplished the first two of many goals associated with the signing of this commitment.

Conservation Council, the tripartite university committee responsible for overseeing conservation and sustainability initiatives on campus has graciously accepted the role of ensuring the development and implementation of all plans related to the Climate Commitment. The council will be responsible for keeping us on track to meet all of the commitment's intermediate goals and continuing our movements on the path toward climate neutrality.

Upon signing the Climate Commitment St. Lawrence had to select two tangible actions that would help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We have decided to purchase only energy efficient appliances labeled ENERGY STAR and to ensure a minimum of 15% of our electricity is generated with renewable sources come September of 2008. As previously mentioned we have already taken action on both of these counts. We have recently replaced all of the washers on campus with ENERGY STAR machines and have become an ENERGY STAR Partner. Such a partnership means greater measurement, tracking and improvement of energy efficiency across campus. We have also already begun to purchase electricity from renewable sources with 50% of the electricity for the Student Center for 2007-2008 purchased from New York hydro-facilities and 50% of the electricity for the Johnson Hall of Science for 2007-2009 purchased from national wind farms.

These and other recent movements toward sustainability give me confidence that signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment was the correct decision for St. Lawrence. With Conservation Council, the Sustainability Coordinator and the many committed faculty, staff, students, administrators and alumni leading the way I know we will reach all of the goals of the Climate Commitment while creating a better University and a better world.

With sincere support and respect,

Dan F. Sullivan
President