

# UC3 University Climate Change Coalition

Platform Launch Press Release

[from <https://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/UC3-Summit-Press-Release-1.pdf> ]

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“(July 23, 2019) -- The University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) today announced a platform aimed at accelerating research on climate change policy across its 20 member universities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The announcement occurred at UC3’s inaugural summit hosted by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

“The Research for Policy Platform equips UC3 as a collective to research urgent climate change policy issues and provide recommendations for just and equitable outcomes. The Platform includes institutional commitments from UC3 members to support the Coalition’s research and program longevity, and will culminate in discretionary action by university leaders to advance climate policy at all different levels of government. ‘UC3’s Research for Policy Platform will strengthen efforts across sectors with science-informed and evidence-based policy insight towards smart climate solutions,’ said Tim Carter, President of Second Nature. ‘UC3 presidents will leave the Vancouver Summit equipped and ready to advance effective climate policy in response to the climate emergency.’ By convening higher education leaders, academics and cross-sector partners the Research for Policy Platform is expected to create a pathway for university leaders to take informed action and advocate for effective climate change policy.

“At the summit, UC3 university leaders, academics and key industry stakeholders met with senior Canadian government officials, including the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (British Columbia), to discuss meeting climate commitments and aligning efforts to reduce emissions sufficiently to keep global temperatures well under 2°C.

“Leading North American research universities formed UC3, a program of Second Nature, in 2018 to help their respective communities achieve their climate goals and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future. Second Nature is committed to accelerating climate action in, and through, higher education. This is accomplished by mobilizing a diverse array of higher education institutions to act on bold climate commitments, to scale campus climate initiatives, and to create innovative climate solutions. Second Nature aims to align, amplify, and bridge the sector’s efforts with other global leaders to advance urgent climate priorities. ([www.secondnature.org](http://www.secondnature.org) )”

## Statement from University Climate Change Coalition Leaders

[from [https://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/Research-for-Policy-Platform-Letter\\_July2019.pdf](https://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/Research-for-Policy-Platform-Letter_July2019.pdf)]

(Preamble) “Over the past year and a half, the members of University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) have worked to leverage their institutional strengths as leading research universities to foster collaboration across sectors in an effort to accelerate collaborative local action aimed at reducing the causes and impacts of climate change across sectors. Guided by the principles of collective action, conducting solution-oriented research, and implementing place-based climate action strategies, UC3 adopts the Research for Policy Platform: a joint research and development platform that will establish a unified set of principles and policies in order to directly support higher education leaders in local, national, and international 1.5 degree-aligned climate policy engagement.

(Joint Statement) “We, the leaders of the University Climate Change Coalition, believe that the role of higher education extends beyond the classroom and laboratory. We commit to educating our students and to informing our communities and policymakers about the importance of acting to address climate change through public policy and programs. We will leverage our unique position and resources as anchor institutions and leading research universities to explore and advance knowledge, and demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of directly addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. UC3 as a collective will support research for timely climate change policy issues and facilitate recommendations for just and equitable outcomes, present policy options, and suggest opportunities for policies that take into consideration the higher-ed context. Deliverables may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Foundational climate science and policy primers referencing reputable, peer-reviewed research
- 2) Science-based policy options and the related implications for colleges and universities and their respective communities;
- 3) Suggested avenues for policy engagement at various levels of government, with campus communities, and societal partners as deemed appropriate by UC3 members, given their own political contexts.

(Platform Actions) “This resolution includes three concrete actions that will be taken by university leaders as outlined below:

- 1) University leadership will support decision-relevant climate research and play an active role in encouraging science-based climate action. This proactive approach is consistent with the Coalition’s commitment to actionable research that can accelerate climate action.
- 2) University leadership will explore institutional incentives to support researchers’ contributions to the Platform. University leadership will also commit university resources as appropriate to ensure the longevity of the Platform.

3) University leadership will consider the recommendations put forth by UC3 and act, at their discretion, to help advance climate policy at different levels of government and on their own campuses. University leadership will do so through dialogue, working with the private sector, collaborating with our communities and in partnership with indigenous knowledge holders.

“We believe that higher education has a unique role to play in creating and implementing solutions to the challenges our global society will face in the future. We also believe that these challenges can only be addressed through concerted, collaborative, and coordinated efforts. In adopting a Research for Policy Platform, the University Climate Change Coalition commits to serve the local communities of our member organizations by embracing this national and global leadership role.”

## About UC3

[from <https://secondnature.org/about-uc3/> ]

### Purpose

“UC3 provides thought leadership on and fosters a robust exchange of best practices and lessons learned in pursuit of reducing greenhouse emissions and building community resilience. They share this knowledge with fellow coalition members, the higher education sector, their communities, and partners in the public and private sectors by serving as models for climate solutions and re-examining the scientific community’s research agenda to accelerate place-based climate action.”

### Coalition Structure--Coalition Leads

There are three (3) types of Coalition lead positions which a coalition member institution can fill for a fixed amount of time: Leadership, Research, and Network. The Leadership Lead communicates between presidents and chancellors in the network and supports public-facing UC3 opportunities. The Research Lead develops the network-wide research agenda and evaluates the effectiveness and impact of UC3 actions in advancing research priorities. The Network Lead provides coalition network support and maintains and leverages external relationships.

## The University Climate Change Coalition

[from <https://secondnature.org/initiative/uc3-coalition/> ]

“The University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3, is a bold new coalition of leading North American research universities that will prototype a collaborative model designed to help local communities achieve their climate goals and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.

“As leading research institutions, UC3 members are committed to leveraging their institutional strengths to foster a robust exchange of best practices and lessons learned in pursuit of accelerating local climate solutions that reduce greenhouse emissions and build community resilience.

“In launching UC3, distinguished universities from the United States, Canada and Mexico have committed to mobilize their resources and expertise to accelerate local and regional climate action in partnership with businesses, cities and states, foundations, and other organizations.

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
California Institute of Technology  
Tecnológico de Monterrey  
La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Queen’s University  
The Ohio State University  
The State University of New York  
University of Arizona  
The University of British Columbia  
The University of California  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
The University of Connecticut  
University of Maryland, College Park  
The University of New Mexico  
The University of South Florida  
University of Toronto  
The University of Utah  
The University of Washington  
Washington University in St. Louis

“UC3 operates in close partnership with Second Nature’s Climate Leadership Network, a group of hundreds of colleges and universities that have committed to taking action on climate.”