

Climate Change and Auburn University: A specific request

Mike Kensler, Office of Sustainability
University Senate, February 18, 2020



Smithsonian Magazine

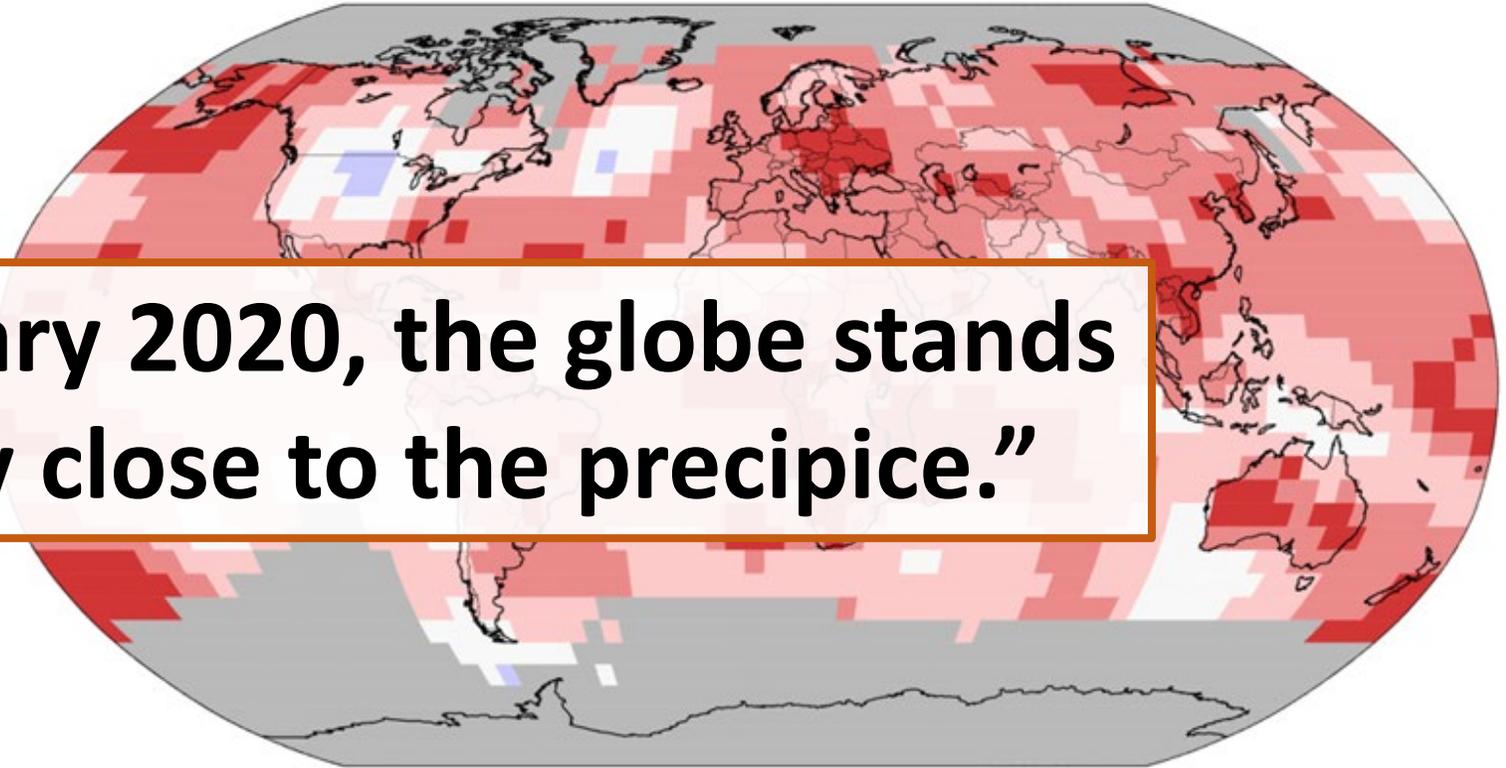
“The 2010s Were the Hottest Decade on Record. What Happens Next? The news has been a surprise to climate scientists, but all urge immediate action.”

January 16, 2020

Land & Ocean Temperature Percentiles Jan–Dec 2019

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information

Data Source: NOAA GlobalTemp v5.0.0–20200108



“As of January 2020, the globe stands dangerously close to the precipice.”



Record Coldest



Much Cooler than Average



Cooler than Average



Near Average



Warmer than Average



Much Warmer than Average



Record Warmest



**“Climate tipping points — too risky to bet against
The growing threat of abrupt and irreversible climate changes
must compel political and economic action on emissions.”**



**Timothy M. Lenton, Johan Rockström, Owen Gaffney, Stefan Rahmstorf,
Katherine Richardson, Will Steffen & Hans Joachim Schellnhuber**

November 27, 2019

“Climate change now detectable from any single day of weather at global scale”



**nature
climate change**

Sebastian Sippel, Nicolai Meinshausen, Erich M. Fischer, Enikő Székely
& Reto Knutti
January 2, 2020

Global Warming & Climate Change in 14 Words

Scientists agree.

It's happening.

It's bad.

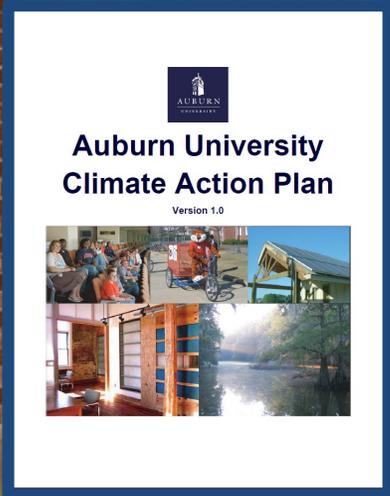
It's us.

We can fix it.



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

AUBURN
UNIVERSITY
ESTABLISHED 1856





AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

**“We the undersigned presidents...
...are deeply concerned...
...recognize the scientific consensus...
...believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership...by
modeling ways to minimize GW emissions and by providing the
knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate
neutrality.”**

What Auburn University is Doing

- **Climate, Human and Earth System Science (CHESS) Strategic Research Cluster**
- **Academic Sustainability Programs**
- **Campus Dining, Transportation**
- **LEED Buildings**
- **Facilities Management Utilities & Energy Team**
- **Cooperative Extension**
- **Office of Sustainability**
- **More**

A photograph of the Auburn University campus. In the foreground, a brick wall features a large stone sign that reads "AUBURN UNIVERSITY" in bold, black, serif capital letters, with "ESTABLISHED 1856" in smaller letters below it. Behind the wall, a large, multi-story red brick building with a prominent clock tower and several smaller spires is visible. The building is surrounded by lush green trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent orange-bordered box with white text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

What's next for Auburn University?

"We Are Still In" Declaration

> 3,000 U.S. governors, mayors, businesses, investors, faith groups, colleges and universities say:

WE  ARE STILL IN

“...working together to take forceful action and to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing carbon emissions” and reversing global warming.

President Trump Wants Out - We Are Still In

RESPONSES TO WITHDRAWAL

→ [Statement from Mike Bloomberg](#)

→ [We Are Still In Returns to UN Climate Talks](#)

→ [Select Statements from WASI Signatories](#)

“We are close to the tipping point where global warming becomes irreversible. Trump’s action could push the Earth over the brink....” Stephen Hawking, BBC interview, March 2018

→ [Outdoor Industry Businesses](#)

→ [Statement from Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto](#)

“What is our climate imperative? I think it is to use everything we have to advocate for solutions, starting with our voice.”

Katharine Hayhoe | TEDWomen 2018

The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it



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Recommend



17:12



A photograph of the Auburn University campus. In the foreground, a brick sign reads "AUBURN UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED 1856". In the background, a large red brick building with a clock tower and a steeple is visible under a blue sky with some clouds. The scene is surrounded by green trees and a brick walkway.

WE ARE STILL IN

Our ask:

Support for President Gogue adding Auburn University as a signatory to the **WE ARE STILL IN commitment.**