



Dr. Robert A. Brown
President
One Silber Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-2200 F 617-353-3278

October 27, 2016

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Climate Action Task Force.

Over the last 24 months the Boston University Board of Trustees Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI) has explored the topics of climate change and fossil fuel divestment. The ACSRI received feedback through forums it held and from committee representatives who summarized student perspectives shared during listening sessions and from electronic channels. The ACSRI made [recommendations](#) to the Board of Trustees in April 2016 that were discussed at Trustee meetings over the summer and early fall.

As I outlined in my [letter](#) to the BU community in September, the Board of Trustees supported a recommendation to develop a BU Climate Action Plan that would become part of the University's Strategic Plan. The plan would lay out goals for greater energy efficiency, alternative energy use, climate research and education, and campus preparation for the impacts of climate change.

After discussions with a number of people, I have decided the best approach to developing the University's first Climate Action Plan is to bring together faculty, staff, and students from the Charles River and Medical campuses to develop a Plan with a two-part focus on climate mitigation and climate resilience.

Charge to the Climate Action Plan Task Force

While the Climate Action Plan will be specific to Boston University, the Plan must be put into the context that climate change is a global problem that extends beyond our campuses. The plan should therefore consider how to engage a broader community in this discussion. We should also consider this as an opportunity to elevate the University's position as a leader in addressing the challenges of climate change in its educational programs, research, operations, finance, and community engagement.

The Task Force is charged with developing a five-point Climate Action Plan, described below, based on assessing science and long-term fiscal responsibility. The plan should build on resources already developed by BU faculty and staff (e.g., sustainability@BU) and suggest measurable medium- and long-term social and environmental goals/benefits.

FIVE-POINT PLAN

1) Operations:

The success of a Climate Action Plan will ultimately be measured by how effectively the University meets its commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and is prepared for the impacts from a changing climate. The Task Force is charged with developing an integrated plan to:

1. Mitigate the University's impacts by decreasing direct emissions through:
 - i. Increased energy efficiency
 - ii. Increased alternative energy on and off campus
 - iii. Reduced fleet vehicle emissions

Indirect emissions through:

- iv. Travel and commuter options
- v. Supply chain and waste stream improvements

2. Prepare our campuses for impacts from climate change

While education, research, and operations are inherently different, the Task Force should explore opportunities for connections, such as using the campus and surrounding community as a living-learning laboratory.

2) Research:

Build on the [existing portfolio](#) of faculty research that is relevant to both the emissions/energy side of climate change, and the resilience side. Explore the development of new or emerging areas of research – both disciplinary and interdisciplinary – that the Climate Action Planning process and implementation might facilitate.

3) Education:

Identify and build on the [existing courses](#) that relate to climate action and create and consider how to comprehensively approach issues that have or will become part of the climate change challenge. Propose guidelines and/or objectives for both undergraduate and graduate education to train students to understand the different facets of climate change as a societal issue. Consider how the General Education curriculum that is being developed (BU Hub) may address sustainability literacy and individual responsibilities as learning outcomes.

4) Finance:

Analyze and address the medium- and long-term financial implications of the Climate Action Plan recommendations.

5) Community Engagement:

Engage the entire BU community in the development of the Climate Action Plan to help educate faculty, staff, and students on the issues. Suggest an engagement strategy to convey individual ownership of and responsibility for the actions required to realize the Plan.

Also assess opportunities to engage, coordinate, and collaborate with the City of Boston, Green Ribbon Commission, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and peer and neighboring institutions to explore shared solutions that benefit the broader community.

Next Steps

I have asked Professor Tony Janetos, Pardee Professor of Earth and Environment and Director of the Pardee Center to chair the Climate Action Plan Task Force and anticipate it will take nine to twelve months to develop a draft plan addressing all five points described above. The draft plan will be broadly distributed for review and comment by the BU community. A final draft incorporating community input will be prepared for discussion with the Board of Trustees and, assuming Trustee approval, will be incorporated into the University's Strategic Plan. During this development phase, the Task Force will report directly to me on a quarterly basis.

I look forward to working with you as you develop this important roadmap for Boston University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert A. Brown
President

Climate Action Plan Task Force Membership

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Sean Attri	Graduate Student, Questrom School of Business	sattri@bu.edu	
Mun Pan Aung	Graduate Student, School of Public Health	mpaung@bu.edu	
Bridget Baker	Undergraduate student, College of Arts & Sciences	bbaker44@bu.edu	
Dennis Carlberg	Director of Sustainability	carlberg@bu.edu	358-5596
Madhu Dutta-Koehler	Associate Professor of the Professional Practice and Program Coordinator, City Planning and Urban Affairs, Metropolitan College	duttam@bu.edu	353-3025
Elijah Ercolino	Director of Building Automation	ercolino@bu.edu	358-0413
Peter Fox-Penner	Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy, and Professor of the Practice, Questrom School of Business	pfoxp@bu.edu	353-4298
Michael Gevelber	Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering	gevelber@bu.edu	353-9693
Lucy Hutyra	Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Environment, College of Arts & Sciences	lrhutyra@bu.edu	353-5743
Tony Janetos	Pardee Professor of Earth & Environment, College of Arts & Sciences and Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future	ajanetos@bu.edu	358-4000
Robert Kaufmann	Professor of Earth & Environment, College of Arts & Sciences	kaufmann@bu.edu	353-3940
Jonathan Levy	Professor, Environmental Health, School of Public Health	jonlevy@bu.edu	638-4663
Thomas Little	Associate Dean of Educational Initiatives, and Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, College of Engineering	tdcl@bu.edu	353-9877
Jennifer Luebke	Associate Professor, Anatomy & Neurobiology, School of Medicine. Faculty Council Representative	jluebke@bu.edu	638-4930
Nathan Phillips	Professor, Department of Earth & Environment, College of Arts & Sciences	nathan@bu.edu	353-2841
Peter Smokowski	Vice President, Auxiliary Services	psmokows@bu.edu	353-2148
Pamela Templer	Associate Professor of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences	ptempler@bu.edu	353-6978
Benjamin Thompson	Graduate student, College of Arts & Sciences	blt@bu.edu	