

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We applaud Saint Xavier University's pledge to eliminate its contribution to global warming by signing the American College and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in September of 2007 by President Judith A. Dwyer, Ph.D.

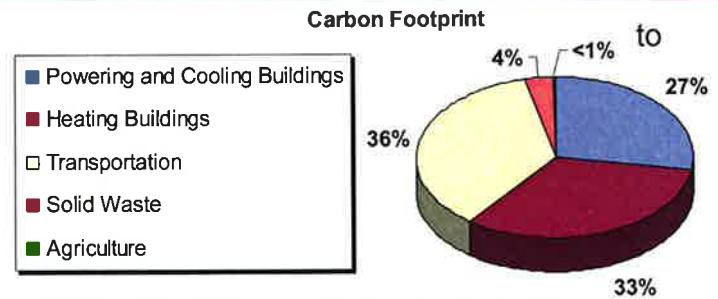


Figure A **21,759 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub>**

### ELEMENT OF THE COMMITMENT

A key element of the commitment is to measure and complete a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory using established protocols by ACUPCC. The inventory will determine a baseline carbon footprint by January 15, 2009, with inventories following annually thereafter. A carbon footprint measures the impact human activities have upon the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (eCO<sub>2</sub>).

The GHG emissions inventoried are inclusive of all main and satellite campus operations. Consistent with GHG Protocol Standards, the GHG inventory reports emissions of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) gases, in terms of units of eCO<sub>2</sub>.

The desire to reduce emissions is due to growing evidence of the detrimental impact of GHG emissions on climate change. The University's emissions stem from transportation, electricity used to power and cool buildings, stationary sources from heating buildings and domestic water, refrigerants and chemicals, agricultural activities and solid waste.

### METHODOLOGY

The attached GHG inventory fulfills the first major step of ACUPCC and was performed Oct. 1, 2008 through Jan. 13, 2009. The data collection process and footprint calculations were carried out by ARAMARK Higher Education Technical Services with the assistance of the Saint Xavier University Facilities Management team and Sustainability Intern with data provided by various University department heads.

The Clean-Air Cool Planet (CA-CP) calculator analyzed the University's emissions data. The CA-CP calculator is an industry standard for campuses and an approved means by ACUPCC. The University's data for fiscal year 2007 was chosen as the carbon footprint baseline year as it is the most recent year containing complete and accurate data associated with University emissions.

### RESULTS OF THE GHG INVENTORY

The total carbon footprint associated with Saint Xavier University's fiscal year 2007 data was **21,759 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub>**, which has been broken down by source in Figure A. Over **60%** of the emissions derive from **powering, heating and cooling buildings** on campus. The other major contributor, which accounts for 36% of the total emissions on campus, is attributed to commuter, fleet,

athletic, education and business **transportation**. **Commuter travel** accounted for 92% of the transportation emissions.

Three scopes set by the ACUPCC point to SXU's emissions. Scope 1 includes emission sources owned or controlled by the University such as on-campus combustion of fossil fuels and stationary sources. Scope 2 includes indirect emission sources such as emissions associated with the generation of electricity. Scope 3 includes other indirect emissions sources such as University-financed air and automotive travel, and University daily commuter travel.

### **RECOGNITION OF SUCCESS**

Saint Xavier University is recognized as a leader in the fight against global warming. As a charter signatory member of ACUPCC and one of four institutions to report on greenhouse gas emissions in the state of Illinois, SXU implemented a monumental first step parallel to actively establishing many **green** projects and programs on campus.

University programs, such as participation in Recycle Mania, the construction of multiple campus LEED buildings, the adoption of a GreenBike program and the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), have aligned the University to meet the next steps of the carbon neutrality commitment.

In fiscal year 2007 the University averted 48 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by utilizing protected wetlands and 349 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub> sequestered by purchasing RECs.

### **CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING – NEXT STEPS**

In an effort to share the rewards of successful University-based green programs and tangible action item policies instituted on campus, the ACUPCC signatories agree to develop an institutional climate action plan (CAP) for becoming carbon neutral. Saint Xavier University's action plan completion target is September 2009. The plan will include target dates as well as interim milestones for achieving climate neutrality.

The CAP will detail how the University intends to achieve climate neutrality by the target date. The CAP will use the GHG inventory as a starting point to describe the University's current emissions trajectory to set target dates. The plan focuses on the main emission sources, contributions from energy and transportation and will include mitigation strategies with financial impacts describing how the University will neutralize emissions. The plan will also provide strategies to include climate neutrality as part of the curriculum through research programs, education and community outreach efforts.

Developing a data base and tracking mechanism will support annual reporting, allowing measures to be evaluated, prioritized based on criteria and identify immediate action items. This data base will also identify actions that can reduce costs and generate savings.