

# Northwestern | sustainNU

August 20, 2018

Mayor Steve Hagerty  
2100 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201

Subject: Northwestern University' Climate Commitment to Mayor Hagerty's Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Dear Mayor Hagerty,

Thank you for inviting Northwestern University to the April 5 Climate Action Meeting of large employers. As an organization, we are committed to continuing to be an active member of the Evanston community. We are excited to join other large employers and the City in reducing our contribution to climate change and ensuring Evanston is preparing for its impacts.

Northwestern is committed to fostering environmental and ethical stewardship. The Northwestern Strategic Sustainability Plan is a comprehensive planning resource that supports and guides the University's sustainability programs.

Our vision for our Built Environment is to improve the built environment at Northwestern to lessen our harm to the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We aim to reduce the University's normalized energy consumption to 20 percent below 2010 levels by the year 2020 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Northwestern University has already taken numerous steps to reduce our impact on climate change including the ones below:

#### Existing Climate/Energy/Sustainability Initiatives

##### *Sustainability Programs and Key focus areas:*

1. Built Environment: Energy, renewable energy, infrastructure, water and land, greenhouse gas emissions
2. Transportation: Commuting and campus travel, cycling, electric vehicles
3. Resource Conservation: Waste reduction, environmentally preferable purchasing, sustainable food
4. Experiential Learning: Living-Learning Lab Program

5. Communications and Engagement: Engagement and outreach to faculty, student, staff, alumni, and community members

Progress to date:

- Reduced energy use intensity by 11% from a baseline of 2010.
- Reduced net greenhouse gas emissions by 13% from a baseline of 2012.
- Achieved bicycle friendly university silver designation the same as the City of Evanston.
- Expanded and retrofitted electric vehicle charging stations.
- Recycling and composting efforts diverted 38% of our waste.
- Achieved Green Restaurant Certification for all dining halls.

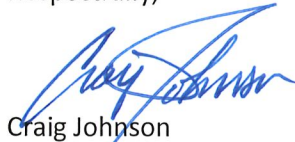
We understand that for the Evanston community meet its ambitious goals, such as 100% Clean Energy and eventual carbon neutrality, additional action is necessary from all members of the Evanston community. That is why we are excited to announce that to support these community goals we are prepared to commit to the following:

- Reduce energy use intensity (energy use per square foot of space) 20% below 2010 levels by 2020.
- Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 30% by 2030 and achieve net zero emission by 2050 from a 2012 baseline. (Strategies include energy efficiency, renewable energy certificates, behind the meter solar array installations, and behavioral awareness); a more concrete climate action plan established by 2019.
- Eliminate campus shuttle fleet emissions by 2030; transition the campus fleet to run exclusively on renewables by 2030.
- Offset all emissions associated with University sponsored travel by 2021.
- Increase landfill diversion rates to 50% of total waste generation by 2020.
- Increase campus engagement and outreach by doubling the number of green office certifications.

In addition to this/these commitments we agree to provide an annual update to the City on the status of these commitments to ensure community progress in fighting climate change.

We want to thank the Mayor for his leadership on this critical community issue, and we look forward to continuing to making Evanston the Most Livable City in America.

Respectfully,



Craig Johnson

Interim Senior Vice President for Business and Finance  
Northwestern University