

The Focus the Nation curriculum team is launching an initiative relating to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, to which UNC is signatory. Chancellor Moeser has been a national leader on the Commitment, which requires UNC to “develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, [...including] actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.”

On January 30-31, 2008, some 80 Carolina professors, along with colleagues at 1700 colleges and universities nationwide, participated in the Focus the Nation teach-in to introduce climate change as a national priority and produce an interdisciplinary perspective on global warming, its implications, and possible solutions.

Immediately after the event, the Focus the Nation team collected curricular materials from participating Carolina faculty. To maintain momentum generated by the event, a capstone team (enrolled in ENST 698) took on the challenge of creating an action plan to archive these materials and make them available to interested teaching staff across the campus.

The Institute for the Environment (IE) supports this initiative, and will provide ongoing oversight through staff at the Sustainable Triangle Field Site. This semester’s capstone team is working with several organizations to assure quality control, develop stable electronic access, and gain all necessary copyrights and permissions. We are working with Kirill Fesenko of Carolina Digital Library and Carolyn Hank in the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) as well as Abby Clobridge from Bucknell University, to document the materials and develop a structure for storing and disseminating current resources and building in flexibility for future expansion.

In addition, we are consulting with Paul Jones and Don Sizemore of [ibiblio \(www.ibiblio.org\)](http://www.ibiblio.org) and SILS for guidance on formatting, with the goal of a clean, easily accessible user interface, and a plan for ongoing maintenance. The resources will be organized by department, so that resources dealing with climate change may be easily found and integrated into any curriculum.

We are collaborating with Climate Change Education ([www.climatechangeeducation.org](http://www.climatechangeeducation.org)) at University of California at Berkeley, to share resources and explore formatting options. At the same time, we will retain control over the collected UNC material, organizing it to be UNC-identified, easily accessible, widely available, and adaptable to departments across campus.

We also established relationships with Dr. Carol Tresolini, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, and Dr. Patrick Conway, Director of the new Center for Faculty Excellence. The Center’s mission is to “provide a comprehensive and cohesive complement of resources to facilitate faculty success in teaching, research, and leadership.” The Center will be an ideal sponsor of our interdisciplinary resource database, and aid in promoting this new resource.

Early in the semester, we gained the full support of Student Body Presidents Carson and Raynor. We have proposed the creation of a new external appointment to guide the project in the future—a position to be overseen by the Student Body Vice President and a faculty or staff member.

We hope that the restructured UNC website will highlight sustainability and climate change as major state priorities, in keeping with the recently released UNC Tomorrow report.

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