

Concerned Scientists' Group Urges IU to Tackle Climate Challenge

--Bloomington, February 25, 2022

The Indiana-based science advocacy group "*Concerned Scientists @ IU*" (CSIU) has issued a statement to the IU administration requesting "visionary university action to address climate change." The statement was addressed to Indiana University President Pamela Whitten, IU Bloomington Provost Rahul Shrivastav, and Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Tom Morrison. The statement summarizes the scientific evidence for human-induced climate change and requests that the university "create a university climate action plan that can realize a commitment to carbon neutrality by a specified date."

The Concerned Scientists organization, formed five years ago on the Indiana University campus, is a grassroots, non-partisan organization "dedicated to strengthening the essential role of science and evidence-based decision making." The group boasts over 1200 campus and community members and, together with the student-led affiliate, *Advocates for Science @IU* (ASIU), have sponsored numerous high-profile campus and community events, educational programs, candidate forums, advocacy and communication workshops, and legislative advocacy. The group seeks to promote the participation of scientists in policy-making processes.

The group has focused on federal, state and local issues surrounding science and environmental policy. Their letter builds on a formal statement by nearly fifty of the country's leading scientific societies advocating urgent and bold action to address the issue of anthropogenic climate change. The group writes "to express our strong support for climate action at our own institution, Indiana University." They point out that "IU is rapidly becoming an outlier among prestigious public universities," noting that Indiana University is one of only three of the 14 Big Ten universities without a formal plan for climate action.

According to Tim Londergan, emeritus professor of physics and one of the authors of the CSIU letter, "We at CSIU feel that successful efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions have to start at individual and institutional levels, and IU should not fail to seize the opportunity to lead in this extremely important endeavor." Deidra Miniard, leader of the Advocates for Science @IU organization, noted "ASIU is proud to stand with CSIU in this statement because students at IU and around the world will suffer the consequences of inaction to combat global warming."

The letter formally requests that the IU administration:

- Commit to examining the full scope of the university's climate impacts;
- Make a commitment to create a university climate action plan and a target for carbon neutrality;
- Convene a task force charged with creation of an implementation plan for climate action; and
- Ensure that the Task Force process is organized with engagement of all campus stakeholders and with a commitment to openness and transparency.

The CSIU statement is attached below. For additional information, contact one of the following: Prof. Michael Hamburger (hamburg@indiana.edu); Prof. Tim Londergan (tlonderg@indiana.edu); Deidra Miniard (dminiard@ius.edu); Prof. Diane Henshel (dhenshel@indiana.edu); Prof. Steve Vigdor (vigdor@indiana.edu)