

Anthropogenic climate change has reached the point where ecosystems are threatened, where our health, safety, and economic security are at risk, and where some communities face existential threats. The magnitude of the problem, and the deep challenges associated with confronting it, can seem overwhelming. There are, however, practical actions that academic staff and their associations can engage in to reduce the threat. There are concrete steps we can take, as individuals, as faculty, as staff, and as a member of an association, against climate change.

At the 2019 FPSE AGM, a motion was passed creating an ad hoc committee tasked with creating an action plan on how to respond to this global climatic emergency. The committee met in November and February to consider and discuss recommendations.

The committee is suggesting the following action plan be considered by FPSE:

ADVOCACY

- We believe that one of the most effective ways for FPSE to address the climate crisis is to enhance our capacity to undertake provincial and federal advocacy on climate change. To that end, FPSE will declare a climate emergency and sign the Global Climate Emergency letter at sdgaccord.org. We join the Global Universities and Colleges for the Climate to work together on climate change.

POLICY

- FPSE will create policy to ensure that all investments made on behalf of the Federation and lobby the College Pension Fund and the BC Government, which set the terms of reference, to exclude any entities involved in the production, processing and sale of fossil fuels and further to re-invest funds in renewables.
- FPSE will create a Standing committee for Climate Emergency to help create policies and practices to help reduce FPSE's carbon footprint.

BARGAINING

- FPSE and its local member unions can use their power at the bargaining table to promote climate friendly policies and practices.
- Using FPSE current and best practices, develop bargaining language to include in local collective agreements.
- FPSE will hold a workshop to help Bargainers and Chief Stewards build and adopt that language.

FEDERATION OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATORS
ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY (Draft)

FPSE PRACTICES

- ▣ Continue to offer transit passes to staff and actively encourage cycling and walking, carsharing and carpooling. Discourage the use of single-occupant vehicles.
- ▣ Revise our travel policy to promote low carbon travel.
- ▣ Expand FPSE's video-conferencing capacity and increase use for meetings and workshops.
- ▣ Use only recycled paper products and create protocols for reduction of paper use whenever possible.
- ▣ Avoid unnecessary furniture and electronic equipment replacement by making current furniture last as long as possible.
- ▣ Develop a procurement policy to green FPSE meetings and events. For example, provide more vegetarian food options and less meat, place an emphasis on locally grown and sustainable food, and eliminate the use of single-use containers and utensils.