

Candler School of Theology Climate Action Plan

June 2014

Candler School of Theology's vision statement reminds us that our work is the education of "ministers, scholars of religion, and other leaders ... for the positive transformation of church and world." In our time, the very earth itself and all its living beings cry out for transformation in the midst of brokenness. Ecosystems, economies, and cultures are at risk from human patterns of consumption. The students, faculty, and staff of Candler are invited to respond reflectively to the human and environmental needs in the world with critical analysis and creative practices. In so doing, our community might embody responsible hope within God's world.

The Candler Climate Action Plan includes some of the ways in which the Candler community has committed to strive for ecological justice. Many of these measures are already in place, and others are new initiatives that we will work toward in the coming year and in the long term. Each year, the Candler Climate Action Plan Committee will reevaluate and revise our accomplishments and goals.

Candler School of Theology is primarily housed in a LEED Silver certified building and is in the process of constructing Phase II of this building, which will strive for LEED certification as well. Candler has been an early adopter of the zero waste system, so our facilities are well equipped for these waste minimizing practices.

Candler Climate Action Plan Committee members:

Jenny Vitti, Jennifer R. Ayres, Joel M. LeMon, John Peterson

Energy (Climate Action Plan p. 13)

- Commit to participate in the campus-wide energy competition each October.
- Candler is in compliance with Emory University's temperature set point policy (for Phase I, and Phase II will be once construction is complete). Celebrate this achievement, and do outreach and education about the purpose and impact of the policy on our community.
- Work with IT to set up power saving settings/sleep mode on computers.
- Existing Candler School of Theology building and Phase II meet LEED Silver standards. (Lights turn off automatically, etc.)
- Cannon Chapel recently completed a major renovation to reduce energy consumption.

Transportation Emissions Reduction (Climate Action Plan p. 15)

- Promote Clean Air Campaign benefits, and consider additional incentives for participation from Candler.
- Investigate and partner with the Laney Graduate School in supporting the Graduate Student Commuter Club.

Waste Minimization (Climate Action Plan p. 19)

Phase I of Candler School of Theology is a zero waste building. Candler has made considerable effort in the past two years to educate faculty, staff, and students on the value of registering for events to eliminate food waste and funds waste. We highlight these areas below as waste minimization tactics we plan to continue to improve and expand to Phase II of our building.

- Participate in awareness programs of University – recycling and composting contests.
- Promote composting and recycling to new students during Orientation and the school-wide Opportunities Fair.
- Choose caterers that use only compostable goods.
- Continue to require registration for events to reduce food waste.
- Apply for Sustainable Events Certification for Candler’s major events.
- Encourage our vending machine supplier to adopt more sustainable practices (use aluminum rather than plastic and eliminate non-recyclable packaging).
- Expand our “zero waste” status to Phase II of Candler and to Cannon Chapel, where many of our students, staff, and faculty spend a great deal of time.
- Move toward hosting documents online only.
- Make double-sided printing the default setting on Candler printers.
- Remind faculty and staff of toner cartridge recycling options through the Faculty Support Office.
- Hold periodic waste audits at individual staff & faculty desks, and possibly also in the communal trash cans in the building. Based on the results of the audits, publicize alternate ways to deal with our most common types of trash.
- Name a Green Office representative and alternate to represent Candler. Encourage faculty and staff to participate in the Green Office Certification process.

Curricular and Co-curricular Education (Climate Action Plan p. 24)

Candler has elements of sustainability incorporated into courses. Two courses specifically address sustainability in relation to theology (listed below). The addition of the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree will increase Candler’s online course offerings as a function of the program. Ninety percent of the DMin degree will be offered online.

- Carol Newsom’s course on sustainability and theology.
- Jennifer Ayres’s course on religious education & ecological context.
- Care for a campus sustainable garden.
- Celebrate Earth Day in Chapel.
- Participation in the Seminary Stewardship Alliance – Dean Love has appointed a faculty and staff representative.
- Provide annual monetary award for a student sermon preached on environmental theology, funded by the Dabney White Dixon and W. Thomas Dixon Endowment.

Individual Action (Climate Action Plan p. 25)

- Encourage faculty, staff, and students to take the Sustainability Pledge.
- Encourage faculty, staff, and students who are able to take the stairs whenever possible.