

Dear President Brody, Dean Faulk, Dean Jones, Dean Boswell:

An immense and ever-growing body of scientific evidence concludes that over-reliance on fossil fuels is causing the planet to warm at dangerous rates and the climate to destabilize. The world's top scientists tell us that if we are to avoid the risk of cataclysmic disaster, the U.S. and other industrialized nations must halt the growth of global warming pollution immediately. Reversing global warming is a defining challenge of the 21st century. Addressing this threat successfully will mean transforming our economy, our institutions, our daily lives – and doing so within a generation. This is a challenge of massive proportions, one that calls for the vision and leadership of Johns Hopkins University.

In the same way that historical revolutions in industry, transportation and telecommunications translated massive investment into huge advances in our quality of life, our pursuit of energy and climate solutions can drive incalculable social benefit *if we act now*. A report from the Apollo Alliance points to a potential for 3.3 million new jobs¹ and an increase in \$1.4 trillion dollars in American Gross Domestic Product² in the rapid pursuit of climate sustainability and energy innovation. Delay, on the other hand, will mean enormous upheaval and suffering, millions of environmental refugees, and 5-20% cuts in global GDP³ in our lifetimes.

Leading society to reverse human-induced global warming is a task that fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of Johns Hopkins. There are few other institutions in society that have the influence, the critical mass and the diversity of skills needed to successfully make this transformation. As a leader in higher education and steward of the Knowledge for the World Campaign, Johns Hopkins has a unique opportunity and an important role to play in crafting solutions to this great challenge.

Yet we are falling behind. While dozens of our peer institutions have announced broad sustainability programs, Johns Hopkins has shown little initiative. A report just released by the Sustainable Endowments Institute rated Hopkins a “C+” in its efforts⁴. We are spending over \$9 million annually on electricity from coal-fired power plants, a major source of greenhouse gases and health-damaging pollution. Our heating and transportation fuels still rely on dirty fossil fuels. And we have yet to acknowledge the importance of sustainability and climate action in our policies.

Johns Hopkins is an ideal setting to develop workable new strategies, systems, behaviors and technologies that can be scaled up to the community and state levels. By involving students, faculty and staff, our institution can become an effective model for achieving climate neutrality and sustainability. We need Johns Hopkins to take the lead on cutting-edge research, action and demonstration projects that will speed the path to climate neutrality across all society's sectors - catalyzing investment and driving the development of new markets.

Addressing these challenges at Johns Hopkins will require great increases in energy efficiency, generation of power from clean renewable sources, wide-scale adoption of alternatively fueled vehicles, and implementation of radically more efficient building technologies. As members of the Hopkins community, we choose the implementation of a new carbon-neutral energy policy not because it is easy, but because it is an issue which can invigorate and unite us behind a common purpose by tapping the optimism and can-do spirit that is embedded in our university's history. We hope that you will support the Responsible Energy Policy.

Sincerely,
The Hopkins Energy Action Team

¹ http://www.apolloalliance.org/for_the_press/presscenter.cfm?pressReleaseID=5

² http://www.apolloalliance.org/apollo_in_the_news/archived_news_articles/2004/energy_daily.cfm

³ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/8AC/F7/Executive_Summary.pdf

⁴ <http://www.jhu.edu/heat/Documents/College%20Sustainability%20Report%20Card.pdf>