

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lafayette College’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) 3.0 affirms the College’s long-standing commitment to sustainability and outlines a comprehensive pathway to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, while strengthening campus resilience to the impacts of a changing climate. Building on more than a decade of climate leadership, including the progress and lessons of CAP 1.0 and 2.0, CAP 3.0 reflects both the urgency of the climate crisis and Lafayette’s responsibility to lead through action, education, and collaboration.

Since establishing its first CAP in 2011 and updating its strategy in 2019, Lafayette has made progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy use, and integrating sustainability into the academic and co-curricular experience. Nonetheless, due to external and internal factors detailed in our Progress to Date section, several goals and targets from CAP 2.0 were not achieved. CAP 3.0 assesses our progress, and responds

to evolving conditions, including new emissions sources, updated data and methodologies, and increasing climate-related risks affecting the campus and surrounding community.

CAP 3.0, in alignment with our newly adopted Strategic Plan, outlines a coordinated set of strategies across energy, buildings, transportation, waste, and campus operations to continue emissions reduction. The plan elevates a resiliency strategy, recognizing that reducing emissions alone is not sufficient, and climate adaptation is essential to Lafayette’s educational mission. CAP 3.0’s solutions require the College to transform its operations, work that we will prioritize through seeking new dedicated sources of funding. Progress toward carbon neutrality is in direct alignment with our Institutional Value of “Purposeful Sustainability,” a commitment demonstrated by students, faculty, staff, and administrators alike in our teaching, research, actions, and decision-making.



The following is a brief overview of the key elements of the proposed Climate Action Plan.

Key Goals

REACH CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2035: This updated Climate Action Plan provides a road map for reaching carbon neutrality by 2035, with an emphasis on the initial steps for implementation. In addition to annual greenhouse gas reporting, the College will continually invest in and assess progress toward carbon neutrality and update the CAP every five years.

..... ✓ **Immediate Term (2026-2028)**

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

The immediate term focuses on advancing actions that can be initiated quickly using existing resources, governance structures, and institutional momentum. During this phase, Lafayette will prioritize integrating this plan with the Campus Master Plan and Strategic Plan, and socializing it with stakeholders around campus. Key efforts include refining targets and pathways, strengthening data collection and monitoring systems, and commissioning engineering studies for the infrastructure we plan to upgrade.

..... ✓ **Near Term (2029-2031)**

SCALING PROVEN STRATEGIES

The near-term phase centers on scaling strategies that are already underway or have been validated through planning and pilot efforts. During this period, Lafayette will accelerate emissions reductions through targeted investments, operational changes, and programmatic expansion. Actions in the near term emphasize the adoption of decarbonization strategies across energy, buildings, transportation, and waste. These actions include sourcing renewable energy projects and on-site solar to accommodate electrification, and developing a plan for EV charging infrastructure installation. In this phase, we also plan to develop policies for sustainable air travel, construction, and sustainable food procurement. In parallel, we will advance climate resilience and adaptation measures, embedding them more consistently into campus planning for key infrastructure upgrades like our parking lots and major building renovations.

..... ✓ **Medium Term (2032-2035)**

ADVANCING TRANSFORMATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The medium-term phase represents a transition from incremental progress to deeper, institution-wide transformation. In this phase, Lafayette will pursue more complex and capital-intensive strategies necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, while continuing to strengthen resilience to climate vulnerabilities. Efforts during this period focus on fully integrating climate action into Metzgar’s construction and completing both the steam plant and our fleet transition away from fossil fuels. The medium term positions Lafayette to sustain momentum, adapt to new challenges, and ensure that climate action remains central to the College’s mission and operations.

Conclusion

CAP 3.0 is both a strategic road map and a living framework. It establishes clear goals and provides mechanisms for tracking progress, reporting transparently and adapting over time. Through CAP 3.0, Lafayette recommits to climate leadership rooted in its values as a liberal arts institution with distinctive strengths in engineering, civic engagement, and experiential learning, preparing students not only to understand climate change, but to help solve it.