

## **Research: COPLAC and AASHE-certified Higher-Ed Energy Efficiency Standards**

The following facts were compiled through research done from a pool of approximately 43 higher-ed institutions in the U.S. This pool includes all 25 COPLAC schools, and an additional 18 schools that have been recognized as significant contributors to higher-ed energy-efficiency standards through their involvement with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

AASHE is recognized as a global leader for their work in promoting sustainable practices and policies in large institutions, working with approximately 881 colleges and universities, and 226 businesses and non-profits.

Approximately 12 of the schools surveyed are in the Southeastern United States (South of Virginia, East of Texas) 19 of the schools have a population of 5,000 or less.

### **Temperature Policies (Operating Hours)**

**26 of the schools surveyed had a policy for controlling the range of temperatures allowed for heating and cooling all campus buildings during normal operating hours.**

**-Of these, 9 of the schools had either a year-round temperature range of greater than 8 degrees or an unspecified range.**

For instance, the University of Maryland's stated policy is to "maintain occupied buildings in the temperature range of 68° to 78° Fahrenheit year round".

**-Of these, 8 of the schools had separate temperature ranges for heating and cooling, which, in total, amounted to a temperature range of six degrees or less.**

For instance, the University of Alabama's policy states "Summer thermostat settings (air conditioning) are to be 76-78 F. Winter settings (heating) are to be 68-70 F. Exceptions to these guidelines must be approved."

**-Of these, 9 of the schools set concise temperature goals for both heating and cooling.**

**For instance, Clemson University (North Carolina, Pop. 20,000) cools buildings to a set temperature of 76 degrees in summer, and heats to a set temperature of 69 degrees in winter. Rhodes College (Tennessee, Pop. 1,842) cools buildings to a temperature of 74 degrees in summer, and heats to 68 degrees in winter.**

### Temperature Policies (Non-Operating Hours)

**During non-operating hours, 17 schools had a heating and cooling policy.**

-Of these, 11 schools either had a non-specific policy that either did not reference a set temperature or temperature range, or just shut down operations completely during non-operating hours.

-Of these, 6 schools set concise temperature goals for heating and cooling during non-operating hours.

-Of these 6, approximately 4 universities settled on the same temperature goals for heating and cooling (55 and 86 degrees). The universities were each in the Southeastern, Northeastern, and Midwestern regions.

### Energy-Efficiency Purchasing

15 schools had a policy that recommended purchasing energy-efficient products whenever applicable and cost-effective.

**-Of these, 10 schools mandated that all products/appliances purchased be Energy Star-certified, that Energy Star products be the first go-to source whenever a new product was needed, and informing all sub-contractors to provide service estimates that included Energy Star appliances whenever a service contract was up for bid.**

### Illumination Standards

5 schools made illumination standards for interior/exterior, classroom, stadium, and lab settings mandatory for the entire campus. These standards were taken from the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Lighting Handbook.

### LEED-Standards for New Construction

13 schools had either one LEED-certified building on campus, a mandatory policy that all new construction be LEED-certified, or both.

-Of these 13, 12 were COPLAC schools.

### Renewable Energy Use On Campus

11 schools had constructed and were utilizing renewable energies on campus. The most common renewable energies were solar-powered hot water heaters and geothermal energy.

-All 11 schools were COPLAC schools.

### **Sub-Metering Policies**

Unfortunately, research here was inconclusive. This is due to the fact that many campuses may already have had sub-metering in place, and thus did not need a new policy; it was also not stated in most university handbooks.

-However, 6 universities either already had sufficient sub-metering in place, or had instituted a new policy for all new construction/retrofitting to have sub-metering.

### **Signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)**

The ACUPCC is a high-visibility effort to address global climate disruption undertaken by a network of colleges and universities that have made institutional commitments to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions from specified campus operations, and to promote the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate. Its mission is to accelerate progress towards climate neutrality and sustainability by empowering the higher education sector to educate students, create solutions, and provide leadership-by-example for the rest of society.

**18 of the schools surveyed had signed the ACUPCC.**

-Of these, 12 were COPLAC schools.

-The University of Auburn is the only campus signee in Alabama.

### **Created Climate Action Plan to Reduce or Offset All Carbon Emissions by Set Year**

**8 of the schools surveyed had done this.**

-All 8 were COPLAC schools.