

Green Mountain College

Green Mountain College Endorses Carbon Pollution Tax Campaign

PRESS RELEASE

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Green Mountain College officially endorses Energy Independent Vermont's call for a carbon pollution tax in Vermont. Today, GMC President Bob Allen signed Energy Independent Vermont's petition to put a price on carbon joining over 500 businesses in the State, making GMC the first institution of higher education to do so.

President Allen said, "Green Mountain has a long tradition of environmental leadership in higher education and recognized the imperative to address climate change. Economists and business leaders recognize the importance of putting a price on carbon moving us toward a clean energy future."

Students in Dr. Steven Letendre's Economics of the Environment class this fall researched the impact that a carbon pollution tax would have on the State's economy and the College's finances. Based on an independent economic analysis by the Washington DC-based Regional Economic Models, Inc., the students found that a carbon tax could strengthen Vermont's economy creating new jobs in the clean energy sector. Students and the college administration will be paying close attention to any bill that develops to insure it is not a regressive tax that would have a negative impact on lower and middle income Vermonters.

Dr. Letendre said, "The students determined that the impact of a carbon pollution tax on GMC's finances would be rather limited and could even create a net benefit due to our investments in biomass, solar, and efficiency across campus."

Students in the class did extensive outreach on campus and hosted an information session in November with a representative from Energy Independence Vermont to gain campus-wide support. GMC senior Yasmeen Najeebi led the organizing effort, and is continuing student organizing work around the carbon tax with OurClimate and Vermont Student Power Network.

GMC was recently ranked as the nation's top baccalaureate institution for sustainability by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. In 2011, GMC was the first Vermont College to achieve climate neutrality through investments in efficiency and renewable energy and the purchase of carbon offsets.



Bob Allen
President