



Welcome!

Thank you for supporting this growing movement.

Below are some basics about who we are, what we want to achieve, and what you can do! We often ask ourselves and others, “What’s the most important thing an individual can do for climate change?” Climate activist Bill McKibben’s answer: “Stop being an individual.”

Who we are

In supporting Cornell on Fire, you join a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who share the belief that Cornell must declare a Climate Emergency and rapidly scale up its efforts to slow the climate and ecological breakdown that threatens our community, humanity and everything alive on Earth today.

Our goals

Scientific consensus on the accelerating pace of climate change is making many people in, around and connected to Cornell deeply concerned about the future. The escalating impacts are difficult to ignore as we increasingly experience them ourselves. Frontline communities here and populations in the global South are more severely impacted and less prepared to cope. Cornell is in a position to help prevent the worst of what is to come and foreground calls for climate justice put forth by Indigenous and other frontline communities. It has a moral obligation to do so by curbing its sizable environmental impact, and by leading the way among universities in a transition to a sustainable model of education.

This moment is pregnant with crisis and potential. The local landscape is charged with active campaigns: notably TIAA-Divest, Fossil Free Research, Make Cornell Pay, The 2030 Project, and the Indigenous Dispossession Project, among others. Meanwhile, Cornell campus movements, climate science, and public outreach exemplifies what can and should be done. Cornell on Fire champions these currents of action. **We call on the Cornell administration to Declare a Climate Emergency and rapidly transition to sustainability in all areas of the university’s operations.** This will empower existing campaigns while catalyzing generative new components of systemic transformation.

Our methods

Through collective action, we can drive the transition, hasten progress, and champion change that is already happening. Cornell’s current climate action plan is commendable, but falls short of what is required. We know that Cornell can take action proportional to the

severity of the crisis. The Cornell administration needs to know that Cornellians and the Ithaca community demand bolder action.

We aim to send a powerful, clear and sustained message to those who steward Cornell's prestige and resources: the University must prioritize the wellbeing and survival of all at every level of decision-making, policy, and cultural norm-setting. To this end, our methods are to build a large-scale movement that leverages nonviolent direct action, resilient community building, and truth-telling for climate accountability.

We seek to center Indigenous knowledge and insights in these efforts, calling on Cornell to recognize that Indigenous leadership in climate work is essential.

Ways you can help

Movements are made of people. We welcome anyone who wants to take action in this community, in Cornell, and in our climate justice emergency. Some of our volunteers take as little as five minutes a month to contact peers or colleagues; some dedicate even more time.

We need volunteers able to give some of their time, energy and skills. A wide range of tasks are open for the taking, and every single contribution counts. Below are some of the ways you can get involved. If you have other ideas or questions, write connect@cornellonfire.org.

- Invite your contacts to [join our movement listserv](#).
- Sign [Our Demands](#) and/or share your feedback.
- Join us for [actions and events](#) on campus and the community.
- Attend our [Office Hours](#) on Fridays, 11a-12:30p on Cornell's Ho Plaza. Share your thoughts with us and chat to interested community members about our movement.
- If you are part of a group or organization, ask your group to consider becoming an Alliance Partner that endorses the movement and shares in mutual support. [Read more here](#).
- Lend your creativity to the cause, producing photography, web design, sketches, street art, posters, poetry, musical or theatrical performance to help get the word out.
- Expand our digital outreach by assisting our social media coordinator.
- Carry out specific research tasks on an issue you care about.
- Join or advise our Working Group, which meets weekly to organize, envision, research and carry out evolving task force objectives.
- Join the undergraduate Fossil Free Research Task Group at Cornell run by [Climate Justice Cornell](#) in collaboration with [Campus Climate Network](#). Use your research skills for climate justice by uncovering and identifying Cornell University's ties to the fossil fuel industry.