

Carbon Neutral Language for the Presidential Installation

Thank you for helping contribute to Truman University's Inaugural Carbon Neutral Presidential Installation. Sustainability is a simple idea: The ability to *"meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"*^[1].

We only one true "home sweet home" our spaceship – *earth*. And, with only the first effects global climate change being realized, it is all our responsibility to do everything in our power to help reduce and mitigate these effects, so our children and our children's children can enjoy the world we have so graciously been given.

It is from and within this context that this Carbon Neutral Presidential Installation was born; an event that can truly highlight Truman University's pledge to environmental stewardship and combating the effects of global climate change through greenhouse gas reduction. Carbon neutrality will be achieved through a variety of onsite and offsite strategies, which include changing our behavior to reduce CO2 emissions, the investment in technologies.

Truman University has been a leader in sustainability through programs such as the Bulldog Biodiesel program and the President's Sustainability Initiative. This event will build on what Truman has already been doing and take things one-step further. By using local produce in the Installation meals, the need for long delivery services has been removed. Even with these onsite strategies of reducing carbon, there will still be a measureable carbon footprint for the event and that is why offsite strategies will be implemented.

In an ideal world everyone would walk or bike to this event and all electricity needed to run it would come from renewable energy sources. Unfortunately, driving and flying are the main options available for transportation and the United States has not yet embraced full energy reform. For this reason, the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates² (REC's) will aid in ensuring this event is Carbon Neutral.

Renewable Energy Certificates were developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a method to help subsidize sustainable clean energy production facilities (wind, solar, biogas, biomass, geothermal, etc.) by allowing these facilities to separately sell the environmental benefits of each megawatt of energy produced in the form of a Renewable Energy Certificate; stimulating reinvestment back into real renewable energy facilities. By purchasing a REC, one claims the environmental benefits of one (1) Megawatt of "clean green sustainable energy" sold into the national grid, allowing you to offset your carbon footprint with the clean energy attributes. The revenue from a purchase of an REC helps to fund the expansion of clean energy facilities as well as the advanced technological research and development of alternative sustainable power sources.

Thank you again for doing your part as a world steward. If you would like to know how you may contribute to further reducing the impacts of this event and the larger Sustainability Initiative at Truman State University, please contact the President's Office at 660-785-4100.

[\[1\]](#) Bruntland Report 1987, United Nations - **Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future.**

[2] What is a REC? Each Green Power Megawatt Sold into the National Power Grid is EPA mandated, tracked, serialized, validated, and registered in the form of a "Renewable Energy Certificate" (REC). The only way Green Energy can be claimed for your property is by purchasing RECs. This is due to the fact that types of energy are co-mingled, and is impossible to separate the Green Energy from conventional energy within the national power grid. Zero Carbon Alliance RECs satisfy ALL government mandated requirements. Your purchase supports the EPA's and DOE's programs to provide additional revenue to the facility that issued the REC, and thus the expansion of additional Green Energy to the national power grid. This helps to reduce the need for toxic fossil fuels that emit poisons into our communities, and America's dangerous dependency on foreign oil. Each REC is your legal entitlement to claim ALL the benefits of the Green Energy from the grid allowing you offset your carbon footprint and goal of carbon neutrality.