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Campus Prepares for International Climate Negotiations in Paris

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Contact:

Melissa Vangsness, Director of Communications
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), jrray@morris.umn.edu

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[Campus Prepares for International Climate Negotiations in Paris](#)

Summary: The campus has signed the White House American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge and will be represented at the talks by Professor of Management and Economics Arne Kildegaard.

MORRIS, Minnesota (November 30, 2015)—The University of Minnesota, Morris is preparing for the 21st Conference of the Parties, which will be hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris November 28–December 12. The campus has signed the White House American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge; it will be represented at the talks by Professor of Management and Economics Arne Kildegaard.

Last week Morris was one of [218 American colleges and universities to sign the White House American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge](#) to demonstrate their support for strong climate action by world leaders at the talks. Representing more than 3 million students, schools include public and private universities located across 41 states.

“Colleges and universities across the United States are working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to help their communities become more resilient to current and future climate change,” says Troy Goodnough, sustainability director. “Morris is a national leader in these efforts, and we have been recognized for both our carbon footprint reductions and our public engagement work. The Pledge is another way we have indicated our commitment to take action.”

The University of Minnesota, through its Institute on the Environment, holds official observer status with the UNFCCC. Among those in attendance from the University system will be Kildegaard, who has been following the UNFCCC and Kyoto processes professionally for many years. He will be at the talks December 5–11.

“There's an energy and an optimism heading into these talks that we haven't seen before, over the 23 years since the UNFCCC was first signed,” Kildegaard says. “Part of that traces to the fact that the U.S. and China seem to be on the verge of seriously buying into the process for the first time. A lot of it traces to the role younger people and grassroots movements continue to play in refusing to accept a diminished future for themselves and for the planet.”

Morris has sustainability-minded commitments, investments, policies, research, and curricula in renewable energy, academics, research, local and sustainable food and healthy eating, community outreach and education, student leadership and participation, capital investments, conservation, building and renovation, program funding, and recycling. The campus recently has been recognized for its efforts by the [Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#), [Sierra magazine](#), [the U.S. Department of Education](#), [the Environmental Protection Agency](#), [the Princeton Review](#), [Environmental Initiative](#), and [more](#).

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