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Time to Act

University of Dayton

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Thursday November 16, 2017

Time to Act

University of Dayton President Eric F. Spina is among more than 150 leaders of Catholic universities, organizations and religious orders who have signed a letter urging U.S. President Donald Trump and Congress to reassert U.S. leadership in the global effort to address climate change.

The letter from the Catholic Climate Covenant asks for funding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; that U.S. commitments to the Green Climate Fund be honored; and for meaningful participation of the U.S. in the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"As individuals, as institutions, as a people we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn," states the letter approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "We hope that you will accept our appeal, so that we may continue to dialogue and work together to manifest this change of heart."

Catholic leaders worldwide have affirmed climate change as a moral issue that threatens core Catholic values, including the protection of human life, the promotion of human dignity, the advancement of the common good, the call to live in solidarity with future generations, and the care for God's creation, according to the letter. The Catholic Church has for years supported actions to address climate change based upon the best available science.

The University of Dayton is in lockstep with this movement.

A fair trade university, UD was the first Catholic university in the nation to divest from fossil fuels. It is a member of the U.N. Global Compact, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Second Nature's Carbon Commitment, "We're Still In," and has committed to renovating or

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building facilities on campus with at least Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification or an equivalent status in mind.

The U.N. Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, asks businesses and organizations to build cultures of integrity and meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. The Global Catholic Climate Movement is an international coalition of Catholic organizations and individuals that, in union with and in support of the pope and bishops, seeks to raise a Catholic voice in global climate change discussions. The Second Nature's Carbon Commitment commits the University to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. "We're Still In" is a declaration by community leaders nationwide to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement.

Read about the University's sustainability accomplishments and entire Catholic Climate Covenant letter at the related links.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of news and communications, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.

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Say Watt?

A donation of a new wind turbine will boost alternative-energy research and educational opportunities at the University of Dayton Research Institute's Energy Experience Center. The 6 kW turbine, valued at more than \$25,000, was donated by OGW Energy Resources of Tipp City.

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Here for Our Students

National and international organizations recently recognized the University of Dayton's Division of Student Development for its community policing, alcohol prevention, residential learning and student training programs, and annual report.

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