



DRAFT – Last Updated February 2026

## **Manifesto of the Climate Justice Universities Union**

The Climate Justice Universities Union (the Union) calls on staff, students, administrators, alumni, policymakers, communities and the wider public to support the following collective goals:

1. Ensure every student graduates with knowledge, skills and understanding of the causes, consequences, responses and multiple opportunities for transformative social change in addressing the intersecting crises of accelerating ecological devastation, climate disruptions, economic inequities, and community vulnerabilities.
2. Call for all higher education institutions to endorse the fossil-fuel non-proliferation treaty, to declare a climate/ecological emergency, and act accordingly across their teaching, research, operations and procurement and outreach and engagement activities.
3. Commit to ending economic precarity among staff and students.
4. Support and encourage scholar-activism of staff, students and administrators aligned with climate justice principles.
5. Support more democratic modes of governance of the university and co-design of teaching with students.
6. Advocate to end university partnerships with extractive and destructive industries, to resist corporate capture and to reclaim the public good mission of higher education by acknowledging and constraining the financialisation of universities.<sup>1</sup>
7. As part of reclaiming this public good mission, universities themselves should see themselves as key ‘anchor institutions’ of their local communities and work towards using their financial and research capacities to work in partnerships with other institutions to create sustainable, just and more democratic local economies and climate resilient local communities.
8. Resist the uncritical rollout and use of generative artificial intelligence (genAI) and reduce reliance on big tech in higher education and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> Following the example of Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam to ‘no longer enter into research partnerships with companies in the fossil fuel industry’.



9. Enshrine ecological and climate justice principles in procurement policies and onsite operations of all higher education institutions.
10. Ensure all key investments, procurements, teaching, research and corporate university decisions are “climate and sustainability-proof”, while also ensuring decisions decrease gender, class, race and other injustices and inequalities, and are as democratically inclusive and transparent as possible.
11. Work towards plant-based and vegetarian catering in all higher education institutions and support transformation towards ecologically sustainable and socially responsible food systems.
12. Work towards higher education institutions using renewable energy not fossil fuels.
13. Promote research, teaching and engagement activities that seek societal transformation toward just, equitable, democratic, decolonised, stable and healthy futures, and support decarbonisation policies that are coupled with transformative public investments in healthcare, housing, public transport, care work, education and other basic services.
14. Support rebalancing of human society and economy within ecological systems of reciprocity and regeneration, including a shift towards a 4-day working week in higher education and across society.
15. Support a transition towards normalising low carbon and slower modes of travel, while also recognising that this is not possible for all staff and students.