



Terence R Flotte, MD
Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor
UMass Chan Medical School

Dean, *Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor*
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National Academy of Medicine
Action Collaborative on Decarbonization of U.S. Health Sector

UMass Chan Medical School Commitment Statement

The UMass Chan Medical School mission is to advance the health and wellness of our diverse communities throughout Massachusetts and across the world by leading and innovating in education, research, health care delivery and public service. In accordance with this mission, UMass Chan is committed to developing actionable and sustainable operations, practices, and policies to address climate change and improve environmental health.

UMass Chan is continuing to implement climate-conscious changes on several fronts. As part of the larger UMass system, a university-wide sustainability policy was issued in 2017 and approved by the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, which sets a goal of achieving net neutrality by 2050. Since UMass Chan Medical School operates autonomously from the other UMass campuses, the medical school also devised its own 5-year Sustainability and Climate Action Plan in 2021, which established interim goals around sustainability programming and carbon reduction.

UMass Chan is currently undertaking a decarbonization study looking at the options and feasibility of reducing on-site fossil fuel consumption at our 17.5 MW co-generation plant which serves both the Medical School and our clinical partner UMass Memorial Medical Center. Additionally, the new education and research building constructed on campus includes a 75 borehole geothermal system, which will help cut the building's emissions by 55%.

In 2019, students at UMass Chan started a community garden with four raised beds growing herbs and vegetables. The garden will be expanding this year to include fruiting plants as well, with opportunities for additional expansion in the future. Apart from the garden, UMass Chan is exploring unused space on medical school grounds that could be turned into pollinator habitats, where appropriate, with plans to become a certified pollinator campus by 2024.

UMass Chan is home to three schools: T.H. Chan School of Medicine, Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Students and faculty across these schools are working to enhance their respective curricula to emphasize the intersection of climate change, medicine, public health, and public policy by integrating these topics into lectures, small groups, cases, assignments, and electives. UMass Chan also has a rigorous Population and Health Sciences research

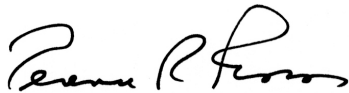
program and aims to recruit climate-health researchers to increase its contribution to scientific knowledge, human health, and public policy related to the health impacts of climate change and sustainable healthcare systems.

To monitor progress, UMass Chan tracks and reports its greenhouse gas emissions to the state of Massachusetts and the UMass Board of Trustees. The institution also continues to self-report its sustainability efforts using the AASHE Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), which is made publicly available. In addition, students at UMass Chan are publishing annual Planetary Health report cards to grade the medical school in terms of climate-health curriculum, health and environment research, and campus sustainability among other metrics. UMass Chan uses this collective data and benchmarking to assess current progress and make appropriate improvements to attain our short- and long-term sustainability and decarbonization goals.

UMass Chan acknowledges the critical need for climate action to protect human health, well-being, and equity and is committed to centering these needs through the National Academy of Medicine's Climate Collaborative.

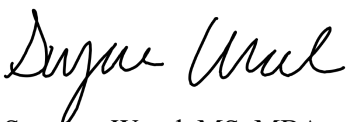
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence R Flotte".

Terence R Flotte, MD
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Wood".

Suzanne Wood, MS, MBA
Associate Director, Sustainability & Campus Services