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Central College signs Campus Climate Commitment

PELLA — Central College President David Roe signed the American Colleges and University Presidents' Campus Climate Commitment last week. Central committed to sharply reducing and eventually eliminating all the college's global warming emissions and accelerating the research and educational efforts to help society re-stabilize the earth's climate.

“Central College is striving to be a leader and role model in the environmental movement because it is consistent with our mission and our stewardship charge,” said Roe. “As a higher education institution, we need to raise awareness about the difficult problems our world is facing. It is our responsibility to address these issues for not only the future of Central College, but for the future of our world.”

Central joins over 350 academic institutions, including five from Iowa (Coe College, Cornell College, Drake University, Iowa Lakes Community College and Luther College), in taking the pledge to work to reduce the earth's greenhouse gas footprint.

Central's green efforts

Central is expanding its green efforts and hopes to add a platinum rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for the new education and psychology building, which breaks ground in March. The building will be the third on campus with LEED ratings. The other two include the Vermeer Science Center, the first LEED-rated building in Iowa, which received a silver rating and 1203 Independence residence hall, which earned a gold rating. Central College currently is the only place in Iowa with two LEED-certified buildings.

Last year, the college purchased two Toyota Priuses and converted a 1989 Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck into an electric vehicle for use within its service fleet to go with the Honda Accord hybrid Roe uses as the president's car.

In January, Roe signed the Talloires Declaration, an action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities.

Under the guidance and direction of the Leadership Circle of presidents, the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment is being supported and implemented by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Second Nature and ecoAmerica.