



**Public Comment
February 17, 2023**

1. Justin Chan-Wen Chiu, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Ten years ago, in early 2010, Penn State was ranked near 40th on the U.S. News system. Within not even ten years, we went from 37th to 63th. This year we are at 77th. The trend of dropping spots every year could result from the methodology changes by U.S. News Report. It could also be that the U.S. News takes data from IPEDS, and IPEDS asks Penn State to report the data as a single institution, whereas our peer universities get to report the data of each campus separately. No matter what the real reasons are, we really need to stop this momentum of the dropping in the ranking. We must try to negotiate with IPEDS to get to report the data of each campus separately, and try to improve those indicators that US News looks at (Ex: Pell Grant, Retention rate, Social Mobility...), and argue with U.S. News to make them stop looking at PSU as a whole single institution.

Moreover, the tuition is a huge problem that drags us down. The goal of PSU as a land-grant university is to provide accessible education to PA residents. However, if the tuition is not affordable, can we still claim that our goal of having so many commonwealth campus is to make higher education accessible?

I agree ranking is not everything. However, a good ranking can open more chances for our current students and a bad ranking could hurt career opportunities for students. Potential employers would not know that the US news report consists of many criteria that are not related to academic & research performance. For them, they will only think PSU is not as good as before.

2. Taran Samarth, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Taran Samarth, and I am a Penn State undergraduate, longtime State College resident, and the child of two University employees.

I was heartened to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035. Penn State has a significant influence over the future of Centre County and the Commonwealth at large, and efforts to move towards carbon neutrality on our

campuses sets the tone for municipalities and the state to marshal their resources against the climate crisis and towards sustainability and resiliency.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals.

I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

3. Nora Van Horn, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

As a young alum who cares about the future of Pennsylvania and Penn State, I was so excited to see Dr. Bendapudi's acceptance of the carbon emissions reduction task force earlier this February. But I know Penn State can do more. I support changing Penn State's LTIP guidelines to incorporate environmental and social considerations. Taking this meaningful action to codify our commitments to sustainability and global well-being will set Penn State — already a nationally-recognized, powerful research institution — apart as an exceptional, ethical institution.

4. Victoria Christini, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Victoria Christini, PSU Civil Engineering graduate class of 2003. I live in New York, using my Civil Engineering degree on infrastructure projects. I visit State College frequently as my parents have retired to Happy Valley.

I was excited to see last week that President Bendapudi is supporting the recommendations of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035. That is an amazing goal on an actionable timeline. Our world yearly has record high temperatures, and large institutions and companies can make impactful changes to help this issue. I have children and I hope that the world will be cold enough that they will be able to play in the snow as they grow up.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in helping to care for our future. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

Thank you for your time - Victoria Christini

5. Natalie Parke, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Natalie Parke, and I am a '03 alumna who majored in Letters, Arts, and Sciences with an emphasis on social and environmental responsibility. My career has focused on the

"social" side of things--on global inequities which led me to my current role with the U.S. Agency for International Development. But my commitment to environmental responsibility remains top of mind. Penn State, and specifically, my experience as a student and teaching assistant for an environmental science course was truly formative in developing my passion for environmental sustainability.

I was thrilled to see that President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035. I love the idea that beyond the classroom, Penn State, as an institution, can serve as a leader and a model on environmental action for students, for Pennsylvania, and for the nation.

I strongly encourage the Board to vote to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations. Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Natalie Parke

6. Jessica Gentile, alumni
Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,
My name is Jessica Handlos Gentile. I am an attorney and proud Penn State alum!

I was heartened last week to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

Climate action is so important not just from a moral perspective but an economic one as well. Climate related weather disasters cost individuals, companies, and governments billions every year.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

Best regards,
Jessica

7. Krista Bailey, Staff
Submitted written comment.

Last week's news regarding President Bendapudi's support for the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035 is an important step forward for the university. Climate change is already impacting our environment, and therefore our health, as well as our economy. Penn State needs to lead with a strong response and to support the education of each of its students about how to act responsibly.

An important and responsible first step the Board of Trustees can take is to add environmental and social considerations for managing the long-term investment policy (LTIP). This is an exciting moment for Penn State to institutionalize taking environmental considerations into account when managing its investments. It opens up opportunities to invest in the protection of the environment, our health, and in a prosperous future for all.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important climate action goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

One of the main reasons I work at the university and live in central PA is because of the investment in and support for sustainability across operations, academics, as well as purchasing and policy. Continue to lead by passing this resolution and may it be the first of many actions and investments of this kind.

8. Richard Jones, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

I am a Penn State alumnus (Class of 1970) and a former member of the College of Communications Board of Visitors.

I am encouraged that President Bendapudi will support implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035. As a member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, I have become aware of both the problem of continuing fossil fuel use and the solution to that problem, which is political will.

The Board of Trustees should do its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching the CERT's important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Jones

9. Zane Burris, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Zane Burris, and I am an undergrad student at Penn State.

I was heartened last week to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

Penn State is a world leader, largely due to the work done here to solve global problems. No global problem is more serious than climate change. It is crucial for Penn State to take a bold and influential step towards carbon neutrality, which the Board can do with this vote.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

10. Olivia DiPrinzio, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Penn State Trustees,

My name is Olivia DiPrinzio, and I am current junior in Schreyer studying both Earth Science Policy and Energy Engineering at University Park.

I was encouraged last week to see that President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

Climate change is one of the greatest problems that we, as a society, are currently facing. As a result, I have committed my life's work to address and prevent the continuation of climate change and it's impact, especially in regard to those that are disproportionately and unfairly affected. As one of the top four carbon emission polluters in the United States, Pennsylvania plays a large role in preventing the United States from growing closer to our committed emission reduction rate. Since Penn State has such a prominent place in Pennsylvania's history, the decision for Penn State to move forward with carbon neutrality plans for 2035 would not only represent Pennsylvania's commitment to supporting the United State's reduction goal, but also would act as a beacon of inspiration for other universities and alumni.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

11. Kathryn Pollard, Previous Staff (Outreach); Spouse of Emeritus

Submitted written comment.

I am Kathryn Pollard, a resident of State College for 25 years, previous staff in Outreach, and spouse of a PSU research scientist emeritus. I do research and writing on climate, health, and lifestyle, and very concerned about the single biggest threat of our time: climate change.

I was heartened last week to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon-neutral school by 2035.

We have run out of time and must act on a policy-wide level now, to limit the most severe consequences of global warming. I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations. Thank you for allowing public comment.

12. Randolph Hudson, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

I'm Randy Hudson, Arts and Architecture 1974, Bachelor of Architecture. My father, George Hudson, was Professor of Counselor Education at Penn State. My son, Ryan Hudson MD, is a Penn State graduate.

My thanks to President Bendapudi's support of the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

In 2002 I completed construction of the first "green" public school in Pennsylvania, one of the first LEED schools in the US. At the time, it seemed to be part of a wave that was going to transform the US into a world leader in clean energy and sustainability. Sadly, we've fallen far behind. Now Penn State and the rest of us face an "all hands on deck" climate emergency. The Trustees can still help this great research university lead on the most important issue of our time.

Please support President and the university in addressing the climate emergency. I speak as an architect, a business owner, a father and a grandfather. If the Board votes to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations it will be both an important step, and a signal that our university is ready to join in an even more serious way to address a still uncertain future.

Randolph Hudson

13. Grace Oram, Community Member

Submitted written comment.

My name is Grace and I grew up here in the State College Community, graduating from Park Forest Middle School. I come from a long line of Penn Staters and my mom currently works for the University.

I was heartened last week to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

I strongly believe that climate action is essential for the environmental and economic future of our country.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental consideration.

14. Elise Wang, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Elise Wang, and I am a first-year student at Penn State's University Park campus. I was raised a proud Penn Stater.

I'm excited about President Bendapudi's support of the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

For the longevity of ours, and our children's generations, climate action is important to me. We have ruthlessly degraded our natural world in our short time on this Earth; however, we should feel indebted to the planet that has provided us with our lives.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

15. Roy Christini, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Roy Christini, and I am a three time Penn State graduate, B.S. 1972, M.S. 1974 and PhD 1977. I am a retired metallurgist, currently living in State College.

I heard recently that President Bendapudi has supported a position to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035. I personally believe that carbon neutrality will only be attained through many small steps. There is no big solution to the problem that can or will be implemented by everyone or every company or organization. Penn State could make an important statement by implementing a plan to get to carbon neutrality that everyone can understand and buy into.

I have read the change that has been proposed that "PSIC may take social and environmental considerations into account". I would suggest that the wording be slightly stronger "PSIC will take social and environmental considerations into account." If we hope to get to carbon neutrality, changes have to start now.

Roy Christini

16. Elsie Hanson, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Elsie Hanson, and I am Penn State alumni, class of 1979.

I was heartened last week to see President Bendapudi will be supporting the implementation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce's recommendations to make Penn State a carbon neutral school by 2035.

There is much research and innovation needed to achieve this carbon neutral goal. Penn State can lead the way in this area. I hope sound science can bring the university to an effective, economical, and clean energy policy.

I hope that the Board does its part in supporting the president and the university in reaching these important goals. I strongly encourage the Board to show its support this week by voting to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

Sincerely,

Elsie Hanson

17. Lauren Smith, Alumni

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Lauren Smith, and I graduated from Penn State in 2022 with degrees in Statistics and Global and International Studies, with minors in Mathematics, Economics, and Environmental and Renewable Resource Economics. I currently work in both supply chain and sustainability for a large company and reside near Philadelphia.

I'm passionate about climate change solutions, and I had the privilege of formerly serving as the Deputy Director for the Department of Sustainability. Penn State has the resources to be a leader in climate action. It's important to continue to make improvements — this is an incredible opportunity to cement us as a climate leader in both in the Big Ten and in the United States.

It was exciting to see that President Bendapudi supports making Penn State carbon neutral by 2035, a recommendation of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Task force.

I'd highly encourage you all to use this as an opportunity to solidify Penn State as a climate leader, and I'd encourage you all to vote to change the LTIP policy to incorporate environmental considerations.

18. Lara Fowler, Interim Chief Sustainability Officer; Interim Director, Sustainability Institute; Professor of Teaching, Penn State Law
Submitted written comment.

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

Thank you for Penn State's action in moving forward on taking climate action (<https://www.psu.edu/news/administration/story/president-bendapudi-addresses-climate-action/>).

As the interim Chief Sustainability Officer for Penn State, I am talking with students, faculty, staff, and community members daily and hearing their concerns and questions about the impact of climate change. The excitement about this announcement is significant. The potential for Penn State to take the lead in addressing our greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts while finding ways to implement innovative solutions is important-- from an operations, educational, research, outreach, and leadership potential.

This also links to the proposed board action for the Investment Council to consider both environmental and social factors-- which they are already doing-- when making investments. Long term solutions for sustainability depend on all of the above.

I welcome any questions you might have.

Yours truly,
Lara Fowler