

Where/When is the rally?

The Rally to End Fossil Fuels will take place on the Student Union lawn from 12:30-2:00 on Tuesday, November 14th. Speakers will begin promptly at 12:30pm. Please arrive early if you would like to get a free shirt, make a sign or discuss ways to get involved with climate organizing at UConn!

What are the goals of the rally?

Students are demanding that the UConn Administration release a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) that would outline a roadmap to reach zero carbon by 2040. This plan was promised to be released over six months ago. Students have since learned that there has been no real action to reach zero carbon at UConn. FFFU organized this rally, specifically, in response to the November 2nd Sustainability Town Hall after which many students who attended, including members of FFFU, felt frustrated and disappointed by the lack of new information. This rally is not an attack on the university or an effort to target the members of the UConn administration. This rally is about the UConn community coming together to voice our support for the timely release of an SAP; we are calling on leaders to make the changes we know they can and must enact to preserve the earth.

What is zero carbon and why does it matter?

Decarbonization refers to the reduction or elimination of the production of carbon emissions from various sources of activity. Net-zero means that total carbon emissions are balanced by the removal of carbon from the atmosphere through measures like reforestation and carbon capture technologies. Zero-carbon means that there are no carbon emissions at all; fossil fuels are not burned in the first place. Net-zero removal strategies often fall short or overestimate the removal of carbon from the atmosphere. Further, carbon capture technologies are largely unproven; thus, they should not play a central role in a long-term carbon neutrality plan. Ending the burning of fossil fuels directly - attaining zero carbon - is the only sure pathway to reducing UConn's contributions to the climate crisis.

Why is it important that we rally?

On 10/25/23 several students and members of the Fossil Fuel Free UConn coalition marched to the Board of Trustees meeting to demand climate action at UConn. We as students outlined our three demands: decarbonization, divestment and disclosure.

At the meeting the Board of Trustees unanimously passed a statement of support in support of sustainability initiatives at UConn reading: "The University's dual focus is both inward facing and outward looking; internally the Carbon Reduction Working Group, previous related efforts, and

administrative units within the institution are working together to ensure UConn achieves carbon neutrality on its campuses by 2030, with the ultimate goal of being zero carbon by 2040.”

While the support of the Board of Trustees is a necessary next step in moving the university forward in their plans to reach zero carbon by 2040, it is vital that concrete action members of the board still stressed the need for real concrete action.

Since the Board’s support, University Administration now faces no institutional roadblocks in implementing a sustainability action plan which will outline the roadmap to reach zero carbon by 2040.

On 11/2/23 President Radenka Maric hosted a town hall on sustainability and climate change. Many students and faculty attended this event to ask questions to the President about plans to decarbonize the university. However, due to unexpectedly long presentations by the panelists, the president left before fielding any questions from the audience including many FFFU members who sought to ask when students could expect the release of a Sustainability Action Plan. Attendees were not permitted to ask questions until 5:55pm - only five minutes before the event was scheduled to end.

It was evident through the disorganized nature of the event and the lack of clarity in response to direct questions about the Sustainable Action Plan, that there was no sense of urgency or cohesion internally among administration. It is important that students mobilize to hold the university accountable for their lack of action.

Is it safe to rally on Tuesday?

Yes! The Rally to End Fossil Fuels will be a safe place for all students to gather. The Rally is sanctioned by the university and poses no risk to individual students who wish to attend. There will be staff and FFFU members circulating the rally to monitor for safety. If, for any reason, you feel unsafe or overstimulated, please feel free to reach out to the security personnel or the students posted at the informational tables.

Can I get involved in the organizations that are holding this rally?

Of course! At the rally, we will have several tables around the perimeter of the crowd with [FFFU](#), [EcoHusky](#), [Ecoposium](#), [Environmental Justice Front](#), and [USG](#) members who can answer your questions about their organizations, the goals of the rally, and ways students may get involved in climate activism on campus.

What is Fossil Fuel Free UConn (FFFU)?

Established in 2022, Fossil Fuel Free UConn (FFFU) is a coalition of students, campus organizations, faculty, and alumni committed to ending UConn's connections to fossil fuels in every capacity. FFFU represents the UConn community's interests in preventing the climate crisis by fighting for environmental & racial justice and making our university a part of the climate solution. FFFU's core demands to the university include full decarbonization by 2040, complete divestment of the endowment from fossil fuel corporations, and disclosure of a comprehensive plan to achieve these goals. We believe it is essential that, as a community, we campaign, protest, educate, and collaborate to pressure the UConn administration to take concrete action in fulfilling UConn's environmental responsibilities as a large, public university. Students and faculty have a right to be aware of their university's contributions to the climate crisis and to be involved in the university's efforts to decarbonize and divest.

How Can I Learn More?

If you would like to receive the latest updates on the Rally to End Fossil Fuels, FFFU's actions, and other important environmentally-focused news at UConn, we would encourage you to check out the following resources, or attend one of FFFU's weekly Friday meetings in the Student Union at 4:00 in person or via [WebEx](#).

- ❖ [FFFU Email](#)
- ❖ [FFFU Instagram](#)
- ❖ [FFFU GroupMe](#)
- ❖ [FFFU Interest Form](#)