

Memorandum

To: Muriel Poston, Bob Turner, David Karp, David Vella, Mike West, Beau Breslin, Kim Marsella  
From: Sue Van Hook  
Date: August 30, 2007  
RE: Engaging the Skidmore Community in Focus the Nation

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From the FtN website: [www.focusthenation.org](http://www.focusthenation.org):

Focus the Nation is coordinating teams of faculty and students at over a thousand colleges, universities and K-12 schools in the United States, to collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion about “**Global Warming Solutions for America**”. Focus the Nation will culminate January 31, 2008, in the form of national symposia held simultaneously at over a thousand campuses, places of worship, businesses, and other venues across the country. On that day, each Focus the Nation team will invite speakers, state and federal political leaders and candidates for office to address their campus and participate on their top five national priorities for global warming action, producing a campus-endorsed policy agenda for the 2008 elections.

From Skidmore’s Focus the Nation committee:

~~Goal 3 of Skidmore’s Strategic Plan: In Good, Responsible Citizenship (Prof)~~ Why we have committed to

We are planning events for January 31, 2008. We also realize a one day discussion is not enough to reach everyone on our campus. We see this as a year-long effort that includes many different activities. The committee has put forth **4 goals**:

speaker, Jeff Goodell, author of Big Coal, Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand,  
(faculty)

3 Institutional Action Skidmore College will make an institutional change that reduces our carbon missions. (Publicizing geothermal, bus route subsidies, new initiatives?)

4 Educational- students will develop an appreciation of how to achieve societal change .

To accomplish these goals we have decided to focus on three themes: Recycling, Energy Use, and Our Food Supply.

Part of our commitment involves developing model legislation and voting on top 5 national priorities to address climate change. We are asking you to become involved. There will be a meeting for all interested in mid-September. Please stay tuned or speak to one of the committee members.