



For immediate release

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THE HARVARD COLLEGE DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF CCAP; GREENHOUSE REFERENDUM.

The Harvard College Democrats announced Sunday their co-sponsorship of both the Course Cost Assistance Program (CCAP), a project of Students Taking on Poverty (STOP) endorsed by the Undergraduate Council, and the Environmental Action Committee's (EAC) student ballot initiative to reduce the Faculty of Arts and Sciences' (FAS) greenhouse gas emissions by 11% of their 1990 levels by 2020.

The CCAP initiative asks Harvard College to address the issue of escalating book costs, which disproportionately hit those receiving financial aid. Although the Harvard Financial Aid Initiative has gone to great lengths to encourage families of diverse economic backgrounds to send their sons and daughters to Harvard, it has not yet addressed the steep cost of course materials—a cost which can add up to more than \$500 each semester for many students. The Dems believe that the College has a stake in ensuring that its lowest-income students have the same opportunity and access to course materials that all other students are privy to.

The EAC's greenhouse gas referendum, which will appear on the Undergraduate Council's presidential ballot in December, calls on FAS to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 11% below their 1990 levels by 2020. Harvard contributes over 100,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions each year to the atmosphere. The Democrats believe that one of the College's priorities ought to be the demonstration of strong environmental leadership, and that it is only by a visible public stance that Harvard can lead by example and encourage others to commit to reducing their own emissions. The Dems also applaud the 11% reduction, which would surpass last year's commitment by Yale University to reduce their emissions by 10%. The Dems encourage their members to support the referendum when voting in the upcoming election.

"The Dems hope to work collaboratively with STOP and the EAC to recommend change to the Harvard administration, whether advocating for lower unnecessary costs or unnecessary emissions," said Jillian K. Swencionis '08, the Dems' Political Director. "It's just the beginning of strong partnerships between the Dems and other progressive campaigns at Harvard."

The Harvard College Democrats are the largest partisan political organization at Harvard University. With extensive campaign efforts, numerous events every week, the Dem Apples blog, and over three hundred active members, the Harvard College Democrats are a powerful and expanding group of undergraduates. For more, visit www.harvarddems.com.

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