temperature-control systems more efficient and trimming energy use during off-peak hours (for instance, by programming lights and computers to turn off when no one is around).

To meet the 2016 goal, Harvard should earmark $10 million to $20 million a year for energy offsets and conservation measures, according to the task force report (see www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2008/07.24/pdfs/GHG_TF_finalreport.pdf). And Vautin is “quite certain” that the University will need to increase its technical staff in this area, either within central administration, at certain schools, or under the auspices of the Harvard Green Campus Initiative (www.greencampus.harvard.edu), which he co-chairs.

Other schools have made similar commitments. Notably, Yale announced in 2005 that it would aim to cut emissions to 10 percent below its 1990 level—or 43 percent below the 2005 level—by 2020. Yale started with emissions nearly as high as Harvard’s, even though Harvard has 20,000 students to Yale’s 12,000, but Harvard’s calculations do not include hospitals (the University does not own any), whereas Yale-New Haven Hospital factors into that university’s calculation. In a new Princeton Review ranking of colleges on “green” criteria, both schools made the 11-member “honor roll.”

Analysis and goal-setting thus far have focused on so-called Scope 1 and 2 emissions: respectively, emissions Harvard produces directly (for instance, from a University-owned truck or power plant) and emissions produced indirectly as a result of energy Harvard purchases (for instance, by an electricity supplier). Not included in the present calculations are Scope 3 emissions—mainly those generated during business travel and employees’ commutes to work.

Faust called the current target “an initial short-term goal” and said the University would set new goals on a rolling basis, with annual assessments and more intensive four-year reviews: “We live in a context in which energy costs, available technologies, regulatory requirements, and broader economic realities are shifting so rapidly that predicting the future is difficult and establishing fixed goals becomes challenging.”