

Constitution

Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

Section 1: Name: Water and Climate Collective

Section 2 - Purpose: Water and Climate Collective provides a space for a wide range of students interested in examining water and climate issues to interact with like-minded peers from across the university and engage in educational outreach, volunteer opportunities, and networking events. We look to close the gap between professionals at Ohio State at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, the Global Water Institute, and other environmental related organizations seeking necessary opportunities for students to excel. Additionally, we look to get involved with our local and national community to apply our knowledge and work towards a sustainable future. The target membership includes any Ohio State student and not excluding any non-undergraduate students.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy: The Water and Climate Collective does not stand for discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, appearance, age, disability, marital status, military status, HIV/AIDS status, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, religion, veteran status, autoimmune disease, or any other basis for its operations and activities.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Water and Climate Collective expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>.

If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

II.a. Water and Climate Collective's voting membership is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Other non-student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., may become members, but only as non-voting associate or honorary members. As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio State University students.

II.b. Active members and Executive Committee are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

II.c. Water and Collective Collective will accept non-Ohio State students based on a situational basis. Other non-student members, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., may become members, but only as non-voting associate or honorary members.

Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers

III.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of Water and Climate Collective, violates Water and Climate Collective's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member has the right to be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the Water and Climate Collective's advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal

includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. If an executive office removal occurs during the first semester of the term (Autumn), there will be a special election to determine the new chosen candidate for the position. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

III.c. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

Article IV - Organization Leadership: President, Secondary Leader(s), Treasurer, Media Coordinator(s), terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.

IV.a. Organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization's voting membership. The following are the titles of organization leaders, the length of terms, specification as to which leaders are elected or appointed and by whom, and the general duties of each leadership position,

Primary Leader (President): The Primary Leader, or president, serves their term for two semesters (Autumn and Spring). They are able to be elected for a second term, but not able to serve a third term. The Primary Leader conducts the main responsibilities of the club such as: leading the general body meetings, finding organizational activities for the club, updating the Executive Committee on important information, networking opportunities for members of club (i.e. professors as speakers), completing and updating all the requirements for the annual Water and Climate organization status, and coordinating the election process towards the end of their term. The Primary Leader is in contact with the advisor, giving updates on the progress of the club and any concerns. The Primary Leader holds the main position of the club, but can have help from the Secondary Leader, Executive Committee, and general body as needed.

Secondary Leader(s): Secondary Leader(s) serve aid to the President, serving their term for two semesters (Autumn and Spring). They are not able to be elected for a second term, but are able to be elected as a Primary Leader for the next term. The Secondary Leader's main task is to coordinate the Executive Committee meetings as needed and coordinate communication between the Primary Leader and other Organization Leadership as well as the general body. They help with the duties of the Primary Leader such as finding networking opportunities, finding speakers, and any small duties that the primary leader may need assistance with. The Secondary Leader does not hold the same weight as being a Primary Leader, but conducts similar and useful tasks as needed to help the progress of the club.

Treasurer: The Treasurer keeps track of any expenses and coordinates methods to raise funds if necessary. Before accepting the position, the Treasurer must recognize their requirement to complete the registration requirements for Water and Climate Collective such as the annual training requirements. The Treasurer keeps the Primary Leader updated on any concerns and financial expenses. The Treasurer is in charge of any fundraiser, crowdfunding, and applications for funding from Ohio State.

Media Coordinator(s): The media coordinator is responsible for any social media work related to Water and Climate Collective. They will post on Instagram stories, posts, interact with other organizations on the Instagram account, and look for potential opportunities based on the following on Instagram. They are also able to look for new opportunities to recruit on social media, and can raise ideas for new social media accounts to the Executive Committee.

Advisor: The advisor provides assistance for all organization leadership, but mainly the Primary Leader. They

are in contact with the Primary Leader in monthly meetings to coordinate updates, and will provide any resources necessary for the functioning of the club. The advisor will aid in consultation if any issues arise, such as the removal or impeachment of a member holding a leadership position.

IV.b. All members of the organization leadership positions must pursue their tasks effectively and responsibly be in contact with the other members and the Primary Leader. If any issue presents itself, members should refer to *Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers*.

Article V- Election / Selection of Organization Leadership

V.a. Elections are determined by the Water and Climate Collective general body, and must be a current member during the time of the election. Nominations are based on general interest from a general body member, or can nominate a member. If nominated, the member can either accept or not accept the nomination. The ballots can be electronic, typically using Google Forms, or can be physical using paper. To ensure a fair election process, a current organization leader who is not running for the next term will count the ballots. The final positions will be notified by a maximum of two weeks after elections have been conducted, and chosen candidates have the opportunity to accept or not accept the position before commitment of the role. The time of the election will be the month before the Spring semester ends, but the process will start as early as two months before; thus, the election will be in March, but the process will start in January.

V.b. Should a member holding a leadership position violate the constitution, by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws, they may be deemed to resign or impeach. Any issues seen by Executive Committee members, Organization Leadership members, or general body members should be presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will decide on a general vote if said member should be removed, and will go through a special process of replacing the member. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor. The second chosen candidate will first be contacted to see if they are interested in the position; if not, a special election will be held for the most appropriate candidate.

Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.

VI. The Executive Committee is made up of the Primary Leader/President, Secondary Leader(s), Treasurer, and Media Coordinator(s), and can include the ex-official positions. The Executive Committee will represent the general membership, conduct business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and report its actions to the other members in the Water and Climate leadership positions.

Article VII - Standing Committees

VII. At this time, there is not a need for a Standing Committee for Water and Climate Collective. However, should there be an instance to create a standing committee, the current Executive Committee shall create the Standing Committee including the names of roles, purpose, and composition. These committees serve the organization leadership, the Executive Committee, and general membership. Standing committees are permanent and designed to carry out the basic functions of the organization. Chairpersons can be part of this committee and are appointed by the organization leadership.

Article VIII – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.

VIII. The advisor(s) of Water and Climate Collective must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. From its creation, the original advisors have been from Byrd Polar and

Climate Research Center and will continue to do so, unless a situation presents itself to change this. If the advisor is not a member of the above classifications, a co-advisor must be chosen who is a member of these University classifications.

Article IX – Meetings and events of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

IX. Water and Climate Collective is open admission for anyone to attend; however starting Autumn 2025, at least one general body meeting every other month per each academic term is necessary for official membership of the club.

Article X – Attendees of Events of the Organization: Required events and their frequency.

X.a. Water and Climate Collective reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with Water and Climate Collective's constitution, the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law. In the case this occurs, the Executive Committee will discuss and vote if said member should be removed from Water and Climate Collective. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

X.b. Should there be a special instance of assisting a disruptive and/or distressed individual, members should refer to the additional information and resources on assisting disruptive or distressed individuals can be found at: oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/911handout.pdf.

Article XI – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

XI. Any proposed amendments of the constitution should be presented to the Water and Climate Collective and the Executive Committee in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. An amendment should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

Article XII – Method of Dissolution of Organization

XII.a. Upon the instance of an official dissolution of Water and Climate Collective, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove the organization information from the website. Should any organization assets and debts exist, appropriate means for disposing of these assets and debts should be specified clearly and unequivocally.

XII.b. Water and Climate Collective reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution.