

STL-HESC Spring Workshop 2020 – Creating Climate Action Plans

Link to full presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MDZfJSRYdhz_Bv7u7NwwwKf30puWll6f5UCZxkZs5a4/edit#slide=id.g7f0c4d7c77_0_233

Presentation from Steve Muzzy at Second Nature

<https://secondnature.org/team/stephen-muzzy/>

Climate Leadership Summit

UC3 (University Climate Change Coalition) – set the ground for that.

Accelerate climate action in and through higher ed:

- **in** is Climate commitment
- and **through** is UC3.

Climate leadership commitments: carbon commitment (carbon neutrality) / resilience commitment (deal with climate change and work with vulnerable communities) / climate commitment (combination of both).

Shared elements of commitments: integration of climate action into curriculum, expand research efforts, public reporting, and creating and revising a climate action plan.

Dues: contingent on institution type (size, budget).

https://secondnature.org/commitment_dues/

Started in 2006, 900 signatories, 440 active participating signatories (mainly carbon reduction, a small amount of resilience, and good amount of climate).

You can be delisted by not participating or not paying your dues, or also some schools close. NO signatory in the state of MO.

<https://secondnature.org/signatory-handbook/the-commitments/>

UC3: grew out of UC system. Includes Canadian and Mexican research universities. WashU is part of it. About 30-50 universities in it. UC3 was carrying the “We Are Still In” commitment. Coalition to participate in the COPs.

Public community forums must be held by each participant to gain traction among other sectors and other research and education institutions.

<https://secondnature.org/initiative/uc3-coalition/>

Climate Action Plans

Below are the key features of a climate action plan.

Key features:

- Executive summary: why the university is making a commitment and other background info.
- Implementation structure: describes the coalition of campus reps and details each roles and responsibility in developing climate action plans.

- GHG (Green House Gas) emissions profile: track GHG annually from sources under 3 scopes (building energy use, purchased electricity, commuting). Show breakdown of emission trajectory of each source and baseline.
- Educational, research, and community outreach efforts
- Tracking progress, assessment and adjustment. The climate plans must be assessed and reviewed every 5 years.

Other things to consider:

- Integration in institution's strategic plan, capital campaign, energy master plan, etc.
- Carbon offsets: how does the institution wants to engage with that (not required)
- Partnerships: local, regional and global that support your commitment goal.

Climate Action resources:

Through both reporting platform you can access all CAP (climate action plans) – non-signatories like us can still access this info but a bit more difficult.

Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit

Carbon neutral signatories: small liberal arts colleges mainly, including: Colby College, Middlebury College (VT), Colgate, Colorado college...

Colgate: long standing sustainability director; land use GHG accounting; sustainability is in ALL job descriptions; working groups co facilitated by Second Nature;

Colorado College: strong trustee and president engagement, as well as faculty and student, and long standing sustainability director. Focus on anti-racism and social justice.

Allengheny College: presidential transition upheld commitment (always carbon commitment was part of the questions when hiring new president and leadership!!). Huge commitment despite the fact that the endowment isn't big and that there are budget crunches and staff and student decrease. Ready to sign

Disckinson College also committed to purchasing RE!

SiMap: sustainability info management analysis platform. Carbon campus calculator but additional features have been added over the years.

<https://unhsimap.org/home>

Reduction drivers:

- Cleaner grids
- Natural gas use has increased
- Coal combustion and oil combustion has decrease

More resources:

Solution Center: help campuses review more quickly the solutions available and help build presentations for decision makers. Goal to accelerate decision-making and facilitate work of sustainability staff to make the case to leadership.

8 actions and for each, you have a tab of impacts (savings, difficulty, time to implement, etc). This is publicly available.

<https://secondnature.org/solutions-center/>

Climate solutions acceleration fund: grant available to UC3 members.

QUESTIONS:

Scope 3 advice:

- University who presented at AASHE and did inventory of commuting emissions.
- UC has a scope 3 goal by 2050.
- Time better spent on scope 1 and 2 because can impact that more than employee's commutes.
- Galvanize partnership and cross sector to improve transportation in the region.
- Transportation climate initiative
- Cap and trade program around transportation.
- Scope 3 would probably be the biggest source of emission if we had a good way to report it (supply chain, commute, etc).

Connection between general sustainability plans and climate action plans:

It naturally happens and usually carbon action plan is part of sustainability plan (like WashU)

Predict the future (will carbon reporting be eventually wrapped in AASHE...?):

Ongoing talks among supporting orgs about this. Second Nature is international and also cares about independent and private boarding schools.

The impact of the pandemic may unlock some potential for school to do more online learning...

How to engage stakeholders in current situation?

Embodied carbon is increasingly becoming part of the conversation.