

President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality

Commission Meeting #24 5/22

22 May 2020 /2:00 PM/ Remote Meeting

ATTENDEES

Liz Barry, Andy Berki, Valeria Bertacco, Steve Forrest, Austin Glass, Jennifer Haverkamp, Brandon Hofmeister, Drew Horning, Greg Keoleian, Larissa Larsen, Jonathan Overpeck, Barry Rabe, Camilo Serna, Anna Stefanopoulou, Missy Stults, Logan Vear, Lisa Wozniak,

Regrets:

Hank Baier, Anthony Denton.

NOTES

UPDATES

PCCN Spring Interim Progress Report

The Commission plans to release its spring interim progress report in early June 2020.

Upcoming Meetings

The Commission will meet next on June 5, 2020 to hear from the building standards internal analysis team and the external collaboration internal analysis team. On June 26, 2020, the Commission will hear from Integral Group, the external firm performing the heat and power infrastructure analysis for all three U-M campuses.

MOBILITY ELECTRIFICATION SUBGROUP Q&A SESSION

During the May 22 meeting, the Commission met with the mobility electrification subgroup. The Commission was provided the group's draft final report as a pre read to the session. During the session, the group had 10 minutes to present a broad overview of their work, followed by a 40-minute question and answer session.

Mobility Electrification Subgroup

Commissioner Group Lead:

Anna Stefanopoulou

Analysis Staff:

The subgroup's analysis team was staffed by graduate student Juan-Jie Sun, undergraduates Kamryn Hayes and Preston VanAlstine, Research Professor and UMEI Associate Director John DeCicco and Jason Siegel of U-M Mechanical Engineering.

Introduction

The mobility electrification sub group was charged with looking into strategies to transition the U-M fleet and campus commuters to electric buses and vehicles. The group focused on the following areas:

- 1) Pursuing the transition to an electric (e) BlueBus Fleet;
- 2) Expanding workplace charging infrastructure;
- 3) Implementing an EV educational campaign; and
- 4) Pursuing more in-depth analysis of mobility electrification options.

Given the internal deliberative nature of the session, the discussion of the Mobility Electrification group's proposed recommendations will not be summarized here, as was the case with the sessions with the IATs. More information regarding the subgroup's work is available in the PCCN's Interim Report [here](#).

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Following the discussion with the mobility electrification subgroup, the Commission heard from the environmental justice subgroup, led by commissioner Larissa Larsen.

Larsen provided the Commission with a brief level-setting session on environmental and climate justice, and outlined some of her group's findings from this past year, including, but not limited to:

- A broad overview of climate justice movements such as the Sunrise Movement and Green New Deal;
- Benchmarking of 31 peer institutions, states, nations and localities;
- Climate justice versus environmental justice definitions and considerations; and
- Climate mitigation versus adaptation definitions and considerations.

The level-setting session included discussion of some preliminary guidelines for selecting PCCN strategies as the Commission moves forward into their deliberation phase. One possible consideration would be the bounding the PCCN's efforts and justice impacts by using either administrative boundaries such as states, cities or counties, or environmental boundaries such as watersheds. Bounding the PCCN's efforts would enable U-M to assess the impacts of its work at a smaller and local scale, rather than globally, although there will likely be impact at both scales. At the same time, a geographic boundary could pose challenges because of U-M's global reach. Another consideration for the PCCN is whether and how a public institution like U-M might approach justice issues differently than other enterprises, given that U-M itself is a public good funded through taxpayer dollars.

Commissioners also considered ways to engage U-M Dearborn and U-M Flint's challenges and questions across the PCCN's recommendations. The Flint and Dearborn campuses pose an opportunity to create diverse solutions transferable to a wider array of peer institutions and organizations. Commissioners emphasized that through the work, a priority of carbon neutrality at U-M should be to shrink inequities wherever possible. As a next step, the Commission intends to engage more U-M Flint and U-M Dearborn stakeholders as it works to include all three campuses in the PCCN's final recommendations.

The environmental justice sub group plans to take the feedback received from the Commission during this session and offer a few concrete principles to guide the PCCN's deliberations and final recommendations.