

# Commission Meeting #8 8/2

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2 August 2019 /1:30 PM/ NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, GRAHAM

## ATTENDEES

Hank Baier, Liz Barry, Andrew Berki, Anthony Denton, Austin Glass, Steve Forrest, Jennifer Haverkamp, Brandon Hofmeister, Drew Horning, Greg Keoleian, Camilo Serna, Logan Vear

Regrets: Larissa Larsen, Jonathan Overpeck, Barry Rabe, Missy Stults, Anna Stefanopoulou, Lisa Wozniak

## NOTES

Meeting began 1:33 pm

### Updates

#### Heat and Power Infrastructure Request for Proposal (RFP)

The UM Procurement office issued the Heat and Power Infrastructure RFP last week. It will be out for a month to allow firms to ask questions and submit bids. A commission subgroup will review the proposals and identify finalists to interview in September. The selected firm will likely begin work in October.

#### Internal Analysis Teams

Most of the faculty leads for the internal analysis teams have agreed to serve.

The first internal analysis team deliverable will be due August 18, and will contain information related to the scope of each team's work, desired student intern qualifications to aid in hiring, and recommendations on UM staff roles that will be key to the success of the team. A draft charter document has been created to guide and standardize the internal analysis team work. This document is currently going through revisions based on team feedback, and will be shared with the Commission members for comment. The student advisory panel will also be invited to comment. A final version of this document will be included in the PCCN fall interim report in October.

#### Michigan Medicine

A subset of the Commission recently met with SVP/COO Tony Denton and other members of the UM Health System team. While there, they learned about the health system's work with Practice Green Health, the health system's energy efficiency and waste reduction programs, and the health system's sustainability initiatives moving forward. It was an informative conversation that will help guide future Commission discussion.

### Fall Engagement and Communications

#### Engagement

The Commission is developing an engagement strategy and roadmap for the fall semester and into 2020. There was also discussion of developing a short informational video about the PCCN scope, composition, and each individual internal analysis team to quickly inform people who may not be able to participate in engagement events.

The Commission is working towards a joint event with the City of Ann Arbor that would optimally take place following the release of the fall interim report. There was emphasis on a community education event focused around how to practically achieve carbon neutrality (i.e., transportation, natural gas, electric grid, etc.). It was also mentioned that discussing the scope of the PCCN, in the context of UM being a key part of the City, could be a beneficial topic for the Commission on which to receive feedback.

There was a discussion on targeted engagement ideas. Some of those mentioned include:

- UM Flint and UM Dearborn
- UM alumni groups
- UM schools and colleges
- Internal analysis team engagements (e.g., commuting)
- Regional partners and players
- Different constituencies who don't normally engage in carbon neutrality discussions

#### Communications

The Office of Vice President for Communications is hiring into a new position focused on sustainability issues who will assist in communications for the PCCN. An early task for this individual will be to put together a communication plan for the PCCN.

### **Emission Scope Considerations**

The Commission discussed a range of options, unknowns and potential next steps regarding scope 1 and 2 emissions. Comparable discussions around Scope 3 emissions will occur after the internal analysis teams begin their activities.

#### Fossil-fuel powered equipment (non-transportation)

This category includes emissions from gasoline-powered maintenance equipment such as lawnmowers and leaf blowers, for which the University has data and which are included in the 2025 goal. Efforts are underway to transition this equipment to electric power when comparably performing substitutes are available. This category also includes compressed gases used in research labs, which are not included in the 2025 goal and need further investigation to quantify.

#### On-campus Fugitive Emissions

Efforts to assess the status and importance of fugitive methane emissions to the new power plant are underway. To accurately quantify these emissions, UM may need to rely on federal data to estimate emissions and/or perform localized tests across campus.

#### Purchased electricity

Purchased electricity is already included in UM Ann Arbor's 2025 goal. UM has a commitment with DTE for supplying more of our energy needs with wind power beginning in 2021, but needs to identify the right time to further invest in renewables. The Commission will form a sub group

to begin looking into this. At a future Commission meeting, DTE and Consumers will help the Commission understand the constraints to their capacity to build and buy renewables in the future.

### Reducing Energy Use

Members discussed the need for energy conservation and efficiency. The Commission will form a sub group to consider the contents for a potential energy efficiency RFP to look at a systems-level approach to energy efficiency. Energy conservation and efficiency is also expected to be a significant focus of two internal analysis teams – Building Standards, and Energy Consumption Policies.

### **Developing Processes for Recommending Carbon Neutrality Timelines**

The commission discussed a range of factors to consider in recommending a date for carbon neutrality, such as environmental and economic realities and technological developments. There could be different phased goals to reach carbon neutrality depending on factors such as scope categories and UM campus boundaries. Members noted the possibility of revisiting any date selected in light of changes in technology.

The Commission had a preliminary discussion around the role of offsets in carbon neutrality. UM could take actions focused on minimizing scope 3 emissions that are out of UM's full control, and thus will require the purchase of offsets to neutralize them. There was a understanding that some offsets would be needed to get to carbon neutrality, but that offsets have less impact than direct reductions. Concerns were raised about the potential costs and sources of funding for offsets, should they be looked to as a significant way of meeting an ambitious goal.

Meeting adjourned 3:35 pm