

Commission Meeting #8 9/13

13 September 2019 /1:30 PM/ NORTH CONFERENCE ROOM, GRAHAM

ATTENDEES

Samer Ali, Hank Baier, Liz Barry, Andy Berki, Heather Dawson, Tony Denton, Stephen Forrest, Austin Glass, Jennifer Haverkamp, Brandon Hofmeister, Drew Horning, Gregory Keoleian, Trish Koman, Larissa Larsen, Jonathan Levine, Tom Lyon, Steven Mangan, Jen Maigret, Jonathan Overpeck, Camilo Serna, Anna Stefanopoulou, Missy Stults, Rebecca Tonietto, Joseph Trumpey, Logan Vear, John Williams, Lisa Wozniak, Ming Xu

Regrets: Lesli Hoey, Andy Hoffman, Andrew Jones, Barry Rabe

Updates

University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)

President Schlissel accepted the commission's recommendation to join 20 other North American universities in the [University Climate Change Coalition \(UC3\)](#). A key responsibility of UC3 membership will be a public climate forum focused on city and university climate goals and plans, which is being organized in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor during the 2019-20 school year.

Heat and Power Infrastructure RFP

A sub group of the Commission will meet with an external firm in the coming weeks regarding their proposal to evaluate options for transitioning from natural gas infrastructure to carbon neutral alternatives.

Carbon Accounting Sub Group

The carbon accounting sub group gave a brief presentation of their work regarding methane and other emissions resulting throughout the supply chain.

Transportation Fleet Electrification Sub Group

The sub group is working to understand the best route, suppliers and financial options for a potential electric fleet of campus vehicles. The group hopes to have a preliminary construction cost for electric bus fleet charging infrastructure within the next few weeks.

Internal Analysis Team Faculty Lead Session

The Internal Analysis Team faculty leads and co leads were invited to join the Commission's meeting to briefly present each team's proposed scope of work to the Commission. Following these presentations, there was a Q&A and discussion session between the Commission and the faculty leads.

Building Standards, Jen Maigret

The building standards team has narrowed their scope down to four areas of building design and construction: energy, water, site, and materials. Within these four topic areas, the team will focus on four different dimensions of analysis: prescriptive versus performance-based code; economics; specifications; and post construction commissioning.

Energy Consumption Policies, Tom Lyon

The energy consumption policies team will begin their work by looking at baseline information, then understanding explicit and implicit policies we have here at UM regarding energy usage. The team will take note of best practices at other universities and non-university organizations.

Commuting, Jonathan Levine

The commuting team will be examining the daily travel of students, faculty and staff to and from campus. Using data from the Sustainability Cultural Indicators survey (SCIP), the team will determine an approach to measure the carbon impact of the commute and identify potential opportunities to refine the survey going forward. The team has identified two potential approaches to reducing the carbon emissions of the commute:

- Reduce the impact of each vehicle mile traveled
- Reduce the total vehicle miles traveled

University Travel, John Williams and Ming Xu

The university travel team will quantify the amount of travel and survey travelers to understand the purposes of the travel, how much they know about how travel affects the environment and how receptive travelers are to making changes in travel choices based on environmental impacts.

Food, Lesli Hoey and Andrew Jones

The food team will focus on the role University Dining plays in food choices, and will map out dining service supply chains across the three UM campuses. The team will likely use M-Dining as a proof of concept and case study throughout the analysis.

Biosequestration, Heather Dawson and Rebecca Tonietto

The team will assess UM land holdings and their potential uses for increased biosequestration. The team will consider two different scales of biosequestration:

- Large tracts of land: what types of land would sequester the most amount of carbon
- Small tracts of land: cultural shift throughout the community with small-scale projects

Campus Culture and Communication, Samer Ali and Joseph Trumpey

The campus culture and communication team will begin by trying to understand all existing programs at UM related to sustainability. From there, the team will partner with stakeholders, the SCIP survey and other internal analysis teams to create key collaborations and partnerships across campus. The ultimate goal is to inform communications and education strategies for campus-wide buy-in around carbon neutrality efforts.

External Collaboration, Andy Hoffman and Trish Koman

The external collaboration team will work with other internal analysis teams to identify external partners to bring the proper skills and knowledge into the effort, for the near and longer term. The team will also work with different groups within UM to leverage preexisting relationships with external stakeholders and groups.

General Observations and Comments from the Commission Related to the IAT Work

Commissioners noted that while IATs should factor current structures and practices into their analyses and recommendations for achieving carbon neutrality, they should also think boldly about alternative possibilities. Rules and structures generally evolve over time in response to changing circumstances, and we are currently contemplating some of the biggest changes that U-M has ever undertaken.

Environmental justice was emphasized as needing to be an underlying theme throughout all of the IAT work. U-M has the unique ability to do many things that other groups or institutions may not be able to do, so the University has the opportunity to be a leader to change policies for the better that currently inhibit other institutions. Through the IAT process, this should be prioritized.

Carbon offsets is an issue relevant to many of the IATs and will be explored at the Commission level by bringing in a range of internal and external experts to share their knowledge.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to hear from and provide input to the IAT faculty leads at the [September 25th community forum](#).