



**PRESIDENT'S
COMMISSION ON
CARBON NEUTRALITY**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**Fall 2019 Interim Progress Report
Executive Summary**

December 2, 2019

Co-Chairs

- Stephen Forrest, Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Physics, and Material Sciences, UM
- Jennifer Haverkamp, Director, Graham Sustainability Institute and Professor from Practice in Law and Policy, UM

Commissioners

- Henry Baier, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Operations, UM
- Andrew Berki, Director, Office of Campus Sustainability, UM
- Valeria Bertacco, Vice Provost, Engaged Learning and Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, UM
- T. Anthony Denton, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Michigan Medicine, UM
- Austin Glass, Doctoral Student, Climate & Space Sciences and Engineering, UM
- Brandon Hofmeister, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory and Public Affairs, Consumers Energy
- Gregory Keoleian, Professor Environment & Sustainability and Civil & Environmental Engineering, UM
- Larissa Larsen, Associate Professor of Urban Planning, UM
- Jonathan Overpeck, Dean and Professor, Environment and Sustainability, UM
- Barry Rabe, Professor of Public Policy, UM
- Camilo Serna, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, DTE Energy
- Anna Stefanopoulou, Professor of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and Director, Energy Institute, UM
- Missy Stults, Sustainability & Innovations Manager, City of Ann Arbor
- Logan Vear, Undergraduate Student, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UM
- Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Staff

- Liz Barry, Special Counsel to the President, Office of the President, UM
- Andrew Horning, Administrative Director, PCCN and Managing Director, Graham Sustainability Institute, UM
- Lydia Whitbeck, Project Coordinator, PCCN, UM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

University of Michigan (UM) President Mark Schlissel has stated that “human influenced global climate change is the defining scientific and social problem of our age” and has since established the President’s Commission on Carbon Neutrality (PCCN). The PCCN’s mission is to contribute to a more sustainable and just world by creating approaches and solutions regarding UM carbon emissions that are sustainable (environmentally, socially, and economically), involve the regional community, and can be scaled and replicated beyond the university. Toward that aim, the PCCN is charged with recommending a plan for UM (Ann Arbor, Dearborn, & Flint campuses) to achieve carbon neutrality, which is mandated to be submitted to President Schlissel in the fall of 2020. This is the second of three interim progress reports (including the initial [Work Plan](#)) that the PCCN will submit during the process.

Progress Summary

- The [PCCN Commissioners](#) include UM faculty, UM students, UM administrators, and external partners. They have met as a group twelve times since the launch in February 2019.
- As recommended by the PCCN, UM signed on to the [University Climate Change Coalition \(UC3\)](#) to share knowledge and ideas to accelerate climate change solutions, and collaborate with local, regional and national institutions working to achieve their climate goals.
- The PCCN hired an external firm, [Integral Group](#), to evaluate potential pathways for evolving heat and power generation infrastructure (e.g., power plant, boilers, etc.) toward carbon neutrality on the UM Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint campuses.
- Faculty leads and student research assistants have been selected for eight [internal analysis teams](#) and have begun investigating key topics, including bio sequestration, building standards, campus culture and communication, commuting, energy consumption policies, external collaboration, food, and university travel. Membership of these analysis teams includes participants from all 3 campuses.



- The Commission has formed several additional subgroups to explore other key issues, including social justice considerations, carbon offsets, carbon accounting, and vehicle fleet electrification.
 - The carbon accounting subgroup is addressing, as part of its work, the carbon intensity of methane leakage in the natural gas supply chain.
- In addition to the 17 commissioners, there are currently 75 UM faculty, staff, students, and external consultants working directly on the project, plus many advisors both internal and external to UM.
- The PCCN has conducted a range of [engagement activities](#) since launching its work in February, including:
 - Hosting three public community forums on the Ann Arbor campus that included Q&A with the co-chairs and small table break-out conversations around specific topics and questions.
 - Sponsoring a special public Q&A session with President Schlissel in April 2019.
 - Engaging (via Co-chairs) with the Dearborn campus strategic planning process and giving a presentation to administrators, faculty and students on the PCCN's mission, progress and how they can get involved.
 - Working (via Co-chairs) with the Chancellor of the Flint campus to hold an informational meeting with Flint faculty and students on the PCCN and its progress.
 - Working with the City of Ann Arbor to design and deliver town-gown fora focused on our interconnected carbon neutrality interests.
 - Obtaining feedback from the Student Advisory Panel on multiple public documents prior to finalization.
 - Consulting with various other advisors (UM faculty, staff, and external experts) on specific issues related to the Commission's work.
- The [PCCN website](#) complements and reinforces the Commission's direct outreach efforts with:
 - A public [comments portal](#) for community members to share ideas, and a [synthesized and categorized summary](#) of all 157 public comments received to date.
 - [Video recordings and slide presentations](#) of public events
 - [Co-chair summaries](#) for all Commission meetings, with meeting slide presentations posted.
 - An updated [FAQ document](#) with answers to many questions that are frequently asked by students and other community members.