

# Environmental Issues Committee Meeting

April 10, 2009

12:00-1:00pm

Century A, EMU

## Attendees

Art Farley, Jeff Scroggins, Fred Tepfer, Christine Thompson, Steve Mital, Heather Gurewitz, Lynn Giordano, Alden Gray, Sarah Douglas, Daniel Rottenberg, Kay Coots, Mark Reed, Mary Wood, Jill Forcier

## Proposed Agenda

Review Climate Action Plan

- Boundaries for Campus Emissions Calculations
- Scope III-b Emissions – how should the university handle them?
- Proposed concept of changing goal to reduce emissions 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020

Bus Stop items

## Meeting Notes

Boundaries for Campus Emissions Calculations

- There are a few options for how we can determine what constitutes campus
- One idea is to calculate it based on the energy bill of the UO and any other buildings that should be included
- Another option is to calculate based on the existing Campus Plan
- This is complicated because the list changes for what is included and what is not
- The UO leases property and that space may or may not be part of the footprint
- One option is to have a clause that says “staff have discretion over buildings that are under 2,500 square feet”
- An issue with including all spaces is that over 90% of campus will “take 5 minutes” and then it may take weeks to get data from what may be as small as 1-2% of campus, if it can be obtained at all
- East campus housing consists of about 70 houses that are owned by the University and rented to students. Those will not be included in the boundaries.
- Steve will take this discussion into consideration and write up a recommendation.

Quick note on Scope II Emissions:

- Originally it said that remaining Scope II emissions will be neutralized by offsets. RECs should be included as well. The language was changed and accepted by committee

Scope III-B: Commuter Transportation Emissions

- Will the UO be “responsible” for the carbon emissions of commuter traffic generated by campus?
- Will the UO be responsible AND pay for offsets for commuter traffic generated by campus?
- Should the cost of the offsets be passed on to the end users (ie drivers)?
- Questions were raised over whether the university is adequately supporting alternative transportation in the community and whether forcing the UO to buy offsets for its commuters

acted as a way to encourage the UO to more strongly support alternative transportation, some believe university support is not adequate

- Questions were raised over whether the university should be responsible for the personal decisions made by commuters
- A motion was made that states, "The University will take responsibility for mitigating and offsetting commuter related emissions and will pass the costs on to the end users.
- The motion was seconded, a vote was called and it passed with 8 people for and 2 against

#### Carbon Emission Reduction Goals

- Currently the ACPUCC requires a 10% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020
- It is proposed that we ramp this up to 20% by 2020 to be in-line with the recommendation of the Union of Concerned Scientists
- There was some question as to whether USC recommendation was 20% below 2000 or 1990 (OS will research)
- 10% is already an ambitious target that the UO is not sure it can meet.
- We need more information for this question, we will table it and come back to it next time