

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

March 20, 2008

EMU Alsea Room

Attendees: Chuck Kalnbach, Jesse Hough, Lynn Giordano, Steve Mital, Christine Thompson, Bill Cresko

Approval of the February minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Updates

Steve has assembled three more working groups and scheduled meetings for Information Technology on April 7, Transportation on April 10, and Purchasing (tba). The Building group is close to completing their list of recommendations. A fifth group will be assembled this summer.

On April 4th Steve will attend a meeting of representatives from Pacific Northwest universities. This will be a great opportunity to discuss how plans are being formulated, what form of measurement and start dates are being considered, funding issues, and emissions goals.

UO Emissions Data

The committee reviewed 2004 core emissions (physical infrastructure & direct transportation activities) and indirect emissions (indirect transportation activities & purchases). The next step for the EIC will be to formulate a recommendation on what level of responsibility is feasible in reducing indirect transportation & purchases emissions.

Steve presented some calculations on the cost to buy offsets from four sources with recent trading prices as follows: Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) at \$5.75/ton, Climate Trust (based in Oregon) at \$11.00/ton, and the European Climate Exchange (ECX) \$30.00/ton

Cost differences are primarily due to the fact that CCX and Climate Trust are voluntary and ECX is mandatory (in Europe). A fourth calculation of \$50.00/ton is based on what many economists believe is the price necessary to significantly change the supply side of energy.

Due to the work that has been done the absolute core emissions between 1990 and 2007 were basically flat at the UO, compared to a 17-20% increase at many other universities. A rough estimate of UO's emissions based on square foot measurements in 2000-2007 was a 16% reduction and a 20-25% reduction if using a 1990 start date. Since the Kyoto Protocol began 1990 can we consider the same start date?

Measurement Options

A suggestion was made to utilize all three -- absolute, per square foot, and per student. Absolute emissions may be used primarily for information purposes, per square foot allows for growth, and a per student basis helps personalize goals in reducing an individual's carbon footprint. Bill offered to create a graph that would model per student and per square foot relationships. Steve will continue to refine the numbers to help the committee determine the best approach.

Next Meeting: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on April 15th in EMU Century Room E