

The UW-Eau Claire Sustainability & Climate Action Task Force

Finalized Recommendations

Overarching Goal: *To position UW-Eau Claire and UW-Eau Claire Barron County as regional leaders in sustainability and climate action education, engagement, and programming*

Planning, Implementation, and Assessment

- Create a Chancellor's Advisory Council on Sustainability and Climate Action that reports directly to the Chancellor
- Establish a campus Sustainability Coordinator and Office of Sustainability

Engaging our Campus and Chippewa Valley Community

- Create the Chippewa Watershed Project to expand Sustainability and Climate Action curriculum and programming
- Create a Sustainability and Climate Action Certificate for Students/Community
- Create High Impact Sustainability and Climate Action Learning Experiences
 - International Programs and Research
 - Service Learning/Internships/Academic Connections
- Collaborate with Advising, Retention, and Career Counseling (ARCC) to locate potential employers interested in hiring or offering internships
- Model specific sustainability and climate action practices across the UWEC campuses
 - Vendor and purchasing contracts and travel offsets
 - Campus certifications (Bee campus; LEED certification; STARS, etc.)
- Create training modules regarding waste, public transportation, and other sustainability and climate issues for students, faculty, and staff
- Elevate a culture of sustainability through strong web-presence, campus signage

Cutting Carbon

- Pursue fiscally practical, easily implemented energy efficiency projects in all UWEC and UWECBC buildings
- Create a de-centralized, geo exchange heating/cooling system for HSS / HFA (feasibility study completed October 2020)
- Investigate and apply innovative financing and true cost of carbon accounting to prioritize carbon emissions and energy reduction efforts
- Create a utility/energy master plan for UWEC campuses
 - Establish benchmark energy performance standards in all UWEC and UWECBC buildings
 - Implement deep energy retrofits for older low efficiency buildings in all UWEC and UWECBC buildings
 - Set targets and purchase or acquire on-campus Renewable Energy generation capacity to achieve those targets
 - Geo System conversions for 50-100% of campus
- Support and publicize carbon-free electricity commitments by Xcel Energy and investments already made by UW System and SOS
- Purchase, if and as needed, renewable energy credits (RECs) or green power contracts to meet the interim targets
- Identify carbon emissions and energy reduction initiatives in which the benefits and costs could be shared by the City of Eau Claire and UWECBC
- Create a joint renewable energy initiative by 2025 among local partners