

Feedback Form  
July 13, 2009

**FOCUS 2015: Goal Statement:**

Focus on Sustainability: President's Climate Commitment and Classroom Initiatives

**During the summer retreat, a small group will be charged to develop a draft university priority to help accomplish this FOCUS 2015 goal. Please use this space to list up to 3 big ideas that emerged from today's discussion that you would like this small group to consider as they do their work:**

- Solar power grid
- Close buildings during summer/breaks
- Be careful about messing with requirements that employees live in Menomonie or that the forbid students to drive cars. The result will be people not wanting to come here.
- Composting reduces trash that goes to the landfills: composting also produces methane which is a greenhouse gas increasing our carbon footprint. Should composting be taken out of the action plan?
- Commuter Challenge- faculty coming from the cities of Eau Claire.
- Education- Tackling/informing about the bigger issue
- Cultural Changes: getting the faculty/students to buy into the sustainable culture/lifestyle
- Possibly offer some sort of sustainability challenge for students. Provide a small grant for the winning group to work on their campus sustainability effort.
- Look into purchasing energy efficient ballasts for lighting fixtures
- Closing of buildings during summer and breaks
- Define what you really will be looking at (Narrow us broad)
- Transportation – no mass transit - people live distance what are they to do
- How to educate and create buy-in
- Environmental impact of increased plastics use- need for more biodegradable plastics?
- Need for research on holistic impacts of climate initiatives. For example, research inclusive of negative impacts of biofuels or batteries production for fuel efficient/electric cars

- Could we also consider geothermal heat/vac and solar water heating options within possible climate action initiatives?
- Be specific
- Benefits to UW-Stout from following this course of action
- 4 day work week
- Need to be sure we have time-defined aspect- what can we get done by when
- Zero in on what key elements of President's Climate Commitment we should focus on.
- Be realistic and keep it a short list
- Need for alternative transportation within the environment of Menomonie
- Discuss sustainability as a cultural/ behavior change and how can these be incentive for change
- Office /classrooms consolidation during the summer for energy efficiency
- How the goal(s) should be (?) to our polytechnic identity
- Offer incentive to those working from home 1 day per week
- Seek mass transit for those who commute from Eau Claire & Twin Cities or those in excess of 20 minutes from campus
- Determine a specific date for achieving the President's climate goal
- Need to focus in behavioral change
- Regional composting utility
- Joining the Chippewa Valley RTA(Regional Transit Authority)
- Continue energy efficiency in classroom, office, etc
- Every campus is doing this-what can we do to distinguish our efforts?
- Make our efforts consistent with the polytechnic?
- Research in this area?
- Focus groups identified great sustainable ideas- just continue to narrow down& create doable goals that can be realistically implemented

- Bringing more sustainable knowledge into classrooms is great – but also need training for faculty to help them teach the info in ways that compliment overall system & campus goals
- Need to creatively & positively approach the topic relative to being polytechnic univ & combating culture apathy .....etc
- Look cultural issues (as Chancellor said)
- Look at why fans & heaters are necessary (i.e. HVAC-issues)
- Compare cost of refrigerators and microwaves with cost of being away from office. Do we lose what we gain? Some have need of nutrition & no time between classes to eat for lunch/breaks
- Rethink summer schedule & work space
- Don't lose the service component, include student service learning and faculty service related to sustainability.....e.g. help develop & maintain community garden. Buy our food locally
- Recommend serious look at a 4 day-week to determine feasibility!
- Tying energy efficiency to polytechnic idea (i.e. mindset that translates into students awareness as part of knowledge outcomes
- Effective recycling
- Best practice for campus use of energy
- Effective research on alternate energies

**How valuable was today's meeting in preparing you for the summer retreat?**

- Very valuable- 6
- Somewhat valuable- 10
- Not Valuable- 3

**Comments:**

- We have a good job as a group identifying different sustainability efforts that need to take place.
- Very interesting and useful discussion Thanks
- In on the working committee –helpful to hear these comments.
- Useful in refining the goal what Stout will work toward for 2010 planning

- An elusive topic ; focus is essential