

University Priority Ideas for:

Focus on Sustainability: Implement Key Elements of the President's Climate and Educational and Applied Research Initiatives

A. Transport

1. Joining the Chippewa Valley RTA (Regional Transit Authority)**
 - a. Alternative Transportation Incentives
 - b. Commuter Challenge- faculty coming from the cities of Eau Claire
 - c. Be careful about messing with requirements that employees live in Menomonie, or that forbid students to drive cars. The result will be people not wanting to come here
 - d. Participate with the region to provide/develop a low carbon transportation system
 - e. Multi-institutional consortium, including external partners from industry, to create speed rail and mass transit networks
 - f. Transportation – no mass transit - people live distance. What are they to do?
 - g. Student support of Chippewa Valley RTA (seg fee = free student passes)
 - h. Seek mass transit for those who commute from Eau Claire & Twin Cities or those in excess of 20 minutes from campus
 - i. Need for alternative transportation within the environment of Menomonie
2. Leadership role of Stout in transportation planning for the region*****
3. Become a bicycle friendly campus: bike commuter credit, work with city on bike specific lanes, covered bike parking
 - a. Bike riding rules education and enforcement
4. Fleet Vehicle – hyper-miling driver training
5. Rideshare board for state meetings
6. Develop transportation corridors to service the campus – walking, biking, other non-motorized, etc.

B. Energy Management

1. Alternative Energy Sources
 - a. Solar Power Grid
 - b. Could we also consider geothermal heat/vac and solar water heating options within possible climate action initiatives?
 - c. Solar panel collectors on roofs where allowable
 - d. Air driers only in restrooms if more sustainable – most have air and towels – and auto-motion lights
 - e. Effective research on alternate energies

2. Strategically closing buildings/class scheduling (summer, Fridays, earlier closing hours)*****
 - a. Close buildings during summer/breaks (3 comments)
 - b. 4 day work week (2 comments)
 - c. Offer incentive to those working from home 1 day per week
 - d. Rethink summer schedule and work space
 - e. Continue energy efficiency in classroom, office, etc
 - f. Office /classrooms consolidation during the summer for energy efficiency
3. Best Practices for campus use of energy**
 - a. Light replacement with LED which would decrease energy usage
 - b. LED technology for lighting
 - c. Lighting: start football games a couple hours earlier
 - d. Replace most light switches with motion sensor switches
 - e. Look at why fans & heaters are necessary (i.e. HVAC-issues)
 - f. Look into purchasing energy efficient ballasts for lighting fixtures

C. Materials Management

1. Environmental impact of increased plastics use- need for more biodegradable plastics?
2. Effective recycling*
 - a. Recycle used vegetable oil from food services as a heating source
 - b. Outside recycling bins
 - c. Recyclable materials station including most metals
3. Regional composting utility
 - a. 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?
 - b. Partnership with K-12 and hospital on food waste disposal, composting, dispersal

D. Knowledge Systems

1. Research in this area?
2. Connect curriculum and student research, in all disciplines, directly to local environment****
 - a. Applied research experiences and teams approach integrated within student programming beginning in year one – focus this work on environment, energy and transportation
 - b. 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
 - c. Tying energy efficiency to polytechnic idea (i.e. mindset that translates into students awareness as part of knowledge outcomes).
 - d. How the goal(s) should be (?) to our polytechnic identity
 - e. Sponsor course work for electric vehicle design for transport
 - f. 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
 - g. Sustainable education learning center
 - h. Sustainable education learning center – development of center to educate public function as capstone/experiential learning
 - i. Organize sustainability meeting for area companies offering new ways of doing things
 - j. Need to creatively & positively approach the topic relative to being polytechnic univ & combating culture apathyetc
 - k. Make our efforts consistent with the polytechnic?
3. Sustainability student groups/charge to form student research teams**
 - a. 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
4. Visible sustainability requirements across the board (like ethnic studies req.)**
 - a. Change out general education requirements to allow for a sustainability option
 - b. Sustainability education requirements
 - c. Required reading 'Stout Green Guide'
 - d. Education – tackling/informing about the bigger issue
 - e. How to education and create buy-in

E. Planning, Design and Development

F. Management Systems

1. Establish sustainability policy series*****
 - a. Energy Management by office – small steps to achieve sustainable practices
 - b. 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.
2. Competitions/Awards*
 - a. Possibly offer some sort of sustainability challenge for students. Provide a small grant for the winning group to work on their campus sustainability effort.
 - b. Regional sustainability competition (UWEC, Stout, UWRF)
 - c. National challenges or awards for sustainability (NACUBO, Presidents Climate Commitment, Grassroots)
 - d. Monthly award for new green or sustainable ideas – practices (like Classified Staff of the Month award)
 - e. Create sustainability challenge for staff (make elimination of individual refrigerators and heaters ‘desirable’)
3. Extensive Communication highlighting the sustainability efforts the campus has accomplished and encourage campus participation.
 - a. Benefits to UW-Stout from following this course of action
 - b. Every campus is doing this-what can we do to distinguish our efforts?

G. Biodiversity

H. Water Management

1. More native planting or drought tolerant plantings to reduce water usage*
2. Recycle rain water for use in grounds area

I. Pollution Prevention

J. Culture Change

1. Cultural Changes: getting the faculty/students to buy into the sustainable culture/lifestyle***
 - a. Discuss sustainability as a cultural/ behavior change and how can these be incentive for change
 - b. Look at cultural issues (as Chancellor said)
 - c. Need to focus in behavioral change

K. Other

1. Be specific*
 - a. Be realistic and keep it a short list
 - b. Need to be sure we have time-defined aspect- what can we get done by when
 - c. Determine a specific date for achieving the President's climate goal
 - d. Zero in on what key elements of President's Climate Commitment we should focus on.
 - e. Define what you really will be looking at (Narrow vs. broad)
 - f. Focus groups identified great sustainable ideas- just continue to narrow down & create doable goals that can be realistically implemented

L. Open Session One

2. Are we sure we're not adding to the pollution of Lake Menomine?
3. A lot of classrooms with lights left on; communicate need for people to use good energy mgmt
4. Buildings open longer hours, move to 4 days/wk
5. Energy shut down at particular time
6. Motion sensors for lights in classrooms (all new projects require motion sensors)
7. We will be changing out all lighting in SFC to more efficient lights and motion sensors including parking lots
8. We should share President's Climate Commitment with the campus. People don't understand if we are talking about the President of the UW System, or the President of the United States.
9. Graduate student population is at a disadvantage if they don't have a bike or car; as we grow that population we need a better transportation system. Right now, they have to find someone who is willing to give them a ride.
10. We could help influence the community to be more pedestrian friendly
11. Not a bike friendly community – work with city to improve dedicated bike lanes
12. Flaunting our sustainability, but we took out our perennials for annual plants. This wasn't a good idea.
13. What do we mean by "biodiversity?" – example: diversity of how we plant kinds of trees that we plant
14. We have to be careful because of security, we want to make sure when we're doing planting -- police services should have input in terms of low growing plants, etc as people can hide behind them.

15. New Sustainability Coordinator will be helpful to implement these ideas – should work with GreenSense

M. Open Session Two

16. Need a good audit of where we can make significant gains and cost justification
17. Good partnering opportunities – city, county, Sierra Club, Discovery Center; funnel these through our Sustainability Coordinator
18. Utilize our expertise on campus, encourage faculty, Sustainability Group

N. Open Session Three

1. Implement KEY elements – key is important. Right thing to do is to do some of it. UW-Stout may not have the resources to do all of it, to be carbon neutral. Pick a few, and look to the future for others.
2. Great to get into alternative energy, perhaps solar power. Incubator on campus developing solar panels. Should tap into that resource.
3. Prioritize greatest amount of pollution and energy use. Develop a list of priorities to take on in the first five years, and additional things after that.
4. Great way to reduce energy is lighting. This can be done fairly inexpensively. We are doing some, but can do them on a larger scale.
5. Look at community we live in and what they are doing now. Perhaps we can enhance that. Millennium Hall, being a laptop repair campus, thousands of boxes. The cardboard is recycled. Foam goes to landfill. Can we do something with the foam?
6. Shredders are available that shred CDs. How are paper and petroleum products separated when using these shredders?
7. Reuse shipping packages. May need to work with the manufacturers. Opportunity to compress foam and ship it back?
8. Suggest work with the city of Menomonie to improve recycling opportunities.
9. Commuting, students and staff. Investigate alternate ways of moving people to and from campus.

O. Open Session Four

1. Applied research, we need to have more lab facilities. Science building has lab facility that students can do research in. Our labs are booked with classes with lab activities all day, the only time students can get into the lab for their research is in the evening. We

are short of lab space. The current space is not enough to let students do their research.

2. Support high-speed rail through 94 corridor. Plan is being evaluated and being converted to Minneapolis to EC to Madison/Milwaukee. We would have a way for students to come to UW-Stout. There are some things that are happening that could go in our favor but we need to support so we get the students.
3. We have a limited tax base, with the amount of money to run the high-speed rail system you would not be able to capture the revenue. This is not an economically feasible option.
4. This gets at an aspect of sustainability that everyone ignores. We could be a leader in sustainability financially. We have strong industry partnerships. There is a missing opportunity because the environment gets all the attention but it needs to make financial sense too.
5. We cannot sustain having people scattered where they are. We need to look at how we should be sustainably. Should we save the state of Iowa? It may not be economically feasible.
6. Focus on the positive. We are sustainable because we have unique programs and bring in students with a focused mission. We are sustainable in our organization, layout of campus, how our programs are delivered, safe environment and play up the fact that smaller is better in some ways.
7. Until we have recycling containers in obvious places and easy for faculty/staff to use we are not going to look like a sustainable campus. Simple, easy, relatively cheap. Focus on this rather than lofty goals.
8. In Sweden, they are putting grass and plants on rooftops to increase greenspace and reduce GHG emissions. Can we do this and tie into research projects? Use bio-composting water heating systems to use for heating and to reduce energy impact and is an opportunity for research. Shows we are thinking outside the box.
9. UW System should stop requiring travel to Madison.

P. Open Session Five

1. How committed are we to bicycles? Cal-Polytech eliminated parking places; they won't buy a bicycle, but have a repair shop and will provide repairs at cost.

2. At Ripon College offered Trek bike if they didn't bring a car. Didn't have enough bike racks, but a small problem. Huge success. If we purchase bikes, we would need a repair shop.
3. Is there a problem with bike theft in Menomonie? Should not buy 1000 and have only 750 left a year later. Bike locks would be needed. Many things to look into. A group of students and others will investigate issues, cost, liability, implementation, logistics, racks. Will start the dialog on it. An SSA officer spent a transfer semester at U of Oregon, so he has some knowledge of it. Will look at it.
4. Should include educational program on where and how to ride. Operators of bikes must follow all traffic rules and regulations. Bigger issues with bikes versus vehicles. There is a lot of traffic in Menomonie, and 1000 additional bikes will require bikes lanes or other safety measures.

Q. Faculty Senate

1. Re: bicycle friendly: student interest in bicycle sharing. Have bicycles available outside of the residence halls that students can use as needed.
2. This is done in other cities; certainly feasible
3. Have people donate old bikes; need a bike shop to repair or buy a fleet of bikes (still need a mechanic to maintain)
4. What about abandoned bikes? How many of these are there?
5. Stout has a student bicycle club that works with BadCat Bicycles. We should include them in this discussion.
6. This Idea could be taken back to student government
7. Are there any plans to assess how much sustainability has already been taught in our classes?

R. Senate of Academic Staff

1. Do we allow tax credits on that? – Yes. Could tax credits be used to offset costs for sustainable activities?
2. We do a lot of these practices now. If better coordinated, would probably help. Need a culture change on campus. Motion sensor devices are being implemented. When you are the last one to leave a room, turn out the light. Focus on education of campus so faculty/staff are more cognizant of activities.
3. Sports events, does the whole bank of lights need to be on for practices?
4. Focus attention at local level.
5. Are we working with the community on joint projects?

6. Transportation – growing student body and looking at non-traditional students, what type of commuting is required? Encourage local students to remain in Menomonie and attend UW-Stout to promote sustainability and reduce carbon footprint. Locally grown student body.
7. Car share idea should be investigated. Initiative on campuses to contract with a rental agency and the cars are available for use by students or others for errands throughout the day.
8. Use cohort services, like Outreach Services, to build carpooling. Assist students to find ride share opportunities.

S. Stout Student Association

1. Which regional initiatives are we thinking that we can be part of?
2. Stout should be commended on the changes that have been made in dining services to provide biodegradable plastic.

High priorities identified at the 2009 SPG retreat are highlighted. Asterisks indicate the number of votes.