

Chancellor's Sustainability & Climate Action Task Force Call for Nominations

Purpose

Stewardship and Sustainability are core values of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Yet, while the university has undertaken numerous sustainability activities and initiatives, it has not developed a comprehensive plan to incorporate stewardship, sustainability and resiliency into all facets of campus life. Ultimately, such a plan is necessary for the campus to achieve its goal of becoming carbon neutral by the year 2050. The Chancellor's Sustainability and Climate Action Task Force will explore, formulate and make recommendations that will be incorporated into the university's Campus Facilities Master Plan. Planning efforts will focus on people and place:

- Equipping faculty, staff and students with knowledge about sustainability and climate impacts that enables them to be instruments of change beyond our campus boundaries;
- Creating a campus culture that instills the importance of preserving and enhancing the natural resources of campus through sound stewardship;
- Identifying and implementing energy efficiency, travel/transportation, waste flow and other appropriate action steps that provide the highest rate of return on investment and directly contribute to achieving carbon neutrality goals.

The Chancellor's Task Force on Sustainability & Climate Action will embody these principles:

- It will broadly represent our campus community;
- It will report directly to the Chancellor;
- It will use fact-based models to consider effectiveness of recommendations;
- It will gather input from a wide variety of sources;
- It will not be restricted by current institutional structures;
- It will make specific recommendations necessary to meet the identified goals;
- It will communicate outcomes and recommendations to the campus community.

Charge to the Sustainability & Climate Action Task Force

Within the UW-Eau Claire and UWEC-Barron County community, we recognize sustainability is realized at the intersection of equity, economy, and the environment. The return on investments in sustainability includes impacts on financial wellbeing, human and environmental health, ecological and societal resilience, and future members of the Blugold family's right to prosperity.

The call is challenging. No community is immune to the health, economic, and social consequences of climate change and unsustainable practices. The best scientific assessments tell us we must begin this transformation immediately.

This Task Force is charged with making recommendations for a strategic plan focused on Stewardship, Sustainability and Resiliency that will address the known impacts our campus community will face as a result of the Climate Crisis. Input will be gathered from students, staff, faculty, and administration. In particular, the S&CTF will create a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan for the institution focused on the nine key facets found below. The task force will address these topics and make impactful recommendations to address these specific areas of sustainability and climate action.

The Task Force WILL:

- Determine immediate and long-term actions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Establish campus expectations and requirements for all building and infrastructure initiatives undertaken at UWEC;
- Identify strategies for including faculty and staff consideration of sustainability and climate into annual evaluation, promotion, and tenure decisions;
- Facilitate new opportunities by providing support for faculty and staff to innovate within their departments and units;
- Institute communication and visibility strategies about sustainability and resiliency efforts as an institution;
- Formulate benchmarks, monitoring, and assessment procedures;
- Determine strategies for the inclusion of sustainability and climate across our campus community, spanning curriculum, scholarship, alumni networks, personal action, and campus-wide culture; and
- Determine ways in which our University must exhibit leadership in sustainability and climate initiatives.
- Consider existing organization / structural limitations and recommend ways to implement initiatives within those constraints.

The Task Force WILL NOT:

- Identify obstacles and/or challenges without developing solutions.
- Be afraid to make audacious choices.
- Be limited by the existing organizational constraints mentioned above.

There are potentially tremendous opportunities found in proactive responses to developing resilient, low-carbon operations and institutional cultures. Investments made now in mitigating UW-Eau Claire climate impacts, preserving our natural resources, and adapting to future climates will make our university more sustainable and provide crucial leadership in our community. And by engaging students in this transformation of the University, they will be better prepared for careers and leadership roles in a rapidly changing world.