

Proposal for the University Faculty Council Climate Action Plan Task Force Charge (4/8/21)

RATIONALE

It is well established by science that climate change poses an imminent threat to the earth and human lives. Indiana University faculty, students, staff, and administrators have engaged in sustainability initiatives, and have created and supported academic programs and research in sustainability across IU campuses. Indiana University's dedication to addressing climate change is demonstrated by the Bicentennial Strategic Plan, which commits to "Sustainability, stewardship, and accountability for the natural, human, and economic resources and relationships entrusted to IU." Offices of Sustainability and Sustainability Councils have worked to address climate change on all Indiana University campuses, and have begun to collaborate with community efforts.

Consequently, the logical next step in Indiana University's sustainability initiatives is to set the long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality. In April 2020, the University Faculty Council (UFC) approved the Sustainability Resolution (U20-2020), which calls for all IU constituencies to "collaborate on achieving the goal of becoming carbon neutral no later than 2040," and to maintain fiscal responsibility in doing so. UFC's approval of the resolution followed the approval of similar resolutions by faculty governance organizations across the IU campuses.

In order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality, the resolution also called for the development of an "Indiana University-wide sustainability action-plan [renamed the Climate Action Plan] by 2025 with reviews every five years."

We propose the formation of the UFC Climate Action Plan Task Force, whose primary goal will be to ensure the development and implementation of the Indiana University-wide Climate Action Plan by the professional staff at the IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability. The Task Force will also support the coordination of the development of similar campus-specific climate action plans across all Indiana University campuses.

CHARGES TO THE UFC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE

The primary charge to the Task Force is to develop an Indiana University-wide Climate Action Plan by 2025 to enable Indiana University to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2040.

(The IU Bloomington and IUPUI campuses will complete their climate action plans by 2023. Other campuses will need to complete their climate action plan(s) prior to the completion of the University-wide Climate Action Plan by the end of 2025.)

To that end, the Task Force shall:

1. Support the IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability in their coordination, communication, and reporting of Climate Action Plan efforts across all IU campuses, including the efforts of the regional Campus Resilience Committee;

2. Leverage the expertise and contributions of the Environmental Resilience Institute (ERI) and all sustainability-related entities across IU, including faculty, staff, students, and administrators;
3. Coordinate with all units that have management over emission sources;
4. Solicit input from all IU constituencies, including faculty, staff, students, and administrators;
5. Examine, assist, and advise with developing an Indiana University-wide Climate Action Plan, including a definition of carbon neutrality, to be drafted by the IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability;
6. Include in the Climate Action Plan a blueprint to ensure implementation of the plan by the IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability and other relevant units;
7. Update UFC annually on progress with developing the IU-wide Climate Action Plan;
8. Ensure that the Climate Action Plan specifies mandatory, regular biennial-progress reports on the implementation of the Plan, and reviews and revisions of the Plan at least every five years, to be completed under the auspices of the IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to support the goals of the Task Force, the Planning Committee advocates the following.

- The IU and IUPUI Offices of Sustainability staff must be authorized and supported to develop the Climate Action Plan as described above. Administrators should charge staff members with working on the Climate Action Plan, and conducting related activities with various campus constituencies, as part of the staff's professional responsibilities. Furthermore, the Planning Committee advocates additional staff support for the regional Campus Resilience Committee.
- The Planning Committee advocates future approval by the Indiana University Board of Trustees for Indiana University to develop a Climate Action Plan with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.
- The Planning Committee advocates that Indiana University join the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES FOR THE UFC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE

- Members shall have expertise in reducing greenhouse gas emissions scope 1, 2, and 3;
- The Task Force shall have staff and faculty representation, including tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty;
- One chairperson will be from IUB, one from IUPUI, and one from the regional campuses;

- Faculty shall be appointed by the UFC;
- UFC Co-chairs will be included;
- The University Director of Sustainability will be a member;
- The IUPUI Director of Sustainability will be a member;
- Preferably, there will be two representatives from IUB; two representatives from IUPUI; and a representative from each regional campus's Climate Resilience Committee;
- Administrators will be included as needed, for example, from Capital Planning and Facilities;
- Student Representatives will be included (e.g., from Students for a New Green World or other student organizations): one from IUB, one from IUPUI, and one from the regional campuses. The student representative on the Board of Trustees shall be consulted.

Respectfully Submitted by the Planning Committee for the UFC Climate Action Plan Task Force:

Eva Allen, Assistant Director for Research Advancement, Environmental Resilience Institute, Indiana University

Leda Casey, Senior Lecturer in Geology, Director of the Office of Sustainability, IU Kokomo

Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Professor of English, IU East

Kelly Eskew, Clinical Professor of Business Law & Ethics, Kelley School, IU Bloomington

Gabriel Filippelli, Chancellor's Professor, School of Science, IUPUI

Patricia Fox, Clinical Assistant Professor of Organizational Leadership, Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI

Diane Henshel (Planning Committee Co-chair), Associate Professor, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, IU Bloomington

Miranda Frausto, graduate student, Office of Sustainability, Student Sustainability Council, and Co-Director of the Campus Kitchen

Janet G. McCabe, Professor of Practice, McKinney School of Law; Adjunct Professor of Practice, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs; Director, Environmental Resilience Institute, Indiana University

William McKinney, Senior Advisor for Regional Campus Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for University Academic Affairs, Indiana University

Laverne Nishihara (Planning Committee Co-chair), Associate Professor of English, IU East

Elizabeth Pear, Director of the Office of the Indiana University Faculty Council

Olivia Ryckman, English MA candidate, Graduate Assistant, IU East

Marietta Simpson, Distinguished Rudy Professor, School of Music (Voice), Jacob School of Music, IU Bloomington

John Walbridge (UFC Co-Chair), Professor of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Hamilton Lugar School, IU Bloomington

John Watson (UFC Co-Chair), Associate Professor of Biology, School of Science, IUPUI

Joseph Wert (UFC Co-Chair), Professor of Political Science, IU Southeast