Final Report

Student Input for the UW Sustainability Action Plan

February 25th, 2020

Background
On January 27th 2020 approximately 100 students attended the Student Sustainability Forum at the UW Intellectual House. The Forum was organized by the Sustainability Credit Coalition student group with financial sponsorship from the Campus Sustainability Fund and planning support from the UW Sustainability Office. At the Forum students organized into four large focus groups that aligned with the following STARS categories: Buildings, Energy & Transportation; Procurement, Food & Waste; Climate, Water & Ecosystems; Academics, Research & Engagement. Students were shown draft targets of the plan and were asked to give input on those targets and develop ideas for further consideration by the Plan Management Team. The student ideas have been analyzed and aligned with the draft targets for Operations, Planning & Administration and Academics, Research & Engagement. This executive summary along with the following tables and appendices details the final report of student input from the Student Sustainability Forum.

Key Takeaways
Within the Operations, Planning & Administration sections of the plan, students proposed that UW make campus operations carbon neutral by 2030 and screen carbon offsets to be ethically vetted. To reduce energy use and improve efficiency UW could increase the installation of solar PV by 15% annually on all viable roof & parking space, develop a high performance building standard for operations & maintenance and convert campus fleet to all electric vehicles by 2035. In addition to the desire for locally sourced food, students want to see more healthy, sustainable food options with a commitment to a broader selection of vegan/vegetarian protein alternatives. Students proposed the UW reduce food waste by 10% in the next 5 years and develop a plan to reduce disposable/single use items.

Under the Academics, Research & Engagement sections of the plan students would like to see sustainability literacy as an academic outcome with increased support for sustainability curriculum development. There was a strong desire for increased administrative and academic support to sustain and incentivize programs and initiatives. To that end students would like to see dedicated resources for a sustainability research initiative or research center with a focus on advancing community, regional and global sustainability research. Students would like to see more institutionalized sustainability internship and community engagement opportunities with RSOs, programs, and centers. Students expressed the need for increased inclusion and diversity of student groups in outreach and engagement initiatives and event programming.

Opportunities to Address Gaps
Students were given draft categories of the plan as a starting place for input, with most student input aligning with existing categories of the draft plan. There was a general desire to see the UW have more aggressive, comprehensive and integrated targets. Opportunities to address such gaps might best be facilitated through a second survey and/or an in person half day review and revision process of the draft plan in May or June with UW faculty, students, and staff.

Continued Student Engagement
There continues to be ongoing outreach and engagement efforts with student communities throughout March and April until a draft version of the plan is released on Earth Day April 22nd. This includes tabling at student events, meeting individually with RSOs, ASUW and GPSS student leadership. A catalyst survey will also continue to be open during this time to gather further input from students, faculty and staff. A final summary report of survey results and student ideas will be delivered to the Plan Management Team, Executive Team and the Environmental Stewardship Committee for consideration of integrating them into the final version of the plan. It has not yet been determined how the Executive Team plans to solicit feedback on the draft version of the plan before the final plan is released in July, though student groups and staff have expressed interest in having a robust review and revision process for the final plan.
## Alignment of Student ideas with UW Plan Targets

### Operations, Planning & Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target: 36% below 2005 GHG emissions by 2035</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alignment with student ideas/input:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Carbon Neutral campus operations by 2030.</td>
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<td>- Increase solar PV 15% annually on all viable roof &amp; parking space.</td>
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<td>- Research certifying UW Campus/U-District as an EcoDistrict.</td>
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<th>Target: 15% lower energy usage intensity by 2025</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alignment with student ideas/input:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish high performance standards for renovation/O&amp;M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop campus as a living lab model for all new construction and renovation.</td>
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<th>Target: 12% or less of commutes are SOV by 2028</th>
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<td><strong>Alignment with student ideas/input:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free U-Pass for all faculty, staff &amp; students.</td>
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<td>Develop Bicycle Infrastructure Plan.</td>
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<th>Target: 5% lower professional travel emissions by 2025</th>
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<td><strong>Alignment with student ideas/input:</strong></td>
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<td>Convert campus fleet to all electric by 2030.</td>
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<th>Target: Develop equitable purchasing target</th>
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<td><strong>Alignment with student ideas/input:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical/Equitable purchasing standard.</td>
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<td>Move away from large corporate partnerships.</td>
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<th>Target: 35% of food is from local sources by 2025</th>
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Alignment with student ideas/input:
More vegan/vegetarian protein options.
More healthy and sustainable affordable food options.
Reduce CO2 emissions from food sourcing.

Target: 10% less solid waste by 2025

Alignment with student ideas/input:
Reduce food waste by 10% in the next 5 years.
Reduce disposable/single use items.

Academics, Research & Engagement

Target: One UW-wide sustainability framework by 2022

Alignment with student ideas/input:
Produce students that are sustainability literate.
Support for Sustainability Curriculum Development.
Increase administrative capacity to sustain and incentivize sustainable action on campus.

Target: Double sustainability-oriented research by 2025

Alignment with student ideas/input:
Establish transdisciplinary sustainability research initiative/program.
Establish Community Participatory based Research Program.

Target: Double Sustainability Impressions by 2024

Alignment with student ideas/input:
Increase and improve outreach & engagement efforts.
Increase diversity and inclusion in sustainability engagement events.
Formalize sustainability internship and community engagement opportunities with RSOs.
Appendix A. Energy, Buildings & Transportation

Energy

Target: Carbon Neutral campus by 2030
Actions:
- Renovate the natural gas power plant so that it is renewable by 2030 at the latest
- 100% renewable energy by 2040 - replace power plant
- Implementation of sustainable energy & tech
  - Waste to Energy
  - Reuse Waste heat from server rooms sewage line etc
- Ask state legislators to help fund converting power plant to electric
- Transition from steam to hot water sited by geothermal, use Seattle sewers as heat source
- Geothermal feasibility study

Target: Increase solar PV 15% annually on all viable roof & parking space
Actions:
- Agree on a % for how much of the power UW produces to be from renewables
- Commit to 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Create a timeline dictating the steps and end date for when UW campus will run on 100% renewable energy
- Common goals for UW Solar & WASHPIRG
- Designated funding for solar energy
- Solar contract with women and minority owned business

Buildings

Target: Establish high performance standards for renovation/O&M
Actions:
- Renovate long term existing buildings w/ new, energy saving Mechanical, Energy Plumbing equipment and fixtures
- Energy Audits & retrofit long term energy intense building with energy saving HVAC and plumbing fixtures
- Building Energy Efficiency Survey/Audit
- Implement more energy control systems (machine learning) for each building to optimize energy use
- Lights off- saving energy in buildings
  - Add “Turn Off the Lights or Water stickers next to lights or water stations
  - Having lower wattage bulbs at night in dorms or motion sensors lights
- Resource/energy efficient buildings
- Visible energy performance metrics (behavioral feedback loop)
- Update old buildings to meet our sustainability goals
- Strive for living building build standards
- Building monitoring for energy and water
- UW building/infrastructure standards that go beyond seattle code
- Campus Accessibility
- ensuring accessibility - universal design
- More elevators

**Target:** Establish a campus as a living lab model for all new construction and renovation

**Actions:**
- Make new buildings in collaboration with architecture, public health, environmental faculty & students
- Learning opportunities with new sustainability buildings
  - ME (HVAC, Plumbing)
  - EE (PV arrays, Building Management Systems)
  - CS (Machine Learning)
  - Collaboration between disciplines
- Engaging students with sustainable building codes and education about what LEED GBC, Energy STAR and FitWell mean
- More educational outreach on building certifications
- Research Sustainable Heat recovery systems
- More student art projects to push awareness on sustainable building

**Target:** Research certifying UW Campus/U-District as an EcoDistrict

**Actions:**
- Sustainable assessment of how UW master plan fits with UW District
- More on campus housing available for summer academic breaks
- Establish healthy building standards for new buildings
- Living Building certification pilot projects
- Establish better waste management infrastructure in buildings
- Invest in wood (CLT) buildings
- More Cross Laminated Timber & sustainably harvested wood in building construction

**Transportation**

**Target:** Convert campus fleet to all electric by 2030

**Actions:**
- Replace the U-Car fleet with all electric cars, vans etc.
- Get numbers for why electric vehicles are a good alternative
- Update UW vehicles to be more environment friendly
- Build more charging station on a around campus
- Lower parking fee or free parking for electric vehicles

**Target:** Free U-Pass for all faculty, staff & students

**Actions:**
- Make UW pass available year round
- Include staff in U-Pass program

**Target:** Develop Bicycle Infrastructure Plan

**Actions:**
- Bike lanes on pathways between buildings on campus
- Make trails safer at night with solar powered lighting
- UW Solar lights along the Burke Gilman (x2)
Appendix B. Procurement, Food & Waste

**Procurement**

**Target:** Ethical/Equitable purchasing standard.

**Actions:**
- Purchase Carbon Offsets for plane travel
- Purchasing Online textbooks
- Compile report on local/ethical/sustainable food purchasing options.
  - Shift the money from unhealthy/unsustainable purchases to more healthy and more sustainable purchases.
  - Set high standards for ethically/equitable/diversity of business we purchase from.
  - Expand purchasing/usage of UW farm foods.
  - Reexamine/end relationships with food megacorporations.
  - Buying more in larger bulk (ie. from Puget Sound Food Hub)
- Push HFS to follow the plan and develop their own organizational goals

**Target:** Move away from large corporate partnerships.

**Actions:**
- Fix the Starbucks pouring rights deal! Celebrate local coffee which in turn can support a more sustainable coffee supply chain and system.
- Should look into purchasing through Hummingbird wholesale. STOP purchasing through Coca Cola.

**Food**

**Target:** More vegan/vegetarian protein options.

**Actions:**
- Talk to HFS about more plant based proteins.
- Just protein sources.
- Vegetarian/vegan options.

**Target:** More healthy and sustainable affordable food options

**Actions:**
- Subsidize healthy + sustainable food on campus.
- Halt purchasing food from companies that use abusive/exploitative labor practices.
- Hold UW to establishing and maintaining high standards in working conditions for dining staff.
- Consistent prices across all HFS stores and restaurants
- Increasing awareness of affordable options like Food Pantry.

**Target:** Reduce CO2 emissions from food sourcing
Actions:
- Meatless Mondays (and Tofu Tuesdays).
- Prioritize purchasing food with lower CO2 footprint. (Maybe give vendors limits)?
- Increase meat-alternatives (offer more beyond meat).
- Prioritize food with high nutritional content.
- Educational signs on CO2 footprint/meter.
- Increase carbon footprint through reports (transparency).

Waste

Target: Reduce food waste by 10% in the next 5 years.

Actions:
- Smaller portions (less waste).
- Lessen/reduce food packaging.
- Less additives and more fresh food.
- Participating in real food challenge.
- Microwaves!! More incentive/resources for bringing food from home.
- Increasing community kitchens.
- Expand on campus farms.
- Closing the loop on waste landfill diversion
- Reduce waste etc.
- Grow 10% of food consumed in a dining hall on campus.
- Survey students for culturally relevant food preferences.
- Incorporate edible landscapes on campus.
- Promote local student food groups through funding incentives.

Target: Reduce disposable/single use items.

Actions:
- Speak to HFS about reusable containers.
- Provide reusable bags/tupperware and allow use to-go.
- Phase out plastic options.
- Salad and soup bowls along with sandwich boats at Center Table need to be reusable, not just compostable.
- Action: incentivise reusable containers.
- Plates bowls @ District Market.
  - Discounts.
  - Bring your own plates (BYOP).
  - Charge people/positive incentives.
  - No straws.
Appendix C. Climate, Water & Ecosystems

**Climate**

**Goal:** Divest from all fossil fuel companies by 2025

**Actions:**
- Stop investing endowment in fossil fuels
- Divest & Sustainably reinvest/evaluate for environmental impact
- Divest from prison labor and be more transparent on all investment %

**Water**

**Goal:** Increase Water conservation by X%

**Actions:**
- Reduce water use in HFS, timers on showers
- Low flow showers and toilets
- Develop hard goal to improve water quality conservation & management (closed loop)
- Behavior changes through infrastructure updates
- Rainwater collection on rooftops for recycled water in dorms
- Recycled rain and greywater in dorms
- Water efficiency competition across dorm halls
- Quit watering the golf driving range
- More water refill stations

**Ecosystems**

**Goal:** Improve Ecosystem Services + Health

**Actions:**
- Invest in more natural areas
- Restoration and lands management for habitat carbon sequestration and ecophilia
- Bioswales
- Wildlife corridors, canopy cover and pollinator pathways on campus
- Create a policy for protection of natural spaces on campus

**Goal:** Invest in climate resilient green Infrastructure

**Actions:**
- Better Stormwater management plan
- Requirements for more permeable services in new construction
  - Green retrofits/reduce impermeable surfaces
- Protecting natural landscapes
- Reduce campus Combined Stormwater overflow/ stormwater infrastructure
- Treat all stormwater on campus by 2030
- Increasing amount of trees and wood building + land appropriate for buildings and space
Appendix D. Academics, Research & Community

**Academics**

**Target:** Produce students that are sustainability literate  
**Actions:**  
- Establish Sustainability literacy standard  
- Create a general sustainability credit and requirement  
- Sustainability credit pathways  
  - FIG, writing etc  
  - Service learning, enviro education  
- Develop sustainability curriculum options  
  - Classes  
  - join RSO  
  - Service learning volunteer work  
  - LED to sustainability  
- Have classes & teachers from all departments mention how their subject connects to sustainability  
  - equity - the structure & economic system that runs our world, US policy, colonization  
- Interdisciplinary Sustainability education  
  - Creating an interdisciplinary curriculum in majors/with interdisciplinary approach  
  - more intersectional curriculum (equity etc)  
  - Provide resources for collaborative environments and interdisciplinary actions  
  - Embed sustainability into each academic unit/dept mission

**Target:** Support for Sustainability Curriculum Development  
**Actions:**  
- Identify faculty interested in teaching sustainability  
- Sustainability fellowship so that professors get funded to teach sustainability courses  
- Faculty Professional Development to incorporate sustainability education  
- Paid professional development  
- Funding for implementation of sustainability class  
- Have each department meet to discuss how to combine their sustainability courses into one.  
- Sustainability Certificate with Foster School of Business or Perspectives and Experience requirement in all majors  
- Prioritize environmental science applications in STEM and Economics  
- Take the goals from each four groups tonight to create curriculum.  
- CTL (are they interested?)

**Research**

**Target:** Establish transdisciplinary sustainability research initiative/program
Actions:
- Identify funding opportunities and develop funding model for research
  - Funding for research by & with affected communities
- Local entrepreneur support and economic development in WA
- Push for sustainability research projects within all majors requirements (i.e. capstones)
- Sustainability in Research -
  - Include by & with affected communities n proposals & calls,
  - Raise money for funding research
  - Expanding social equity sectors to sustainability in funding

Target: Establish Community Participatory based Research Program

Actions:
- Bridge the gap between UW research/information and local, rural/community implementation esp. Eastern Washington
- Research plan for listening to the concerns of people affected (equity implemented)
  - U-District
  - Seattle
  - King County
  - Washington State
- Partnerships and communication with rural communities, preparing people lead on own
- Sustainability & rural/global development are interdependent (this is equity for academics)
- Tell seniors and grads about areas in UW & Seattle that need research and reporting action planning that are not being focused on, TIDR, use the resource of 80 page research papers to tackle issues not being addressed

Target: Formalize sustainability internship and community engagement opportunities with RSOs

Actions:
- RSO collaboration, specifically with international students and hiring more international faculty (increase engagement and bring broader perspectives)
- Partnering with campus clubs and research groups to find and leverage synergies
- Engaging more with students to plan projects that are worth the investment for the plan

Community Engagement & Resilience

Target: Improve/Increase Outreach & Engagement efforts

Actions:
- Mandatory Orientation: Admissions & Orientation/ First Year Programs
  - Speak to the Provost and President.
  - Sustainability Orientation: A&O, service learning, credit pathways, language is important, implicit exclusion from sustainability & RSOs
  - Orientation transfer, undergrad and grad (modules on enviro justice)
  - Add a lecture in orientation/waste sorting
- Streamline communication about current UW efforts
- Create a website to direct students to sustainable groups on campus (make groups more united and organized under a committee/group
  - Educate about sustainability successes and their impacts, share stories
- Sustainability education through face to face interactions i.e. fairs rallies etc
● Digital signage in Red square or Chalk walls for announcements instead of plastic banners
● Fund community education (accessible) installation
● Marking compostable items more clearly
  ○ Visuals BIGGER = better.
  ○ Re-label all trash cans as landfill and make them harder to open.

**Target:** Increase diversity and inclusion in sustainability engagement events

**Actions:**
● Increase diversity in sustainability with RSOs collabs etc
● Deeper Inclusion, equity for all students accessibility international student inclusivity in leadership
● Annual student sustainability feedback forum Co-hosted with Cultural RSOs
● Sustainability Outreach coordinators for dorm residents

**Target:** Increase administrative capacity to sustain and incentivize sustainable action on campus

**Actions:**
● Sustainability liaison to coordinate across units
● Embed sustainability metrics into each campus administrative unit (grounds, foods, student services health etc.) for academic units
  ○ Transparency on sustainability goals
  ○ Humane business labor laws