

Drafting the University of Denver Sustainability Plan

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AGENDA

- ◆ Purpose & Objectives
- ◆ Guiding Philosophy
- ◆ Anatomy of a Plan
- ◆ Category Templates
- ◆ STARS credits & Green Report Card
- ◆ Issues for consideration
- ◆ Contact information

Purpose & Objectives

American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)

- ◆ Under the terms of that Commitment, the University of Denver has pledged: (1) to integrate sustainability into our curriculum; (2) to complete a comprehensive inventory of all University related greenhouse gas emissions and update the inventory every other year and (3) to, within two years of signing, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral as soon as possible.

Purpose & Objectives

- ◆ Build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community and promote a comprehensive understanding of sustainability that includes its social, economic and environmental dimensions.
- ◆ Incorporation of Sustainable Endowments Green Report Card areas
- ◆ Alignment with AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)
 - ◆ www.aashe.org/stars

Guiding Philosophy

- ◆ The DU Sustainability Plan needs to align closely with the overall institutional mission.
- ◆ **Public good** and inclusive excellence as guiding philosophy to the sustainability plan.
- ◆ DU tradition of students as global citizen provides a niche in Colorado as well as a strong overall philosophy.

Anatomy of a Plan

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Commentary by Council chair around objectives and process (e.g., Explanation of purpose and objectives/feedback process and transparency)
- ◆ Definitions; Background on sustainability at DU; emphasis on internationalization/global citizenry; lay out terms, “public good” and “inclusive excellence”
- ◆ Division into four large content areas, 1) Curriculum and Research, 2) Outreach & Engagement, 3) Operations, and 4) Administration and Finance
- ◆ Conclusion – strategy for actionable items; reiteration of themes and vision; comment on accountability

Category Templates

- ◆ STARS categories are used for organization, individual credits are distributed to a designated council committee
- ◆ Each area will incorporate RATIONALE and STRATEGIES (action items)
- ◆ Each category should contain:
 - ◆ Introduction and philosophy statement on area which speaks to public good and inclusive excellence;
 - ◆ Terms – consistent and defined;
 - ◆ Breakdown into sub-content areas

Data Collection & Reporting

- ◆ To collect data and pull together a comprehensive plan, the DU sustainability council formed 6 committees: curriculum and research; facilities; transportation; reduce, reuse, recycle; outreach; and, best practices.
- ◆ The writing efforts were led by a faculty member designated by the Provost.

Issues for Consideration

- ◆ Feedback loop from key stakeholders (Administration, Faculty, Staff, Students, peer inst.?)
- ◆ Consistency of voice and objectives
- ◆ Consistency of layout and focus
- ◆ Consistency with STARS and Green Report Card

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