

# Building facilities and infrastructure committee

## 12.4.19

Attendance:

Doug Richstone (Chair)

Hank Baier  
Marcus Beal  
Jane Immonen  
Adam Matzger  
Erik Nielsen  
Jessica Pasquale  
Robert Pfaff  
Dan Rife

Guests:

Jennifer Haverkamp - Co-Chair President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality  
Director, Graham Sustainability Institute.  
Joy Beatty SACUA/Senate Assembly Chair.

Jennifer Haverkamp provided the committee with an overview of the activities of the Presidents Commission on Carbon Neutrality. There was a timely report of these activities in the Record.

Presidents Commission on Carbon Neutrality

“Carbon Neutrality” means the University will reduce its Carbon emission to zero and to sequester or buy offsets to compensate for any nonzero emission. Offsets are apparently controversial as some on the Commission regard them as equivalent to sale of indulgences.

Commission recommendations are due Fall Semester 2020

[First report out now](#)

Carbon Neutrality - Emissions balancing out with absorption/removal

- Scope: All property we own and lease. The Ann Arbor campus has 86% of square footage.
- City of AA passed resolution to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Total AA campus use of power is about  $4 \times 10^8$  Kilowatts/year.

There is an effort to gain 25% reduction by 2025 of greenhouse gas by...

- New powerplant to replace coal-fired electricity from DTE with natural gas generated electricity on campus
- UM Negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement to provide - 200M kWh / year (roughly ½ of electricity purchased on A2 campus) generated by wind or solar generation.

8 committees doing individual research - headed by faculty and staffed by students

- Currently investigations underway by each team

Three kind of emissions

- Scope 1 - self generated emissions
- Scope 2 - purchased electricity
- Scope 3 - tied to us - less control/measurement capability
  - Examples: Commuting / food purchase / U travel / Off Campus Housing

### **Dialogue spawned around following topics**

The committee was startled to learn that by law UM must buy a fixed fraction of its energy from utilities.

The committee (BIFC) expressed some concern about the value of offsets, or maybe just the principle of offsets

BIFC understands that the President's Commission makes recommendations. Who determines what occurs in implementation?

Solar energy falling on the campus is greater than the campus' energy needs. The committee thought storage of energy was important as a path to harnessing that solar energy.

Committee wondered whether the political power of Carbon Neutrality could overcome opposition to nuclear power as a possible solution.

There were questions about the sequestration capacity of the BioStation

LINK: <https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs> . LSA wants the Bio-station to be Carbon neutral.

Committee wondered whether lighting was part of the conversation. JH said that there was an overall evaluation of efficiency of campus buildings as part of the Commissions work.