

Proposal:

Pushing Change on Campus: Creating a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and Evolving Toolkit for the University of New Mexico

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ABSTRACT

This proposal will give a detailed outline of why I am choosing to create a Climate Action Plan for the University of New Mexico, how it will be structured, who I will work with to achieve this goal, what I hope the plan will achieve for the university, and how it will live past my time at UNM. This updated plan will serve to help promote the goal of the original plan of 70% emissions reductions by 2030 on UNM's main campus. This proposal will show how to move my policy recommendations forward and what resources I hope to utilize for the overall process. This proposal will also discuss the development of the comprehensive toolkit that I will put together after the completion of the Climate Action Plan. This overall project will excite climate change mitigation action on UNM's main campus while moving the university towards an environmentally conscious future, hopefully setting a precedent for the rest of the state.

INTRODUCTION

The University of New Mexico (UNM) sources only a small amount of renewable energy onto the campus each year, sourcing the majority of its energy from on-campus natural gas powered generators and purchased electricity from PNM. According to the 2009 UNM Climate Action Plan (CAP), the three largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions on the main campus are electricity, HVAC, and transportation. The initial plan to move the university to a place of carbon neutrality by setting a goal of 70% reduction of emissions on the campus by 2030 was ambitious but has fallen short on it's track almost ten years later. Creating an updated CAP will help push this 70% reduction goal even further. This updated plan will include recommendations for moving the campus away from fossil fuel commitments, incorporate detailed strategies for implementing climate action policy, and give specific examples of other institutions that have had success in shifting their University towards a more sustainable model.

This updated CAP will use 2006, as it's base year to track if any progress has been made in emissions reductions, almost ten years later. I will then draw together what I believe to be the most relevant recommendations for UNM's central campus in lowering their overall emissions, with support and guidance from faculty, administration, and instructors. I will then create an evolving "toolkit" that will serve as a sort of torch to be passed down to future generations of students looking to advocate and push change on UNM's main campus. The toolkit will contain a brief overview of the work done by the person passing it along as well as all the information and research compiled. This toolkit will be made in hopes of continued work on an issue that extends past the length of four years.

As the CAP and toolkit are passed along, UNM will be forced to recognize climate change as an issue that concerns its student body. After the completion of the CAP, it will be presented to and sent to as many influential university staff as possible. The goal of this project is to manifest some lasting change on UNM's campus. To do this we need a plan...

METHODS (with estimated date of completion):

Gain Support, Reach out to President Stokes to get a letter to be placed at the front of the CAP (2/11/19):

- Letter From the President of UNM to introduce the CAP
- Email/Set up meetings with influential UNM staff to guide research and gain support.
- Email staff from other institutions to gain perspective.
- Team up with other organizations (both on campus and off) to help supplement human power and gain resources.

Compile extensive data that shows UNM's Current emissions status and compare it to the last CAP (1/21/19):

- UNM's Utilities Division oversees all energy dealings on main campus.
- Reach out to the Utilities Division staff to get a hold of concrete figures for energy production and HVAC dealings on campus.
- Reach out to economics professors, climate professors, and statistics professors to understand how to calculate my data to show UNM's annual emissions.
- Reach out to Jeff Zumwalt to discuss Lobo Energy Incorporated.

"Petroleum, natural gas, and coal production make New Mexico the seventh-largest net supplier of energy to the nation"(US Energy Information Administration 2018)

Compile data on other University CAP's (1/17/19):

- Research as many other universities CAP's to gain a sense of what a successful CAP looks like.
- Follow successful Universities budgets to observe where they pool their money.
- Contact other CAP authors and get advice on how they were able see success within their program.

"We are addressing some of the most critical challenges of our time" (Arizona State University, School of Sustainability 2018)

Compile data on Albuquerque's CAP and Tim Keller's Climate Mayor Commitment (2/18/19):

- On January 11, 2018, city of Albuquerque Mayor, Tim Keller signed on to the

Mayors National Climate Action Agenda. (Dryer 2018)

- The Mayors National Climate Action Agenda commits local governments around the United States to adhere to the goals laid out by the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Understand that there is opportunity for a possible collaboration between UNM and the City of Albuquerque in pushing climate action.
- Contact Tim Keller's office of sustainability to gain general insight that will hopefully prompt some sort of collaboration.
- Look to City's CAP to see if they stress emissions reductions on the campus of UNM.
- 379 US cities signed onto the Climate Mayors Commitment

-“Keller said the city's participation will include taking inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, setting emission reduction targets and putting a plan in place to meet those goals.” (Dryer 2018)

Include Section on Second Nature commitment and other similar commitments (3/4/19):

- This section will include an overview of our previous commitment to Second Nature and why that likely ended.
- This section will also include other commitment options that might serve UNM's needs more adequately.

“Schools, non-profit organizations or institutions that are not signatories of the Second Nature Climate Leadership Network, or members the Intentional Endowments Institute qualify for this registration price. This rate is available until November 30, 2018. If you would like to register a team of 3 or more people from the same institution, please contact summit@secondnature.org for information on further discount opportunities.” (Second Nature Website 2017)

- According the Second Nature website, UNM would need to pay an annual \$5,000 due, (based on the campus enrollment and revenue) to sign onto the Climate commitment. Is there a better way of attaining these climate goals without the costly investment in the commitment itself? Seems like that money would be better spent back into the university's own climate action.

Include Section discussing UNM's budget and admission rates (12/28/18):

- Use UNM's budget and admission rates data to support the argument that a new commitment to carbon neutrality would help market the university to potential attendees.
- Take some sort of poll around campus to determine general support of UNM being labeled as an “Environmentally conscious” establishment.

Include Section discussing UNM's marketability as an “Environmentally conscious”

University (4/20/19):

- This section will contain a plea to the university to hop on a potential trend sooner rather than later to gain credibility as a pioneer in the climate action movement.
- Compare this commitment to an investment model: The sooner you enter, the larger the reward.

Include Section highlighting policy recommendations (5/1/19):

- Demonstrate effective policy by providing clear examples.
- Include realistic policy recommendations that would help the University achieve the goals laid out in the Climate Action Plan.
- This Section will require the most amount of detail and thought, we want the University to take these recommendations seriously.
- Extensive research on renewable energy feasibility, energy conservation, grid technology, Power Purchase Agreements, energy scheduling tactics, campus scheduling dealings, food waste, transportation, materials sourcing, and UNM's governing structure.

Include Sections that discuss budgetary reallocations (4/16/19):

- Finding the money to make these commitments possible will be the most important and most challenging part of this project.
- Include pathways within the budget to use existing revenue to support goals of the commitment.
- Extensive research on UNM's funding
- Research on potential private/outside funding sources and a proposal for how to approach such bodies.

Attend Events to gain perspective (2/10/19-2/12/19):

- Apply for the Sustainability Green Fund
- The Sustainability Green Fund Green Fund is a pool of capital, reserved for students seeking to promote sustainability of UNM's campus.
- Attend 2019 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit if Green Fund is granted.
- The Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit is an annual gathering of environmental professionals and academic leaders. Attending this summit would greatly broaden the scope of the CAP.

Create the Evolving Toolkit (5/10/19):

- Once the CAP is completed, a digital copy will be uploaded onto the University of New Mexico Sustainability Studies website to be displayed publically.
- All supplementary materials used to compile the CAP will be uploaded and mapped out on a WordPress account. The link for this account will also be posted

on the Sustainability Studies website for the public to access. The login information for the WordPress account would remain with current Sustainability Studies staff and passed along to future generations of students seeking to carry on the work. After each semester, the password for the WordPress account would change to prevent future tampering.

- Each year, students will be able to pick up where students before them left off, adding new material to the WordPress account.
- The Evolving Toolkit will promote new climate action as well as aid in documenting emissions levels on UNM's main campus.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A commitment from the University of New Mexico to reduce overall emissions by 70% by 2030.
- A thorough and comprehensive Climate Action Plan that will help UNM Achieve its 70% emission reduction goal by 2030.
- A shift in how UNM's administrative body carries out climate action.
- Statewide/countrywide recognition for UNM being a pioneer in Climate Action.
- Commitment from the city of Albuquerque to aid in UNM's efforts take action against climate change.
- An evolving set of documents that can be passed on from my time at UNM to futures generations that will inspire action and change for years to come.
- Overall emissions decrease/ a reduced rate of climate impact from UNM.

DISCUSSION

With recent threats of global temperatures increasing 1.5 degrees Celsius past preindustrial levels by the end of the decade (IPCC 2018), it is crucial that immediate climate action in every anthropogenic sector take place. To treat our global climate crisis with the severity that it deserves requires that governing bodies (both local and global) embark on substantial mitigation efforts to slow down emissions production as much as possible. This is why I chose to focus my project on UNM. UNM main campus is my small scale governing entity that works (in a lot of ways at least) similar to larger reaching municipalities. In an effort to understand and work the inner dynamics of UNM will grant me with valuable experience that I can take with me later in life to apply to (hopefully) larger scale mitigation efforts. Ideally, developing this CAP will yield some tangible results during my time at UNM. If this goal falls short, however, its span to future generations will far surpass my time at UNM. Which is exciting.

LITERATURE CITED

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FIGURES

Budget

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Part I – Budget:

Item	Unit cost	Number	Amount
Class Sup. (5-8)			
Hours Committed:	4 hrs/month (per student)	4 months	80-128 hours
Subtotal: v-hours			80-128 hours
Travel:	\$180	1 ticket	\$180
Lodging:	\$190	1 event	\$180
Admission:	\$750	1 event	\$750
Supplies:	\$12.69	5 books	\$59.45
Subtotal: operations			\$1,169.45
Request (hours/dollars)			80-128 hours \$1,169.45

Part II – Budget Justification:

Classroom Support – Compiling information and research for UNM’s Climate Action Plan will require a lot of work, additional help throughout the process will aide in it’s thorough completion and quality. Participation from lower division sustainability classes will help the process along tremendously and give the students opportunity to earn credit towards their overall grades.

Travel, Lodging, and Admission – Next semester, Second Nature is hosting a “Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit” that will discuss climate action strategies from a wide array of experienced keynote speakers. Attending this summit would provide a huge benefit to the development of the Climate Action Plan. The \$750 registration fee would include 3 participants from UNM to attend the event, the rest of the costs would cover a round trip plane ticket to and from Tempe, Arizona and lodging for the duration of the stay.

Supplies – Once the new draft of UNM’s Climate Action Plan is completed, I think it would be beneficial to make 5 printed copies to be sent to varying administrative bodies around the campus. Each copy would cost \$12.69 to print.

Matching – No matching found in this early stage of the process but will hopefully turn up as time progresses.

