

iCAP Working Group

Friday, December 4, 2015

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9:36 am

Announcements

Request for feasibility studies was sent to SWATeams with a brief list due to us by December 18, 2015 and more detailed recommendations to be submitted by January 15, 2016. This should keep us on time for submitting a budget request in February. iSEE will request the budget on behalf of the iWG and the SWATeams.

White House American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge. iSEE hosted a group of students to watch streaming video of the EPA director and followed up with a question and answer session.

Second Nature Resilience Commitment. The American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) has been split into two different commitments, the Carbon Commitment and the Resilience Commitment. We have already rolled over to the Carbon Commitment, but need to consider signing the Resilience Commitment. If we sign by January 4, 2016 we would be a charter signatory.

The idea is that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is not enough, we also need to commit to resilience and adaptation, rather than a narrow focus on ghg reductions.

What would we be committing to? It involves forming a campus and community task force in the first year, a resilience assessment in the second year, and incorporating it into the climate action plan in the third year. We already have a group involving campus and community sustainability professionals. It is called the Champaign County Sustainability Practitioners and meets monthly.

The resilience assessment would involve developing our own indicators to measure progress, for example disaster recovery, power demand due to extreme temperatures. What are our vulnerabilities and how would we respond? What are our strengths and assets on campus and in our community under different scenarios?

Incorporating resilience into our climate action plan would likely be an addendum to the 2015 iCAP with full integration in the 2020 iCAP.

The iCAP Working group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of signing the resilience commitment. For example, it would be a good opportunity to evaluate our 'black swans' and how to mitigate long-term risks, it would show national leadership in sustainability. On the other hand, it would be additional work for iSEE, iWG and others. Will doing this run the risk of diluting the sustainability focus or confuse people?

Some might argue that resilience was part of the intent all along when signing the original climate commitment, but others are not sure all would believe so.

What would be the best approach for completing the resiliency assessment? We don't want to impose on our community partners. We need to engage experts like those in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and or the Regional Planning Commission. We will also need stakeholder involvement.

How many schools have signed the resilience commitment? 58 so far including Arizona State and UCLA.

We hope the Chancellor would be bold, but we also understand that she likes to consult others and is committed to shared governance.

What are the financial implications? The assessment could cost \$50,000 if the Regional Planning Commission prepares it, and the actions to become more resilient might cost money as well. The group thinks it is a good idea to pursue, but if we really wanted to be a charter signatory, we should have put it forward earlier. When does the Chancellor meet with her leadership team? Consider asking to be on the agenda.

iCAP Objectives: Point people and tasks. Ben and Morgan briefly shared a presentation explaining ownership (F&S vs. Non F&S) of iCAP objectives, who the point of contact should be, and tasks associated with each. Try to conclude discussions with other responsible parties by February.

Adjournment 10:52