

iWG Assessment

SWATeam Recommendation Ref #: EGen006

Date of iWG Assessment: 2/23/17

Original SWATeam Recommendation: Continue and/or start discussions with the Vice Chancellor for Research and/or NCSA regarding the development of a plan and budget to procure the offset for all emissions from the National Petascale computing facility as outlined in the 2015 iCAP.

iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):

moderate budget and/or policy impact OR major budget and/or policy implications

iWG Routing Need (*check one*):

transmit recommendation OR forward to Sustainability Council

iWG Routing Direction (*department name or Council*): VCR

iWG Assessment: This has been an open issue since the 2010 iCAP and the 2015 iCAP. This should be addressed with the current discussions about supercomputing on campus.

Individual comments are required from each iWG member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

iWG Member Name	iWG Member's Comments
Assoc. Director for Campus Sustainability (iSEE)	This position is currently vacant.
Morgan Johnston (F&S)	While the cost to offset Petascale emissions or purchase associated Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) is not negligible, this is a key aspect of the strategic iCAP pathway toward a carbon-neutral campus.
Robyn Deterding (Student Affairs)	I support as this a strategic piece of the iCAP plan
Matthew Tomaszewski (Provost's Office)	I support the recommendation to discuss the appropriate approach. The budget implications should be carefully considered/assessed.
Gary Kling (Academic Senate)	I support discussions with the VCR towards accomplishing this goal as long as it doesn't diminish campus research or endanger future funding for computing.
Joseph Edwards (Student Sustainability Leadership Council)	For the petascale offsets I agree with this policy. I'm not really sure how the funding for that facility works, but if there are other institutions/ entities other than UIUC utilizing this space, they should also help bear some of the brunt of making it sustainable. I also feel that offsets are fine for the time being, but our policy should be to work toward making that space sustainable on its own, instead of just paying for the carbon.
Sean Reeder (OBFS)	NCSA/VCR should be investigating the cost to offset emissions from the Petascale facility. It remains unclear to me if these costs are prohibitive or not.
Scott Willenbrock (Provost's Fellow)	Purchasing carbon offsets does not reduce emissions, it only transfers the right to claim emission reductions from the seller to the buyer. I do not support purchasing them.

Rob Fritz (college-level facility manager)	I would like to know what the costs are prior to committing funds for offsets. A priority should be given to energy conservation for reducing usage and then look at offsets, if required, to meet our goals.
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Attach any comments from subject matter experts (with names and roles).