

SWATeam Recommendation

Name of SWATeam: Transportation SWATeam

SWATeam Chair: Wojtek J. Chodzko-Zajko

Date Submitted to iSEE: 03/19/2015

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

The transportation SWATeam recommends that the data for faculty/staff travel be collected through the campus Travel and Expense Management (TEM) and Division of Management Information (DMI) system. The program should require that faculty/staff (or the unit head) report travel purposes and funding sources when they request travel expense reimbursement via TEM and the DMI manage and analyze the database.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

As documented in the iCAP report, air travel of faculty/staff accounts for more than two thirds of carbon emissions in the transportation sector. Thus, it is impossible to significantly reduce transportation sector emissions without a proper progress in air travel. To establish feasible emissions reduction goals and design a reasonable incentive program in the air travel sector, we need a dataset that shows what proportion of faculty/staff air travel is discretionary or replaceable by other communication modes. The database can serve several purposes. First, the data will help us establish reasonable and feasible emission reduction goals in the air travel sector by informing us to what extent air travels can be substituted by different transportation or communication modes such as video conferencing. Second, the DMI can also publish per capita air travel emissions by campus unit which can be used to design an incentive program for emissions reduction.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

The database will be used to establish reasonable emissions reduction goals by reduction method, travel substitution and offset purchase, in the transportation sector. It will also help us project the amount of required budget to purchase offsets.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

This could add some moderate work load on a data analyst at the DMI.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

Division of Management Information and Office of Business and Financial Services

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high):

Little to low budget impact is anticipated.

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

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Garrett Fullerton	I believe this data collection effort is necessary if the University wants to reach its goals of carbon reduction.
Rick Langlois	I agree fully with these goals. Additionally, something we haven't discussed in a meeting (the idea came after our last meeting) is to simply <i>ask</i> (emphasis on 'ask') departments to voluntarily reduce air travel however they can, right away. Departments (individuals) don't realize that collectively, University-wide, air travel has an enormous negative impact on the environment. In other words an action goal should include Raising Awareness.
Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko	Additional information is needed about all aspects of air transportation. Integrating this data into DMI and other reporting mechanisms is an important and necessary first step.
Grace Kyung	This is an effective use of resources and will in the long run be highly beneficial for the campus in recording this data.
Pete Varney	Given the impact of air travel on emissions I believe it is necessary to understand why the travel occurs and raise awareness regarding the impact.

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):

See rationale outlined in the most recent transportation chapter of the iCAP report.