**Resilience iCAP Team April Meeting Agenda**

Friday, April 14th

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Zoom link: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/81258275048?pwd=VjZ0TTZENkZndU9GY0cya2E1eGR4UT09>

*Attendees:* Asli Topuzlu, Warren Lavey, Stacy Gloss, Constance Brown, Cheryl Bicknell, Scott Tess, Jennifer Fraterrigo, Annie Cebulski

*Absentees*: Morgan White, Lisa Merrifield, Ella Zervakis, Linda Derhak, Helen Anil, Caitlin Kelly, Nichole Millage, Katie Simpson

Agenda

1. Welcome! – 5 minutes (Asli)
2. Discussion on Carbon Credit Sales and Purchasing – everyone
3. Goals for next year
	1. What was accomplished this academic year?
	2. What should the team focus on next year?

Meeting Notes

* Annie Cebulski – worked on campus carbon offsets with Warren Lavey
* Carbon Offset Planning Guide
	+ **Goal**: Purchase carbon offsets in 2023 calendar year in accordance with Second Nature’s MOU with UIUC
		- Second Nature – a group that helps facilitate buying and selling of carbon credits especially with universities
	+ **Amount**: 249,304 Carbon Credits
		- We are under obligation to purchase this amount to replace the carbon offsets that we sold
	+ **Funding total:** $1.4 million from UIUC carbon credit sales
	+ **Priorities**: Maximize impact with achievable purchases and projects
	+ **Target price**: < $5.00 per carbon credit
		- Carbon credits are being purchased up to $20 (for verifiable, good carbon credits) – out of our budget
	+ **Prior purchase details:**
		- Date: June 8, 2017
		- Seller: EcoAct Inc.
		- Price: $45,200
		- Purchase Order: 113,000 tonnes
		- Price Per Credit: $0.40
			* Extremely low!
		- **New Purchase Threshold: $100,000 (2023)**
* Recommended Standards
	+ University of Illinois’ Proposed Standards: Justify its offset purchases to all stakeholders
		- Additional (they enable reductions beyond business-as-usual), measurable, conservative (to ensure reductions are not overstated), permanent, independently verified, trackable, and transparent
* Three Approaches to Meet UIUC’s Offsetting Goals

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* + Market approach – only buy carbon offsets from the market (expensive as we can which is $5 per credit) and spend our budget on carbon credits
	+ Local approach – big impact on the surrounding community, most direct impact
		- The amount of carbon credits we are looking to replace is huge, we can’t reach this through local projects (need to draft a PR statement, can’t necessarily follow MOU)
	+ Hybrid approach – purchasing less expensive credits
		- Lower cost means less verifiability
		- Purchasing low-cost carbon credits, but also making local direct impact on the communities with the $901,392 profit
* Considerations for post-purchase (after deciding on the approach):
	+ What should the carbon offset program look like?
	+ Can we set up a fund by selling our carbon credits to university donors, and channel that money to that supports local or campus-based projects?
	+ Can we more proactively sell our carbon credits to other parts of the university to offset their emissions for travel, banquets, festivals, and utilities?
* Many universities have purchased carbon credits but generally have their own offsetting goals that are different than ours, making purchases around 80,000 credits
* There have been three ways that people have been purchasing carbon credits



$15-$20 carbon credits

* Some other universities have been investing in local projects
	+ Including investing in sustainable farming practices, making carbon sinks to provide a lab where students can learn about carbon offsetting, weatherization with the community, tree planting…
* Most of the universities’ carbon offset purchasing standards are very similar to ours
* UN’s guide to universities buying carbon credits - has a lot of important considerations when buying offsets



* **When we are using carbon purchases as a tool for meeting university emission goals, buying carbon credits is a last resort!**
	+ Something you should be doing in addition to reducing emissions, but not a viable option for buying our way to carbon neutral

Discussion

* Resilience committee has a charge under the iCAP to look at a carbon offsetting program with local benefits
	+ How can we use this opportunity of carbon credit purchase to further the university’s goals in making a local community-based carbon project? Is there a way to match some of these funds to what iCAP is doing and what F&S needs to do?
* Focusing on local projects and having more legitimate carbon credit purchase would be ideal
	+ Way more time consuming and hard to find different projects
	+ Still helpful for the community
* Good to get different perspectives on this and see if this would be helpful for the iCAP objectives
* Is there a timeline over which the university needs to acquire these carbon credits?
	+ Not a specific timeframe, but should start purchasing soon
* Constance’s idea: Purchasing carbon offsets is an easy way out, we might lose track on decreasing our emissions
	+ As a resilience team, we should really put all this effort and resource to support the local community
* Are there community projects that we can leverage to increase their impact in the community?
	+ Going on projects: Weatherizing homes, solar instillations, geothermal instillations, tree planting
		- Funding and support (federal grants are enormous!) to these projects mean more need of recruiting staff because no one has time to do these projects
* Even if we put together a recommendation as a team that says we are ready to move forward with doing something on carbon offsets, who catches this? Who is responsible for this?
	+ The idea was to first find a law student first (Aimee) who would check the MOU and EcoAct, afterwards Morgan thinks that her group has the capability to do the transaction
		- This should be more of a joint conversation and decision from iSEE
	+ Staffing component is crucial if we go to a complex root of carbon credit purchase and transaction (?)
* **What is required from iCAP Resilience Team in terms of action?**
	+ The group should discuss and see if teammates are interested in making a statement about carbon credit purchasing
	+ Afterward, the group can make a short recommendation based on what the iCAP Resilience Team would like to see this money go towards
		- **Which approach do we recommend (local, hybrid, or market)?**
			* Hybrid approach with some local components can work??
		- If local approach, maybe put a short synopsis of Cheryl’s community project for homeless people which can be an option
	+ Not really going through the regular iCAP Recommendation process