

September 7, 2023

Sustainability Council

Robert J. Jones, Chancellor, *Council Chair*

Madhu Khanna, Director, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE),
Council Vice-Chair

John Coleman, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost

Susan Martinis, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation

Danita Brown Young, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Barry Benson, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Michael DeLorenzo, Vice Chancellor for Administration & Operations

Ehab Kamarah, Associate Vice Chancellor & Executive Director, Facilities & Services

Brian Bundren, Associate Director for Capital Planning

Kevin Hamilton, Dean, College of Fine & Applied Arts

German Bollero, Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

Rashid Bashir, Dean, College of Engineering

Venetria Patton, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Senate Chair

Lowa Mwilambwe, Associate Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary, Health & Wellbeing

Josh Whitman, Director of Athletics

Abby McGuire, President, Illinois Student Government (ISG)

Claire Keating, Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

Danika Ford, Co-Chair Student Sustainability Leadership Council (SSLC)

Elizabeth Murphy, Managing Director, iSEE (ex-officio)

Morgan White, Associate Director of F&S, Sustainability (ex-officio)

Jen Fraterrigo, Associate Director for Campus Sustainability iSEE, iWG Chair (ex-officio)

Dear Colleagues,

In 2014, the campus approved a procedure (attached) for developing and evaluating new sustainability policies and initiatives for the institution. The Sustainability Council represents the highest level of evaluation of such policies and initiatives. I am writing to ask you to serve on the Council, which bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the campus meets its Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) targets.

The Council has two specific roles in this context. First, the Council is to evaluate recommendations from the topical Sustainability Working Advisory Teams (SWATeams) that have major impacts on campus budget or policy. These recommendations have already been

vetted by the iCAP Working Group, and any necessary information-gathering or feasibility studies should be complete by the time the Council reviews these recommendations. The iCAP Working Group will then coordinate the implementation of the Council's decisions.

Second, the Council is responsible for evaluating revisions to the iCAP, which will occur every 5 years since issuance of the first iCAP in 2010. On October 21, 2020, iSEE released the third of such re-envisioned plans that aims to achieve the plan's ultimate goal of carbon neutrality — no net emissions over the year — sooner than the original 2050 mark. [iCAP 2020](#), contains 56 SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based) objectives organized into eight key themes: Energy, Transportation, Land & Water, Zero Waste, Education, Engagement, Resilience, and Implementation.

As you know, the campus has embraced a renewed emphasis on the topic of sustainability following the results of the Visioning Future Excellence process and the creation of iSEE. In February 2016, our institution signed on to the Second Nature Resilience Commitment – pledging to look at ways our operations are vulnerable to changes in climate. Combined with the 2008 American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (now known as the Second Nature Carbon Commitment), the Urbana-Champaign campus is a charter signatory of Second Nature's full Climate Commitment.

In devoting time, attention, and resources to implementing these commitments, we reaffirm our pledge to become carbon neutral as soon as possible and to lay the groundwork for continued excellence of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am confident this campus can serve as a model of sustainability for all universities in the nation. Thank you in advance for helping to bring this vision to reality. To confirm your willingness to serve on the Council, please email Madhu Khanna, Director, iSEE, at khanna1@illinois.edu.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor

Attachment

