**iCAP Team Recommendation**

**Name of iCAP Team:** Energy

**iCAP Team chair(s):** Aman Mehta (Chair), Martha Kubakh (Vice-Chair)

**Date submitted to iWG:**

Recommendation title: Establishment of a Clean Energy Plan Conference Committee

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*For internal use only*: Date reviewed by iCAP Working Group:

**Specific actions/policy recommendation:**

Establish a committee of faculty, staff, and students charged with the following responsibilities:

* Identification of experts on energy conservation and clean energy technologies both on and off campus
* Recruitment of identified experts to speak about their area of expertise to the UIUC campus community
* Development of a conference focused on energy conservation and clean energy technologies that will be available to the campus community.

**Suggested unit/department to address implementation:**

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

**Rationale for recommendation:**

The Energy iCAP Team has been charged with assisting in the development of a clean energy plan for campus. After numerous conversations on best practices for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the team has concluded that the development of such a plan requires input from experts on both new and existing energy technologies. The Energy iCAP Team also feels that if input from energy experts is to be brought in, it should be shared with all stakeholders in a publicly available setting.

**Connection to iCAP goals:**

Objective 2.1: By FY24, develop a comprehensive energy planning document that includes a detailed strategy for meeting the FY50 net-zero greenhouse has (GHG) emissions goal.

**Perceived challenges:**
Challenges may include determining the scale of the event and coordinating a schedule in the timeframe of only a single semester.

**Anticipated timeline of implementation:**

Ideally, the committee will be identified prior to the beginning of the spring 2023 semester, and the conference will take place before the end of the spring 2023 semester.

**Anticipated budget (identify if cost is up-front or continuous):**

Potential costs include the reservation of a conference venue, the traveling costs of any off-campus speakers, and speaking fees charged by potential speakers.

Each of these costs should be up front. Once costs are identified, the Energy iCAP team will apply to SSC for funding for the event.

**Individual comments are required from each iCAP Team member (one or two sentences):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Team Member Name | Team Member’s Comments |
| Andrew Stumpf | 100% support this recommendation. A lot of the information about different technologies can be compiled before the listening sessions. Could also be tackled by holding individual interviews or filling out online surveys. The Campus Master Planning and Landscape Master plan could be models on how to seek input from the campus community. The students definitely need to be involved in the process. |
| Shannon Anderson | I am very excited about this recommendation! When we meet as a group, there are often questions about specific technologies or projects that require expert knowledge. Sometimes people with that expertise are present among members of the team, but sometimes they are not. Holding a conference with the specific intent of bringing together subject matter experts to inform creation of a Clean Energy Plan for the university will be crucial to making progress in this arena. I especially like the inclusion of students as part of this committee. |
| Tim Mies | Fully support this recommendation with the suggestion to include a hybrid online conference option to include more participants / presenters while lowering the travel carbon footprint of this activity. |
| Paul Foote | I support this recommendation in full. Collaborating with various experts is a terrific way to generate innovative solutions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality and GHG reduction goals. |
| Aman Mehta | This recommendation has my full support. Having a conference with experts in energy is required for the students, faculty and staff to get more educated on certain topics and is necessary to spread relevant information and technology. |
| Tyler Swanson | I support this recommendation, hearing from experts outside the university enables us to improve our planning process and create a finalized clean energy plan that sets up the University of Illinois to be a leader in clean energy. |
| Yun Kyu Yi | I support the recommendation. I agree with Andrew that some sort of survey or interview to find our campus community’s feedback after the conference will be a great benefit. |
| Damon McFall | Many of our peers are hiring external consultants with a broad area of expertise to provide campuses with holistic approaches to achieving net-zero carbon for their utilities. These professionals are knowledgeable about potential solutions that are readily and practically available in our region and provide the wisest use of capital. However, to educate our own campus in general, this approach will work. Some vetting of potential speakers will be required to provide a very valuable experience to a range of attendees. I support this initiative for the general campus learning opportunity. |
| Martha Kubach | I support this recommendation. It is a necessary task to organize a group of leaders to express their expertise and opinions on our energy needs. This conference can help answer any questions and may provide solutions to problems we are currently facing with our energy consumption. Information should be then be complied and looked at for future reference. |
| Roman Makhnenko | I support this recommendation. I think it is crucial to identify the speakers that can present on direct application of their research findings or existing projects to UIUC clean energy plan. It should not be just presentation of some microscale studies or findings irrelevant to the potential clean energy implementation on campus. |

Further explanation and background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Comments from consultation group (if any; these can be anonymous):