



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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FROM: Joshua Greenberg, Chair
MPC Committee

TO: Michelle Hebert,
Director of Sustainability

DATE: Oct. 24, 2014

SUBJECT: MPC Comments, Sustainability Plan

The Master Planning Committee reviewed the Sustainability Plan (SP) at its October 23rd meeting. The MPC is very impressed with the Sustainability Plan and commends the effort of students, the Office of Sustainability, and the Sustainability Executive Committee for the depth and breadth of the SP. However, the MPC believes that the document may need some additional work to further strengthen it. The MPC has the following comments it would like to see addressed in the plan. The MPC intends to review the revised plan at its next meeting on November 6th at which time it will consider recommendation of plan approval.

MPC Comments

- General comments.
 - The term “Master” should be removed from the title of the Sustainability Plan. This will avoid confusion and reserve the term for the UAF Master Plan.
 - The document in its present form identifies specific UAF departments responsible for given recommended actions. The MPC wonders whether departments had been consulted on the new responsibilities that could be required of them to achieve the given actions and the timeline for completion. The MPC is concerned that recommendation success could be compromised by the lack of coordination and cooperation between the UAF Sustainability Office in setting strategies and departments tasked with implementing specific actions by given dates. The MPC especially recommends that the dates for task completion for Facilities Services be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate.
 - The MPC believes a supporting document that provides detail on the costs and benefits of each implementation step would be helpful in understanding the challenges of implementation and the evaluation anticipated results.
 - The MPC believes it would be helpful if the SP addressed how increased training and marketing will be developed to support the plan.
 - Confirm that all images within document are UAF/Fairbanks images.

- Greenhouse Gas emission forecasts. Sec. 4.3
 - There is little mention of the new CHP plant in the document. It was unclear to the MPC whether the anticipated effects of the new CHP plant have been considered in forecasting future UAF Greenhouse gas emissions. The MPC would like to have document information updated to incorporate the impact of the new CHP plant on future emissions (sec 4.3).
- Building use energy intensity. Sec 4.0,
 - The MPC thought it would be helpful to have the Building Use Energy Intensity Figure (pg. 28) adjusted so that the provided information is normalized on degree heating days.
- Facilities rather than facility.
 - Update all references to “Facilities Services” (in some places it is referred to as “Facility Services”).
- Renewable energy and alternative transportation targets. Sec. 6
 - The SP provides a target of 30% renewable energy generation by 2025 (pg. 37 & pg. 41). The MPC is concerned as to the reasonableness of this target given constraints to UAF power generation. We appreciate that targets should be challenging, but caution that they risk being ignored if deemed unachievable. The MPC would like to have it confirmed that the target can be achieved within the specified time horizon and how it can be achieved.
 - The SP provides a target of 25% increase in alternative transportation. The MPC wonders how progress toward this target will be measured and what baseline will be used.
- Peer Institutions. Sec 4.7
 - A group of peer institutions were chosen for comparison purposed of various benchmark performance statistics. The MPC appreciates the usefulness of these comparisons and thought it would be helpful to the reader to have brief explanatory paragraph explaining the choice of these institutions.
- Integrate Sustainability into Planning and Design. Sec 7.3
 - In the first 2 implementation items under the Who column (pg 61), CCHRC is listed as a participant. The MPC found this role for CCHRC to be inappropriate. Building design functions are solely the responsibility of the University.
- Transportation. Sec 6.0
 - For the first 2 items on pg. 47, ‘Advocate for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements to/from Campus’ and ‘Advocate for Transit Service Improvements’ the City of Fairbanks is listed as a participant. However, the City does not provide the associated functions to assist in these items. Rather, the appropriate participants are FMATS, DOT and FNSB.
- Shape Alaska’s Future. Section 9.0
 - This section is titled “Shape Alaska’s Future”, and the SW initiative is called “Shaping Alaska’s Future.” The MPC is concerned that this name may need to be reviewed if the SP is referencing the SW initiative to avoid confusion.