

## **Project: Local Alternative Energy Incentives for Laramie, WY**

### **Background**

The 2019 and 2020 Campus Sustainability courses and related internships have forged an ongoing partnership with the City of Laramie in its nascent climate action and carbon neutrality planning process. In particular, student projects have contributed to municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories and an outline of a municipal climate action plan. As the City moves forward with its planning process, it is simultaneously now exploring specific actions to implement in order to reduce emissions. Increasing and enabling opportunities for rooftop photovoltaic (PV; solar electricity) installations with homeowners and businesses across Laramie has emerged as a top priority for City staff and elected officials. Based on relevant approaches for incentivizing rooftop solar in other similar communities and local stakeholder input, students will investigate, design, and propose a local/municipal incentive program for rooftop solar in Laramie. As time allows, students will design a similar program for energy efficiency incentives.

### **Activities and Deliverables**

- Identify any existing federal and state-level incentives applicable for rooftop solar and/or energy efficiency at the local level
- Explore incentive structures in other comparable communities
- Gather input from relevant stakeholders (e.g., City of Laramie staff and officials, the Environmental Advisory Committee, Alliance for Renewable Energy, local solar installation companies) to identify opportunities, challenges, and barriers related to incentivizing rooftop PV
- Synthesize findings from the above activities to create a clear, concise recommendation through concrete products (e.g., presentation, brief, handout) for the City of Laramie to consider

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*Additional contacts-*

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**Note:** Students may need to block off dates to present to the EAC and City Council early in the semester.

### **Resources**

- Environmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Recommendations on Emission Reduction and Carbon Neutrality for the City of Laramie
- Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory report
- Municipal emissions reduction plan outline and report
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory: <https://www.nrel.gov/index.html>

### **Campus/Community Sustainability Concepts**

Community-university partnerships, local climate action, renewable energy, energy efficiency, city planning

### **Students**

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