

Project: University-Community Climate Action Planning Campaign

Background

Over just the past few years, the City of Laramie and community organizations have made substantial strides to establish a carbon neutrality goal and plan corresponding municipal and community-wide emissions reduction strategies. To our knowledge, Laramie is the first municipality in Wyoming to set formal climate action goals. While Laramie's climate action planning and strategies continue to grow, the University of Wyoming's climate action plans and emission reduction strategies lay largely dormant. In 2007, former UW President Buchanan joined the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The commitment enabled the Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC) to develop a Climate Action Plan and conduct annual greenhouse gas emissions inventories to assess progress toward major reductions benchmarks. Despite having a commitment and plan, UW has largely failed to achieve these benchmarks. Additionally, during periods of administrative leadership transition and budget reductions, UW formally left the ACUPCC in 2018. While UW continues to conduct annual inventories, its climate action plan is essentially defunct. However, with new UW leadership in place, an opportunity exists to leverage the City of Laramie's recent progress and jointly plan for emissions reduction and climate action.

Activities and Deliverables

- Investigate joint community-university climate action planning efforts in other comparable locations
- Communicate with university and City/community stakeholders to assess opportunities for collaboration on commitments, planning, and specific emissions reduction strategies.
- Develop a clear, concise message and "ask" for UW leadership to reinvigorate a climate action plan, ideally in collaboration with the City.
 - Will likely involve an elevator pitch/presentation and visually engaging information sheet.
- Depending on the results of the ask, begin to outline a joint university-community climate commitment.

Mentors:

- *Monika Leininger*, Organizer, Powder River Basin Resource Council and ARE Member, monikal@powderriverbasin.org
- *Alec Muthig*, UW Campus Sustainability Committee member, amuthig@uwyo.edu
 - *Additional contacts-*
 - *Darren Parkin*, Water Resources Administrator, City of Laramie, dparkin@cityoflaramie.org
 - *Chelsea Taylor*, recently graduated student, ctaylo37@uwyo.edu

Resources

- Environmental Advisory Committee Subcommittee Recommendations on Emission Reduction and Carbon Neutrality for the City of Laramie
- Alliance for Renewable Energy: <https://wearelaramie.org/>
- Climate Action Planning at the UW in Conjunction with the City of Laramie (honors thesis)
- CSC: <http://www.uwyo.edu/sustainability/accomplishments/pcc/index.html>

Campus/Community Sustainability Concepts

Climate action, community and campus organizing and advocacy, sustainability planning

Students

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.