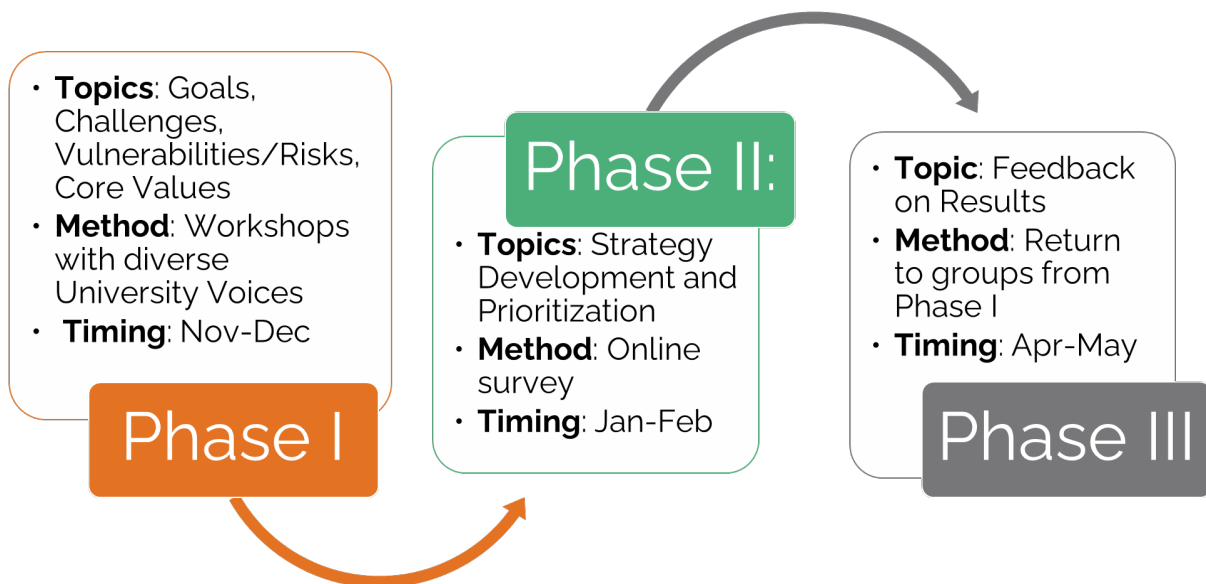


Twin Cities Climate Action Planning Engagement Summary - Phase 1

Phased Approach to Engagement

The Twin Cities Climate Action Plan is employing a three-phased engagement strategy. Each phase directly aligns with the milestones of the planning process. Phase 1 was primarily focused on high-level feedback regarding goals, core values, challenges, strengths, and vulnerabilities. Phase 2 is focused on diving deeper into strategy development and prioritization. Phase 3 will be focused on presenting results and gathering feedback on the draft plan.



Goal and Purpose of Phase 1

Phase 1 of the CAP Engagement Strategy sought to provide meaningful opportunities for the University community and external stakeholders to be engaged in the development of the Climate Action Plan. We believe that it is important to keep the community informed throughout the CAP process and create excitement and ownership around the outcomes of the CAP. Community feedback and input is a valuable element of a successful and highly effective Climate Action Plan.

Outreach to Date

Climate Action Planning Events & Meetings

- Environmental Student Association - student group
- Sustainable Systems Management - student group
- Clean Energy Leaders - student group
- Undergraduate Student Government Forum
- The Institute on the Environment
- Sustainability Honors Course
- University-wide Workshop
- Virtual University-wide Workshop

1:1 Meetings to Discuss Goals & Possible Partnerships

- City of St Paul
- Circle of Indigenous Nations
- Ramsey & Hennepin counties
- Cedar Riverside Community Council
- Northeast Park Neighborhood Association
- Prospect Park Association
- Minneapolis Climate & Equity Plan consultant

Phase 1 Engagement by the Numbers

- 315+ reached at events
- 240+ receiving CAP listserv emails

Phase 1 Format and Strategy

During Phase 1 we engaged with the University community in a variety of ways including an in person workshop, a virtual workshop, and numerous meetings with student groups, University departments, and other relevant stakeholders. During these sessions a set of questions were asked to gauge areas of priority for the upcoming CAP. The following questions were asked:

1. *In the CAP and beyond, what areas of sustainability and climate action planning should the University be focusing on?*
2. *What values should be used to prioritize strategies within the CAP (i.e. equity, leadership, cost effectiveness)?*
3. *What goals would you like to see the University accomplish through the CAP?*
4. *What challenges have you faced or do you foresee facing in implementing climate actions?*
5. *What has been your experience with extreme weather events (high heat, severe snow, intense rainfall/flooding)?*

Phase 1 Findings

Q1. *1. In the CAP and beyond, what areas of sustainability and climate action planning should the University be focusing on?* We found that food waste, energy consumption in buildings, education and awareness, and equity and justice were top priorities among our audience. The interest in waste was a surprising find. Waste does not have the sizable carbon footprint that the general public may assume. Due to this, waste will be out of scope for this plan and will be a future question to consider. Even though waste is not included in this plan it is a priority on campus! For example, our Waste Recovery team is completing a full compost recycling rollout on the Twin Cities campus. Concerns around energy consumption and equity were expected outcomes. Also, given that we are a higher education institution the focus on education and awareness was not surprising.

Q2. *2. What values should be used to prioritize strategies within the CAP (i.e. equity, leadership, cost effectiveness)?* We found that equity, cost effectiveness, and leadership were the top values among our audience. We are seeing equity come through as a major area of interest from our campus community through both questions 1 and 2. Cost effectiveness was another expected response. We noticed that our community is concerned about this new plan leading to higher tuition costs for our students. Our community also views leadership as an important value to consider when creating this plan. Our community hopes that UMN will continue to be a leader in climate action and beyond.

Q3. *What goals would you like to see the University accomplish through the CAP?* Our community's top response was climate education. Being a leader in climate education is important to our campus community. Leadership was a theme scene in this question as well. Our community looks to us to not only act but to lead when it comes to climate action. An urgency for early carbon neutrality was also found in this question. Our audience sees a great need for our goals to be met before 2050. Other desired outcomes included community outreach, collaboration, renewable energy, an electric fleet, energy efficiency, and solutions around commuting.

Q4. *4. What challenges have you faced or do you foresee facing in implementing climate actions?* The top responses were logistical issues, namely funding, effective prioritization, and administrative red tape. Challenges surrounding behavior change and resistance to change were also noted as challenges. Our community understands that a major shift from the status quo is often met with resistance. Reaching climate neutrality is a massive undertaking and our campus community seems to understand that this work will not be easy.

Q5. *What has been your experience with extreme weather events (high heat, severe snow, intense rainfall/flooding)?* Even though the state of Minnesota is seen as a "climate haven," our community has still experienced the impacts of climate change in their lifetime. The most common response was relating to heat waves and heat strokes. Most of the responses noted were environmental issues with social implications. Issues with extreme precipitation either

flooding or droughts, were also highlighted as issues faced among our community. Many individuals reported experiencing extreme weather events in their home countries or shared accounts of family members experiencing extreme weather. Extreme weather events that our community has experienced locally include polar vortex conditions, shortened winters and abnormal snowfall patterns.

How the Information was Used

Following our conversations with various campus community groups the feedback we received was summarized and shared with our Working Groups. The Working Groups used this information to influence and guide their process in prioritizing strategies. Including our community in every step of the planning process is vital to the success of the plan.

Next Steps

Following Phase 1 of our engagement strategy are Phases 2 & 3. Phase 1 focused on gathering baseline information from our community around guiding principles, values, challenges, and vulnerabilities. Phase 2 dives deeper into specific strategies and prioritization through the use of an online survey. Phase 3 will consist of presenting results for feedback from our community. Phase 3 will include an in person event where our campus community can interface with the Working Groups.