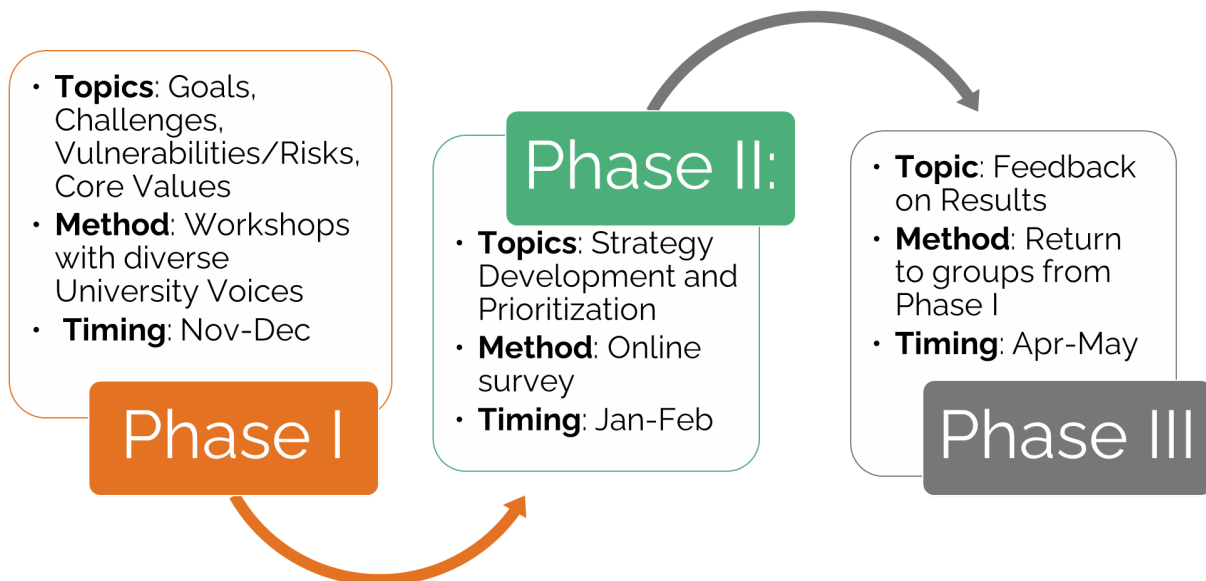


Twin Cities Climate Action Planning Engagement Summary - Phase 2

Phased Approach to Engagement

The Twin Cities Climate Action Plan is employing a three phase engagement strategy. Each phase directly aligns with milestones of the planning process. **Phase 1** was primarily focused on high level feedback regarding goals, core values, challenges, strengths, and vulnerabilities. **Phase 2** was 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 2

Phase 2 of the CAP Engagement Strategy sought to provide meaningful opportunities for the University community and external stakeholders to be engaged in the development and prioritization of strategies for 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.

Phase 2 Outreach

Online Surveys

- Sample Survey - 1,412 respondents
- Webform - 726 respondents

Climate Action Planning Events & Meetings

- Prospect Park Association
- SE Como Neighborhood Association
- Northeast Park Neighborhood Association
- City of Falcon Heights
- Social Concerns Committee
- RSC Facility Leads

Phase 2 Engagement by the Numbers

- 120+ reached at events & meetings
- 466 receiving CAP listserv emails
- 2,138 reached through survey participation

Phase 2 Format and Strategy

During Phase 2 we engaged with the University community through an online survey, the UMN Decarbonization and Resilience Planning Survey, to gather feedback on strategy development and prioritization. Our Phase 2 surveys consisted of a sample survey and a webform. The sample survey was managed by the Office of Measurement Services (OMS) and was sent out to a random sample of 5,500 individuals including staff, faculty and students. We received 1,412 responses to the sample survey. The webform consisted of the same questions but was open to the general public through a web link. The link was also sent out to targeted audiences that have engaged with our process during Phase 1. We received 726 responses from the webform. The two-survey design was intended to reach a wider audience and include external stakeholders such as individuals living in neighborhoods near campus and alumni. During Phase 2 we also continued meeting with internal University groups and external neighborhood associations. These conversations were similar to meetings held during Phase 1 and were more focused on awareness of the plan and less focused on feedback on specific strategies.

Decarbonization and Resilience Planning Survey

The sample survey was administered by the Office of Measurement Services via Qualtrics. A general invitation was sent on January 10, 2023 to students, faculty and staff. Reminders were sent on January 12, January 18, January 23, and January 27, 2023. The survey was closed at the end of the day on January 27, 2023. Results of the sample survey can be found [here](#).

The webform was administered by the Office of Sustainability via Qualtrics. General invitations were sent out to groups engaged during Phase 1. General promotion was also done through a number of online channels. The survey was closed on January 27, 2023. Results of the webform can be found [here](#).

Phase 2 Results

Themes

- Overall we found that our student population feels strongly about the impacts of climate change and feel strongly that aggressive action is needed.
- Most of our campus community is at least somewhat concerned about climate change.
- Our community exhibits vulnerabilities to climate change, especially pertaining to access to food and housing and financial security.
- Strategy prioritization varies but the majority of our audience is in favor of decreasing emissions and utilizing renewable energy.

Interesting Findings from the Sample Survey

- Respondents were most concerned about climate impacts on future generations.
- Respondents were more interested in generating renewable energy on campus rather than purchasing renewable energy from off site sources.
- Overall students were more open to actions to reduce carbon emissions from flights than faculty/staff but faculty./staff were slightly more interested in buying offsets to account for flight emissions.
- Students and faculty/staff reported different views on UMN's strengths in regards to climate change. For example, students were more likely to view housing, buildings, and electricity as strengths. Faculty/staff were more likely to see tree canopy, essential workers, and Institutional economic security as strengths. There was also a high level of confusion regarding this question. Many respondents noted not understanding the question or its purpose.

- Respondents prefer nature based solutions and climate resilient infrastructure as strategies to increase resilience.

Interesting Findings from the Webform

- Students were about twice as likely to feel climate change is “extremely important” than other audiences.
- Our audience is more concerned about climate impacts on other places around the globe than in Minnesota.
- Student priorities differed from staff/faculty priorities in a number of ways. Overall students place more emphasis on emissions reduction than other audiences. Students also reported higher levels of concern and anxiety about climate change than other audiences.
- Students are more interested in generating renewable energy on campus and faculty/staff are more interested in purchasing renewable energy.
- Overall students are more open to making compromises to decrease their emissions footprint than other audiences. For example, students are more likely to choose ground transportation over flights, are more likely to combine trips in the same region into one round trip flight, and are more likely to purchase carbon offsets.
- Food security was seen as both a top strength and a top vulnerability to the University of Minnesota as it pertains to climate change.
- Green space was seen as the University of Minnesota’s greatest strength as it pertains to climate change.
- Respondents reported lower than expected levels of personal resilience regarding things like food security, financial wellness, and access to housing.
- Respondents prefer nature-based solutions and climate resilient infrastructure as strategies to increase resilience.

Differences between the Sample Survey & the Webform

- Webform respondents reported higher levels of concern/anxiety regarding climate change than seen in the sample survey.
- Webform student respondents attributed higher levels of importance to climate change than seen in the sample survey.
- Sample survey staff/faculty respondents reported higher levels of applicability of energy conservation strategies in buildings than students. Webform student

respondents reported higher levels of applicability of energy conservation strategies in buildings than faculty/staff.

- Overall, respondents to the webform were more likely to purchase offsets to account for flight emissions than sample survey respondents.
- Respondents reported much lower levels of personal resilience on the webform vs. the sample survey.

Neighborhood Engagement

During Phase 2 of engagement we met with local neighborhood associations. The intention behind this engagement was to build meaningful relationships with local neighborhood leaders and connect our work with their priorities. During this time we met with the following neighborhood associations:

- Northeast Park Neighborhood Association - Zoom meeting
- South East Como Neighborhood Association - Zoom meeting
- Prospect Park Neighborhood Association - Open House
- City of Falcon Heights - Zoom meeting

From these conversations we started the relationship building process, shared our goals, and listened to the priorities and goals of our neighbors. We also shared the webform survey with the above groups and received 35 responses. We found that our local community is passionate about this work and is excited to be engaged in the climate action planning process. Climate change knows no bounds; action taken at the campus level will inherently have impacts on our local communities. As a part of our neighborhood engagement strategy we co-hosted an Open House with the Prospect Park Association. At this event we posed the following questions:

1. What concerns do you have about climate change or extreme weather in the neighborhoods surrounding UMN?
2. What ongoing challenges or initiatives in your neighborhood might have overlap with climate action planning?
3. Climate action focuses on emissions reduction and building strength in our community. What types of climate action would you like the University of Minnesota to take?
4. What strengths do you feel that the community has in facing climate change?

We received thoughtful feedback on the above prompts. We found that the local community was very concerned about habitat and species loss due to climate change. Air quality and human health implications were also noted. Our neighbors highlighted the challenges of financial costs and behavior change needed to implement climate action in their communities. In regards to types of climate action our neighboring community would like to see, we saw themes of education/community engagement, creation of climate resilient infrastructure, and land stewardship. Finally our neighbors highlighted people and our natural environment as our top strengths when facing climate change.

How the information was used

The feedback we received from our Phase 2 surveys and conversations with campus and community groups 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 Phases 1 & 2 of engagement is Phase 3. Phase 3 will consist of presenting results for feedback from our community. Phase 3 will include an in person event held on March 20, 2023 where our campus community can interface with the Working Groups, provide feedback on strategy prioritization and highlight any gaps in our plan.