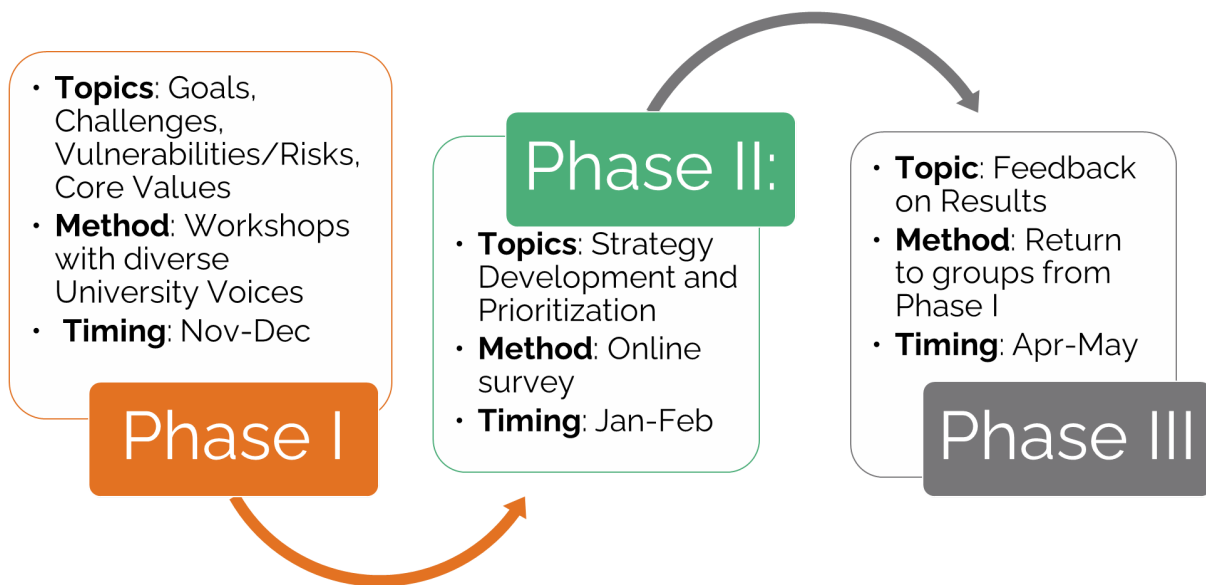


Twin Cities Climate Action Planning Engagement Summary - Phase 3

Phased Approach to Engagement

The Twin Cities Climate Action Plan is employing a three phased 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 was focused on presenting results and gathering feedback on the draft plan.



Goal and Purpose of Phase 3

Phase 3 of the CAP Engagement Strategy sought to provide a final opportunity for the campus community to view and comment on the Climate Action Plan before finalization. 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

- Campus Wide CAP Open House - 35 reached
- 365Green - student group - 10 reached
- Net Impact - student group - 40 reached
- U Senate Finance and Planning Committee - 17 reached

Phase 3 Engagement by the Numbers

- 100+ reached at events
- 490+ receiving CAP listserv emails

Phase 3 Format and Strategy

During Phase 3 we engaged with the University community through an Open House to allow our community a final opportunity to view and provide feedback on our proposed goals and strategies. We asked our community to vote for their top strategies and/or goals in the following areas: energy, commuting, fleet and travel. To gather feedback relating to adaptation & resilience we asked our community to answer the following question, “What does a resilient campus look like?” We also prompted participants to share any other thoughts and areas we may have missed during this process. Outside of the Open House we also engaged with two student groups along with the U Senate Finance and Planning committee during this phase.

Phase 3 Findings

For each of the following areas, UFleet, Commuting, and U Travel, we asked Open House participants to select their top strategy to prioritize. The top strategy for UFleet was *to develop a procurement policy for EV then PHEV vehicles*. For Commuting, 2 top strategies were identified, *to increase and improve access to affordable housing near campus* and *to improve safety and infrastructure for walking, biking and transit*. The top strategy for U Travel was *to require selecting air travel with a provider that offsets emissions and/or has implemented sustainability/climate plans*. For energy supply and demand participants were asked to select their top goal to prioritize. The top goal for energy supply and demand was *to procure 100% carbon-free electricity & increase on-campus renewable by 1MW by 2033*. When asked to define a resilient campus a variety of responses were given. Themes seen across these responses include climate resilient infrastructure, less reliance on fossil fuels, and emergency preparedness.

Overlap with Other Phases

Energy

From Phase I, we saw that the community placed emphasis on the prioritization of renewable energy as a desired outcome. Throughout Phase 3, the Energy Working Group created two goals based on the feedback from Phase 1 and 2. The first energy supply goal was to *procure 100% carbon free electricity & increase on campus renewable by 1 MW by 2033*. The second energy supply goal was to *decarbonize thermal energy on campus by 2050*. From the results and engagement during the CAP Open House, we saw that the majority of our community still placed emphasis on our first energy supply goal of procuring 100% carbon-free electricity and increasing our on campus renewable energy, similar to our results from Phase 1 and 2. It was seen from Phase 2 that the broader University community wanted on-site solar generation over purchasing renewable energy from off-site sources. This was prioritized in the working group when developing goals and transitioning to cleaner/renewable energy sources is still seen as a priority from the results of the Mar 20 Open House.

Fleet

When looking at results from Phase 1, a desired outcome identified was the electrification of University Fleet. Another highlighted importance was finding cost effective policies. The UFleet working group then created strategies to align with desired outcomes from Phase 1 and 2. Once presented at the Open House, the strategies that received the most support were: *Develop procurement policy for EV and PHEV* and *Develop financial structure for departments to adopt EV vehicles*. Results from Phase 1 and 2 of Fleet summary aligned with how the community still felt about UFleet's strategies in Phase 3.

Commuting

In Phase 1 and 2, the evaluation of bus routes and expansion of service was mentioned as a focal area with covered transit stops and subsidization of transit passes being solutions of importance to the broader community. Using this information, the strategy development in the Commuting working group resulted in strategies that implemented increasing commuting infrastructure and awareness. After the Open house, we saw that the broader community voted most for these strategies: *increase & improve access to affordable housing near campus, improve safety & infrastructure for walking, biking, and transit*. We saw in Phase 2 that an interest of concern was access to housing and food. In Phase 3, we saw a continued interest in affordable housing strategies that can be implemented in the Commuting working group. During Phase 3, the broader community emphasized the

importance of safety infrastructure differing a bit from outcomes expressed in Phase 1 of engagement.

Travel

From Phase 1 and 2, air travel was highlighted as a key area to offset emissions with remote courses/events noted as a focal area. In addition, early carbon neutrality, decreasing air travel, and required carbon credits for flights were all mentioned as desired outcomes for UTravel. From the CAP Open House, a majority of the community voted for these strategies created by the UTravel working group: *require selecting air travel with a provider that offsets emissions &/or has implemented sustainability/climate plans* and *fund research on & incentivize procurement of biofuels/renewable fuels for transportation modes*. Based on our feedback for Phase 3, the broader community still aligned with their initial wants of offsetting emissions through air travel and procurement of alternative fuel methods from Phase 1 and 2.

Adaptation & Resilience

Themes that emerged throughout Phase 1 and 2 included desired outcomes such as food security, education/awareness, and overall climate resilience and collaboration with local communities. During the Open House we asked our community to define what a climate resilient campus looked like to them. Themes that stayed the same from Phase 1 and 2 of were emphasis on food security, education, and climate resilience to extreme weather events. New themes emerged such as an increased emphasis in buildings becoming interconnected to maintain a controlled temperature throughout campus. The overall safety (climate resilience, opportunities for affordable housing) of marginalized groups was another theme that showed up in Phase III of the engagement.

Overall

From Phase I, a prominent challenge that was identified was cost effectiveness for all Working Groups. In addition to that, the cost of carbon was raised in almost all Working Groups as an important factor. Throughout Phase III, all working groups are implementing it as an overarching goal to consider when implementing strategies. From our March 20 CAP Open house we saw that the cost of carbon was still very important to the University Community.

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.

Next Steps

Phase 3 concludes our engagement strategy for the creation of the Climate Action Plan. Next steps in the process will include finalizing strategies, creating implementation steps, and finalizing the plan. After finalization of the plan, engagement with the campus community will continue through promotion and implementation. The inclusion of the campus community through every step of the CAP process is vital for the success of the plan.