



SENATE RESOLUTION #2808

TITLE: ASUW Support for a Laramie Joint Climate Action Plan
DATE INTRODUCED: April 19, 2022
AUTHOR: Director of Wellness and Sustainability McLean
SPONSORS: Senators Castronovo, Ewalt, and Rhymes

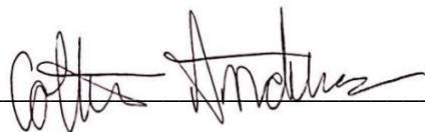
1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of
2. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the
3. best manner possible; and,
4. WHEREAS, 81.8% of University of Wyoming (UW) students believe climate
5. change is happening, at least in part, due to human activity; and,
6. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming does not currently have a climate
7. action or carbon neutrality commitment; and,
8. WHEREAS, student and faculty led carbon emissions inventories show that
9. UW's emissions have increased approximately 30% since leaving our previous
10. climate commitment in 2017; and,
11. WHEREAS, the City of Laramie and Albany County have adopted a carbon
12. neutrality goal that aims for 2050; and,
13. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming ought to work with the local
14. government and community members to reduce carbon emissions in Laramie
15. and on our campus; and,
16. WHEREAS, in the Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Taskforce was
17. assembled in 2021 to create recommendations to present to the City of Laramie,
18. Albany County, and the University of Wyoming to enter a Joint Climate Action
19. Plan; and,
20. WHEREAS, much of this taskforce's work has been based on UW student,
21. staff, and faculty input, including ASUW and Sustainability Coalition; and,
22. WHEREAS, community members will have the opportunity to help shape this
23. plan at the Shepherd Symposium for Social Justice on April 22, 2022, after
24. which the creation and implementation process of this plan will begin; and,
25. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming is an important part of the Laramie
26. community and therefore crucial to the creation, implementation and execution

27. of a Laramie joint climate action plan.
28. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the University of Wyoming (UW) ought to
29. follow the recommendations of the Laramie Joint Climate Action Taskforce and
30. the Shepherd Symposium Climate Summit; and,
31. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the University ought to join the City of
32. Laramie and Albany County in adopting a carbon neutrality goal of 2050; and,
33. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Associated Students of the
34. University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government supports the UW
35. working in partnership and collaboration with the Laramie community in the
36. creation, adoption and subsequent implementation of a Laramie Joint Climate
37. Action Plan.

Referred to: Ad-hoc Restructuring; Safety and Wellness

Date of Passage: April 19, 2022

Signed:



(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on April 19, 2022, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.”



ASUW President

Addendum A

Climate Action Plan White Paper

Created by the Director of Wellness and Sustainability and UW Sustainability Coalition leader Finnegan Jackson, in collaboration with the Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Taskforce.

I. Overview

The University of Wyoming has had no active climate action commitment or goals set for lowering our carbon emissions since 2017. However, several stakeholder groups within the Laramie Community, including students and student organizations, have made efforts to get UW back into a climate action commitment. Climate change is becoming an increasingly troubling crisis, and it is imperative that higher education institutions like the University of Wyoming lead the charge in combatting it. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage the University of Wyoming to follow the precedent set by the City of Laramie, Albany County and previous UW administrations to make a climate commitment.

II. History of Climate Action at UW

In 2008, the University of Wyoming entered the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) under former University President Thomas Buchanan. The ACUPCC, started in 2006 by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, claims its goal is to “accelerate progress towards climate neutrality and sustainability by empowering the higher education sector to educate students, create solutions, and provide leadership-by-example for the rest of society.” Thomas Buchanan was positive that the University of Wyoming, “can, and must, be a leader in sustainability and environmental responsibility.”

The University of Wyoming conducted a climate emissions inventory in 2008.

In 2009, UW adopted a climate action plan to reduce carbon emissions. Most of this work was conducted through the Campus Sustainability Committee. By 2015, UW had seen a 15.8% decrease in carbon emissions. Programs such as one to fund conservation innovations developed by students and faculty and pursuing Leadership in Environmental energy and Design certifications for buildings on campus contributed to this decrease.

In Spring 2017, former UW president Laurie Nichols dropped the UW Climate Action Plan entirely and left the ACUPCC. Emissions went up by 26% that year. Sustainability policy was, instead, transferred to the “Breaking Through” university plan, but this policy only requires that we continue emission inventories.

III. Current Climate Action Work

The Campus Sustainability Committee has continued to conduct emissions inventories. We now have 12-13 years’ worth of emissions inventories.

Since 2018, students at UW have been working on projects to demonstrate the need for a UW Climate Action Plan. These projects included an evaluation of the previous climate action plan, pursuing an AASHE STARS evaluation, a thesis recommending a joint climate action partnership and a campaign to gauge stakeholder interest.

In 2020, the City of Laramie adopted a resolution to develop a carbon neutrality plan that aims for 2050. Albany County also agreed to adopt a carbon neutrality agreement. This puts UW behind the rest of the Laramie community on climate action legislation.

In 2021, the Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Taskforce was founded. This taskforce has been working to create recommendations to present to the City of Laramie, Albany County and the University of Wyoming to enter a Joint Climate Action Plan.

On April 22, 2022, the Taskforce and students will present their work at the Shepherd Symposium. This is the time when the CAP Taskforce's recommendations will be revealed to the public for input. Afterwards, we will incorporate what feedback we can into the recommendations and present them to the three bodies listed above.

IV. Laramie Joint Climate Action Planning Taskforce

Included Stakeholders

- Alliance of Renewable Energies (3) – ARE is a local grassroots organization that works to promote renewable energy and climate action initiatives in Laramie. While they are not an operational organization, they have led the charge on many initiatives such as city solar installations.
- Environmental Advisory Committee (2): EAC is a joint city and county group that handles most environmental projects in Laramie and Albany County. They have been working on composting research and recycling outreach.
- Campus Sustainability Committee (2): The CSC is the same as the EAC, but isolated to UW. They conduct UW's annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory each year.
- UW Sustainability Coalition (2): The UWSC is the sustainability student organization on campus. They are a strategic partner of ASUW, and have led several sustainability projects in the past, such as composting campaign and countless food security initiatives.

- Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) (1): ASUW is UW's student government, and they represent the entire student body.
- Laramie City Council (1): The City of Laramie is actively forming their own climate action plan since 2020.
- Albany County Commission (1): The ACC agreed to a climate commitment in November 2021 and is currently conducting their first ever GHG emissions inventory.

Recommendations of the CAP Taskforce

1. Pursue bulk buys. This could include large-scale solar power generators, community shared solar "gardens," panels for residential solar or other major energy efficiency purchases. Using combined purchasing powers creates cost savings at multiple points including access to discounts and reduced shipping costs. The potential scale of these purchases is also likely to have a substantial impact of emissions reductions.

2. Commit to purchasing hybrid or electric powered fleet vehicles. This may include electric busses as well as power-packs to support fleet vehicles while idling. The City, County, and University all have substantial fleets, all of which spend a great deal of time idling (unnecessarily creating emissions). These purchases are built on proven technology and can have quick return on investment. Beyond reducing emissions, it can also improve indoor air quality with benefits to public health.
3. Conduct annual emissions inventories with a shared database to track return on investments. Current inventories are inefficient. Having reliable, cohesive data will increase transparency with all constituencies and hold decision-makers accountable to demonstrating impact (emissions reductions and cost savings). Data will inform decision making in the future.
4. Create a unified waste stream for composting. Focus first on large (institutional) producers like the University, school district, hospital, etc. to streamline collections. Use in-vessel systems that would function in our cold climate. All three entities contribute to the landfill which is a tremendous contributor to local emissions. An integrated system to divert food waste and other compostable items could significantly decrease our collective carbon footprint.
5. Educate and engage the community in a coordinated and impactful way. Create joint messages (to promote recommendations as well as community opportunities) and host learning workshops for residents and business leaders. Having a common and compelling message can help build broad and unified support for these efforts. In many cases, programs that could help cut emissions already exist but are underutilized or poorly understood. Having a common and compelling message can help build broad and unified support for these unified efforts. In many cases, programs that could help cut emissions already exist but are underutilized or poorly understood.
6. Promote existing opportunities for home and commercial building energy audits. Develop infrastructure (financial and logistical) to efficiency improvements based on

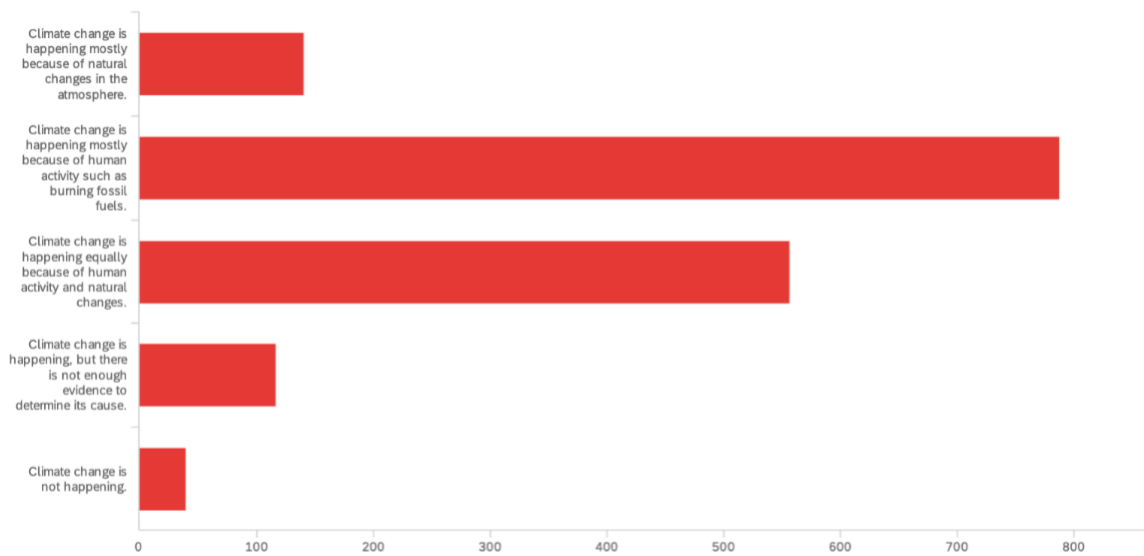
findings. Consider bulk buys (see #1) or loan programs to support implementation or purchases tied to energy efficiency. Promote existing opportunities for home and commercial building energy audits. Develop infrastructure (financial and logistical) to efficiency improvements based on findings. Consider bulk buys (see #1) or loan programs to support implementation or purchases tied to energy efficiency.

7. Develop a dedicated transportation network. Begin with a specific focus on bike infrastructure to start with. Coordinated transportation networks help roads last longer, increase community health, improve safety for biking, and improve equity by making it easier to get around Laramie. Current and past efforts have already gotten the “bike” rolling for the bike component of a better integrated transportation network. These efforts may be more impactful and sooner, with added support.
8. Jointly pursue funding to support emissions reductions efforts. Demonstrated partnerships and efficiencies gained through working together increases the likelihood of success of being awarded valuable funds. Funding to support paid coordination of efforts will substantially increase local capacity to implement plans.
9. Continue meeting regularly to support organization and coordination of City, County and University efforts.

Addendum B

Spring 2022 Survey Results

Q32 - Which of the following statements best describes your view about climate change?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Which of the following statements best describes your view about climate change?	1.00	5.00	2.47	0.84	0.71	1,643

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Climate change is happening mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere.	8.58% 141
2	Climate change is happening mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels.	47.96% 788
3	Climate change is happening equally because of human activity and natural changes.	33.90% 557
4	Climate change is happening, but there is not enough evidence to determine its cause.	7.12% 117
5	Climate change is not happening.	2.43% 40
		1643

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