

Vision

The University of Florida set a visionary goal of carbon neutrality by 2025. Meeting this goal will require collaboration among campus units and the development of widespread partnerships within the broader community.

In framing the vision for sustainability in Energy Conservation and Climate Change, participants envisioned that monitoring energy use, keeping a GHG inventory, and maximizing energy conservation across campus would be incorporated into daily operational management goals. All UF units, departments, auxiliaries, and Direct Support Organization's (DSOs) would understand these goals, and would work to reduce energy use. Carbon neutrality goals and plans would be incorporated into UF policies and the UF Campus Master Plan for long-term management.

To the extent possible, we would integrate renewable, distributed energy production into buildings so that they would produce the energy that they used. We would purchase renewable energy to supplement these power needs. Finally, UF would offset our remaining carbon footprint through local efficiency and sequestration partnerships.

Our campus would operate as a living laboratory for sustainable energy generation, integrating research and operations. UF faculty, staff, and students would set an example for others on how to conserve energy and reduce GHG emissions on campus and in their personal lives. To this end, we would conduct a comprehensive conservation campaign, based on community based social marketing principles, that considers and reaches all of our stakeholders: students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, parents, and community members.

Desired Outcomes

ACUPCC - We would meet or exceed all commitment requirements for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

Buildings and Utilities - We would capture the maximum energy efficiencies across campus in new construction, setbacks, retrofits for existing building stocks, and utility infrastructure and service.

Carbon Offsets - Our offsets would be met, to the greatest extent possible, through efficiency, and through local sequestration partnerships. Offset purchases would only be made if local/regional partnership opportunities had been exhausted.

Comprehensive Inventory - UF would have a thorough inventory that takes into consideration our entire carbon footprint, including transportation, research, campus operations, and IFAS Extension. This inventory would help all campus citizens identify and therefore reduce their energy expenditures.

Project Funding - We would work with business and government partners to receive grants and other funding to help finance our efficiency goals. UF would develop a revolving loan fund and other internal funding mechanisms for efficiency retrofits and renewable energy innovations.

Reduction Goal Setting - We would establish baselines for all areas in order to set reduction goals. Our goals and strategies would be in alignment with the Florida Governor's June 2007 Executive Orders and the most stringent regulatory frameworks (federal, state or local) for carbon planning.

Renewable Energy - We would encourage our energy provider to develop a lower carbon portfolio, including renewable energy options and distributed energy production on campus.

Research - The Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy's Technology Incubator would accelerate commercialization of energy technologies throughout Florida by developing and demonstrating renewable energy technologies on campus.

UF Sustainability in Energy Conservation & Climate Change Implementation Plan

Action Plan

The table on the following pages lists the initial actions that can be taken over the next three years to move toward the vision for sustainability in Energy Conservation and Climate Change at UF. The intention of creating this list of actions is to provide a platform for working groups as they begin to implement the vision. This list can be modified over time, and is meant to be a “living document.” Progress toward these actions will be evaluated annually and an updated action plan will be developed in the spring of 2012.

Outcome	Action	People
ACUPCC	1. Meet commitment and deadlines established through ACUPCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Business Affairs
Buildings and Utilities	2. For building specific actions, reference & integrate UF Vision: <i>“Built Environment Implementation Plan”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple
Buildings and Utilities	3. Improve efficiencies of chilled water plants and steam production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate improved utilization to offset electrical peak charges • Explore expanding use of variable speed drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Plant Division • Business Affairs • Facilities, Planning & Construction • IFAS • Shands
Buildings and Utilities	4. Improve information management and sharing in utility sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Physical Plant Division • Business Affairs • GRU • Progress Energy
Buildings and Utilities	5. Explore improvements to electricity distribution lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Plant Division • Business Affairs • Facilities, Planning & Construction
Buildings and Utilities	6. Explore modifying the electricity rate structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Plant Division • Business Affairs

UF Sustainability in Energy Conservation & Climate Change Implementation Plan

Outcome	Action	People
Carbon Offsets	7. Proactively seek out people interested in being trained as offset verifiers and utilize independent third-party to verify UF offsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Carbon Neutral Working Group (CNWG) • Climate Change Response Institute • Climate Preparedness Institute (joint UF/FSU) • Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) • Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE) • Neutral Gator • UF Carbon Resources Science Center (IFAS) • UF Climate Institute (SFRC - In Development Stages)
Carbon Offsets	8. Determine guiding principles for offsets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on scientific defensibility and industry verifiability • Prioritize offsets according to geographic proximity and/or institutional relevance to UF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Climate Change Response Institute • Climate Preparedness Institute (joint UF/FSU) • Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) • Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE) • Carbon Neutral Working Group (CNWG) • Neutral Gator • UF Carbon Resources Science Center (IFAS) • UF Climate Institute (SFRC - In Development Stages)
Comprehensive Inventory	9. Create an automated (where possible), transparent, internally managed carbon inventory (starting from FY 2004/2005) tied to the FPC STARS enterprise database using monthly data (where possible) for the main campus (Site 0001) as a boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities, Planning & Construction • IFAS • Office of Sustainability • Physical Plant Division • Shands • Transportation & Parking Services • Finance & Accounting • Housing • Purchasing • University Athletic Association • GRU • Progress Energy • RTS

UF Sustainability in Energy Conservation & Climate Change Implementation Plan

Outcome	Action	People
Comprehensive Inventory	10. Expand boundary to include UF sites, buildings, and assets outside of the main campus (Site 0001) as knowledge, information, and institutional resources permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Office of Sustainability • IFAS Facilities Operations • Physical Plant Division • Shands • Transportation & Parking Services • Finance & Accounting • Housing • Purchasing • University Athletic Association • GRU • Progress Energy • RTS
Comprehensive Inventory	11. Refine air travel reporting to improve data capture and reduce errors in calculating emissions associated with university sponsored air travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Office of Sustainability
Comprehensive Inventory	12. Refine commuter travel reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore using web-forms to collect original/destination locations and vehicle make/model/year • Integrate commuter decal data with electronic carbon inventory in STARS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Parking Services • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Office of Sustainability
Project Funding	13. Develop case statements “shopping list” for donors interested in sustainability related projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • UF Foundation
Project Funding	14. Develop strategy to procure recurring funding for Carbon Action Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Affairs • Office of Sustainability
Reduction Goal Setting	15. Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and organizational structure to implement and periodically revise the CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Housing • IFAS • Physical Plant Division • Transportation & Parking Services

UF Sustainability in Energy Conservation & Climate Change Implementation Plan

Outcome	Action	People
Reduction Goal Setting	16. Calculate major GHG emissions reduction scenarios including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business-as-usual (BAU) • State of Florida baselines/goals • Federal baselines/goals • UF internal baselines/goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Plant Division • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Housing • IFAS • Office of Sustainability
Reduction Goal Setting	17. Develop interim GHG emissions reductions goals for period between 2009 and 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Housing • IFAS • Physical Plant Division
Reduction Goal Setting	18. Collaborate with the City of Gainesville and Alachua County on shared reduction goals and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • City Commission/Staff • County Commission/Staff
Reduction Goal Setting	19. Review deferred maintenance list and include criteria for energy and GHG emissions reductions potential (where possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Plant Division • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Housing • IFAS • Office of Sustainability • Shands
Reduction Goal Setting	20. Prioritize GHG emissions reduction goals in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Leadership • Conservation • Efficiency • Lower carbon/renewable energy • Carbon offsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Housing • IFAS • Physical Plant Division • Transportation & Parking Services

UF Sustainability in Energy Conservation & Climate Change Implementation Plan

Outcome	Action	People
Reduction Goal Setting	21. Prioritize GHG emissions reduction action areas in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased electricity • Chilled water • Steam • Commuting/Fleet • Air travel • Others/De minimus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Finance & Accounting • Housing • IFAS • Physical Plant Division • Transportation & Parking Services
Renewable Energy	22. Evaluate cost and efficacy of renewable energy production options on the main campus and/or on other UF owned sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Affairs • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) • Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE)
Renewable Energy	23. Evaluate cost and efficacy of purchasing renewable energy certificates and/or utilizing utility provider(s) with a lower carbon electricity fuel mix (dependent on current and future contractual obligations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Affairs • Office of Sustainability • Facilities, Planning & Construction • IFAS • Physical Plant Division
Research	24. Match University Scholars with research faculty to do feasibility studies, etc. to accelerate new technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF Honors Program • Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) • Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE) • Office of Sustainability
Research	25. Involve research groups on campus in research and decisions involving carbon offsets, sequestration, renewable energy certificates, etc. related to the Carbon Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability • Carbon Neutral Working Group (CNWG) • Climate Change Response Institute • Climate Preparedness Institute (joint UF/FSU) • Florida Energy Systems Consortium (FESC) • Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (FISE) • UF Carbon Resources Science Center (IFAS) • UF Climate Institute (SFRC - In Development Stages)