

Strategic Plan Budget Request FY 2011 Revised

Incorporation of the Climate Action Plan into the Strategic Plan

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Climate Action Plan at ISU

In September of 2007, ISU's 10th university president, Dr. Lloyd Benjamin III, solidified ISU's interest in becoming a sustainable campus by signing the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. Our 11th president, Dr. Dan Bradley, reinforced our commitment to sustainability and directed the Sustainability Team Members to explore a climate action plan. In Spring 2010, ISU completed its first Climate Action Plan through the work of 60 faculty, staff, and students. This action plan identified 86 individual recommendations to help ISU reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Currently there are no dedicated funds allocated for ISU's efforts to reach carbon neutrality, but some small funds can greatly move ISU in that direction. One of the main recommendations that came out of the sustainability efforts is to incorporate all work to obtain carbon neutrality through our classes and course work. By doing so, ISU can involve students in our efforts to become carbon neutral and make campus a model for alternative energy technologies and sustainability projects.

These funds would develop an Office of Sustainability at ISU that promotes our current efforts towards sustainability and applies for grants to promote sustainability at ISU. These two efforts tie in well with goals 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the strategic plan. The main purpose of the Office of Sustainability would be to engage our students in sustainability efforts on campus to provide meaningful education that the students can use to better living conditions on campus and around the world.

This work will contribute to the **benchmarks** in Goal 1 to increase enrollment, retention, and student success by engaging them in their own education and showing them the use of what they are learning. We would work through experiential learning (Goal 2) to provide hands-on learning experiences for students in a range of sustainability initiatives, such as the technology for alternative fuels, the environmental improvements through sustainability, and the and community engagement marketing needed to promote our sustainability efforts. The students hired under this grant will make us a Sustainability Student Leadership Team that will lead sustainability efforts on campus and help to make the connection to the student body. These students will also use the skills that they have learned in their majors to promote sustainability on campus. All of these efforts improve the campus community as well as the local and global communities, making this an integrated community engagement project (Goal 3). Sustainability is also an area where many grants are available. Successful sustainability projects on campus will lead to diversifying revenue funds (Goal 5) through the pursuit of external funding.

Future Sustainability of this Office

The Office of Sustainability needs to operate on a plan that will make it self-sustaining and so that it can bring new funds into campus. To that end, our success will be measured by the continuing decrease of ISU's carbon footprint with the end goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Funding from the strategic plan may provide funds for up to five years, but long-term funding is necessary to maintain this office in the future. First, I would like to see the Office of Sustainability be designated a program of promise at ISU. Second, while we are receiving funding from the strategic plan, we will submit at least one grant application a year for external funds. A portion of the overhead from these grants will also be dedicated to the Office of Sustainability to help maintain it into the future. Finally, the true measure of the success of our efforts will be the decrease of ISU's carbon footprint and the corresponding decrease in campus expenditures on associated with energy use and waste disposal. **I propose that the success of the office of sustainability be measured by the reduction in carbon use (as measured by carbon credit offsets) at ISU and that 25% of any related cost savings be returned to the Office to cover administrative costs, new equipment, and the integration of sustainability into all campus activities.**

Budget Justification

Lines 5 and 9, faculty salary and benefits. In order to make sustainability at centerpoint of education at ISU, an Office of Sustainability should be established as a Program of Distinction at ISU (Goal 4). This office will pursue grants (Goal 5) to fund sustainability efforts and will also coordinate and promote current sustainability efforts at ISU. A faculty member should be designated as a half time coordinator for sustainability at ISU. This commitment of faculty time will help to create innovative solutions to carbon neutrality issues at ISU and relieve current pressures on facilities management

Line 13 and 17, half time staff commitment and benefits. A half time staff appointment is necessary to handle the administrative duties of the Office of Sustainability.

Lines 21, 25, 33, and 34, Student Stipends, Wages, and Tuition Waiver. These funds will be used to hire a student team that will work on promoting sustainability at ISU and work creatively to achieve carbon neutrality. The graduate student could also pursue a thesis or dissertation that focuses on sustainability in many different departments that already exist at ISU. The undergraduate students could develop senior thesis that relate to sustainability at ISU.

Line 40 Supplies. Funds are requested for new equipment and supplies that will promote sustainability at ISU such as portable electrical meters that could be used to monitor individual floors or buildings for electrical use in an effort to promote competition to reduce electrical consumption, save costs, and approach carbon neutrality.

Lines 43, Travel. Faculty, Staff, and Students could use funds to travel to green conferences to learn about new ideas in sustainability and to visit other universities that have innovative plans to reach carbon neutrality.